United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *118th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY *24*, 2024 *No. 120*

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SELF).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 24, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KEITH SELF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Holy Lord, receive us this day before Your throne of mercy, where no one is hidden, and all of us are vulnerable and laid bare before You. To You we must render account.

Whether we offer our prayers for Israel or Gaza, Russia or Ukraine, the other side or our own side, because of our prejudices, wrongs, violence, and disregard for Your precepts of love and concern for even our enemies, we are not worthy to stand in Your presence.

How dare we approach You so boldly in the hope that we would find Your grace in our time of need? All that we have endeavored to do to bring peace into these areas of trauma and conflict, our feeble attempts to mitigate the starvation and suffering have all fallen short.

As mortals, even our best efforts cannot achieve what, at this point, seems impossible. But for You, O God, all things are possible. In You alone can we and do we trust. We appeal this day to Your abounding mercy and steadfast love. Hear our prayers.

In Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CLINE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

VISIT THE NATURAL STATE

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the House recently, by unanimous voice vote, passed the EXPLORE Act to enhance outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans.

Arkansas is home to a wide variety of beautiful State parks. Many of these parks are in the Fourth District, but today I rise to highlight a unique park that is truly and literally a gem.

Murfreesboro, Arkansas, is home to the only public diamond mine in the world where visitors are allowed to keep their findings. The Crater of Diamonds is a 37½-acre field that became an Arkansas State park in 1972. With over 75,000 diamond findings since the first discovery in 1906, significant diamonds that have been discovered here are the Amarillo Starlight, Esperanza, and the most notable, Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam is the largest diamond ever unearthed in the United States and is now one of two diamonds on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in the Great American Diamonds exhibit.

I encourage the Senate to pass the bipartisan EXPLORE Act and for everyone to visit the Natural State. While you are there experiencing the great outdoors, be sure to schedule a visit to the Crater of Diamonds to discover your own piece of American history.

CONGRATULATING STACEY LEAVANDOSKY ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the most dedicated public servants I have worked with, Stacey Leavandosky.

Stacey has been on Capitol Hill for 27 years, including 18 years as my chief of staff. Her service to my California district, Congress, and the American people has been steady and invaluable.

She began her career as an intern for her hometown Representative in 1993. She rose through the ranks on Capitol Hill. During her time with me, 20 years, she has been a senior adviser for the California Democratic congressional delegation, House Administration Committee, Ethics Committee, Immigration Subcommittee, and Science Committee.

She has unparalleled commitment to our staff, our constituents, and the American people. She has been a constant voice of reason with a belief that

Printed on recycled paper.

government can be a positive force for change. She is the kind of public servant people aspire to be.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Stacey, and I wish her family the very best in the next chapter of her life as she retires.

BIG WIN FOR GEORGIA RESIDENTS

(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 to celebrate the House's passage of the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act of 2024, which includes language to address an issue that is critical to the residents of my district.

I have worked for many years in Congress to find a permanent solution regarding the New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, one that works for job creators, municipalities, and our community alike.

Unfortunately, the Corps of Engineers selected a rock weir option as an alternative to replace the lock and dam, which would drop the pool level far below the needs of the community, and in the Corps' simulation of that project had disastrous impacts up and down the riverbank.

I was proud to partner with Representative MIKE COLLINS to get language included in the Water Resources Development Act to stop the Corps' disastrous rock weir plan and clarify congressional intent to maintain our pool level at 114.5 feet. This is a big win for the residents of my district.

SARA IS AN INNOCENT CIVILIAN

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

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is Sara. Sara is a 17-year-old Palestinian girl whose entire body was burned by an Israeli bomb. She could not seek immediate medical attention because the IDF had her home surrounded. It is a miracle that she survived. Her brother and sister did not.

That Israeli bomb was paid for by the American tax dollar. We continue to fund the collective punishment of civilians in Palestine, in Gaza. Sara is not Hamas. She is a civilian. She is innocent. She loved to play volleyball. Her brothers loved to ride horses.

Now today, we have invited Binyamin Netanyahu, who is being charged with war crimes, to address this House. Are we a democracy for all? Are we a democracy that leads with our humanity or will we continue to support the war crimes of Netanyahu?

CONGRATULATING EDINBURG, TEXAS

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the great city of Edinburg, Texas, for being awarded the prestigious All-America City title for the fourth time. This honor was recently bestowed upon Edinburg at the National Civic League conference last month.

The All-America City award is the Nation's highest civic recognition, celebrating communities that exemplify outstanding civic engagement, inclusivity, and innovative problem solving. This award is a testament to the dedication and the spirit of Edinburg's residents. Their commitment to community programs, local initiatives, and neighborly support truly embodies the essence of what it means to be the All-America City.

This accolade not only honors Edinburg's past achievements, but it also inspires a future of continued excellence and innovation.

Please join me in congratulating Edinburg, Texas, on this remarkable achievement. Congratulations, Edinburg.

HONORING THE LATE CONGRESSMAN HENRY NOWAK

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to former Congressman Henry Nowak, an 18-year Member of this body, who passed away on July 21, leaving an incredible legacy of service to our country and my community.

Congressman Nowak was a star college basketball player at his beloved Canisius University, a brilliant student of law, a dedicated public servant, and a veteran of the United States Army. Back home, he was known as Buffalo's billion-dollar man for his advocacy in Congress which delivered some of the largest infrastructure projects in our region's history, including Interstate 990 in the northtowns and U.S. Route 219 in the southern tier.

Those who knew him best remember Congressman Nowak as the perfect balance of kind and fierce, reserved and witty, a leader and a mentor, which he was to me. He will be missed dearly by family and friends, including his loving wife of 58 years, Rose; his son, New York State Supreme Court Justice Henry Nowak, Jr.; his daughter, Diane; and six grandchildren.

He was a statesman, a family man, and a patriot. We are forever indebted for his faithful service to our great Nation. May he rest in peace.

REMEMBERING TIM DOBOS

(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 remember the life and legacy of Timothy Paul Dobos of Mill Hall, Pennsylvania.

Tim Dobos died on July 11 after a courageous 10-year battle with ALS. He was just 36.

Tim was a Marine Corps veteran. He worked as an electronic warfare analyst with the 2nd Radio Battalion, was deployed to Kuwait with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. In 2010, when earthquakes devastated Haiti, Tim assisted in relief efforts, earning him a Humanitarian Service Medal. Tim rose to the rank of lance corporal before being honorably discharged in 2012.

In April 2014, Tim was diagnosed with ALS, but that diagnosis didn't slow him down. In 2018, Tim earned a degree in applied physics from Lock Haven University.

I was fortunate enough to call Tim a friend. His contagious personality brought happiness to all who had the pleasure of knowing him. He lived a life dedicated to service and caring for others.

I offer my deepest condolences to Tim's wife, Robyn, their sons, and his family. Knowing Tim was a blessing. Having him as a friend was a blessing, and may Tim's memory be a blessing to all.

WORKING TOWARD LASTING PEACE IN GAZA

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

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my outrage. Gaza has been decimated by the Israeli military using weapons provided by the United States. Over 39,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed, and more are being killed every day. Most homes, most infrastructure destroyed.

Yet, what do we do? We welcome Netanyahu, the person responsible for this, to address Congress with open arms. As a student of history and as a Black woman in this country, I am keenly aware of the role that this very body has played in the marginalizing of Black and Brown folks domestically and abroad. This is why I refuse to remain silent.

When Putin commits war crimes, we condemn him. When Netanyahu commits war crimes, we give him excuses and bombs. This hypocrisy is not lost on the world. Americans are less safe, and our standing in the world is greatly diminished because of our inability to remain morally consistent.

Years from now, this body will be ashamed of its actions. The large majority of our constituents are ashamed today. It is well past time that we stop this moral inconsistency and start working toward a just and lasting peace for all in this region.

□ 0915

SALUTING ELIZABETH CLAXTON

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate our top 10 speechwriters for this year's Missouri's Fourth Congressional District Speech Competition. They were chosen to write speeches on what America means to them, and today, we are saluting Elizabeth Claxton of Holden High School in Johnson County, Missouri.

Elizabeth says: ''To me, America is more than just the land I grew up in. America is the persons who surround me and the companionships I share with them. America is small towns and big cities full of people and their lives and the bonds they form with each other. Fellowships of all kinds fill America and make up our Nation. We are all of different backgrounds, who have different futures but are deeply intertwined as members of our beautiful and intricate county. America is all of these people and cultures woven together to create our society. America isn't just a land or national entity but one diverse yet blended people.''

Mr. Speaker, we salute Elizabeth and thank her for her great work.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PHIL BRANDI

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and memory of my constituent, Phil Brandi, who passed away on July 17 at the age of 90.

He lived in Greentree and was born and raised in Sheraden. He was a beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend to many. He was married to Alice for 66 years. He loved spending time with his friends and family, especially his buddies at McDonald's, his Local 27 retirees, and his friends at the cardiac rehab at Ohio Valley Hospital.

A veteran, he served his country in the Army and was a proud member of Plumbers Local 27 for 65 years. Not only was he a proud union member and retiree, his son and grandkids have followed in his footsteps in Local 27.

Phil's life may seem ordinary to many, but I think he represents the very best of western Pennsylvania, the values of hard work, patriotism, and sacrifice. We honor his life. We honor his legacy, and we hold him and his family in our hearts.

CELEBRATING SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight a significant milestone in the history of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in the heart of Covington, Virginia, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

Originally a mission of St. Joseph's Church in Clifton Forge, Sacred Heart became a full parish in 1924, and Reverend William Payne served as its first parish priest.

Reverend Joseph Jurgens served as Sacred Heart's longest tenured pastor from 1939 to 1968, and it was during this time that the church grew immensely. The many expansions and renovations the parish hall and church have seen over the years are a testament to Sacred Heart's vibrant life and giving spirit.

Sacred Heart's service to the community includes a preschool that has served hundreds of children in the region, as well as the Allegheny Highlands Christmas Mother Program, which has been assisting families in need during the Christmas season for over 70 years.

Sacred Heart's centennial was celebrated beginning with Mass and the ceremonial participation of the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, followed by a catered luncheon in the parish hall. Sacred Heart is a solid rock on which Covington's faithful parishioners stand. I congratulate them on reaching this special moment in their history.

SARA FROM GAZA

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to fulfill a promise, a promise I made to a 17-year-old girl named Sara to share her story.

Sara is a brilliant artist and a loving sister. She was savagely burned and severely injured in an Israeli airstrike, an airstrike that killed her two brothers, Ahmad, 15 years old, and Mohamed, 8 years old.

Sara and her mother are currently in the U.S. seeking medical treatment, treatment she couldn't access for over a month as her family was trapped in Gaza and denied care. No child should ever have to endure this brutality.

Sara's mother spoke about Ahmad and Mohamed with love. They were gentle, sweet boys who lit up the room with joy and loved to ride horses with their sister.

What have we as a Nation done? We are supplying bombs that maim and murder babies. Where is our humanity?

I carry Sara and her family with me always, and I will press for peace in her name.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT MELISSA DANGERFIELD

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, whether flying by with sirens wailing in those awesome cruisers or walking the neighborhood beat, we know we can depend on our local police for safety and security. It is even better when the officer has a familiar face.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of those familiar faces, Sergeant Melissa Dangerfield, for her extraordinary commitment and service to the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

For 35 years, Sergeant Dangerfield has dedicated her career to the safety of Clay County, Florida. Sergeant Dangerfield began her journey in 1989 as a dispatcher and later became a sworn law enforcement officer, investigating crimes with the special victims unit.

Since 2016, she has been imparting her knowledge as a professor by teaching at the St. Johns River State College Basic Law Enforcement Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Clay County is a safer place thanks to the dedication of Sergeant Melissa Dangerfield.

On behalf of Clay County and these United States, we extend our deepest appreciation for her 35 years of exemplary service.

RECOGNIZING TOMMY PAUL

(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 recognize an eastern North Carolina native and American tennis superstar, Tommy Paul.

Raised in Greenville, North Carolina, Tommy began his professional tennis career after graduating from J.H. Rose High School at 18 years old.

Nearly a decade later, Tommy will represent the United States at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Earlier, Tommy became the highest ranked American tennis professional, reaching a career-high world tour ranking number of 12. In June, he won his biggest title ever at the Queen's Club in London and followed it up with a quarterfinal finish in Wimbledon.

As the Olympics get underway, we will all enthusiastically cheer for Tommy as he goes for gold. With the full support of eastern North Carolina, we will be hearing, ''Game, set, match, Paul,'' very soon.

CONGRATULATING MINNESOTA CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET EVAN EKSTRAND

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Minnesota Civil Air Patrol Cadet Evan Ekstrand, who was awarded the General Carl A. Spaatz Award.

This award is the Civil Air Patrol's highest honor and is given to less than 1 percent of Civil Air Patrol cadets for excellence in leadership, character,

physical fitness, and aerospace education. Evan has dedicated his life to service, and this award is well-deserved.

I met with Evan and his fellow cadets earlier this year. Evan stands out. He stood out from the group because of his patriotism and his passion for aviation.

Evan is not the only member, however, of the Ekstrand family to be involved in the Civil Air Patrol. Until recently, Evan's mom, Tami, served as the deputy commander for cadets of the Civil Air Patrol, St. Croix Squadron.

I congratulate Evan, again, and I wish him, his fiancee, and his family all the best.

CHICANO-CHICANA HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize August as Chicano-Chicana Heritage Month and to celebrate the contributions of millions of Chicanos in Orange County and across this great Nation.

Mexican Americans have used this term, ''Chicano-Chicana,'' to address common historical, cultural, and economic struggles in this great country.

Today, Chicanos are the largest ethnic minority in this great country. We are doctors, lawyers, scientists, teachers, police officers, and soldiers. We have fought in all wars defending this great country, and many Chicano-Chicana veterans are among the most highly decorated soldiers in this great country. Many are part of the Greatest Generation, like my constituent Ventura Hernandez, a proud World War II veteran who fought in Patton's Army and came back and built this great Nation.

Today, with this resolution, we acknowledge and recognize Chicano-Chicana Heritage Month and their contributions to this great country. We encourage young people to learn more about American history.

RECOGNIZING MELODY AND RACHEL STEINER

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Melody and Rachel Steiner, the Sunbow 57 Girls who sell cotton candy and homemade cookies at farmers markets across our district and northeast Ohio.

I met Melody at the Downtown Wooster Farmers Market, where she is using her business proceeds to save up for aviation school.

One of my biggest priorities in Congress has been career and technical education. I know how badly we need more pilots and aviation workers. I am proud to have young leaders in my district pursuing their dreams and securing the future of the American workforce.

Small businesses are the foundation of our economy, as over 99 percent of United States businesses are small businesses. Whether you run a cotton candy stand or a local factory, the United States is rightfully called the land of opportunity, and the American Dream is alive and well.

I am grateful for the hard work, ingenuity, and dedication of entrepreneurs like Melody and Rachel in northeast Ohio who make our communities great places to live.

MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF MAUI FIRES

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, in 2 weeks, we will observe the 1-year anniversary of last August's fires on Maui.

We will honor the lives of 102 loved ones lost and never stop looking for the 2 still missing. We will remember the neighborhoods, businesses, and, of course, the town of Lahaina that we will always love.

Even as we look back, we look ahead. In a few months, the last of the debris will be removed. Already, properties are being rebuilt, and a long-term recovery plan is being developed with extensive community input.

As we prepare to leave for the August recess, our work is not done. Disasters continue to strike, and we must deliver supplemental funding to help communities like Maui recover. This is how we best honor their grit and strength, by giving them hope for the long road ahead.

I never expected as a freshman Member of Congress that a historic disaster would occur and so drastically reshape my work here. Yet, as our Maui ''family,'' ''ohana'' reflects on the past year and courageously faces the future, my commitment to them remains unwavering, and I continue to be with them every step of the way.

HONORING PRIVATE HENRY ''HANK'' WEBB AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Private Henry ''Hank'' Webb, an American hero.

He was raised by a sharecropper, Dust Bowl Okie family who fled Oklahoma to California in 1943 in search of work. After arriving in Wasco, California, he lived and worked for 3 years in a migrant worker labor camp.

He served in the Army for 3 years and spent most of his time in Germany with an artillery unit. After the Army, he returned to college and earned his degree in criminal justice from the University of California, Berkeley.

After graduating from college in June 1960, he entered the U.S. Border Academy, where he graduated at the top of his class. He proudly served as a Border Patrol agent for 2 years.

In 1962, he was hired as a special agent by the ''once proud,'' his words, FBI, where he served for 25 years. He received many awards and assisted in protecting President Johnson in Mexico City and President Nixon in California.

After retiring, he continued to work in law enforcement in Texas. When he left law enforcement, he and his family moved to Tennessee.

Our country's heroes are the men and women of our Armed Forces, Mr. Speaker, like Private Webb.

It is my honor to recognize Private Henry ''Hank'' Webb as Tennessee's Second District's July 2024 Veteran of the Month.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JANA BOMMERSBACH

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a legendary Arizona journalist and trailblazer, Jana Bommersbach, who passed away on July 17.

When Jana started at The Arizona Republic in the 1970s, she was one of just six female reporters in the newsroom. She worked her way up from reporter to editor, first at The Republic and later at the Phoenix New Times.

Because of her dogged reporting, the Arizona Press Club named her Arizona Journalist of the Year and honored her with its top investigative journalism prize, the Don Bolles Award, many times.

One of those award-winning stories turned into her hit book, ''The Trunk Murderess,'' which revisited the story of Winnie Ruth Judd and a more than 60-year-old murder case. Jana earned the trust of the elderly Judd, getting her to tell her side of the story for the very first time.

That was Jana, reporting on true crime before it was trendy, but also telling the story of Phoenix as a young frontier town, full of colorful and complicated characters. Her life's work brought attention to matters close to her heart, like mental health and domestic violence, and she paired vigorous journalism with selfless advocacy, giving her time to countless nonprofits.

More than anything, she was a joy to be around, a quick-witted, gifted storyteller who would leave any room cracking up. She kept friends from all backgrounds and political parties, throwing jabs with a grin and a twinkle in her eye. Congress should take a lesson from her.

My prayers are with her family, her friends, especially Bob Boze Bell, and

all those who were moved by her writing and who laughed with her. Godspeed to Jana.

□ 0930

CONGRATULATING BRENDON GALLO AND VANDANA VERMA

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two very special people to both my office and me personally, my deputy chief of staff, Brendon Gallo, who is in the audience today, and his fiancee, Vandana Verma, and to commemorate their upcoming wedding in Florence, Italy.

Brendon and Vandana met in college at New York University and quickly fell in love. They moved to Washington, D.C., for Brendon to pursue his interest in politics and have made a home here with their dog, Sage.

It has been a joy to get to know both Brendon and Vandana over the years and watch their love grow. I especially want to thank Vandana for her patience and understanding as Brendon has navigated the often demanding and time-consuming work of a staffer on Capitol Hill. He has done a great job.

I wish them a lifetime of happiness and blessings and look forward to celebrating their marriage next month.

CONGRATULATING KENNY BEDNAREK

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kenny Bednarek of Rice Lake, Wisconsin, on qualifying for the Paris Summer Olympics in the 100- and 200-meter sprints.

Kenny is from a small town in northwest Wisconsin where he has been representing the Seventh District since he was in high school. At Rice Lake High School, he captured seven individual State titles and led his team to the 4-by-400 relay championship. He then went on to set the fastest indoor 200-meter time in the United States and the second fastest in the world before becoming an Olympian in 2020.

During the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, he won a silver medal in the 200-meter dash.

I wish Kung Fu Kenny and all of the U.S. athletes the best of luck in Paris. Go for the gold.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. CROIX HELENITES

(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 rise today to celebrate a group of exceptional young men from my home in the Virgin Islands for their division title win this past week in Minnesota during the USA CUP tournament, the largest youth soccer tournament in the Western Hemisphere.

The St. Croix Helenites Sports Club under-16 squad played through the quarterfinals and semifinal rounds to clench the championship. The boys on the under-11 team also played with great heart and made it to the top four in their division.

Our entire community is tremendously proud of our boys for their hard work, their great sportsmanship. The Virgin Islands is small, but when we show up, we show out, and we excel.

We are all so proud of Head Coach Raejae Joseph, Assistant Coach Dale Richards, parents, young men, and my boy Nico.

Let's go St. Croix Helenites Sports Club.

WE MUST NEVER WAVER

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join the majority of Tennesseans who stand in support of America's most important Middle Eastern ally, Israel.

Unfortunately, radical, progressive Democrats have turned their back on Israel. Democrats have shown time and time again where their priorities truly lie, favoring an Army of IRS agents over security assistance when Israel was in its most dire need.

Now progressive Democrats have chosen once again to turn their backs on our democratic ally in the Middle East by boycotting Prime Minister Netanyahu's joint address before this body. History will not view these dark and dangerous decisions lightly. Let the record show progressive Democrats sided with the pro-Hamas base of their party.

As a staunch supporter of Israel, I will be honored to be present in the House Chamber for Prime Minister Netanyahu's historic joint address.

We must never waver, Mr. Speaker.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. NORVELL ''VAN'' COOTS

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Norvell ''Van'' Coots, who tragically passed away last month.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dr. Coots answered the call to serve his country through our military. After 36 years of service, he retired from the Army as a brigadier general in 2016.

Dr. Coots wasn't one to retire so easily. He continued to dedicate his life to improving healthcare outcomes for so many at home. In Maryland, Dr. Coots took the reins as president and CEO of Holy Cross Health.

Over the years, Dr. Coots and I worked together to ensure our health centers had what they needed to address the COVID–19 pandemic and tackle the addiction and mental health epidemics that are overwhelming our communities.

Without a doubt, our Nation is better off because of Dr. Coots' selfless service.

He was a dear friend to many, a loving husband to his wife, Claudia, and a dedicated father to Maximilian and Catalina.

May his memory be a blessing.

CONGRATULATING FORD CHICAGO ASSEMBLY PLANT

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ford Chicago Assembly Plant on its 100 years of operation this August.

For decades, Ford has crafted a legacy of excellence and resilience in Illinois' Second Congressional District. It has weathered economic storms, technological revolutions, and a global pandemic, emerging stronger with each passing year.

The cars that have rolled off these assembly lines are not just machines. They are testaments to the craftsmanship, innovation, and dedication of countless individuals.

As we celebrate this historic milestone, let us remember the past with pride, embrace the present with gratitude, and look to the future with excitement and resolve.

Here is to a century of achievement and to many more years of innovation, success, and Ford toughness.

On another note: Sheila Jackson Lee, you will be so missed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE). Pursuant to House Resolution 1370 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. 8998.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) kindly take the chair.

□ 0939

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. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, with Mr. SELF (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday,

July 23, 2024, amendment No. 48, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 56 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 89, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $7,000,000)''.

Page 90, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment No. 56 to H.R. 8998, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025.

Amendment No. 56 will reduce funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by reducing the Environmental Programs and Management account by $7 million.

My amendment will then reallocate $5 million in funding to the EPA's Office of Inspector General for increased oversight of the EPA.

The EPA's role is to protect human health and the environment through research and development. Yet, it seems the EPA is more often focused on creating burdensome bureaucratic red tape than serving the American people and businesses.

Stringent EPA regulations burden businesses with compliance costs leading to job losses, higher consumer prices, and reduced economic competitiveness, particularly in industries such as manufacturing, energy, and agriculture. Tragically, these regulations often have nothing to do with protecting the environment.

For example, in my district, the repaving of a key road has been delayed for 18 months. This heavily trafficked road is in desperate need of repair.

These delays are due to the EPA's requirement for an extensive environmental impact study, even though the road is already paved, has been around for over a decade, and it is a simple repaving project to revitalize the community. It is going to cost $700,000 and a delay of 18 months to repave 1.5 miles of road. This is a ridiculous delay of the inevitable.

The EPA needs to begin prioritizing our communities over bureaucratic overreach and overbearing regulations with no benefit. That is why proper oversight is critical to holding the EPA in check.

The EPA's Office of Inspector General has done incredible work with the funding it receives. Their work proves additional funding is a sound investment.

In May, it published its semiannual report to Congress which summarized its work and accomplishments from October 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. During that 6-month reporting period, they identified $120.1 million in total monetary benefits and provided the EPA and U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board with 55 recommendations for improvement.

To further prove their worth, the EPA OIG is performing a critical role in investigating and tracking the ridiculous spending from the Inflation Reduction Act. That is important oversight work to prevent fraud of Federal dollars.

I urge my colleagues to support amendment No. 56 which will decrease the EPA's overall funding account and reallocate a portion of those funds to increase oversight, transparency, and accountability.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 0945

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, to be clear, I fully support all oversight efforts and believe the mission of the inspectors general across government is vital, but I disagree with the offset and the treatment of the EPA in this bill generally.

In the base bill, the EPA is cut by nearly 20 percent. Almost every single account is cut except for the Office of the Inspector General. Quite frankly, the Inspector General's Office does pretty well under this bill.

Cutting every single program at the EPA and seeking to increase funding for only one office, which happens to be the oversight office, is a clear attempt by the majority to politicize the Inspector General. That is unacceptable.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I love the environment. My favorite President is Teddy Roosevelt, a great environmentalist, and my dad was a forest ranger. I grew up with Woodsy Owl and Smokey the Bear. I truly, truly, have a great love for the environment, and I want to make sure we use our funds appropriately.

I just reiterate that my amendment reduces funding for the overbearing EPA portion and really increases accountability, which I think is the more important part at this point when we see the abuses of the system. I think it is time for a more efficient and more accountable government. That is what this bill is about.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCORMICK. In closing, Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for this time to talk about accountability and efficiency of government. I hope and humbly request support for my amendment No. 56, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I certainly hope that the gentleman from Georgia is able to get his road paved. This is the wrong way to go about doing it. I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 57 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. The salary of Ya-Wei (Jake) Li, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs, shall be reduced to $1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment that would reduce Deputy Secretary Jake Li's salary to $1.

Prior to joining the EPA under the Biden administration, Jake Li spent over a decade of his career working for liberal nongovernmental organizations who remain solvent by litigating entities, including the EPA, for agricultural practices they disagree with, regardless of the utility to America's farm families and consumers.

Despite Congress passing language requiring EPA to take USDA feedback into account when developing mitigation measures, these proposals were developed without EPA input, leading USDA to express substantial concerns about the severe economic consequences for some farmers.

According to USDA estimates, the cost for all corn acres in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska to comply with the herbicide strategy could be upwards of $5.5 billion, and that estimate is for just one commodity across three States.

This regulatory overreach is just another example of the burdensome regulations EPA forces on our farm families and those living in rural America just to cater to the demands of environmental extremists like those Jake Li used to work with.

Frankly, even $1 is too much for the chief architect of these wrongheaded and callous strategies that seek to put American farmers and ranchers out of business.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. I urge support of my amendment, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. 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 gentlewoman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 72 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 72 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee for the gentleman from South Carolina, and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to the Environmental Protection Agency's Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would prohibit funding for the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Workgroup that advances the Biden administration's radical DEI agenda.

This workgroup's website links to a page of resources with hundreds of woke documents.

From the military to corporations to Federal agencies, we have seen time and time again that the DEI mission fosters division in the workplace.

DEI undermines our shared American identity and distracts from the missions of our Federal agencies. DEI hurts recruiting efforts and erodes trust between all Federal employees and the government they serve.

At a time when our growing national debt has surpassed $34 trillion, we cannot continue to use taxpayer dollars to fund wasteful and unnecessary woke programs.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and prohibit funding for policies that advance the Biden administration's radical diversity, equity, and inclusion agenda, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, one of our greatest strengths as a Nation is our diversity. The American experience is not a singular experience, and diversity programs exist to recognize this.

The fact is, and business leaders agree, that having a diverse and inclusive culture in the workplace is critical to performance. Attempting to defund or block the implementation of these efforts only takes us back to a time when our Nation's diversity was not seen as an asset.

This working group specifically looks for ways to foster an inclusive and respectful culture as it relates to water quality monitoring and assessment. Our success in achieving water quality goals depends on learning from people of all backgrounds.

I oppose this amendment and encourage my colleagues to do the same, Mr. Chairman, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Our Nation was made great because we have rewarded merit.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 73 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 73 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule titled ''Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards'' published in the Federal Register by the Environmental Protection Agency on January 24, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 4296).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, this amendment defunds a costly and misguided EPA agency rule that requires heavy-duty vehicles to comply with reduced emissions limits of nitrogen oxides and other pollutants.

This rule applies to vehicles, including certain long- and short-haul trucks, motor homes, school and transit buses, and commercial pickup trucks and vans.

The EPA, the very agency that created this rule, estimates the technology required to meet the new rule's standards will cost around $8,000 per vehicle. This cost will be borne by consumers and the supply chain.

The American people cannot afford the financial burdens of this aggressive regulation that would further raise costs of any product transported by trucks, including food, clothing, and building materials.

This regulation's cost of compliance is so high, operators and owners of trucks will be forced to leave the market.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and defund a rule that places costly and burdensome emissions standards on vehicles, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would block an EPA rule that implements a program to further reduce air pollution, including ozone and particulate matter from heavy-duty engines and vehicles across the United States. Both of these pollutants have significant negative impacts on human health.

Ozone is the main component in smog, and it has been scientifically proven to aggravate lung diseases, increase the frequency and severity of asthma attacks, and reduce lung function.

We have a responsibility to protect the millions of Americans affected by ozone and particulate matter pollution. For that reason, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I urge the Democrats to quit complaining about inflation while they are fanning the flame through excessive regulation.

Mr. Chair, I urge the support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MR. OBERNOLTE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 75 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. 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 the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a waiver,

pursuant to section 209(e) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7543(e)), for the In-Use Locomotive Regulation adopted by the California Air Resources Board on April 27, 2023.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Chair, last year the California Air Resources Board proposed a new regulation that would have disastrous consequences for my constituents, for the people of California, and for the people of the United States.

This so-called in-use locomotive rule would phase out the use of diesel-electric locomotives and require all locomotives entering the State of California to do so in a zero-emission configuration within just a few short years.

Mr. Chairman, there are several problems with this regulation. The first and most obvious is that there are currently no electric locomotives that can take the place of a diesel-electric freight locomotive. In fact, the best electric locomotives that exist currently are those so-called switch locomotives that are used to move cars back and forth between trains within freight switchyards. There are no locomotives that can take the place of a diesel-electric locomotive and haul millions of pounds of freight from place to place over hundreds of miles.

Mr. Chairman, the physics suggest there will be no locomotives that can accomplish this any time in the near future.

Requiring this regulation would raise prices for every consumer in California, a State, Mr. Chairman, which already suffers the worst poverty of any State in the country.

Mr. Chairman, this would also have a disastrous effect on my constituents. BNS Railways is currently constructing a $1.5 billion project in the city of Barstow within my district, an intermodal transfer facility that will allow freight from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to be shipped by rail to Barstow and then transshipped by rail or by truck to other places in the country. Currently, Mr. Chairman, that freight leaves those ports on trucks.

□ 1000

BNSF has said, quite reasonably, that if California will not let their locomotives enter the State, they will abandon their plans for that intermodal transfer facility.

Mr. Chairman, that will result in the loss of not just $1.5 billion of investment in my community but over 20,000 jobs in the region of California that I represent.

Mr. Chairman, the most nonsensical part of this legislation is that it actually will be much worse for the environment. It is three times more efficient to transfer freight by rail than it is by truck. That is one-third the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

If we force freight to be shipped by truck instead of by rail out of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, that will be far worse for the environment than allowing it to be transported on the efficient diesel-electric locomotives that we currently have.

That is why this amendment would deny the EPA the funding that they need to grant a waiver to the State of California to implement this nonsensical rule.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, which would effectively bar the EPA from approving a waiver of Federal preemption for California's in-use locomotive rule.

Congress carefully crafted the Clean Air Act to recognize the diverse air pollution challenges facing each State. Due to a history of severe air quality problems, the EPA can grant California waivers to set vehicle emissions standards that are more protective than those at the Federal level, including for locomotives.

While the EPA retains the authority to promulgate emission standards for new locomotives and locomotive engines, California is well within its rights to request a waiver of Federal preemption for regulations having to do with existing, or in-use, locomotives and locomotive engines.

Legal technicalities aside, this rule is critical to the public health and welfare of Californians and for residents of the States that may choose to adopt these stronger standards in the future, thanks to the flexibilities embedded in the Clean Air Act.

Diesel-powered locomotives emit dangerous air pollutants, including particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and greenhouse gases. Exposure to this toxic and harmful pollution has been linked to cancer, asthma, cardiopulmonary illnesses, reproductive health harm, and premature mortality. California's rule is expected to prevent 3,200 premature deaths, 1,100 hospital admissions, and 1,500 emergency room visits and deliver $32 billion in health savings. For California communities near rail yards, this rule is projected to decrease cancer risk by over 90 percent.

This amendment is yet another Republican attack on EPA's authority to protect public health from sources of dangerous pollution and simply another item on their polluters over people agenda.

A ''no'' vote on this amendment is a vote for protecting public health and preserving States' rights under the Clean Air Act. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to side with the law and with science.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Chair, I am very glad my colleague from Maine brought up the Clean Air Act because the Clean Air Act explicitly says that the right to set emissions requirements for locomotives is preempted from the States.

Mr. Chairman, that makes complete sense because how on Earth can we operate a national railway system if we allow each of the 50 States to come up with their own rules about what locomotives can cross their State lines? Mr. Chairman, that is a complete impossibility.

Mr. Chairman, to remind my colleague from Maine, the most nonsensical part of this rule is that these replacement electric locomotives do not exist, and they are not likely to exist anytime in the near future.

The current best battery technology that we possess can store about 5 megawatts of energy in the form factor of a locomotive. Mr. Chairman, to replace an existing freight locomotive would require about 20 times that amount of energy, about 100 megawatts of energy.

Mr. Chairman, this is a nonsensical rule. It is bad for the people of California. It is bad for consumers in California. It is bad for the people of the United States because this rule would result in more greenhouse gas emissions, not less.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this commonsense amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 76 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. OGLES. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

MINERAL LEASING ACT MODERNIZATION

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce section 50262 of Public Law 117–169 (commonly known as the ''Inflation Reduction Act'').

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, my amendment pertains to the Inflation Reduction Act. In order to pay for what ended up being approximately $1.2 trillion in green subsidies, the Biden-Harris administration chose to raise the

royalty rate on onshore oil and gas leases from 12.5 to 16.66 percent through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

Progressive Democrats also voted in unison to quintuple the minimum bid amount from $2 an acre to $10 an acre. The minority voted to increase the rental rate by a factor of 9 from $1.50 to eventually $15 an acre. At the time of the bill passage, estimates indicated that the bill would impose a $6.5 billion hike on oil and gas development.

At a time when we need to get back to energy independence, when we need to fight inflation by lowering the price of fuel, we have to peel back these failed policies that hurt the economy and hurt the consumer.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, we are here to protect the welfare of the American public, and this provision prevents a fair return to the American taxpayer from oil and gas leasing conducted on public lands.

By prohibiting the modernization of the Mineral Leasing Act, we are catering to the oil and gas interests and enabling them to continue to operate at rates that do not benefit the American people.

Fossil fuels accelerate the impacts of climate change, and this amendment demonstrates my Republican colleagues would rather pay billions for disaster relief than focus on clean energy. Our economy, health, livelihoods, food security, and quality of life all depend on healthy ecosystems.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment and focus instead on addressing climate change and making our Nation stronger.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, what I find to be one of the more remarkable things about the so-called Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is nowhere in that bill do progressive Democrats identify any government program worth cutting, not $1 of the $80 billion appropriated to the IRS to audit middle-income Americans, not $1 of spending in Ukraine, and not $1 of the billions given to advance tree equity.

This is absurd. We are spending ourselves into oblivion. We have to give relief to the American consumer, and a $6.5 billion hike in the cost of oil and gas to the consumer is real. The cost of groceries is up 30 to 40 percent. Rents are up. It is impossible for some to buy a home.

We have to recognize that the Biden-Harris administration is a failure. People were better off under Donald Trump than they are under Biden-Harris.

This is obvious. This isn't about pandering to oil and gas. This is about working-class Americans seeing increased prices at the fuel pump. Everything at the grocery store, everything at the big-box store, and everything at the mall is touched by oil and gas. If the price of that underlying commodity is increased, the price of everything else goes up. This is simple math.

We have to get back to common sense. Quite frankly, our enemies laugh. America produces the cleanest energy in the world. If we were really serious about climate change, we would export our natural gas to Europe because ours is better and cleaner than Russia's.

That is not my colleagues' objective. The minority's objective is about control, wealth distribution, and hurting the middle class. I, for one, stand for the middle class. I, for one, want to give relief to the middle class and quit pandering.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this bill. We have the opportunity to get back to energy independence, and we have the opportunity to give relief to the middle-class consumer.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, my colleague on the other side of the aisle says this is a measure to give relief to the American consumer and is pro-middle class.

First off, I don't know how anyone with a straight face has a giveaway to the oil and gas industry and says it is a relief to the American consumer or a benefit to the middle class. There is nothing in here that does anything good for the middle class, and there is nobody in America who thinks that if the oil and gas industry is helped, somehow consumers have gotten a personal benefit from that.

Mr. Chair, we all know climate change is real. We are very actively engaged in trying to produce more renewable energy and reduce our fossil fuel dependence. That is number one. That has to be our number one goal as Members of Congress.

Second, this simply says that when we use public land for accessing oil and gas, we ask those companies, which make billions in profits, which everybody in America knows—they actually think that they should get a break?

This actual fee has not changed since the 1920s. It is going from 12.5 percent to 16 percent when it has not changed since the 1920s. Does anybody think we should continue to give the same incredible break to the oil and gas industry that they have had since the 1920s?

It is a small modernization. It is money in the pocket of American taxpayers for using American land to derive this resource.

Mr. Chair, I think it is ludicrous that anyone should block this provision in law. It is about time we modernize the Mineral Leasing Act, and this is a simple provision that just says to make the oil and gas industry pay its fair share.

When my colleague on the other side of the aisle says that countries around the world are laughing at us because we are not producing more oil and gas, they might be laughing at us for giving away money to the oil and gas industry.

As I said, no one thinks that they are hurting. No one thinks that if we gave them a savings on this, they would somehow miraculously pass it on to the consumer, and because they are such a benevolent industry, the first thing that they want to do is take this little break that we are giving them and say to give the consumers a break.

No one thinks that the price at the pumps or the price they are paying goes down because we give them 12.5 percent instead of 16 percent. This is a ludicrous amendment. I can't believe that anyone would propose this with a straight face.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. PALMER). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 77 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. OGLES. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Environmental Financial Advisory Board of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, the Environmental Financial Advisory Board, or EFAB, was chartered under the 1972 Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The EFAB boasts of making recommendations that would supposedly lower the cost of environmental protection. Unfortunately, they are entirely beholden to the left's climate alarmism agenda.

In a 2022 meeting, the EFAB spent taxpayer resources gloating about the establishment of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund created from the so-called Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, a bill whose subsidies will cost the American taxpayer $1.2 trillion. The de facto slush fund provides $27 billion to the EPA through September 2024.

If the argument here is that we need the EFAB to expedite the rate at which we can give out green subsidies to his donor base, I admit to my colleagues that perhaps the EFAB has grown to be successful in that endeavor. Let's take a look at eligible recipients for this boondoggle: State-sponsored green

banks, nonprofit or quasi-government green banks, nonprofit energy conservation funds, and nonprofit social impact funds.

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

□ 1015

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, the Financial Advisory Board supports the EPA's mission to lower the cost and increase investment in environmental and public health protection.

Just to be clear about its role, here are some of the activities the board pursues: ways to lower the cost of environmental protection; removes financial and programmatic barriers that raise costs; increases public and private contribution in environmental facilities and services; and builds State and local financial ability to meet environmental laws.

This mission is critical if we want to ensure that the investments we need to make to protect our country from climate change are sound and achievable.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, if we look at the EFAB's charter, you will find they provide recommendations on ways the EPA can implement funding from the infrastructure law and Inflation Reduction Act to support environmental justice and to tackle the climate crisis. The charter goes on to say that the EFAB is focused on decarbonizing our Nation's schoolbuses.

Let's put aside whether it is even the role and scope of the Federal Government to address environmental justice or to work to decarbonize schoolbuses.

The EFAB is singularly focused on weaponizing the power of the Federal Government to distort market incentives and transform the economy, all in the name of promoting what has been rightly characterized as climate alarmism.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 78 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. OGLES. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency for the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, my amendment prohibits funds to be used by the Environmental Protection Agency for the U.S. Global Change Research Program. I know that is a mouthful, but this program coordinates with 13 different Federal departments and agencies. Its focus, as it relates to the areas within the EPA's jurisdiction, is to conduct research on climate change.

I think it is fair to say that the climate is changing, and perhaps we have a role to play in it. However, there is a degree of climate alarmism in this country that has compelled smooth-talking bureaucrats and their grant-seeking associates in the private sector to grovel for more and more and more funding, lest the world end in 8 years is kind of the mantra.

Mr. Chair, we have got to stop giving these handouts for alarmism. We have got to get back to simple metrics. We have got to have things that are truly measurable and not subjective. I do believe Al Gore predicted the end of the world by now. Guess what? We are humming along just fine.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, we are here to protect the welfare of the American public, and we cannot close our eyes to the impacts of climate change, such as the drought, flooding, severe storm, and wildfire events we are experiencing.

As of July 9 of this year, the United States has experienced 15 confirmed weather-climate disaster events with losses exceeding $1 billion each. As we all know, Hurricane Beryl made landfall in Texas on July 8, and we know more storms will follow this year. This amendment seeks to prohibit funding for the EPA's Global Change Research Program, which will result in more resilient communities, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and protect our world for future generations.

Not investing in strategies that minimize and prevent the acceleration of climate change and instead paying billions in disaster relief shows my Republican colleagues are not thinking about what is best for the American taxpayer.

Our economy, health, livelihoods, food security, and quality of life all depend on healthy ecosystems.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment and focus instead on addressing climate change and making our Nation stronger.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, the alarmism that is coming from the progressive Democrats ignores the fact that you have more and more individuals moving into coastal areas where hurricanes have an impact. You have more and more people and individuals moving into tornado alley or into Nashville where we have tornadic activity on a regular basis.

Some of this is common sense. It is not that the climate is somehow attacking us, maybe we are just moving in the way of the climate because you have denser populations in areas that are affected by weather.

Michael Shellenberger, a leading environmentalist, points out that economic development and technological advances are important factors that the left tends to exclude in its analysis on climate change.

Mr. Chairman, we have to get back to the metrics, get back to common sense, and recognize that if we get out of the way of industry, they want to advance. They want to be more efficient. They want to produce a profit margin, but also a savings for their consumer.

There is competition between industry to be more green, to be more environmentally friendly, and you see that playing out all over our Nation. You don't have to have the Federal Government putting industry in a choke hold and strangling innovation, and ultimately at a time when the middle class is struggling, strangling the middle class.

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

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, this is, again, a commonsense policy at a time where the Biden-Harris administration has failed our country. Our southern border is wide open. We have little girls being raped by illegals. I have a family in critical condition because a drunk illegal hit them head-on. Fentanyl is killing 300,000 people. We have a crisis, and they want to talk about the climate.

Our inner cities are desperate. Mayors in Dallas, Chicago, and New York are crying for help, and the Biden-Harris administration is silent. They are too busy pushing their alarmist, progressive, woke agenda on the middle class.

The Biden-Harris policies have failed our country, they failed hardworking Americans, and this is a commonsense policy to inject common sense into the Federal Government.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this is yet again another one of those amendments proposed by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that seeks to deny climate change and actively proposes that we do nothing.

Once again, they use all kinds of terminology. They call this alarmist. They call it a progressive, woke, democratic agenda. I don't even know what all these words mean. What is a woke agenda on climate change?

This is the majority of scientists in this world who tell us that we have a crisis, not only a crisis coming, but a crisis that is already upon us: flooding, extreme weather, extreme heat.

We are in the hottest summer on record. We are in the hottest month on record. What does it take to convince people that it is our responsibility to protect the American public, to protect American industry and economy, and to protect the planet instead of paying billions?

Did anyone hear that statistic I had before? As of July 9, the United States has experienced 15 confirmed weather-climate disaster events with losses exceeding $1 billion each.

It means we have already had 15 events totaling more than $1 billion, and we are only in July. I do not understand the economics, the math of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who say, oh, no, we will just think about this some other day. This is just a climate woke agenda and we don't care if we pour out billions of dollars.

Has the gentleman had a climate disaster in his district? I had two extreme storms in January that wiped away fishing wharves, wiped away commercial businesses. He talks about getting out of the way of businesses and how we have to be pro-business.

How would he feel if he was the owner of a small fishing pier, and it was wiped away, and the climate disaster money wasn't there for him? What if there wasn't some kind of fund that immediately rebuilt his fishing pier? What is he doing this summer? Where would he put his lobster traps? Where would he dock his boat?

How would he deal with this?

What about the small restaurant that was flooded twice in one month by extreme storms, tides, tidal surge like we have never seen before?

We have had two 100-year storms in one month. We used to call them 100-year storms because they are only supposed to happen once in 100 years. Now they have some other category because we don't even know what to call them anymore.

These are climate disasters that are real, yet my colleagues on the other side of the aisle consistently keep making these amendments that just deny the climate change, which say we shouldn't even spend any money on it and say somehow this is pro-middle class.

My colleagues say: We are helping the American consumer. We are helping the American taxpayer.

Are they really?

How does it help the taxpayer to spend billions in relief because they won't even admit to the facts that we have to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, American oil, and fossil fuels. We have to reduce that dependence.

We have to invest and continue to invest in renewable energy, which actually has produced hundreds of thousands of green jobs. They talk about innovation, getting out of the way of industry, yet they consistently get in the way of renewable energy innovation because they don't want to admit that this is real because they are all somehow continuing to support the oil and gas, the fossil fuel industry.

This progressive, woke, democratic agenda, whatever they want to call it, is just the facts. The fact is that climate change is upon us. This extreme weather is here today, and somehow my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to waste American taxpayer dollars, want to not make the investments that we need to make, want to continue to cut in bills like this, and it is not helping the American public. It is not good for the future of Americans. It is not good for our health.

I don't know if the gentleman has children or grandchildren, but I worry about what the future will be for my children and my seven grandchildren. I don't want them to come to me some day and say, hey, grandma, what were you doing when we needed to do something about this? What were you doing when we needed to prevent the climate change that is upon us today?

Were you just sitting there with your eyes closed and pretending it didn't exist? Were you using a bunch of jargon, quoting social media, and some memes that you saw somewhere, or were you talking about scientific facts and really doing things to invest in your children and grandchildren's future because it is upon us.

Mr. Chair, I encourage everyone to oppose this, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MR. PALMER

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. OGLES). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 79 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PALMER. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out the powers granted under section 3063 of title 18, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Chairman, each year the Environmental Protection Agency spends as much as $50 million a year to employ nearly 200 armed agents at an average cost of $216,000 per year per agent. The American people would likely be surprised to hear that.

According to the nonprofit group OpenTheBooks, the EPA has spent millions of dollars over the years on things like antitank ammunition, amphibious assault craft, night-vision equipment, unmanned aircraft, and other military equipment. It is difficult for me to imagine that the EPA has a legitimate use for antitank ammunition. To me, this sounds like we are arming Delta Force. The difference is, Delta Force can explain why they need these things, the EPA cannot.

These agents have been involved in raids in Alaska, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and my own State of Alabama. In Alaska, EPA agents wearing flak jackets and carrying semiautomatic rifles, shotguns, and sidearms showed up to review paperwork at a family-owned mining operation.

In my own State of Alabama, armed EPA agents took over two waste treatment facilities in Dothan, Alabama. These agents were posted at each entrance to the plant and recorded identification information of all those going in and going out.

The EPA is just one of more than 70 Federal agencies that employ armed personnel, many of which most Americans would never associate with law enforcement. These include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, the Federal Reserve Board, the National Institutes of Health, among others.

□ 1030

At this time, we need to take a step back and reevaluate whether arming the bureaucracy is the best way to ensure that our laws are enforced.

Federal agencies should be able to demonstrate their need for armed personnel, and absent such a demonstration, should rely on and partner with local, State, or Federal law enforcement when there is a need for armed protection.

Critics may claim my amendment would put the EPA personnel at risk of harm. They would be wrong. My amendment does not prohibit the EPA from using funds to provide security for its personnel or property. It does not prohibit training of EPA security or law enforcement personnel either.

My amendment would prohibit funding for the EPA's armed and militarized agents who have a history of intimidating Americans by conducting aggressive raids and begin to address the troubling trend of militarization in our Federal agencies.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this amendment that would cripple the EPA's ability to exercise its criminal enforcement function by preventing EPA criminal enforcement from being able to issue warrants, make arrests, or carry firearms.

I am truly befuddled by this attack on law enforcement. The majority's disdain for the EPA has been evident throughout the debate of this bill, but this amendment is beyond the pale.

I cannot understand how anyone would think it is a good idea to give a pass to criminals who deliberately break the law.

EPA's criminal enforcement function is a vital part of our efforts to help protect the environment and safeguard the public health, but it is important to recognize that it is only one part of these efforts.

The fact is the EPA's compliance and enforcement process is a multistep process that uses criminal law enforcement only as a last resort. EPA initially provides compliance assistance to help the regulated community understand and comply with the regulations.

EPA compliance monitoring then subsequently assesses compliance through inspections and other activities. Enforcement actions are initiated only when the regulated community does not comply or when cleanup is required. Criminal actions are usually reserved for the most serious violations, those that are willful or knowingly committed.

The mere threat of a criminal action can and does help ensure compliance. If this irresponsible amendment passes, and we remove the threat of criminal action, we will inevitably see a decline in willful compliance of our environmental laws. That would be bad news for all of us, as the quality of our air and water and the public health will inevitably suffer.

As to the issue of EPA personnel carrying firearms, I would point out that more than 70 Federal agencies employ law enforcement officers who are authorized to carry firearms and make arrests from the United States, including the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. The EPA is hardly unique in this regard.

Make no mistake. This amendment is clearly anti-law enforcement. It cripples the ability of the EPA to ensure enforcement of our environmental laws and will inevitably lead to more harm to the public health.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Chairman, I think it is interesting that my colleague believes the EPA is now a law enforcement agency and wants them fully funded, particularly in light of the fact that so many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were for defunding the local police, disarming the local police.

Yet, they want the EPA to be able to have anti-tank weapons. They want them to have unmanned aerial assets. This is like a military operation, not a law enforcement operation.

Mr. Chairman, if someone is violating a regulation that the EPA has imposed upon them, they can use Federal marshals if they need that, and there is no prohibition against EPA agents being able to carry sidearms or even rifles, if it is necessary.

I would like for someone to explain to me why the EPA needs anti-tank weapons. Who do they think they are protecting the environment from?

I really appreciate the concerns of my colleague, and I wish they had the same concerns about local law enforcement that they do about militarizing Federal agencies.

I urge my colleagues to think long and hard about what is going on with the Federal agencies, and I urge each one of them to support this amendment. It is a sensible amendment, and it puts things in the right priority.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

The amendment was agreed to.

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 118–602 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 24 by Mr. BRECHEEN of Oklahoma.

Amendment No. 25 by Mr. BRECHEEN of Oklahoma.

Amendment No. 45 by Mrs. HARSHBARGER of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 57 by Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. BRECHEEN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 24, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN), 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 156, noes 236, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 387]

AYES—156

Alford
Allen
Armstrong
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (TX)
Cline
Clyde
Collins
Crane
Crawford
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Norman
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—236

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Bucshon
Budzinski
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
LaLota
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lucas
Lynch
Magaziner
Maloy
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Miller-Meeks
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Nunn (IA)
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi

Peltola
Pence
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Ruiz
Rulli
Ryan
Sablan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stefanik
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Velázquez
Wagner
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack

NOT VOTING—46

Aderholt
Arrington
Blumenauer
Bowman
Bush
Castro (TX)
Cleaver
Cloud
Cole
Comer
Curtis
DeLauro
Diaz-Balart
Duarte
Evans
Foster
Garamendi
González-Colón
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
Jackson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kim (CA)
Kuster
Larson (CT)
LaTurner
McCaul
Meeks
Molinaro
Moylan
Mrvan
Omar
Pascrell
Porter
Radewagen
Rodgers (WA)
Ruppersberger
Salazar
Sewell
Suozzi
Titus
Turner
Valadao
Veasey
Watson Coleman

□ 1058

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chair, I missed a recorded vote. Had I been present, on Roll Call No. 387, Brecheen Amendment No. 24 to H.R. 8998, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I would have voted No.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF OFFICER JACOB J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN M. GIBSON

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana). The Chair asks that the body now observe a moment of silence in memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police, who were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol on July 24, 1998.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. BRECHEEN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 25, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN), 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 211, noes 202, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 388]

AYES—211

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

NOES—202

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

NOT VOTING—25

Bush
Castro (TX)
Cleaver
Comer
Evans
Garamendi
González-Colón
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
Kamlager-Dove
Larson (CT)
Lynch
Moylan
Nehls
Pascrell
Peters
Porter
Radewagen
Ruppersberger
Schiff
Suozzi
Turner
Watson Coleman
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LALOTA) (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1103

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MRS. HARSHBARGER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 45, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), 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 174, noes 239, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 389]

AYES—174

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Cline
Clyde
Collins
Crane
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Houchin
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moran
Nehls
Norman
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym

NOES—239

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bice
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Feenstra
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garbarino
García (IL)
García (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Huizenga
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaLota
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Nunn (IA)
Ocasio-Cortez
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Sablan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Valadao
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Womack
Zinke

NOT VOTING—24

Bush
Castro (TX)
Cleaver
Cloud
Comer
Duarte
Evans
Garamendi
González-Colón
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
Kamlager-Dove
Larson (CT)
Moylan
Omar
Pascrell
Porter
Radewagen
Ruppersberger
Schiff
Suozzi
Turner
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1108

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 57, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER), 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 is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 148, noes 267, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 390]

AYES—148

Alford
Allen
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Luna
Luttrell
Malliotakis
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Perry
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Scalise
Self
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—267

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bice
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Bucshon
Budzinski
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carson
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi

Kuster	Neal	Sewell
LaLota	Neguse	Sherman
Landsman	Nickel	Sherrill
Larsen (WA)	Norcross	Simpson
LaTurner	Norton	Slotkin
Lawler	Nunn (IA)	Smith (NJ)
Lee (CA)	Obernolte	Smith (WA)
Lee (NV)	Ocasio-Cortez	Sorensen
Lee (PA)	Omar	Soto
Leger Fernandez	Pallone	Spanberger
Levin	Panetta	Stansbury
Lieu	Pappas	Stanton
Lofgren	Pelosi	Steel
Lopez	Peltola	Stevens
Lucas	Pence	Strickland
Luetkemeyer	Perez	Swalwell
Lynch	Peters	Sykes
Mace	Pettersen	Takano
Magaziner	Pfluger	Thanedar
Maloy	Phillips	Thompson (CA)
Mann	Pingree	Thompson (MS)
Manning	Plaskett	Titus
Matsui	Pocan	Tlaib
McBath	Pressley	Tokuda
McClellan	Quigley	Tonko
McClintock	Ramirez	Torres (CA)
McCollum	Raskin	Torres (NY)
McCormick	Rogers (KY)	Trahan
McGarvey	Ross	Trone
McGovern	Ruiz	Underwood
Meeks	Ryan	Valadao
Menendez	Sablan	Van Orden
Meng	Salazar	Vargas
Mfume	Salinas	Vasquez
Miller (OH)	Sánchez	Veasey
Miller-Meeks	Sarbanes	Velázquez
Moore (UT)	Scanlon	Wagner
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Wasserman Schultz
Moran	Schneider	
Morelle	Scholten	Waters
Moskowitz	Schrier	Wexton
Moulton	Schweikert	Wild
Mrvan	Scott (VA)	Williams (GA)
Mullin	Scott, Austin	Williams (NY)
Nadler	Scott, David	Wilson (FL)
Napolitano	Sessions	Womack

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Griffith

NOT VOTING—21

Bush	Grijalva	Porter
Castro (TX)	Higgins (LA)	Radewagen
Cleaver	Hudson	Ruppersberger
Comer	Kamlager-Dove	Schiff
Evans	Larson (CT)	Suozzi
Garamendi	Moylan	Turner
González-Colón	Pascrell	Watson Coleman

□ 1111

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, I regrettably missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present I would have voted: No on Roll Call Vote 387, Brecheen Amendment No. 24; No on Roll Call Vote 388, Brecheen Amendment No. 25; No on Roll Call Vote 389, Harshbarger Amendment No. 45; and No on Roll Call Vote 390, Miller (IL) Amendment No. 57.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chair, due to unforeseen events, I was unfortunately unable to cast my vote for legislation considered on the House floor today. Had I been able to be present, I would have voted according to the following: NO, Roll Call 388, on Amendment No. 25; NO, Roll Call 389, on Amendment No. 45; and NO, Roll Call 390, on Amendment No. 57.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, had I been present for Roll Call Vote 387, Brecheen Amendment 24, I would have voted No. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 388, Brecheen Amendment 25, I would have voted No. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 389, Harshbarger Amendment 45, I would have voted No. Had I been present for Roll Call Vote 390, Miller Amendment 57, I would have voted No.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 387, 388, 389, and 390. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call Nos. 387, 388, 389, and 390.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW) having assumed the chair, Mr. LALOTA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that when the two Houses meet in joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, only the doors immediately opposite to the Speaker and those immediately to his left and right will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House. Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly enforced. Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor. The cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will not be allowed. Members may reserve their seats by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Monday, July 22, 2024, the House stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

JOINT MEETING TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL

During the recess, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 1 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Acting President pro tempore, the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN of the State of Maryland, and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Acting President pro tempore taking the chair at the left of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint meeting will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE);

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU);

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ);

The gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN);

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER); and

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Acting President pro tempore of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu into the House Chamber:

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN);

The Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES);

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY); and

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

At 2 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable William P. McFarland, announced His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu.

The Prime Minister of Israel, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Prime Minister NETANYAHU. Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON, Senator BEN CARDIN, Minority Leader HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Senate Majority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER, Senate Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL, Senators, Members of Congress, distinguished guests:

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you for giving me the profound honor of addressing this great citadel of democracy for the fourth time.

We meet today at a crossroads of history. Our world is in upheaval. In the Middle East, Iran's axis of terror confronts America, Israel, and our Arab friends.

This is not a clash of civilizations. It is a clash between barbarism and civilization. It is a clash between those who glorify death and those who sanctify life.

For the forces of civilization to triumph, America and Israel must stand together because when we stand together, something very simple happens: We win; they lose. My friends, I came to assure you today of one thing: We will win.

Ladies and gentlemen, like December 7, 1941, and September 11, 2001, October 7 is a day that will forever live in infamy. It was the Jewish holiday of Simchat Torah. It began as a perfect day with not a cloud in the sky. Thousands of young Israelis were celebrating at an outdoor music festival, and, suddenly, at 6:29 a.m., as children were still sleeping soundly in their beds in the towns and kibbutzim next to Gaza, suddenly, heaven turned into hell. Three thousand Hamas terrorists stormed into Israel. They butchered 1,200 people from 41 countries, including 39 Americans.

Proportionately, compared to our population size, that is like 20 9/11s in 1 day. These monsters raped women, they beheaded men, they burned babies alive, and they killed parents in front of their children and children in front of their parents. They dragged 255 people, both living and dead, into the dark dungeons of Gaza. Israel has already brought home 135 of these hostages, including 7 who were freed in daring rescue operations.

One of those freed hostages, Noa Argamani, is here in the gallery sitting near my wife, Sara. On the morning of October 7, the entire world saw Noa's look of desperation as she was violently abducted to Gaza on the back of a motorcycle.

I met Noa's mother, Liora, a few months ago. She was dying of cancer. She said to me: Prime Minister, I have one final wish. I wish to hug my daughter, Noa, one last time before I die.

Two months ago, I authorized a breathtaking commando rescue operation. Our special forces, including a heroic officer named Arnon Zmora who fell in this battle, rescued Noa and three other hostages.

I think it is one of the most moving things when Noa was reunited with her mother, Liora, and her mother's last wish came true.

Noa, we are so thrilled to have you with us today. Thank you.

Many hostage families are also here with us today, including Eli Bibas. Eli Bibas is the grandfather of those two beautiful, red-headed boys, the Bibas boys. They were toddlers who were taken hostage with their mother and Eli's son. The entire family was taken hostage. Two beautiful red-haired children were taken hostage. What monsters.

With us also is Iris Haim, whose son, Yotam, bravely escaped Hamas captivity with two other Israelis, and tragically they were killed making their way back to our lines.

We have with us also the families of American hostages. They are here. The pain these families have endured is beyond words. I met with them again yesterday, and I promised them this: I will not rest until all their loved ones are home, all of them.

As we speak, we are actively engaged in intensive efforts to secure their release, and I am confident that these efforts can succeed. Some of them are taking place right now.

I want to thank President Biden for his tireless efforts on behalf of the hostages and for his efforts to the hostage families, as well. I thank President Biden for his heartfelt support for Israel after the savage attack on October 7. He rightly called Hamas sheer evil. He dispatched two aircraft carriers to the Middle East to deter a wider war, and he came to Israel to stand with us during our darkest hour. It was a visit that will never be forgotten.

President Biden and I have known each other for over 40 years. I want to thank him for one-half century of friendship to Israel and for being, as he says, ''a proud Zionist.'' Actually, he says he is ''a proud Irish-American Zionist.''

My friends, for more than 9 months, Israel's soldiers have shown boundless courage. With us today is Lieutenant Avichail Reuven. Avichail Reuven is an officer in the Israeli Paratroopers. His family immigrated to Israel from Ethiopia.

In the early hours of October 7, Avichail heard the news of Hamas' bloody rampage. He put on his uniform and grabbed his rifle, but he didn't have a car. So he ran 8 miles to the front lines of Gaza to defend his people.

You heard that right. He ran 8 miles, came to the front lines, killed many terrorists, and saved many, many lives.

Avichail, we all honor your remarkable heroism.

Another Israeli is with us here today, and he is standing—stand up—right next to Avichail. This is Master Sergeant Ashraf al Bakhiri.

Ashraf is a veteran soldier from the Israeli Muslim community of Rahat. On October 7, Ashraf, too, killed many terrorists. First, he defended his comrades in the military base, and he then rushed to defend the neighboring communities, including the devastated community of Kibbutz Beeri.

Like Ashraf, the Muslim soldiers of the IDF fought alongside their Jewish—Jews, Christian, and other comrades-in-arms with tremendous bravery.

A third hero, Lieutenant Assa Sofer, is also here with us. Assa fought as an officer in the tank corps, and he was wounded in battle. He was wounded in battle while protecting his fellow soldiers from a grenade. He lost his right arm and the vision in his left eye. He is recovering, and incredibly, within a short time, Assa will soon return to active duty as a commander of a tank company.

I just learned there is a fourth hero here, Lieutenant Jonathan Ben Hamou, who lost a leg in Gaza and continued to fight.

My friends, these are the soldiers of Israel, unbowed, undaunted, unafraid.

As the Bible says, '''Am ke-lavi yakum,'' They shall rise like lions. They have risen like lions, the lions of Judah, the lions of Israel.

Ladies and gentlemen, the men and women of the IDF come from every corner of Israeli society, every ethnicity, every color, every creed, left and right, religious and secular. All are imbued with the indomitable spirit of the Maccabees, the legendary Jewish warriors of antiquity.

With us today is Yechiel Leiter, the father of one of those Maccabees. Yechiel's father escaped the Holocaust and found refuge in America. As a young man, Yechiel moved to Israel and raised a family of eight children.

He named his oldest son Moshe, after his late father. Moshe became an exemplary officer in one of our elite commando units. He served with distinction for two decades while raising six beautiful children of his own.

On October 7, Moshe volunteered to return to combat. Four weeks later, he was killed when a booby-trapped mine exploded in a tunnel shaft right next to a mosque.

At his son's funeral, Yechiel said this: If the State of Israel had not been established after the Holocaust, the image engraved in our collective memory would have been the photograph of that helpless Jewish boy in the Warsaw ghetto holding his hands up in the air with Nazi rifles pointed at him, but because of the birth of Israel, Yechiel continued, because of the courage of

soldiers like my son, Moshe, the Jewish people are no longer helpless in the face of our enemies.

Yechiel, please rise so we can honor your son's sacrifice, and I pledge to you and to all the bereaved families of Israel, some of whom are in this hall today: The sacrifice of your loved ones would not be in vain.

It will not be in vain because, for Israel, ''Never Again'' must never be an empty promise. It must always remain a sacred vow, and after October 7, ''Never Again'' is now.

My friends, defeating our brutal enemies requires both courage and clarity. Clarity begins by knowing the difference between good and evil. Yet, incredibly, many anti-Israel protesters, many choose to stand with evil. They stand with Hamas. They stand with rapists and murderers. They stand with people who came into the kibbutzim, into a home. The parents hid the children, the two babies, in the attic, in a secret attic. They murdered the families, the parents. They found the secret latch to the hidden attic, and then they murdered the babies.

These protesters stand with them. They should be ashamed of themselves. They refuse to make the simple distinction between those who target terrorists and those who target civilians, between the democratic State of Israel and the terrorist thugs of Hamas.

We recently learned from the national security director, the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, that Iran is funding and promoting anti-Israel protests in America. They want to disrupt America, so these protesters burn American flags even on the Fourth of July. And I wish to salute the fraternity brothers at the University of North Carolina who protected the American flag, protected the American flag against these anti-Israel protesters.

For all we know, Iran is funding the anti-Israel protests that are going on right now outside this building, not that many, but they are there, and throughout the city.

Well, I have a message for these protesters: When the tyrants of Tehran who hang gays from cranes and murder women for not covering their hair are praising, promoting, and funding you, you have officially become Iran's useful idiots.

Some of these protesters—it is amazing, absolutely amazing—some of these protesters hold up signs proclaiming: ''Gays for Gaza.'' They might as well hold up signs saying: ''Chickens for KFC.''

These protesters chant ''from the river to the sea,'' but many don't have a clue what river and what sea they are talking about. They not only get an F in geography; they get an F in history.

They call Israel a colonialist state. Don't they know that the land of Israel is where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob prayed; where Isaiah and Jeremiah preached; and where David and Solomon ruled.

For nearly 4,000 years, the land of Israel has been the homeland of the Jewish people. It has always been our home. It will always be our home.

It is not only the campus protesters who get it wrong; it is also the people who run those campuses. Eighty years after the Holocaust—80 years after the Holocaust—the presidents of Harvard, Penn, and I am ashamed to say my alma mater, MIT, couldn't bring themselves to condemn the calls for the genocide of Jews.

You remember what they said? They said: ''It depends on the context.'' Well, let me give these befuddled academics a little context. Anti-Semitism is the world's oldest hatred. For centuries, the massacre of Jews was always preceded by wild accusations.

We were accused of everything from poisoning wells, to spreading plagues, to using the blood of slaughtered children to bake Passover matzos. These preposterous, anti-Semitic lies led to persecution, mass murder, and ultimately to history's worst genocide, the Holocaust.

Now, just as malicious lies were leveled for centuries at the Jewish people, malicious lies are now being leveled at the Jewish state. No, no. Don't applaud. Listen.

The outrageous slanders that paint Israel as racist and genocidal are meant to delegitimize Israel, to demonize the Jewish state, and to demonize Jews everywhere. And no wonder, no wonder we witnessed an appalling rise of anti-Semitism in America and around the world.

My friends, whenever and wherever we see the scourge of anti-Semitism, we must unequivocally condemn it and resolutely fight it without exception.

And don't be fooled. When the blood libels against the Jewish state come from people who wear fancy silk robes and speak in lofty tones about law and justice, here is a case in point.

The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has shamefully accused Israel of deliberately starving the people of Gaza. This is utter, complete nonsense. It is a complete fabrication.

Israel has enabled more than 40,000 aid trucks to enter Gaza. That is half a million tons of food, and that is more than 3,000 calories for every man, woman, and child in Gaza. If there are Palestinians in Gaza who aren't getting enough food, it is not because Israel is blocking it; it is because Hamas is stealing it. So much for that lie.

But here is another: The ICC prosecutor accuses Israel of deliberately targeting civilians. What in God's green Earth is he talking about?

The IDF has dropped millions of flyers, sent millions of text messages, made hundreds of thousands of phone calls to get Palestinian civilians out of harm's way, but at the same time, Hamas does everything in its power to put Palestinian civilians in harm's way.

They fire rockets from schools, from hospitals, from mosques. They even shoot their own people when they try to leave the war zone. A senior Hamas official, Fathi Hammad, boasted—listen to this—he boasted that Palestinian women and children excel at being human shields, his words. Excel at being human shields. What monstrous evil.

For Israel, every civilian death is a tragedy. For Hamas, it is a strategy. They actually want Palestinian civilians to die so that Israel will be smeared in the international media and be pressured to end the war before it is won. This would enable Hamas to survive another day, and as they vowed, to carry out October 7 again, and again, and again.

Well, I want to assure you, no matter what pressure is brought to bear, I will never allow that to happen.

The vast majority of Americans have not fallen for this Hamas propaganda. They continue to support Israel. I want to say, thank you, America, and thank you, Senators and House Members, who continue to support us, continue to support Israel, continue to support the truth, and see through the lies.

But as for the minority that may have fallen for Hamas' con job, I suggest you listen to Colonel John Spencer. John Spencer is head of urban warfare studies at West Point. He studied every major urban conflict—I was going to say in modern history. He corrected me. No, in history.

Israel, he said, has implemented more precautions to prevent civilian harm than any military in history and beyond what international law requires.

That is why, despite all the lies you have heard, the war in Gaza has one of the lowest ratios of combatants to noncombatants casualties in the history of urban warfare.

And you want to know where it is lowest in Gaza? It is lowest in Rafah. In Rafah. Remember what so many people said? If Israel goes into Rafah, there will be thousands, maybe even tens of thousands of civilians killed.

Well, last week I went into Rafah. I visited our troops as they finished fighting Hamas' remaining terrorist battalions. I asked the commander there: How many terrorists did you take out in Rafah? He gave me an exact number: 1,203.

I asked him: How many civilians were killed? He said: Prime Minister, practically none. With the exception of a single incident where shrapnel from a bomb hit a Hamas weapons depot and unintentionally killed two dozen people, the answer is: practically none.

You want to know why? Because Israel got the civilians out of harm's way—something people said we could never do, but we did it.

These heroes here today, the heroic soldiers of Israel, should not be condemned for how they are conducting the war in Gaza. They should be commended for it.

I want to thank all of you here today who forcefully opposed the false accusations of the ICC and stood up for the

truth. These lies are not only libelous, they are downright dangerous.

The ICC is trying to shackle Israel's hands and prevent us from defending ourselves. And if Israel's hands are tied, America is next.

I will tell you what else is next. The ability of all democracies to fight terrorism will be imperiled. That is what is on the line. So let me assure you. The hands of the Jewish state will never be shackled. Israel will always defend itself.

My friends in the Middle East, Iran is virtually behind all the terrorism, all the turmoil, all the chaos, all the killing, and that should come as no surprise.

When he founded the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khomeini pledged: We will export our revolution to the entire world. We will export the Islamic revolution to the entire world.

Now, ask yourself: Which country ultimately stands in the way of Iran's maniacal plans to impose radical Islam on the world?

And the answer is clear. It is America, the guardian of Western civilization and the world's greatest power. That is why Iran sees America as its greatest enemy.

Last month I heard a revealing comment, ostensibly, about the war in Gaza, but about something else. It came from the foreign minister of Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, and he said this: This is not a war with Israel. Israel, he said, is merely a tool. The main war, the real war, is with America.

Iran's regime has been fighting America from the moment it came to power. In 1979, it stormed the American Embassy. It held scores of Americans hostage for 444 days.

Since then, Iran's terrorist proxies have targeted America in the Middle East and beyond. In Beirut, they killed 241 U.S. servicemen. In Africa, they bombed American Embassies. In Iraq, they supplied explosives to maim and kill thousands of American soldiers.

In America, in America, they actually sent death squads. They sent death squads here to murder a former Secretary of State and a former National Security Advisor. And as we recently learned, they even brazenly threatened to assassinate President Trump.

But Iran understands that to truly challenge America, it must first conquer the Middle East. And for this, it uses its many proxies, including the Houthis, Hezbollah, and Hamas.

Yet, in the heart of the Middle East, standing in Iran's way, is one proud, pro-American democracy, my country, the State of Israel.

That is why the mobs in Tehran chant ''death to Israel'' before they chant ''death to America.'' For Iran, Israel is first. America is next.

So when Israel fights Hamas, we are fighting Iran. When we fight Hezbollah, we are fighting Iran. When we fight the Houthis, we are fighting Iran.

And when we fight Iran, we are fighting the most radical and murderous enemy of the United States of America.

And one more thing. When Israel acts to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons that could destroy Israel and threaten every American city, every city that you come from, we are not only protecting ourselves, we are protecting you.

My friends, if you remember one thing, one thing from the speech, remember this: Our enemies are your enemies. Our fight is your fight, and our victory will be your victory.

Ladies and gentlemen, that victory is in sight. Israel's defeat of Hamas will be a powerful blow to Iran's axis of terror.

Another part of that axis, Hezbollah, attacked Israel on October 8, a day after the Hamas attack. It has launched thousands of missiles and drones against us.

Eighty thousand of our citizens in northern Israel evacuated their homes, becoming effectively refugees in their own land. We are committed to returning them home.

We prefer to achieve this diplomatically, but let me be clear: Israel will do whatever it must do to restore security to our northern border and return our people safely to their homes.

Last Friday, a third Iranian proxy, the Houthis, attacked Tel Aviv with a deadly drone. It exploded a few hundred feet from the American consulate, killing one person and injuring nine. On Saturday, I authorized a swift response to that attack.

All our enemies should know this: Those who attack Israel will pay a very heavy price. And as we defend ourselves, on all fronts, I know that America has our back, and I thank you for it, all sides of the aisle. Thank you.

My friends, for decades, America has provided Israel with generous military assistance, and a grateful Israel has provided America with critical intelligence that saved many lives.

We have jointly developed some of the most sophisticated weapons on Earth. I choose my words carefully. We have jointly developed some of the most sophisticated weapons on Earth that help protect both our countries, and we also help keep Americans' boots off the ground, while protecting our shared interests in the Middle East.

I deeply appreciate America's support, including in this current war, but this is an exceptional moment. Fast-tracking U.S. military aid can dramatically expedite an end to the war in Gaza and help prevent a broader war in the Middle East.

In World War II, as Britain fought on the front lines of civilization, Winston Churchill appealed to Americans with these famous words: ''Give us the tools, and we will finish the job.''

Today, as Israel fights on the front line of civilization, I, too, appeal to America. Give us the tools faster, and we will finish the job faster.

My dear friends, the war in Gaza could end tomorrow if Hamas surrenders, disarms, and returns all the hostages. But if they don't, Israel will fight until we destroy Hamas' military capabilities, end its rule in Gaza, and bring all our hostages home.

That is what total victory means, and we will settle for nothing less. The day after we defeat Hamas, a new Gaza could emerge. My vision for that day is of a demilitarized and deradicalized Gaza. Israel does not seek to resettle Gaza, but for the foreseeable future, we must retain overriding security control there to prevent the resurgence of terror to ensure that Gaza never again poses a threat to Israel.

Gaza should have a civilian administration run by Palestinians who do not seek to destroy Israel. That is not too much to ask. It is a fundamental thing that we have a right to demand and to receive. A new generation of Palestinians must no longer be taught to hate Jews but, rather, to live in peace with us.

Those twin words, ''demilitarization and deradicalization,'' those two concepts were applied to Germany and Japan after World War II, and that led to decades of peace, prosperity, and security.

Following our victory, with the help of regional partners, the demilitarization and deradicalization of Gaza can also lead to a future of security, prosperity, and peace. That is my vision for Gaza.

Now, here is my vision for the broader Middle East. It is also shaped in part by what we saw in the aftermath of World War II. After that war, America forged a security alliance in Europe to counter the growing Soviet threat.

Likewise, America and Israel today can forge a security alliance in the Middle East to counter the growing Iranian threat. All countries that are at peace with Israel and all those countries who will make peace with Israel should be invited to join this alliance.

We saw a glimpse of that potential alliance on April 14. Led by the United States, more than half a dozen nations worked alongside Israel to help neutralize hundreds of missiles and drones launched by Iran against us.

Thank you, President Biden, for bringing that coalition together.

The new alliance I envision would be a natural extension of the groundbreaking Abraham Accords. Those accords saw peace forged between Israel and four Arab countries, and they were supported by Republicans and Democrats alike. We could call—I have a name for this new alliance. I think we should call it the Abraham alliance.

I want to thank President Trump for his leadership in brokering the historic Abraham Accords. Like Americans, Israelis were relieved that President Trump emerged safe and sound from that dastardly attack on him, dastardly attack on American democracy. There is no room for political violence in democracies.

I also want to thank President Trump for all the things he did for Israel, from recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights to

confronting Iran's aggression to recognizing Jerusalem as our capital and moving the American Embassy there. That is Jerusalem, our eternal capital, never to be divided again.

My dear friends, Democrats and Republicans, despite these times of upheaval, I am hopeful about the future. I am hopeful about Israel because my people, the Jewish people, emerged from the depths of hell, from dispossession and genocide, and against all odds, we restored our sovereignty in our ancient homeland. We built a powerful and vibrant democracy, a democracy that pushes the boundaries of innovation for the betterment of all humanity.

I am hopeful about America because I am hopeful about Americans. I know how much the people of this country have sacrificed to defend freedom.

America will continue to be a force for light and good in a dark and dangerous world. For free peoples everywhere, America remains the beacon of liberty its extraordinary Founders envisioned back in 1776.

Working together, I am confident that our two Nations will vanquish the tyrants and terrorists who threaten us both.

As Israel's Prime Minister, I promise you this: No matter how long it takes, no matter how difficult the road ahead, Israel will not relent. Israel will not bend. We will defend our land. We will defend our people. We will fight until we achieve victory, victory over liberty—rather, victory of liberty over tyranny, victory of life over death, victory of good over evil. That is our solemn commitment.

We will continue to work with the United States and our Arab partners to transform our troubled region from a backwater of oppression, poverty, and war into a thriving oasis of dignity, prosperity, and peace.

In this noble mission, as in many others, Israel will always remain America's indispensable ally.

Through thick and thin and in good times and in bad, Israel will always be your loyal friend and your steadfast partner.

On behalf of the people of Israel, I came here today to say: Thank you, America. Thank you for your support and solidarity. Thank you for standing with Israel in our hour of need. Together, we shall defend our common civilization. Together, we shall secure a brilliant future for both our nations.

May God bless Israel, may God bless America, and may God bless the great alliance between Israel and America forever.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

At 3 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps from the Chamber.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1554

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JAMES) at 3 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 24, 2024, at 11:53 a.m.

That the Senate passed S. 3696.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1076.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370 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. 8998.

Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1555

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. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, with Mr. NORMAN (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 57 printed in part B of House report 118–602 offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MR. PALMER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 80 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PALMER. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review'' published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on July 16, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 57738).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Chairman, the Environmental Protection Agency recently finalized a $2 billion regulation on the lime industry that the EPA's own staff have found is completely unnecessary to protect public health and welfare.

Lime plants not only supply products essential for the proper function of critical activities concerning construction, but lime also keeps our roadways from breaking down and helps keep our water clean.

As recently as 2020, just 4 years ago, the EPA conducted a full risk assessment of hazardous air pollutants emitted by the lime manufacturing industry. The EPA found that risks from the source category are acceptable, the standards provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health, and more stringent standards are not necessary to prevent an adverse environmental effect. The EPA received no new data or other information during the public comment period that causes us to change that proposed determination. I emphasize that is the EPA's own staff and scientists.

This was published in the FEDERAL REGISTER in July of 2020. What is interesting is that lime is used for pollution control to absorb sulfur oxides, which helps prevent acid rain and reduces emissions of hazardous air pollutants, including mercury.

The only reason the Biden administration's EPA is issuing this expensive

and unnecessary rule is because of a 2–1 split decision where the District of Columbia circuit court sided with an environmental group suing to ignore the EPA's scientific findings in favor of their radical climate agenda.

That case said that the EPA must set standards for all unregulated hazardous air pollutants when the agency conducts a technology review under the Clean Air Act. Congress intended that new, additional regulations should be added only if risk assessment demonstrated that risks are not acceptable with an ample margin of safety. Since the EPA has already found that emissions from the lime industry are already acceptable with an ample margin of safety, there is no need for these new, expensive regulations. I urge my colleagues to trust the science and support my amendment.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, the Interior bill we are considering today includes 92 poison pill riders in the base bill that cripple environmental protection, undermine climate change policies, add to the national debt, and include discriminatory riders targeting millions of American citizens that have already proven so divisive in earlier markups. I object to the inclusion of any more.

This amendment would block the EPA from implementing air pollution regulations for lime manufacturing plants. The EPA rule will reduce emissions of toxic air pollution by nearly 900 tons per year from hazardous air pollutants such as dioxin and mercury.

EPA initiated this rulemaking as required by a court case to comply with their 8-year technology review timeline required under the Clean Air Act.

As a result of the lawsuit and subsequent emissions data collection, EPA found four pollutants that were unregulated in proposed reasonable standards to achieve better air quality and public health.

EPA worked closely with the Small Business Administration and included regulatory flexibilities to address small business concerns.

EPA balanced industry concerns alongside their duty to protect public health and the environment in this rule, and they were statutorily required to update.

□ 1600

The rule is important to the people who live in communities next to these facilities, to the workers at these facilities, and it is critical that this rule go into effect and not be a political pawn in the appropriations process.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Chair, this amendment would be a step toward returning power back to Congress, where it belongs. Instead of complying with the agenda of radical environmentalists, Congress should reject their efforts to ignore science. I remind my colleagues that the EPA's own scientists said this rule is not necessary.

We have too many unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats making way too many laws in the form of regulations that are doing great harm to Americans struggling to pay their bills, struggling to put food on the table, and struggling to take care of their families.

This lime rule is another example of the fake science that is doing unnecessary harm to our economy and to American households.

I emphasize again, lime plants supply products essential to the proper functioning of critical activities to the national interest, including steel production, road construction, power generation, pollution abatement. As I pointed out, one of the things that my colleague mentioned was mercury. Lime is used to abate mercury in air.

I worked for two international engineering companies, and we built pollution control devices, including devices that use lime to remove sulfur oxides from gases being emitted from production facilities. It is used in drinking water treatment. Lime helps keep our roadways, as I said, from breaking down. Lime helps keep our water clean, and lime improves soil quality.

Unnecessary regulations like the lime rule add to the inflationary burden Americans are currently suffering under. The high price of building a new home, for instance, has placed home ownership out of reach of many Americans, and this lime rule will add to that cost. Funding this regulation would only make the high cost of living crisis worse.

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

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

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

As I said, having worked for two international engineering companies and in a think tank, I have found during my time in Congress that there is a serious lack of scientific understanding, and we just pass a lot of rules out of Congress that we really have no idea what the impact will be.

We also have, in many cases, a serious math problem. We don't understand how these things add up, pile up the cost of living on American households and the damage that it is doing to them. Right now, we are seeing grocery prices at levels we haven't seen in years. Cumulative inflation the last 3½ years of the Biden administration has been over 19 percent. Energy costs are up 40 percent. We just keep adding these things to the American people.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject the burdensome regulations, reject the radical environmental agenda, and support my amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close. I do want to assure my colleague on the other side of the aisle that I thoroughly understand the importance of lime in many manufacturing and agricultural processes. I actually have a cement manufacturing facility in my district, agricultural lime facility in my district, and I personally have spent many years as a farmer or gardener.

Just last week, I spread lime on my soil to make it more alkaline because we have very acidic soils in much of Maine. I am not unaware of the importance of lime, but I am also aware of our role in Congress of making sure that we reduce pollution and that we make sure we keep our citizens safe. This is a perfectly appropriate rule.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 81 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to give formal notification under, or prepare, propose, implement, administer, or enforce any rule or recommendation pursuant to, section 115 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7415).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, 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, this amendment prohibits the EPA from using funds for actions pursuant to section 115 of the Clean Air Act.

To be clear, section 115 of the Clean Air Act allows the EPA to mandate State emissions levels to whatever level the agency deems appropriate if they find U.S. emissions endanger a foreign nation and the endangered nation has a reciprocal agreement to prevent or control these emissions in their own nation, such as the Paris climate accord.

This backdoor provision allows the EPA to vastly expand its regulatory authority and encroach on the right of the States to regulate their own energy sectors based on the actions solely of a foreign nation.

It is irresponsible to allow unelected bureaucrats at the EPA to retain the ability to seize such expansive authority. If the U.S. Government wants to pursue such a policy, one that in my opinion is constitutionally suspect, it

should be done through an explicit congressional delegation of authority on a case-by-case basis.

A similar amendment has passed the House during previous Interior and Environmental Appropriations packages. I urge adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, section 115 of the Clean Air Act is essential. It enables the United States to work with other nations to address transboundary air pollution.

As we saw last year, while Canada was experiencing historic wildfires, that pollution knows no boundaries and can travel anywhere, whether by air or water. We cannot address these environmental issues on our own, and we must work with other nations.

Prohibiting the EPA from implementing section 115 of the Clean Air Act is shortsighted, and I oppose this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I certainly agree that we need to work with other nations and our neighbors, everybody around the globe. We are living on the same planet, breathing the same air, drinking the same water, but the United States is a sovereign nation, and we don't bow to any other sovereign, let alone take their word for it or have them impose regulations on us as they deem fit, as they see fit.

That is what section 115 would allow. It allows a backdoor access to doing so through a reciprocal agreement, not even a treaty, such as the Paris climate accord. That is the issue here, an agreement that an administration may take, that not this body, not the body across the building, not the American people are signatories to. That is the purpose of this amendment.

As I said, Mr. Chairman, in the past, this amendment has been accepted on this very bill, this very same amendment, and so I would urge adoption once again this time.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, once again, this is just common sense. I don't know that back a long time ago when section 115 was written it was written with the idea that the Paris climate accord, not a treaty, but with the force of a treaty would occur, but in the case that it is and that that has now happened, we must make sure that we speak loudly and that any regulations and any regulatory authority come through the elected bodies of the United States of America, not through bureaucracies and certainly not through would-be treaties or agreements from foreign countries.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. 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.

Ms. PINGREE. 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. 82 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 82 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

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:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Environmental Protection Agency to take any of the actions described as a ''backstop'' in the December 29, 2009, letter from the Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to the States in the Watershed and the District of Columbia in response to the development or implementation of a State's watershed implementation and referred to in enclosure B of such letter.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, 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, this amendment prohibits the use of funds to take retaliatory actions against States that disagree with the EPA-mandated pollutant reduction goals that have been imposed upon them by the EPA.

Importantly, this amendment would not prevent the EPA from working with States to restore things like the Chesapeake Bay, which is what the EPA is supposed to be doing.

In 1985, the States in the Chesapeake Bay region recognized the need to address pollutants in the Bay and through their own initiative came together to conduct cleanup efforts. These State-driven efforts were largely successful. Water quality improved almost 50 percent from 1985 to 2010 without the EPA's involvement.

However, in 2010, the EPA seized the States' authority to determine their own method of compliance and threatened to take over the water quality plants. This 2010 power grab, known as the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, total maximum daily load, directly contradicts the intent of the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act clearly acknowledges State authority in water quality and requires cooperation, which is happening through the Chesapeake Bay Commission rather than coercion between the States and the Federal Government.

These coercive methods have been tried and have failed. Water quality improvement has slowed, and last year the EPA acknowledged the 2025 goals likely cannot be met. The failures we have seen since Federalization of the bay cleanup efforts necessitate the re-evaluation of this model and a return to the cooperative model that led to the early improvements and actual success.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would allow those that pollute the Chesapeake Bay to ignore the Environmental Protection Agency's water quality standards.

Restoring the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed continues to be a priority. The EPA established mandatory water quality standards, and Congress has appropriated over $1 billion for the Chesapeake Bay program to help States, localities, and businesses meet those standards. This amendment would jeopardize that funding and have devastating effects on the health of the bay.

This amendment is not about the well-being of Virginia, Maryland, and the surrounding States. It is about the fact that some industrial operators don't think they should be responsible for controlling the pollution they dump into our rivers and streams across the country. The courts have sided with the EPA on this matter.

For more than 35 years, the regional partnership created through the Chesapeake Bay program has sought to restore and protect the Nation's largest and most productive estuary. This amendment would undermine decades of work and have lasting damaging effects to the health of the bay and the economy that it supports.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1615

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, let me clarify, prohibits the use of funds to take retaliatory actions—retaliatory. We are already working together. We are working with the EPA. As was said, this is a regional partnership and has been a regional partnership.

This isn't about industry getting a free pass to pollute anywhere. This is about the heavy-handed, coercive tactics of the EPA on States that want to do this, that got into this because this is what they wanted to do. We don't need the EPA.

By the way, go to some of these treatment plants, and do you know what the EPA's requirements are, Mr. Chairman? Beyond the limits of technology. They have to treat the water to beyond the limits of technology. Think about what that statement says. It says they can't get there from here, but the EPA is still going to fine them if they can't get there from here while

acknowledging they can't get there from here.

All we are saying is, don't spend money on the extortionary, retaliatory, coercive tactics. Spend the money, if you are going to spend it, on actually working together to clean up the bay.

Mr. Chair, I don't know what else you need to hear. We are not against the EPA. We are not against cleaning up the bay. We are not against spending the money to clean up the bay. What we are against is the retaliatory actions that don't help clean up the bay and waste our money.

By the way, since we are talking about it, while Pennsylvania continues to try to get beyond the limits of technology, that the EPA acknowledges, some of the other States in the compact aren't interested but aren't fined under these retaliatory practices. This is punishment to some States but not to others, which we see as unfair, as you might imagine.

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

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine has the right to close.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I think I have made my point, and the fact that the gentlewoman is reserving means there is no other point to make, so I am happy to listen.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, any time I hear one of my colleagues across the aisle say we don't need the EPA or that the actions of the EPA are extortion or retaliatory, I don't know about the specific actions that he is talking about today, but I do know, as someone who represents a State with as much coastline as any State in the Nation with estuaries, with bays, with an extreme dependence on our shorelines, on our watersheds, on the ocean itself, I know that the Chesapeake Bay is an incredible resource to this country. The health of the bay has been a big concern for over 35 years, and the work that the EPA does to keep it clean is extremely important.

This amendment that attempts to undermine those efforts, to undermine decades of work, is absolutely unnecessary and not anything that any of us should support. This has the likely impact of undermining the efforts of our fishermen, our residents of coastal communities, and the economy in the Chesapeake Bay, and it is a misguided amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and 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.

Ms. PINGREE. 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. 83 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 83 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 145, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 226, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, this amendment strikes the funding for the Council on Environmental Quality.

Now, it sounds lofty and awesome. The Council on Environmental Quality was created by the National Environmental Policy Act in 1969 to advance environmental policies and to meet requirements under NEPA. Of course, it is duplicative because now we have the EPA. We create a new agency, but we never get rid of the other agency, and they both do the same thing.

This one is supercharged now. This administration has tasked the CEQ with developing policies on climate change, environmental justice, and Federal sustainability, all while creating more paperwork under NEPA that the previous administration actually worked to reverse.

Mr. Chairman, these policies are what is holding America back. Onerous NEPA requirements and State-level laws like those in California are holding back countless programs and construction projects around the country. You can't get anything permitted. Things take years upon years. People say, why does it take so long? This is why.

They are also part of the left's apparatus that aims to shift America's entire way of life by meeting unscientific emission goals. They are not scientific. They are political goals. They are not scientific goals.

As written, the Department of Energy's own estimate for their gas stove rule shows that only 4 percent of gas stoves available on the market today meet the new standard, essentially forcing Americans to choose electric stoves without any—it is not based on science. They just want you to use electricity, not gas, and so they come up with the metrics.

This is part of this Council on Environmental Quality. We don't need them. We have the EPA. We don't need the duplication.

Mr. Chair, I urge support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment eliminates funding for the Council on Environmental Quality.

The office is responsible for coordinating the Federal Government's efforts to improve, preserve, and protect Americans' public health and environment. It also works to ensure that environmental reviews for infrastructure projects and Federal actions are thorough, efficient, and reflect the input of the public and local communities.

This amendment would hobble the office and result in significant delays to infrastructure projects around the country.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I don't know about significant delays. We are already experiencing significant delays. All these construction projects take decades to complete.

If we are going to just keep doing the same thing, which apparently that is what the gentlewoman on the other side of aisle wants to do, we are going to continue to experience significant delays.

Maybe this isn't the answer. I would be happy to hear what the answer is if it is not this, but doing the same thing isn't going to change anything. That is what we are looking to do, to make it more efficient.

The EPA can do this work. The EPA should do this work. We don't need both these agencies at the same time duplicating each other's efforts and wasting American tax dollars.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. 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.

Ms. PINGREE. 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. 84 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 84 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

NO DESIGNATION OF PERMIAN BASIN AS NONATTAINMENT FOR OZONE

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to designate or redesignate the Permian Basin (or any portion thereof) as nonattainment for ozone under section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7407(d)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, two summers ago, the EPA released a regulatory agenda which included the consideration of redesignation of ozone attainment in the Permian Basin.

This wholly discretionary action would impose new regulatory burdens, new regulations on the U.S. oil and gas industry, which will only worsen the cost-of-living problems that we already have and the high energy problems that we are already experiencing.

A nonattainment redesignation will have considerable, almost an unbelievable, negative local impacts that cannot be overstated. In rural America, the energy industry generates high-paying jobs for working families and is the driver of the Texas and New Mexico economies.

Additionally, the industry annually contributes over $20 billion to State of Texas local coffers to fund public education, emergency responders, hospitals, conservation projects, and more. If the EPA finalizes this redesignation, most rural communities in this area will face substantial economic hardship. Somebody is going to have to make up that money.

By the way, it is not just Texas and the Permian Basin. If you ever travel there, if you are in the airport, you will see people traveling to and from the Permian Basin because of the jobs there. They are going to the basin for the jobs. They are flying back to the East Coast. They will work a couple of weeks on and take a week off and go back to the East Coast, so it is not just the Permian Basin that is going to be affected. It is States like Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Georgia, where the men and women that I talked to when I was there in the airport were traveling to and from.

In May of this year, Representative PFLUGER hosted the Region 6 Administrator to see the impacts of a potential redesignation and the actions producers are already taking to reduce emissions to record levels.

During her visit, it was made clear that the EPA does not have monitors on the Texas side of the Permian Basin. They don't even have monitors there. All the data that is being used to build the case for the nonattainment redesignation is based on either modeling or monitors in some other State, not even in Texas.

We have seen this before. That is why Representative PFLUGER recently introduced the Show the Data Act, which mandates that any nonattainment redesignation by the EPA cannot be based on air quality monitor data from some other State, area, or counties being designated. They have to be in the county, in the State. That would be nice.

The Permian Basin is proud of its environmental record. Their producers have led the world in emissions reduction, innovation, and sustainable practices. Permian Basin producers continue to reduce emissions of ozone precursors while increasing energy production.

As a matter of fact, methane emissions intensity in the Permian Basin dropped by nearly 70 percent between 2011 and 2020 even as oil and gas production in the region rose by over 320 percent. They didn't need the Federal Government coming down there with monitors outside the area telling them how to do that.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. It is a legislative earmark to benefit oil and gas producers. It would tell the EPA to ignore potentially unhealthy air in the counties that make up the Permian Basin.

For the past few years, air monitors located in the Permian Basin area have shown violations well above EPA's 2015 ozone standard. So it is more than reasonable for the EPA to evaluate conditions in the area, consistent with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, but this amendment would prevent the EPA from redesignating the Permian Basin as being in nonattainment of the 2015 ozone standard.

Under the Clean Air Act, the EPA is required to set a national ambient air quality standard for contaminants, like ground-level ozone, that are adequate to protect public health, including the health of sensitive groups such as children and the elderly.

These health-based standards, the NAAQS, must reflect recent scientific and medical data. Once the EPA sets or revises the NAAQS, EPA uses air monitoring data and recommendations from States to determine which areas meet the standards and those that do not, known as being in nonattainment.

□ 1630

States then go to work to develop plans using the most cost-effective strategies to bring nonattainment areas in compliance with the standard.

Allowing a region that exceeds the standard to be considered in attainment doesn't do anything for the families and the workers living in those counties breathing the toxic air. It tells Americans that there is nothing to see here while they bear the brunt of the environmental hazards.

Contrary to what polluters would have you believe, being designated as nonattainment does not shut down the economies. Businesses have and do continue to operate and expand in nonattainment areas. However, the designation ensures that States and businesses are taking measures to control air pollution and help communities to achieve cleaner, healthier air.

The Interior bill we are considering today includes 92 poison pill riders in the base bill, and I object to the inclusion of any more.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I suspect that Representative PFLUGER would be aghast at the claim that this is a legislative earmark. There is no money involved in this.

By the way, the air quality has continued to improve. Since 1990, ozone concentration has decreased by 25 percent and emissions of ozone precursors like VOCs and nitrogen oxides have dropped by 47 percent and 65 percent.

Let me just tell you, Mr. Chairman: This is how this goes. The EPA sets a level through the Clean Air Act, they attain it, and then the EPA just keeps lowering it and lowering it and lowering it. It is used by the left by people who hate the oil and gas industry, hate civilization, and hate energy to say that you can no longer produce because you can't attain it. That's what they do.

To say it is not going to have any effect if we put them in the nonattainment zone, it is not going to have any effect on the producers, on local businesses—if it is not going to have any effect, then why would you do it? It is going to have an effect.

They are going to be out of jobs. That is the effect. It is a thinly veiled attempt to curb oil and gas production, and it will destroy local jobs, State revenues, and, more importantly, our national security.

Do you think China or Russia, which country that is competing with us in the oil and gas industry, which country do you think is telling their producers that they are not meeting attainment? None of them. Do you think Iran is doing that?

We are buying Venezuelan oil. We are buying Russian gas in the northeast. It is absurd. Congress must not allow this to move forward.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, my colleague on the other side of the aisle said that I hate oil and gas, I hate civilization, and I hate energy. Honestly, I don't hate oil and gas. I certainly don't hate civilization. In fact, I hope we can continue our civilization.

I am deeply concerned that if we continue our dependence on oil and gas that we won't have a civilization, that our children and grandchildren won't have the opportunities that we had, that our small businesses and our communities won't be able to function.

The whole reason we are talking about any of this is because we have the impending challenge of climate change that is already upon us today. In order to reduce the effects of climate change, we have to reduce our use of oil and gas, and we have to make sure that the pollution, as we are talking about in this bill, isn't impacting our communities.

It is interesting, my colleague mentioned that in the airport he sees people traveling to and from work in this area. Is it possible that crowd of people don't want to live in this area because the pollution and the effects are too strong and they would prefer just to go to work and get home to breathe some clean air somewhere else?

My colleague assumes that if we don't continue at the level we are operating on that we will be buying oil from Iran or China or Russia. He seems to forget that we have a booming industry going on in green energy. Whether it is renewable solar or wind or many of the other innovations that are taking place right now, they are far outpacing our use of oil and gas. In many States, the green energy jobs and the innovation are where all of the economic development and activity is.

For him to say this is our only opportunity or this is all because some of us hate oil and gas or want to penalize people for this, it is absolutely wrong. We are merely trying to bring our country into this modern era and make sure that we are investing in energy. I don't hate energy. I believe in renewable energy, and I believe there are tremendous opportunities out there.

I also want to make sure that communities that are impacted by the pollution, as we are talking about here, are protected, that those communities have the right to breathe clean air as we all hope we can do.

I would ask my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 85 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 85 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, as the designee of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for environmental justice activities.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, this amendment prohibits any of the funding from being used to carry out environmental justice activities.

Let me explain this to you. Environmental justice is nothing more than the synthesis of divisive racial ideology and radical environmentalism in the same package. This entire ideology is based on the notion that Federal environmental funding should be allocated based on immutable characteristics.

Biden's Justice40 Initiative directs 40 percent of Federal clean energy and energy efficiency spending based on ethnicity, migrant status, and income status.

How is that fair in America? I don't hear anything about the fact that poor communities are hurt the hardest by this administration's inflationary energy policy.

Just last year, the Census Bureau found that 36 percent of consumers say it has been somewhat to very difficult for them to pay their usual bills in the last 7 days. That is a 25 percent increase from the prior year. I hear it in my own district.

Environmental justice is just another way for this administration to funnel dollars, your tax dollars, to radical leftwing groups, including anti-Israel groups. I think that is important to note today.

In December of 2023, the Biden administration announced it would award $600 million in environmental justice funding. Fifty million dollars went to the Climate Justice Alliance, which organized anti-Israel protests in the Capitol rotunda last year.

What does any of that have to do with the environment?

Climate Justice Alliance's website has a ''Free Palestine'' web page that states: ''The path to climate justice travels through a free Palestine. . . . ''

I am sorry. I don't see the nexus.

Will my Democrat colleagues vote to send money to these groups, Iran's useful idiots, by opposing this amendment on the day that the Prime Minister of Israel came and addressed a joint session? I sure hope not.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, in recent years, Democrats have made historic investments in environmental justice, and the EPA has already put those dollars to good use.

It is unfortunate that my colleagues across the aisle continue to attack good government programs. Environmental justice ensures that all Americans receive the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, which is particularly important in rural communities, many of which are in the very districts of my colleagues across the aisle and myself.

Rural communities and low-income communities have long been targeted by corporations, regulatory agencies, and local planning and zoning boards when siting polluting facilities. This includes things like landfills, waste transfer stations, incinerators, garbage dumps, diesel bus and truck garages, auto body shops, smokestack industries, industrial hog and chicken processors, oil refineries, chemical manufacturers, and radioactive waste storage areas.

Because of this, these communities typically have lower property values, higher health disparities, and shorter lifespans.

Why would my colleagues try to defund any effort to improve the lives of people in rural and low-income communities? It is yet another attempt to implement an extreme agenda, to attack minority groups at all costs, and to return the United States to a time when environmental discrimination was the norm.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support our rural and our low-income communities by rejecting this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I don't know about all Americans. As a matter of fact, many of the communities that I represent are lower income. They are struggling to pay their electricity bills, and I doubt that they have gotten $50 million or part of what the Climate Justice Alliance got.

Most of my constituents don't have time to run around protesting with ''Free Palestine'' signs the day that the Prime Minister of Israel was addressing Congress.

I will tell you this. Justice should not be based on ethnicity, migrant status, or income status. Justice should be blind in America. Unfortunately, we have gotten away from that, and this is funding it.

I suggest that we all vote in favor of this and have justice be blind and have all Americans and all citizens treated equally.

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

Ms. PINGREE. 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.

Ms. PINGREE. 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. 88 OFFERED BY MR. STAUBER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 88 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 120, line 11, strike ''wildfire'' and insert ''wildfire, search and rescue,''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, amendment No. 88 to H.R. 8998 will ensure States and other cooperating entities that provide search-and-rescue services on Federal lands can receive reimbursement.

In northern Minnesota, the St. Louis County Rescue Squad assists people lost or injured in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area, which is Federal land in my district.

According to a Duluth News Tribune article, the squad's reported budget is about $450,000 per year. However, with the roughly 30,000 hours volunteer members dedicate to the cause each year, it is estimated that the squad provides about $3.5 million in free labor annually.

Recently, tragedy struck the BWCA. Two canoeists, Jesse Haugen of Cambridge and Reis Grams of Lino Lakes, fell over Curtain Falls. The St. Louis County Rescue Squad spent over 2 weeks on a search-and-rescue mission looking for these two individuals before they located their bodies. May these two souls rest in peace.

Of the 95 members of the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, 61 took part in the Curtain Falls mission. Combined, they worked almost 6,000 hours.

During a recent meeting I had with Squad Captain Rick Slatten, he estimated that the cost of the mission was around $150,000, over a quarter of their annual budget on one call.

As a former law enforcement officer, I know that rescue squads are critical to ensuring the safety of the constituencies and the many tourists that visit each year.

During a search-and-rescue mission, every second counts, and we need these crews to have the resources necessary to stay on top of their game or at a minimum know that they have the backing of the Federal Government to do what they can to save lives.

As the bill currently reads: The wildland fire management account can be used to reimburse States and other cooperating agencies for services provided in response to wildfire and other emergencies or disasters.

This amendment simply clarifies that search and rescue is a part of that reimbursement category. This will ensure that our search-and-rescue squads can continue to conduct these vital services in our communities.

Search-and-rescue volunteer rescue squads from small townships and small cities across America enter our Federal lands to rescue people that are in our Federal lands for enjoyment. It costs a lot of money to keep up equipment. It costs a lot of time and training, and these dollars will recognize them by saying that their rescue efforts are important to all of us.

Mr. Chair, I ask that this amendment be made in order, and I ask Members to be in support on the floor. I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1645

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 89 OFFERED BY MR. STAUBER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 89 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. STAUBER. 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 the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to designate the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, or any portion thereof, as a national monument under chapter 3203 of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Antiquities Act of 1906'').

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment that prohibits any funds from being used to designate the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness located within the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota as a national monument under the Antiquities Act.

The Superior National Forest is a working industrial forest, and it should always remain one. Responsible mining and responsible timber harvesting are desired traits of the forest. Mining and timber harvesting are part of our way of life in northern Minnesota, and they exist hand in hand with recreation and conservation.

This amendment protects our way of life and protects against an activist administration here in Washington taking steps to change it. In December 2016, while they were on their way out of office, the Obama-Biden administration made a last-minute Antiquities Act designation for Bears Ears in southeastern Utah. The amendment before you today is an insurance policy to ensure that the Biden-Harris administration doesn't make a last-ditch effort to do the same and designate a new monument in northern Minnesota which would jeopardize desired responsible use of the Superior National Forest, again, a working industrial forest.

Contrary to what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will likely argue, this amendment will not jeopardize any existing protections that the wilderness area already enjoys. This amendment does not expand mining or timber harvesting into the Boundary Waters. This amendment ensures we can continue to mine and harvest timber outside of the Boundary Waters.

Let me be clear. Mining will never take place in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. That has been settled since 1978 when Congress passed the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act. Back in 1978, my predecessor, then-Representative of the Eighth Congressional District, Democrat Jim Oberstar, stood here on the House floor and argued that our ability to responsibly mine and harvest timber in the Superior National Forest shall never be infringed.

This amendment is quite simple. It simply reaffirms Congress' intent when the 1978 wilderness act was passed. It simply protects against overreach from the executive branch, and, most importantly, it protects our way of life in northern Minnesota.

Mr. Chair, I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, unfortunately, my colleague from Minnesota has offered an amendment which doesn't make sense. I will explain why, Mr. Chairman. The amendment is directed at the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, but there is a fundamental misunderstanding of what is wilderness and how it is designated, what happens in the Superior National Forest, and the way this amendment is drafted.

First, the amendment would prohibit the administration from designating the BWCA as a national monument. When the Antiquities Act was passed by Congress to give the President the ability to protect vulnerable lands that contain valuable scientific, cultural, and historic resources, the BWCA was already protected.

Wilderness, Mr. Chair, is the most protected and restricted designation we have for public lands. The level of wilderness that it affords far exceeds what the national monument designation offer is. What I think the Member is attempting to do, and I might disagree with him but he has the right to do it, would be to leave out the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area and just talk about the Superior National Forest which is not part of that wilderness area, and then his amendment would make sense. I wouldn't support it, but his amendment would make sense.

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my good friend and colleague from Minnesota's comments. I will tell

you that in 2016 on their way out the Obama-Biden administration, for purely political reasons, pulled mining leases for a company that wanted to mine critical minerals in northeastern Minnesota. The Biden-Harris administration went against the Supreme Court when the Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional to pay off student loans, and they still did it.

What this says, Mr. Chair, is as the Biden-Harris administration is in their waning days here, they can't diminish our opportunities in northeastern Minnesota, period.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, as I said, the gentleman from Minnesota from the Eighth Congressional District and I might disagree on some of those things. I can't, in good conscience, support this amendment because it is not drafted in a way that would even do what the gentleman would like to do. It is just written wrong.

The Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area is protected. It is wilderness. Any portion thereafter that is in the amendment would be parts that are not part of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area. So by having that in the amendment, the amendment is not drafted properly.

For that and other reasons, I just close with this: I would urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment. We look forward to, in the future, having this discussion maybe next year with an amendment which the gentleman and I could disagree on the principle and not the way it is drafted.

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chairman, again, I do not trust the Biden-Harris administration on their way out. I do not trust them on their way out. This will ensure that the Superior National Forest and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness remains as it is and there are no antiquities put forth. I do not trust the Biden-Harris administration when it comes to mining. They are the most anti-mining administration in the history of the United States of America. They haven't opened one mine.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 90 OFFERED BY MR. STAUBER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 90 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. STAUBER. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to expand the area designated as the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness by section 3 of Public Law 95–495.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer my amendment that prohibits any funds from being used to expand the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area within the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota.

Mining and timber harvesting have played a significant role in the culture and the economy of northern Minnesota for well over a century. Mining and timber harvesting are our past, our present, and our future in northern Minnesota. We have proven we can mine and harvest timber responsibly all while still protecting and enjoying the beautiful area that we call home.

Antimining and antiforestry activists in this administration have taken step after step to attack our way of life in Minnesota. As my colleagues in this Chamber have heard me discuss time and time again, the Biden-Harris administration have used every tool to ban mining in northern Minnesota. They pulled the long-held leases for the Twin Metals project where copper was to be mined responsibly. Then they went even further and put into place a 20-year mineral withdrawal banning mining on 225,504 acres in the working industrial Superior National Forest.

What is next, Mr. Chairman?

What will they do next to attack our way of life and further stop mining in northern Minnesota?

My amendment will prevent the Biden-Harris administration from expanding the wilderness area while they are on their way out of the door later this year.

Just like my last amendment, this amendment does nothing to jeopardize existing protections for the Boundary Waters. This amendment does not expand mining or timber harvesting into the Boundary Waters. It simply ensures our ability to responsibly mine and harvest timber outside of the Boundary Waters. This amendment simply ensures this administration or any future administration cannot further attack our way of life in northeastern Minnesota.

Mr. Chair, I urge all my colleagues to support my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, again, this amendment, unfortunately, like the last one, is flawed. In fact, in my opinion, it is not even relevant. It prohibits the administration from using funds to expand the Boundary Waters wilderness.

I want to be clear. The executive branch cannot expand wilderness, period. They can't. Only an act of Congress, only we can expand wilderness. Unless Republican House leadership is planning on bringing a bill to the floor to expand the BWCA wilderness boundaries or a bill allowing the administration to unilaterally designate public lands as wilderness area, this amendment makes no sense.

Like the past amendment, this amendment is directed at the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area. Unfortunately, they betray a fundamental understanding of what wilderness is and how it is designated.

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, we have to remember that as we speak, the U.S. Forest Service is looking to purchase 70,000 acres of the wilderness from the school trust fund. They are looking to expand the wilderness as we speak.

Again, what this does is it ensures that the Biden-Harris administration on their way out doesn't do anything to expand the wilderness area.

My good friend and colleague from Minnesota says that the executive branch can't. They will try, and what this does, Mr. Chairman, is it ensures them not even considering it because it is part of legislation now.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, the school public trust lands that are being purchased are not being purchased to be put into wilderness. They can't be. The Forest Service can purchase them, and the county can purchase them if they are up for sale. The State of Minnesota has a say in it. I served in the State house. However, the Biden-Harris administration cannot—cannot—even if purchased designate them as wilderness unless we, as the Congress, the House and Senate, vote affirmatively to do so and then send a bill to the President's desk.

I understand the passion. It is clear that my colleague, the gentleman from the Eighth Congressional District, and I have different points of view on the BWCA and its protection of this pristine water up there, but these two amendments just bring the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area into a political fight that it doesn't belong in because the amendments are not drafted properly.

Mr. Chair, I am probably ready to close, but I am going to reserve the balance of my time for now.

□ 1700

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chairman, in closing, I offered three amendments. In the last two, I think I have said maybe three or four times now that as the Biden-Harris administration exits at the end of this year, I don't trust what they are going to do to our wilderness area, our mining, and our timber harvesting. They have proven it. The Obama-Biden administration took a

run at northeastern Minnesota when they pulled the leases on their way out.

What this does, Mr. Chair, is ensures that this blocks them from the attempt. This blocks them from the attempt to devastate northeastern Minnesota more so than they have already done.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, once again, I understand what the gentleman is attempting to do, but the way this is drafted doesn't do it.

I want my colleagues to think hard about amendments that fundamentally represent the laws that govern wilderness areas, including the Boundary Waters.

I hear you loud and clear that you don't agree with decisions made by this current administration, but the decisions that you are talking about into the future are not part of the Boundary Waters Wilderness Canoe Area.

Mr. Chair, for that reason, I reject this amendment because it is technically flawed, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 91 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 91 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Ms. TENNEY. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. The salary of Brenda Mallory, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, shall be reduced to $1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment No. 91 to reduce the salary of Council on Environmental Quality, CEQ, Chair Brenda Mallory to $1.

Mr. Chair, I have spoken numerous times on this floor about the dangerous rule proposed by the Federal Acquisition Regulation Council, the FAR Council, titled: ''Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk.''

This disastrous rule proposed by the FAR Council has numerous constitutional, national security, and practical concerns, none of which have been adequately addressed by the FAR Council. However, as part of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee's ongoing investigation into the basis for this rule, it was uncovered that the CEQ, which does not possess rulemaking abilities, pushed the FAR Council to implement its radical agenda and publish this rule.

First and foremost, this rule requires that all Federal contractors that do business worth more than $50 million with the Federal Government must disclose scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions.

This rule also seeks to require major Federal contractors to comply with the Paris climate accords, which have never even been ratified by the Senate.

The most objectionable part of this rule is the requirement that companies set climate targets and then have them validated by one specifically named company called Science Based Targets initiative, or SBTi. SBTi is a non-American, foreign, London-based company, which inherently carries national security concerns.

Under this rule, every major Federal contractor, including companies critical to our national security and our defense industrial base, would have to provide this foreign-owned company with information about all of their scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions and then strategize on how to reduce them.

Despite the existence of numerous American-based companies that could fill the same role, the FAR Council and CEQ chose a foreign company as the sole source provider because SBTi is nothing but a front for Democratic donors and advocacy groups.

SBTi is owned by the We Mean Business Coalition, which is a project of the New Venture Fund, which is managed by the dark-money super-PAC known as Arabella Advisors. Arabella Advisors, for those who don't know, is the George Soros-funded leftwing advocacy group that funnels dark money into leftwing causes and candidates.

To summarize, the Biden administration has named a subsidiary of one of their top donors, a leftwing, dark-money organization, as the sole source provider for all climate target validating for all major Federal Government contractors.

During a hearing in the Science, Space, and Technology Committee on this rule, even the Democratic witness said that SBTi was a poor choice for this role, yet CEQ and the FAR Council forged ahead anyway.

No Federal bureaucrat should be mandating that companies funnel money into the Democrats' dark-money operations. This is the very definition of corruption.

As the head of CEQ, Brenda Mallory played an integral role in pushing for this rule. Her salary must be defunded.

I look forward to working with Chairman LUCAS, Chairman OBERNOLTE, and all of my colleagues on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee to expose the corruption behind this proposed rule and halt its finalization and implementation.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PINGREE. 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 gentlewoman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 92 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 92 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Ms. TENNEY. 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 the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out Executive Order 14019 (863 Fed. Reg. 13623; relating to promoting access to voting), except for sections 7, 8, and 10 of such Order.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment No. 92 to the Interior appropriations bill to prohibit funding for President Biden's Executive Order No. 14019, titled: ''Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting.''

This order requires Federal agencies to use their power, influence, resources, and Federal funding to enter into agreements with nongovernmental organizations to conduct voter registration and other mobilization activities.

Mr. Chair, this executive order is nothing but a blatant attempt to transform the Federal Government into a partisan get-out-the-vote machine for Democrats. The Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency should be completely nonpartisan and should not be using taxpayer funds and resources to actively engage in get-out-the-vote operations that have nothing to do with the departments' core missions, not to mention the obvious mission creep and Hatch Act violations that this activity triggers.

Mr. Chair, President Biden should not be weaponizing Federal agencies

and the Federal Government, using American taxpayer dollars to manipulate and steer our elections in a partisan manner.

Let me be clear. The Department of the Interior is actively carrying out Executive Order No. 14019. The Heritage Foundation has subpoenaed numerous documents and emails related to the Department of the Interior's implementation of this radical executive order, including this interim plan, which, for the record, is fully redacted. Mr. Chair, I wonder why the Department would fully redact this plan if it had nothing to hide.

As the cofounder and chair of the Election Integrity Caucus, it is my privilege to introduce this amendment to restore transparency and confidence in our democratic process while keeping partisan Federal bureaucrats and the swamp, literally, from deliberately tipping the balance at the ballot box.

I stand firmly behind the concept of one citizen, one vote, as enshrined in our Constitution. However, I do not support this blatantly partisan mobilization of the Federal Government for political purposes.

The funds appropriated in this bill should be used as intended, such as to protect public lands for hunting and fishing, not implementing a partisan get-out-the-vote initiative using Federal dollars and Federal employees.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, which will preserve election integrity and stop the Biden administration from transforming the Department of the Interior into a get-out-the-vote, partisan machine for the Democrats.

Let's make voting great again.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

Mr. Chair, the right to vote is a foundation of American democracy. Free and fair elections are a hallmark of our country, and all Americans should have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote without confronting obstacles.

The laws of the United States prohibit racial discrimination, but we are aware of instances where Americans in certain communities are confronted with long lines at the polls or barriers to their participation. I am disappointed that my colleague would want to restrict funding for this executive order that strives to make voter registration easier, expand access to information, and make voting more accessible.

My colleagues across the aisle talk about protecting First Amendment and Second Amendment rights, yet Republicans would prohibit funding for efforts to ensure the basic democratic right for every American to vote.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Chair, I respectfully disagree with my colleague's interpretation of this bill.

I can't think of anything worse than having people who are on an important mission working in the Department of the Interior or other agencies engage in partisan get-out-the-vote efforts, being at the polls, and helping people vote.

That is not their job. That is the job of the States. Each one of the States is required under law to make sure to administer our elections, to be sure that we have one citizen, one vote, and that we have free and fair elections and access to voting. That is not the job of the Federal Government. In fact, Federal employees are prohibited from this kind of illegal activity under the Hatch Act.

For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and prohibit our dollars and our employees from being forced to engage in partisanship at the ballot box instead of working on keeping our communities safe and keeping our environment free from some of the interference that we are seeing from the Biden administration.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 93 OFFERED BY MR. TIFFANY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 93 printed in part B of House Report 118–602.

Mr. TIFFANY. 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:

On page 117, beginning on line 14, strike ''roads that are no longer needed, including''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, my amendment strikes funding in the bill to close existing Forest Service roads. Maintaining and expanding access to our public lands has been a priority for me and many of my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee this Congress.

Another lesser-known but equally important threat to access is the closure and decommissioning of roads and trails. Since 1991, the Forest Service has decommissioned an average of 2,000 miles of roads per year. Public lands across the Nation are under threat from big-city environmental groups that are hellbent on restricting public access to our shared public lands.

Shutting down these avenues for access doesn't just limit opportunities for recreational opportunities, like hunting, fishing, and ATVing, but it also makes responsible management efforts more difficult and expensive. That is exactly their goal.

My subcommittee saw these road closures firsthand in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in my district during a field hearing in May. It is not a coincidence that many of these local road closures correlate with the decline in the local forest products industry, the same industry that helps keep our forests and the communities that depend on them healthy and vibrant.

Forest Service roads can also act as an important firebreak for wildfires and allow quicker access for fighting them.

The language of decommissioning roads that are no longer needed is quite vague. In my experience, the Forest Service has not been very good about coordinating with local communities before closing roads that many people use.

□ 1715

Mr. Chair, why are we spending tax dollars to close roads we spent tax money to build?

It makes no sense.

Let's make a U-turn on the harmful policy and stop throwing up roadblocks that make it more difficult for Americans to visit these special places. I ask for a ''yes'' vote on the amendment.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Maine is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, this amendment would be detrimental to the Forest Service's ability to maintain quality fisheries and safe public drinking water.

Decommissioning of roads is a critical tool in the management of the National Forest System that allows the service to remove roads that are no longer necessary and are likely to cause resource damages to the local watershed affecting fish habitat and water quality.

Decommissioning is used judiciously within the National Forest System, and it is necessary for the Forest Service to ensure that the removal of the road will have little to no impact to public access or fire suppression. Often, when one road is decommissioned, another existing road is identified as the alternative access to the local area which allows access to be maintained. This is an unnecessary amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, I wish the gentlewoman would have been with us on our tour in May in northern Wisconsin. She would have heard from local people, local elected officials, State elected officials, and others who are harmed by these road closures that are happening.

The waste of tax dollars is very significant. We saw perfectly fine roads

that had been constructed to do logging projects and then they were removed.

We heard from a couple of elderly ladies who are berry pickers, which is a favorite pastime of many people up in northern Wisconsin at this time of year. They used to go out there and be able to pick berries now and then. They can no longer do that.

This is denying access to the very people who want to use our public lands that are taken care of with their tax dollars. There is no reason to close these roads. These roads have been active, oftentimes for decades, with no problems, and it is not rational to use the argument that this is going to harm the watershed.

If you come to some of the areas that we toured on our trip in May, you will see some of the finest waters that you will find in northern Wisconsin, and they were that way when these roads were active. There is no reason that we should be closing and decommissioning these roads.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania) having assumed the chair, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF DONALD J. TRUMP

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the resolution (H. Res. 1367) establishing the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1367

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT; COMPOSITION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in the House of Representatives the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the ''Task Force'').

(b) COMPOSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be composed of not more than 13 Members, Delegates, or the Resident Commissioner appointed by the Speaker, not more than 6 of whom shall be appointed after consultation with the minority leader. The Speaker shall designate one member of the Task Force as its chair. A vacancy in the membership of the Task Force shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Speaker and the minority leader shall be ex officio members of the Task Force but shall have no vote in the Task Force and may not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(3) DESIGNATION OF LEADERSHIP STAFF MEMBER.—The Speaker and the minority leader each may designate a leadership staff member to assist in their capacity as ex officio members, with the same access to Task Force meetings, hearings, briefings, and materials as employees of the Task Force and subject to the same security clearance and confidentiality requirements as employees of the Task Force, or as required to conduct the functions of the Task Force.

SEC. 2. JURISDICTION; FUNCTIONS.

(a) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Task Force shall be to—

(1) investigate and fully examine all actions by any agency, Department, officer, or employee of the Federal Government, as well as State and local law enforcement or any other State or local government or private entities or individuals, related to the attempted assassination of Donald J. Trump on July 13, 2024 in Butler, Pennsylvania; and

(2) issue a final report of its findings to the House not later than December 13, 2024, including any recommendations for legislative reforms necessary to prevent future security lapses.

(b) INTERIM REPORTS.—In addition to any final report addressing the matters described in subsection (a), the Task Force may issue such interim reports as it deems necessary.

(c) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—Any report issued by the Task Force shall be issued in unclassified form but may include a classified annex, a law enforcement-sensitive annex, or both.

SEC. 3. PROCEDURE.

(a) Notwithstanding clause 3(m) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Task Force is authorized to study the sources and methods of entities described in clause 11(b)(1)(A) of rule X insofar as such study is related to the matters described in section 2.

(b) Clause 11(b)(4), clause 11(e), and the first sentence of clause 11(f) of rule X shall apply to the Task Force.

(c) Except as specified in subsection (d), the Task Force shall have the authorities and responsibilities of, and shall be subject to the same limitations and restrictions as, a standing committee of the House, and shall be deemed a committee of the House for all purposes of law or rule.

(d)(1) Rules X and XI shall apply to the Task Force where not inconsistent with this subsection.

(2) Service on the Task Force shall not count against the limitations in clause 5(b)(2) of rule X.

(3) Clause 2(a) of rule XI shall not apply to the Task Force.

(4) Clause 2(g)(2)(D) of rule XI shall apply to the Task Force in the same manner as it applies to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

(5) Pursuant to clause 2(h) of rule XI, two members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony or receiving evidence and one-third of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum for taking any action other than one for which the presence of a majority of the Task Force is required.

(6) The chair of the Task Force, upon consultation with the ranking minority member, may authorize and issue subpoenas pursuant to clause 2(m) of rule XI in the investigation and study conducted pursuant to section 2, including for the purpose of taking depositions.

(7)(A) The chair of the Task Force, upon consultation with the ranking minority member, may order the taking of depositions, including pursuant to subpoena, by a member or counsel of the Task Force, in the same manner as a standing committee pursuant to section 3(k)(1) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

(B) Depositions taken under the authority prescribed in this paragraph shall be governed by the procedures submitted by the chair of the Committee on Rules for printing in the Congressional Record on January 10, 2023.

(8) Subpoenas authorized pursuant to this resolution may be signed by the chair of the Task Force or a designee.

(9) The chair of the Task Force may, after consultation with the ranking minority member, recognize—

(A) members of the Task Force to question a witness for periods longer than five minutes as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(B) of rule XI; and

(B) staff of the Task Force to question a witness as though pursuant to clause 2(j)(2)(C) of rule XI.

(10) The chair of the Task Force may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on questions referenced in clause 2(h)(4) of rule XI, and may resume proceedings on such postponed questions at any time after reasonable notice. Notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(11) The provisions of paragraphs (f)(1) through (f)(12) of clause 4 of rule XI shall apply to the Task Force.

SEC. 4. RECORDS; STAFF; TRAVEL; FUNDING.

(a) Any committee of the House of Representatives having custody of records in any form relating to the matters described in section 2 shall transfer such records to the Task Force within 7 days of the adoption of this resolution. Such records shall become the records of the Task Force.

(b) The appointment and the compensation of staff for the Task Force shall be subject to regulations issued by the Committee on House Administration.

(c)(1) Staff of employing entities of the House or a joint committee may be detailed to the Task Force to carry out this resolution and shall be deemed to be staff of the Task Force.

(2) The Task Force may request the head of any Federal agency to detail, on a nonreimbursable basis, any of the personnel of the agency to the Task Force.

(d) Section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i)) shall apply with respect to the Task Force in the same manner as such section applies with respect to a standing committee, except that

the selection of any consultant or organization under such section shall be subject to approval by the Speaker.

(e) There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary for the expenses of the Task Force. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the chair of the Task Force and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration. Amounts made available under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

SEC. 5. TERMINATION; DISPOSITION OF RECORDS.

(a) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate 10 days after filing the final report required under section 2.

(b) DISPOSITION OF RECORDS.—Upon termination of the Task Force, the records of the Task Force shall become the records of such committee or committees designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 1367, the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on the afternoon of July 13 in Butler, Pennsylvania, a 20-year-old man walked across a barren field just outside a rally for Donald Trump with a rifle, a transponder, and a cell phone. He previously flew a drone over the site.

The man was able to traverse the field, climb up to the roof of a building, position his rifle at the President, and take at least five shots, killing one, injuring two others, and grazing the head of the former President.

Thankfully, the man was neutralized shortly thereafter by the efforts of a nearby Secret Service countersniper team, but not before killing former fire Chief Corey Comperatore, who was struck as he protected his family from the oncoming gunfire, and critically wounding David Dutch and James Copenhaver.

We are here today not just because this domestic terrorist was able to carry out this violent act, but also because he did not go undetected. Several eyewitnesses and firsthand accounts confirm that they had not just spotted the individual, but had also alerted authorities.

A recent BBC article noted sources identified the individual as a person of interest 52 minutes before the first shot rang out and was again located 20 minutes prior, climbing a warehouse roof.

Yet the individual was able to get to an unacceptably close distance and fire at our former President undeterred and came within a millimeter of tragically altering the history of this election and our Nation. The toll taken on civilians and attendees will forever remain an indelible stain.

The Secret Service not only failed to protect the President, but they failed to protect everyday Americans who were placed in harm's way, and that led to tragic consequences, taking a loving father away from his wife and children in the process.

The apparent failures at protecting a former President and now Presidential nominee are deeply troubling for their own sake, but also for the ramifications of the security of those trusted at the highest levels of our government currently and in the future.

H. Res. 1367 establishes the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald Trump. The task force will be empowered with all of the investigative authority of the House of Representatives, including subpoena authority to investigate the events that led to this heinous attempt at political violence and intimidation.

Mr. Speaker, this is election interference in the extreme. Political violence is unspeakably evil, and it is un-American regardless of political creed. That is why this task force will be bipartisan with the chairman and ranking member working together, drawing conclusions, and recommendations based on input from witnesses and from each other.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my fellow member and friend, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, for sponsoring this critical legislation. It was his district where this occurred.

Through the work of this task force, we will understand what went wrong on the day of the attempted assassination, what led to these failings, hold those responsible accountable, and make the necessary reforms to prevent this from ever happening again.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I will join the gentleman from Texas in expressing my anger and disgust at the cowardly attack on the former President in Butler, Pennsylvania, a couple of weekends ago. What happened at that rally was horrific and un-American.

When the news first broke, my thoughts immediately turned to the former President's family, and the uncertainty and fear they must have felt. Our families are often the ones who shoulder the burden of the decisions we make, and I know that must have been an awful day for them.

I am truly grateful that the former President is okay. I am also heartbroken over the death of Corey Comperatore, a former fire chief, who selflessly shielded his own family from the bullets. Of course, I will continue keeping the other two victims who were seriously wounded in my prayers.

Sadly, political violence is not new to this country. One of my earliest memories is actually of sitting around our dining room table with my mother and my father and my two sisters in Worcester, Massachusetts, writing condolence cards to Ethel Kennedy in the wake of Robert Kennedy's assassination. It was an awful, awful thing. I hope our country never goes through that ever again.

We don't yet know the motive of the would-be assassin, and there are still many unanswered questions. We know he was a disturbed, isolated young man, who happened to be a registered Republican who had easy access to an AR–15. He was doing computer searches on both Republicans and Democrats, on the rally in Pennsylvania, as well as the Democratic National Convention.

We also know that an assassination attempt is more than just an attack on one person. It is an attack on the fabric of our democracy, and so it needs to be taken very, very seriously.

There needs to be accountability, and I will just caution here that accountability does not mean finger pointing. I actually want to echo the remarks of the former President's family to say that many brave law enforcement officers and Secret Service agents put their lives on the line at that rally. They nearly took a bullet for the former President, and they ought to be applauded for their bravery.

I also think we shouldn't be jumping to conclusions about which law enforcement agency or officer is to blame, whether it is this leader or that leader or this person or that person. We don't need to play the blame game. We need to know the facts. We need to get the facts.

Clearly, there were major breakdowns in communication and planning, which is why we need a task force to investigate every aspect of what happened. Let them examine what went wrong, and let us make sure this never, ever happens again.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, I rise in support of my resolution, H. Res. 1367, which would establish a task force on the attempted assassination of former President Donald J. Trump.

First, I will recognize and honor the life of a true hero, Corey Comperatore, who was tragically killed shielding his family from gunfire during former President Trump's campaign rally in my hometown of Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13.

I also will take a moment to offer our thoughts and prayers for two Pennsylvanians who were also injured during the shooting and continue to recover, Mr. David Dutch of New Kensington, Pennsylvania, and Mr. JAMES Copenhaver of Moon Township, Pennsylvania.

I, of course, offer thoughts and prayers to former President Trump and his recovery. He showed incredible strength in the immediate aftermath of the shooting.

First of all, Corey Comperatore was a constituent of mine from Sarver, Pennsylvania.

□ 1730

Corey graduated in 1992 from Freeport High School and went on to serve his country as a dedicated 10-year veteran of the United States Army Reserves.

Corey's passion for his community and his Christian faith led him to serve as an active member at the Cabot Church and a member of the Buffalo Township Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as chief in the early 2000s.

Above all, Corey was a loving husband and father. His obituary reads, ''the quintessential family man and the best girl dad.''

Together, his love for his wife, Helen, and his daughters, Allyson and Kaylee Comperatore, will carry on. We offer our thoughts and prayers to the friends and family of Corey Comperatore.

Mr. Speaker, on July 13, 2024, the Nation watched in horror as a gunman attempted to assassinate the Republican Party's nominee for President, former President Donald J. Trump.

This day will go down in infamy in American history, but nowhere more so than in my hometown of Butler, Pennsylvania, where it will always be remembered that the assassination of former President Donald Trump took place.

I have lived in Butler literally my whole life. I went to high school there. My wife and I have raised our family there. I have coached Little League football and Little League baseball, and our family business is there. Now, I am fortunate enough to represent my town right here in the United States House of Representatives. I can tell you that my community is grieving. They are shocked by what happened in our backyard.

The people of Butler and the people of the United States deserve answers. I am proud to introduce this bill to establish a task force to get to the bottom of how this unthinkable tragedy could ever have occurred.

This bipartisan task force will have investigative authority, including subpoena power, to thoroughly analyze the circumstances surrounding the assassination attempt and ensure that these failures that occurred that day never happen again.

I thank Speaker JOHNSON, Leader SCALISE, Chairman BURGESS, and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle for working with us to stand up this task force.

When the American people lose faith, trust, and confidence in their government, then the question is going to be who will fix it. The answer is we are. We are.

In this House, we are the ones that are going to fix it. The American people deserve to know, and we have the responsibility to find the answers for them.

President Trump deserves answers, the Comperatore family deserves answers, and the American people deserve answers. I will not rest until we get these answers for all of our constituents and fellow Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), a member of the Pennsylvania delegation.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

On July 13, the Secret Service failed in its mission to protect President Donald J. Trump. By failing to properly secure the perimeter, by failing to adequately communicate about a security threat, a known security threat, and by failing to keep President Trump from being struck by a shot fired by a would-be assassin, the Secret Service failed the American people.

While the resignation of Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle is a necessary first step, it does not absolve the agency of its responsibility for what occurred.

To address this critical flaw, Congress must investigate the circumstances that led up to this incident, including the decisions that were made and including the decisions that should have been made to prevent this tragedy.

Among those who were struck by gunfire was Fire Chief Corey Comperatore, who was killed while shielding his wife and daughter.

There needs to be accountability for what happened on that Saturday afternoon in Butler County, and I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1367, Establishing the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), a valuable member of the Rules Committee.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding me some time on this issue.

Less than 2 weeks ago, Donald Trump, a former President and Presidential candidate, was inches away from being assassinated. Thousands at his rally were put at risk.

As my colleagues from Pennsylvania mentioned, two people were injured, and Corey Comperatore was tragically killed while protecting his family. All this happened because of a catastrophic failure on the part of government security forces.

The resignation of Secret Service Director Cheatle is the first step toward holding failures accountable, but there is so much work to be done. We need to get to the bottom of this failure, and we need to do it now.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. We must get answers to the American people.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Texas, very much for yielding time.

I rise today in support of H. Res. 1367, which forms a task force to address the shocking attack on President Trump. I thank my colleague, MIKE KELLY, very much for bringing this resolution to the floor.

This attack tragically took the life of a brave Pennsylvanian, Corey Comperatore.

As an eyewitness to this event, along with my colleague, MIKE KELLY, I stand here on behalf of the American people, especially Pennsylvanians, who deserve answers to critical questions about this tragedy.

Why was the building the gunman used allowed to be outside of the security perimeter? Why was there no Secret Service stationed on the roof? Why wasn't there a plan executed and a high sense of emergency and urgency taking place?

Director Cheatle's remarks the other day did nothing to inspire confidence or for us to believe that this situation is going to be corrected appropriately and in a high-priority manner.

Senseless political violence demands nothing else than a unified response from both Democrats and Republicans. We must come together and form a bipartisan task force to uncover the truth and provide answers.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy and proud to support this legislation, H. Res. 1367, which aims to achieve just that.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY), the sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BURGESS for this opportunity to finish up as well as Mr. MCGOVERN on the other side of the aisle.

I think, at this point, this is not about Republicans or Democrats. This is about a tragedy that happened in a small town in western Pennsylvania, which never should have occurred.

I think it is really important, as the American people watched this whole

scenario, to answer: How could that possibly have happened? What didn't we know, or what did we know that we didn't react to? Why, at the end of the day, are there more questions than there are answers?

We can't get answers that, I think, are very simple.

For a person who grew up there, and I know that site so well, I was concerned when that site was picked because I thought it would be a very difficult place to have a rally of that size.

This is not a criticism of law enforcement. This isn't a criticism of whoever it is that picked that site. This is an opportunity for this House to work together to settle the doubts that the American people have, the faith, trust, and confidence that they need to have in us that we can work together, both sides of the aisle, when we have a crisis like this.

It goes far beyond politics, and it goes far beyond policies. It is truly American in every sense.

Mr. MCGOVERN is present with us today, and I thank Chairman BURGESS so much, and I think this more than anything else can demonstrate to the American people that we can work together. We can work together as Republicans and Democrats to get answers for the American people, answers that they deserve and answers that they have been wondering about since July 13.

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

Let me just say to the gentleman from Pennsylvania that I agree. One of the reasons why I think there would be overwhelmingly bipartisan support for this task force is because people want to get the answers. What happened, and how do we make sure that it never happens again?

Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot of talk about the need to turn down the temperature in this country moving forward. I put out a bipartisan statement alongside my friend, Chairman BURGESS, the day after the assassination attempt, and we talked about how to move forward.

The bottom line, we agreed, is that we can have loud, passionate, even at times angry debates in this country. That is the way it goes in a democracy as big and diverse as ours, but at the end of the day, we are all Americans who love this country deeply, and we must resolve our differences peacefully.

I think Robert F. Kennedy, a hero of mine whose life was taken by an assassin's bullet when I was just 8 years old, said it best. ''A sniper is only a coward, not a hero, and an uncontrolled, uncontrollable mob is only the voice of madness, not the voice of the people.

''Whenever any American's life is taken by another American unnecessarily, whether it is done in the name of the law or in the defiance of law, by one man or a gang, in cold blood or in passion, in an attack of violence or in response to violence, whenever we tear at the fabric of life which another man has painfully and clumsily woven for himself and his children, the whole Nation is degraded.''

Mr. Speaker, what was true in 1968 is true today. Our common bond as Americans demands that we speak out against violence and condemn it whenever and wherever we see it. We can't pick and choose. It needs to be condemned all the time, even when it is not easy or convenient to do that.

That hasn't always been the case, if we are being honest, and that makes me sad. It makes me sad that we had some people make fun of Speaker PELOSI's husband, Paul, when he was violently attacked with a hammer.

We need to come together, Mr. Speaker. We need unity. We have people who still refuse to condemn what happened on January 6, when a violent mob beat up police officers and tried to execute Vice President Mike Pence, right here outside the Capitol Building. Police died that day.

I am comfortable condemning political violence all of the time, period, end of discussion. I think the bipartisan nature of this resolution is a sign of hope for me that we will move even further in that direction.

I know the gentleman on the other side is as well comfortable calling out violence wherever it may occur, but we need to get to a place in this country where all of our colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, feel compelled to do the same.

I hope we get to that point because political violence is against everything America ought to stand for.

When the Founders of this country put pen to paper, they imagined a future where reason would triumph over fear, a world where the ballot, not the bullet, would determine who would wield power, a Nation where the consent of the governed, not the fear of force, would confer legitimacy upon our leaders.

Generations of Americans have worked hard to turn those dreams into a reality, to expand the circle of our democracy and make real the promise of this country for all. Political violence is the ultimate betrayal of that work. It is a dead end that leads only to disaster.

What happened on July 13 was an awful, cowardly, despicable attack, something that should never ever have happened, and I hope that this task force gets answers on behalf of the American people.

We need to know what happened. We need to get to the truth. We need to find a way to prevent this from ever happening again.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here in urging a ''yes'' vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, political violence—this was election interference in the extreme.

Just an hour, an hour and a half ago, in this very Chamber, the Prime Minister of Israel spoke with us. One of his comments was that there is no room for political violence in a democracy. I agree with him. I am so relieved that the Secret Service Director did resign.

How do you comport the idea that it was reported that there was evidence of an Iranian plot against the life of Donald Trump, and then you let a teenager wander over that field for an hour and fly a drone overhead? It makes no sense that that could have happened. Of course, the only answer for the Director of the Secret Service was resignation.

More than that, we as a body, we as a Congress, need to put together this task force to understand and get to the bottom of what occurred on July 13. It is our duty.

□ 1745

It is our duty. It is our duty for the sake of future leaders of this Nation. It is our duty for our children and grandchildren. We have to understand the circumstances that allowed the assassination attempt to occur and, of course, to ensure that it never happens again.

I once again urge all my colleagues to support this critical legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1367, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1371, STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION AND ITS BORDER CZAR, KAMALA HARRIS'S, FAILURE TO SECURE THE UNITED STATES BORDER

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1376 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1376

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 1371) strongly condemning the Biden Administration and its Border Czar, Kamala Harris's, failure to secure the United States border. The amendment to the preamble printed in the report

of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble, as amended, to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security or their respective designees.

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

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation. The rule provides for consideration of H. Res. 1371, a resolution strongly condemning the Biden administration and its border czar, HARRIS, for their failure to secure the U.S. border under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security or their respective designees.

Mr. Speaker, since Biden-Harris took office, American leadership both at home and abroad has become weak and feckless, and that is just putting it mildly. On the global stage, we have seen the Houthis creating chaos in the Red Sea after the administration delisted them as a foreign terrorist organization. Then, just last week, they successfully launched a deadly suicide drone attack in Tel Aviv.

Iran has grown stronger and more dangerous than ever. Their proxies, Hamas and Hezbollah, are launching a two-front war against Israel and have attacked our servicemembers over 100 times since October 7. Now their nuclear program is 1 or 2 weeks away from the time needed to produce enough weapons-grade material for a nuclear weapon. Even Secretary Blinken stated: Where we are now is not a good place.

I can continue talking about the disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal, about Vladimir Putin invading Ukraine following the administration's decision to green-light Nord Stream 2 or I could talk about record-high inflation reaching over 20 percent under Biden-HARRIS, but the biggest failure is the crisis at the southern border.

Just 64 days into this administration, Biden named HARRIS his border czar. Now my friends from across the aisle are trying to cover up her failures as border czar and trying to argue that she was never even in charge, but to their chagrin, I brought receipts with me.

Let me read you a few headlines and quotes. Here is Axios on April 14, 2021: ''The number of unoccupied minors crossing the border has reached crisis levels. HARRIS, appointed by Biden as border czar, said she would be looking at the 'root causes' that drive migration.'' That was Axios in 2021.

Here is another headline from the Associated Press on March 24, 2021: ''Biden taps VP Harris to lead response to border challenges.''

Here is another one from Axios, March 24, 2021: ''Biden puts Harris in charge of border crisis.''

Just wait for it, here is President Biden on that same day, March 24, 2021: '' . . . she is the most qualified person to do it—to lead our efforts with Mexico and the Northern Triangle and the countries that help—are going to need help in stemming the movement of so many folks, stemming the migration to our southern border.'' That was Joe Biden.

The President went on further: '' . . . it is not her full responsibility and job, but she is leading the effort because I think the best thing to do is put someone who, when he or she speaks, they don't have to wonder about is that where the President is. When she speaks, she speaks for me. Doesn't have to check with me.''

Now the debate has been settled. President Biden clearly put Vice President HARRIS in charge of the border. What did the border czar Harris do? The Biden-Harris administration issued 94 executive actions related to the border. They halted the construction of the border wall and ended remain in Mexico, and they established the catch and release program.

What were the results? In February 2021, the country witnessed a 174 percent increase in southwest border encounters compared to February of 2020. On her watch, there have been over 9.6 million illegal immigrant encounters nationwide. Experts estimate that the number of known got-aways—those are illegal immigrants who have evaded capture—exceed 2 million.

In May of 2021, CBP encountered over 180,000 individuals attempting to enter the country illegally along the southwest border. That was a staggering 675 percent increase from May of 2020. Since fiscal year 2021, 378 illegal aliens on the terrorist watch list have been apprehended at our southern border.

In June, NBC reported that over 400 illegal immigrants with ties to ISIS entered the U.S. under border czar HARRIS, and the whereabouts of 50 of these individuals are still unknown. In fiscal year 2024, there have been a record-breaking 31,000 Chinese nationals encountered at the southwest border.

Perhaps the worst stat of them all: We have lived through 39 months where the total encounters have been higher than even the highest month seen under President Trump. This is a really simple vote. If you are okay with those results, go ahead and vote ''no.'' If you think border czar HARRIS has failed the American people, vote ''yes.'' It is really that simple.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Before I even get into my speech, the gentleman referred to Axios as this mainstream publication that referred to the Vice President as the border czar. I think he might have missed the correction that Axios issued. An editor's note here said: This article has been updated and clarified to note that Axios was among the news outlets that incorrectly labeled HARRIS a border czar in 2021.

I am happy to pass on the correction. Again, for the record, I think my Republican friend should stick to the facts.

Honestly, Mr. Speaker, I have to say I don't think we should even be spending a single second on this debate because this resolution is a total and complete insult to this institution.

This all started with an emergency meeting, an emergency meeting in the Rules Committee last night. An emergency. Drop everything and come to the Rules Committee. What did the Republicans bring up? Not legislation to help working Americans, not a bill to ensure the safety of our communities, not something to actually secure the southern border or fix our broken immigration system. No, no, no, none of that. They called an emergency meeting to attack Vice President HARRIS. That is the emergency.

They want to hold a Trump rally here in the Capitol Building. They are weaponizing Congress and using our time to produce a political attack ad. Let's set the record straight. This resolution originally called Vice President HARRIS Biden's border czar. Not because that was her title, but because of a lie that MAGA media outlets just made up.

The Vice President was never put in charge of the border. She was given a diplomatic role to focus on resolving some of the long-term, big-picture root causes of immigration crisis. Her job was to help give migrants options in their home countries so that fewer of them would make the journey north. Guess what? She delivered. There were

$5.2 billion in private sector commitments that will give people jobs, opportunity, and hope in their home countries. That is what leadership looks like. That is what action looks like.

Do you know what happened? Illegal border crossings just hit a 3-year low in June, Mr. Speaker. Let me repeat that. Illegal border crossings currently are way down, but that is not what you will hear from the other side today. They are going to twist themselves into knots blaming everything on KAMALA HARRIS.

However, their blame game just highlights what is going on here. Republicans don't care about fixing our immigration system. They had a chance to do something, and they blocked bipartisan progress for their own political gain. On day one in office, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS put forth a plan to create a fair and just immigration system. Republicans refused to act.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS then worked across the aisle to put together a historic bipartisan immigration bill. Trump told Republicans to kill it, and they did. They want a crisis at the border because it helps them with their political messaging.

What do they bring to the floor instead? They bring a pointless, useless, nonbinding resolution. It has all the legislative authority of a FOX News sound bite or a Trump Truth Social rant.

We know how this is going to go. The other side is going to rant and rave about numbers. They will tell very sad stories about families that have been impacted by our broken immigration system, stories that, honestly, do break my heart. However, what Republicans will not do is actually do anything about it.

This meaningless, feckless, slanderous resolution won't help a single grieving family. It won't do a single thing to make Americans safer. Nothing. It won't strengthen our border. It won't create a better immigration system. It is just a chance for House Republicans to bash someone that they are afraid of.

They are melting down over KAMALA HARRIS. I mean, they have completely lost their minds since she became the Democratic Party's presumptive nominee. They are scared. They are scared, Mr. Speaker, because she offers America something that Donald Trump could never. She offers decency, unity, and hope. I get it. I get it. Republicans are scared of the excitement surrounding her candidacy. Maybe they are afraid their nominee is too boring or won't be able to keep up. After all, he is the oldest Presidential nominee in our Nation's history. Maybe they are afraid they are going to lose.

You would think they would focus on actually passing something meaningful. They have canceled Congress next week because they are too incompetent to even pass their own appropriations bills. Three of the four funding bills were pulled this week because Republicans didn't have the votes. It really is sad because the United States Congress should be a place where we advance legislation that actually helps people, but because House Republicans are incapable of doing that, they are rallying behind this do-nothing, pathetic, purely political resolution.

Mr. Speaker, they should be embarrassed. This resolution is beneath the dignity of this institution, and they should be ashamed of themselves.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1800

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

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

Mr. Speaker, if you want to talk about being ashamed, let's talk about who should be ashamed. It is Biden and HARRIS. They have been a complete disaster, especially with the southern border.

Excuse me for being so audacious as to bring facts and figures to a debate, but I guess I have to apologize for bringing more facts and figures to a debate. Let's go through a few of them.

The Biden-Harris administration has failed to remove 99.7 percent of illegal immigrants released in the United States. Here is another stat: In June, there were 130,419 illegal immigrant encounters at our southern border. This is roughly 4,300 daily encounters, which is—wait for this—four times more than the definition of a crisis that was set by Obama's own DHS Secretary Johnson, who said in 2019 that more than 1,000 encounters a day would overwhelm the system. That was President Obama's DHS Secretary.

Do you want to talk about more facts and figures? In May 2024, Committee on Homeland Security Republicans released documents showing the Biden administration—wait for this—secretly flew over 400,000 illegal immigrants into our country.

HARRIS still has visited our southern border only once since she became border czar. It took her a total of 93 days to make a token trip to El Paso, which is 800 miles from the sector experiencing the worst numbers.

Then, in an interview with NBC's Lester Holt, HARRIS was asked: Do you have any plans to visit the border?

She replied: At some point, we are going to the border. Then, she said: We have been to the border.

Lester Holt replied: You haven't been to the border.

HARRIS replied: And I haven't been to Europe.

You just can't make this stuff up.

Then, former Border Patrol Chief Ortiz stated: ''I have never had one conversation with the President or the Vice President, for that matter. I was the chief of the Border Patrol. I commanded 21,000 people. That is a problem.''

Current Border Chief Owens felt her absence, as well, reporting that the VP has not spoken with him since she was appointed in July 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), the chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, honestly, I keep hearing the term ''MAGA'' used by the other side. I am referred to as MAGA. You keep saying that word. I don't think you know what it means. It is an acronym that stands for Make America Great Again. I don't know why anyone would take offense to that. If anything, it is something that should bring us all pride.

The nickname ''czar'' is shorthand that has been used by the media. It is not new. This goes back to the administration of Franklin Roosevelt.

I think the point that many of us would like to make is that it is no secret that the mainstream media is basically a mouthpiece for the Democratic Party. It has been for years.

It is ironic that today suddenly the mainstream media has decided the use of the term ''czar,'' which they threw around freely during the Obama administration, threw around freely earlier in this administration, now that term is one that, well, they used it inappropriately.

I will help the ranking member. I brought the Axios quote that he referenced because now, this morning, magically they say they were wrong 3 years ago when we referred to Vice President HARRIS as a czar.

Again, the term has been used under Truman, Eisenhower, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Clinton, George W. Bush, President Obama, and twice under President Trump.

Who can forget the famous car czar, Steven Rattner? Who can forget the healthcare czar in the Obama administration, Nancy DeParle?

These terms were used as an effort to elevate someone's status. They were working in the White House on a particular issue. They had never gone through Senate confirmation.

Vice President HARRIS was appointed by President Biden to fix the crisis at the border, and my constituents in Texas have witnessed firsthand that the situation on the border is not fixed. Communities are constantly being flooded by illegal immigrants. This leads to the flow of drugs and the rise of crime.

Now, because she is the presumptive nominee for President, to protect her campaign, the leftist media is trying to change the story and mislead the American people. Republicans are being accused of fabricating the title, yet those same media outlets that were proclaiming her the border czar are now claiming that this was falsely reported by their news outlets, that this was falsely reported 3 years ago.

Regardless of how the minority wants to describe her, she was tasked

with managing the border. On her watch, well over 9 million illegal immigrant encounters occurred. Illegal immigrants who evaded capture are well over 2 million. American lives have been lost as a result of the Vice President's failure of her principal task of defending the border.

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

Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President or Vice President.

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

Mr. Speaker, you can't make this stuff up. First of all, let me set the record straight.

The original version of this resolution said that President Biden asked Vice President KAMALA HARRIS to serve as the administration's border czar, which he did not do. Someone made it up, I think. I don't know.

After my colleagues and I pointed out that fact, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and the Republican side of the committee scrambled to try to find a shred of proof that, in fact, Biden actually appointed her as a border czar, and they couldn't find anything.

So, they made a frantic last-minute change to now say that Vice President HARRIS ''came to be known colloquially as the Biden administration's border czar.''

I mean, we caught you, but come on. This would be comical if it weren't such a monumental waste of time and taxpayer dollars, and all for a resolution that does absolutely nothing.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania went on a big rant, throwing around all kinds of numbers and identifying all kinds of problems we are faced with, and I am trying to figure out where in this four-page resolution there is anything that would do anything to solve any of the issues that he raised. There is nothing.

This is a nonbinding resolution. This will never become law. This doesn't even go to the Senate. This is like voting on a press release. I mean, what a colossal waste of time.

My Republican friends love to complain, but they don't like to do anything to fix anything, and this is the latest example. What a waste of time for this institution to have to concern itself with a glorified press release.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from Scripps News titled: ''No, VP Kamala Harris was never named 'border czar.' ''

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

There was no objection.

NO, VP KAMALA HARRIS WAS NEVER NAMED 'BORDER CZAR'

[From Scripps News San Diego, 11:27 am, July 22, 2024]

President Biden tasked Harris to address the root causes of migration, not border security.

Within months of taking office in 2021, Vice President Kamala Harris was assigned a difficult task concerning the U.S. southern border, checking in with Central American governments to address the root causes of immigration problems in the United States.

The Trump campaign has already labeled that effort a failure, while Democrats blame the other side.

The assignment for Harris was to focus on what was happening south of the border—in the countries where migrants are originating. She was never actually named a ''border czar,'' a moniker coined by Republicans.

''I've asked the vice president of the United States yesterday to be the lead person on dealing with focusing on the fundamental reasons why people leave Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador in the first place,'' Biden said in 2021.

House Speaker Mike Johnson used the term ''czar'' when calling her completely inept on Sunday. Other Republicans have followed suit.

Harris traveled to Mexico and Guatemala in June 2021, and in her remarks, focused on economic instability, violence and corruption, telling migrants the border is not open.

''The goal of our work is to help Guatemalans find hope at home,'' Harris said at the time. ''At the same time, I want to be clear to folks in this region who are thinking about making the dangerous trek to the United States-Mexico border: Do not come. Do not come.''

Meanwhile, Harris faced sharp criticism for not going to the border itself and bristled when pressed in an NBC News interview why she had not been to the border.

Just weeks after the NBC interview, Harris visited the southern border, again telling migrants to not come.

In El Paso, she toured Border Patrol Facilities and met with groups that help migrants. Again, her focus was on what causes people to come to the U.S. in the first place. She largely left enforcement of border security to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

Over the next two years, the vice president secured more than $5 billion to address the root causes of migration out of Central America. Nearly $1 billion was targeted to the Central American Forward initiative, developing jobs and women's empowerment programs.

The Biden administration has deported or expelled nearly 4.5 million people, the most for any single president since George W. Bush, according to federal data.

Harris has agreed with criticism that the U.S. immigration system is ''broken,'' saying in March the U.S. needs to fix it. But she points the blame at Senate Republicans pushed by former President Donald Trump to extinguish a bipartisan border security deal. Harris claimed Trump would prefer to run on a problem than to fix it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a Time magazine article titled: ''Kamala Harris Was Never Biden's 'Border Czar.' Here's What She Really Did.''

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

There was no objection.

[From TIME Magazine, July 23, 2024]

KAMALA HARRIS WAS NEVER BIDEN'S 'BORDER CZAR.' HERE'S WHAT SHE REALLY DID

(By Vera Bergengruen)

On her first foreign trip as Vice President in June 2021, Kamala Harris was tasked with delivering a blunt message in Guatemala City. ''I want to be clear to folks in this region who are thinking about making that dangerous trek to the United States-Mexico border: Do not come,'' she said at a press conference, pausing for effect. ''Do not come.''

Three years later, that sound bite may come to haunt Harris' nascent presidential campaign. Despite her warning, border crossings reached historic highs during the Biden Administration. Republican critics cast the episode as a symbol of Harris's ineffective tenure as President Biden's ''border czar,'' a misleading label they applied after she was charged with helming diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of migration from Central America to the U.S.

Kamala Harris had one job,'' Nikki Haley told the crowd at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee last week. ''One job. And that was to fix the border. Now imagine her in charge of the entire country.''

In fact, Harris was never put in charge of the border or immigration policy. Nor was she involved in overseeing law enforcement efforts or guiding the federal response to the crisis. Her mandate was much narrower: to focus on examining and improving the underlying conditions in the Northern Triangle of Central America—El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras—which has been racked by decades of poverty, war, chronic violence, and political instability. The strategy relied on allocating billions for economic programs and stimulating private-sector investment in the region in hopes that these programs would ultimately lead fewer migrants to make the dangerous journey north.

It was the first high-profile assignment in Harris' tenure as Vice President, and it was an especially thankless one. At best, addressing the ''push factors'' that spur migration would lead to incremental improvements and take a generation to yield results. At worst, it would make Harris the face of the border crisis, one of the Biden administration's biggest political vulnerabilities. ''To the extent that this was a useful assignment, she did reasonably well in getting the private sector to invest in Central America, says Muzaffar Chishti, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute. ''But it was an assignment that could not produce results anytime soon.''

The so-called ''root causes strategy'' focused on improving economic and security conditions by creating jobs, combating corruption, improving human and labor rights, and reducing violence. Harris allocated funds for humanitarian relief from natural disasters, and directed more than 10 million COVID–19 vaccines to the Northern Triangle countries. She held bilateral meetings with the region's leaders, as well as meetings with NGOs, business executives and human rights advocates. She worked with the U.S. Justice Department to launch an AntiCorruption task force focused on prosecuting corruption cases with ties to the region, as well as Anti-Migrant Smuggling task forces in Mexico and Guatemala.

Most importantly, Harris spearheaded a public-private partnership that, as of March 2024, had secured commitments from major U.S. and multi-national companies to invest more than $5 billion in the region. The Vice President ''put her name on the line with very serious senior CEOs and kind of created a brand appeal for Central America that didn't exist,'' says Ricardo Zúniga, who until recently served as the U.S. special envoy to Central America.

Harris also spent time in Washington communicating with regional leaders. One tangible result, according to two former U.S. officials, was that it gave the U.S. the standing and relationships to help prevent Guatemalan prosecutors from overturning the results of last year's presidential election,

which was won by anti-corruption outsider Bernardo Arévalo. While delayed, the ultimately peaceful transition of power avoided the political instability that Biden Administration officials feared could cause a spike in migration. The U.S. applied public pressure through sanctions and visa restrictions on officials they accused of undermining the democratic process, as well as behind the scenes. Harris's team was directly involved, especially her national security adviser Philip Gordon, who traveled to the region to push for a peaceful democratic transfer of power, according to the two former U.S. officials.

But the narrow mandate given to Harris ignored shifting migration patterns, experts say. The slow process of addressing the ''push factors,'' or reasons that migrants leave their countries, says Chisthi, can't compete with the ''pull factors''—the economic and safety incentives that draw people to the U.S. When Biden assumed office, officials thought Central America would continue to be the epicenter of migration pressure. ''We were wrong,'' says Zuniga. After the initial surge, migration from the Northern Triangle largely stabilized. By December 2023, 54 percent of encounters at the southern border involved citizens of countries other than Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection data.

Much of Harris's work failed to break through back home. Instead, she became the target of Republican broadsides about the border crisis and was repeatedly criticized for not visiting the U.S.-Mexico border. ''She's dealing with a narrative problem,'' says Zuniga. With immigration topping the list of Americans' concerns, according to recent Gallup polls, an ongoing humanitarian crisis at the border, and political deadlock on immigration reform and funding, Harris emerged as the most visible scapegoat.

As they shift their focus from Biden to Harris, it's clear that Republicans plan to attack Harris's role on immigration issues. ''The border crisis is a Kamala Harris crisis,'' former President Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. JD Vance, declared at a July 22 rally. A recent National Republican Senatorial Committee memo outlining talking points calls her ''the architect of [Biden's] biggest failure.'' In a post on Truth Social on July 23, Trump said her ''incompetence gave us the WORST and MOST DANGEROUS Border anywhere in the World.'' Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, said if Harris is elected, he will ''need to triple the border wall, razor wire barriers and National Guard on the border.''

Harris has a broader record on immigration, including backing a bipartisan border-security deal aimed at reducing border crossings earlier this year. As a Senator, she was an outspoken advocate of legal protections for DACA recipients, made headlines for aggressively questioning Trump immigration officials, and derided the then-President's border wall as a ''medieval vanity project.'' But it's clear the ''border czar'' label has become a political liability.

Some Harris allies have expressed frustration with Biden for putting her in this position. In doing so, he was repeating a familiar pattern—it was a portfolio Biden himself was given as Vice President. In 2014, when a surge in children and families from Central America overwhelmed the U.S. immigration system, then-President Barack Obama tasked him with leading the international response to the crisis. ''The solution to this problem is to address the root causes of this immigration in the first place,'' Biden said on a trip to Guatemala City that summer. ''Especially poverty, insecurity and the lack of the rule of law.''

Seven years later, little had changed when Harris gave the same speech, in the same place. Politically, ''the problem is that no one cares about the root causes,'' says Chisthi. ''It's too abstract. And frankly, very little can be done about them in the short run, while the public is focused on what is happening with the border today.''

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a July 17, 2024, article from The New York Times titled: ''Why Republicans Keep Calling Kamala Harris the 'Border Czar.' ''

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

There was no objection.

NEW YORK TIMES: WHY REPUBLICANS KEEP CALLING KAMALA HARRIS THE 'BORDER CZAR'

(By Jazmine Ulloa and Nicholas Nehamas)

As Democrats tangle over the re-election prospects of President Biden, Republicans at their national convention this week have trained some of their most intense criticism on Vice President Kamala Harris.

They have tied her to an administration that they say has led to increases in crime and inflation. They have cast her an enabler of an aging and ineffective president. They have blamed her for record levels of migrant crossings at the border.

But perhaps no phrase has been deployed more than this one: ''border czar.''

''Kamala Harris isn't able to do any job. She was appointed border czar,'' said Representative Matt Gaetz of Florida on Wednesday to a couple of snickers in the audience. ''Appointing Kamala Harris to oversee the border is like appointing Bernie Madoff to oversee your retirement plan.''

But Ms. Harris was not, in fact, appointed border czar, nor was she tasked with addressing the broader problems plaguing the border itself, where minors have at times slept on the floors of overcrowded facilities for days beyond the legal limit. Rather she was deputized by President Biden with the diplomatic mission of solving the ''root causes'' of migration from countries like Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, tackling the issues that spur people to flee in the first place, like drug violence and lack of economic opportunity.

It was the same politically unsavory task that former President Barack Obama delegated to Mr. Biden when he served as Mr. Obama's vice president. And it's a task that has only become harder—and more politically polarized—since then, becoming perhaps the thorniest issue facing the Biden-Harris administration.

Brian Fallon, campaign spokesman for Ms. Harris, said former President Donald J. Trump and his party have ''resorted to lying about the vice president's record,'' after Mr. Trump tanked a bipartisan border deal earlier this year.

''As a former district attorney and attorney general, she has stood up to fraudsters and felons like Trump her entire career,'' he said. ''Trump's lies won't stop her from continuing to prosecute the case against him on the biggest issues in this race.''

But attacking Ms. Harris serves several functions, Republican and Democratic strategists said. Republicans see her as a possible alternative to lead the Democratic ticket if Mr. Biden steps aside, with his campaign under pressure over concerns about his re-election bid. And if that does not happen, as Mr. Biden has vowed to stay in the race, she remains a powerful figure with the potential to energize the parts of the coalition seen as up for grabs: women, young people and voters of color.

Some speakers like Nikki Haley, Mr. Trump's one-time presidential rival, have long sought to convince Republicans that a vote for Mr. Biden will be a vote for Ms. Harris, arguing that Mr. Biden is too old to finish his second term even if he is re-elected.

''You never want to miss an opportunity to lay out the case that the Biden-Harris administration has been a disaster,'' said Dave Carney, a Republican political strategist at the convention.

So the calls of ''border czar'' from the stage have continued.

On Monday, Bob Unanue, the president of Goya Foods and chairman of the Hispanic Leadership Coalition, insulted Ms. Harris by riffing on the pronunciation of her name in Spanish to denigrate her as ineffective. ''Our border czar, 'Que-mala' Harris—that means 'so bad'—and we have enough bad, we need some goodness—was missing in action,'' he said.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the gentleman keeps saying, the idea that KAMALA HARRIS is the border czar was invented by right-wing media.

Let me read to you from the article I just inserted: ''Ms. Harris was not, in fact, appointed border czar, nor was she tasked with addressing the broader problems plaguing the border itself.''

It goes on to say: ''Rather, she was deputized by President Biden with the diplomatic mission of solving the 'root causes' of migration from countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, tackling the issues that spur people to flee in the first place, like drug violence and lack of economic opportunity.''

Mr. Speaker, in fact, my Republican colleagues had to change their resolution, as I mentioned, at the last minute in the Rules Committee last night because we caught them. They actually acknowledged, by changing their resolution, that President Biden never, in fact, named Vice President HARRIS the border czar. They changed their resolution to acknowledge the fact that ''border czar'' is a term that basically they made up.

Mr. Speaker, why are we here? Why are we doing this? We are doing this because they are afraid of the Vice President. She is drawing huge crowds. There is incredible excitement, and they are in a panic. They don't know what to do.

God forbid they bring any legislation to the floor to actually help the American people or help solve any crisis that we are faced with. Instead, a glorified press release comes to the floor so that they can rant and rave, point fingers, yell and scream, and get everybody all up in arms.

The bottom line is that this is like one of the biggest wastes of time that I can recall ever coming to this floor, and we have done a lot of things here under their leadership that I think is a waste of time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I have seen gaslighting, but I have never seen gaslighting to

this extent. This is quite amazing. Before we get into gaslighting, let's talk about a quick history lesson.

The President that I recall throwing around the term ''czar'' was President Obama. He had a car czar with the cash for clunkers program. It is kind of funny when you think about it. This is the same President who allowed Russia to invade Crimea. This is the same President who went up to the then-President of Russia, I believe, Dmitry Medvedev, and said: I just need a little flexibility. Tell Vlad I just have to get through this election cycle, and then we can talk.

That President named a czar, and that became part of our lexicon, and now we are being attacked because we are calling HARRIS the border czar.

Axios, as I said before, April 14, 2021, ran an article referring to HARRIS as border czar. Again: ''The number of unaccompanied minors crossing the border has reached crisis levels. Harris, appointed by Biden as border czar''—it says that right here in the article—''said she would be looking at the 'root causes' that drive migration.''

Now, you can say Axios retracted that. They retracted that 3 years after, when that became politically inconvenient.

The Democrats are now trying to say that HARRIS had nothing to do with the border. Unfortunately for the Democrats, we have a slew of other statements and articles that say that Biden put HARRIS in charge of the border.

Here is Axios again, March 24, 2021. The title of the article is: ''Biden puts Harris in charge of border crisis.'' It doesn't get more clear than that.

Here are remarks by the President when he was at the State Dining Room on March 24, 2021. This is Biden talking about HARRIS: ''She is the most qualified person to do it—to lead our efforts with Mexico and the Northern Triangle and the countries that help—are going to need help in stemming the movement of so many folks, stemming the migration to our southern border.''

Again, that is President Biden telling people at a state dinner that he is putting HARRIS in charge of the border.

Here is another AP article, titled: ''Biden taps VP Harris to lead response to border challenges.''

You can quibble about names, if she was called the border czar, which is popular in our lexicon, or if she was called whatever. The fact remains the President put the Vice President in charge of managing the border crisis, and it has been an abysmal failure.

The stats speak for themselves. I will get to more stats later on in the debate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), a fellow member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of Americans die every year from fentanyl. Communities, including many in my own district, have been ripped apart by the scourge of this deadly poison.

I have hosted roundtables with local law enforcement, families of victims, and other advocates all across my district. One thing I have consistently heard is that we need to stop the flow of fentanyl into this country.

Our police officers are struggling to keep up with the constant influx into our communities, and it is killing some of our youngest and brightest citizens.

Every American knows these deadly substances are flooding across our borders, brought to this country by criminals who directly benefit from the Biden-Harris administration's open-border policies. We also can't forget the other Americans who have been assaulted and murdered by illegal immigrants allowed to enter this country.

Laken Riley is dead. Rachel Morin is dead. Others have lost their lives. Even children have been brutally assaulted. Why? So our border czar, KAMALA HARRIS, could score political points with the radical leftwing of her party.

Meanwhile, the State of New York is going bankrupt, spending billions of dollars to pay for housing, benefits, and food for this flood of illegal immigrants being released into the interior of this country.

Again, this is a direct result of the open-border and sanctuary policies of the Democratic Party under Biden-Harris. Vice President HARRIS, the anointed border czar, wholeheartedly supports these policies.

Time and again, she looks into the eyes of the American people who have seen loved ones die of fentanyl overdoses or have been the victims of criminals who were in this country illegally and lies to them. She lectures the American people about the root causes of illegal immigration and pretends that her policies had nothing to do with this historic crisis.

We are not buying it, and the American people won't buy it in November.

□ 1815

Rather than visit our southern border, she led a junket to Central America to plead and to beg migrants to not come.

It doesn't get more pathetic than begging other countries while paying lip service to Americans who are feeling the real pain of this crisis.

Now, of course, this is entirely consistent with Vice President HARRIS' failed leadership in this administration. The condescension and virtue signaling may play well among the liberal, coastal elites who are now circling the wagons to ensure that she is slammed in there as the Democratic Presidential nominee in August, but the American people see her failures for what they are.

People are suffering. People are dying from this crisis that KAMALA HARRIS and President Biden have created. KAMALA HARRIS deserves full condemnation, and I am glad to see the House take up this resolution.

I am going to sit and wait for the condemnation of the little Democratic rally that was held for KAMALA HARRIS over at Union Station today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCLINTOCK). Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the Vice President.

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

I have an opiate problem in my district as well. This is a serious issue.

The gentleman just got on the floor and ranted and raved about the fentanyl problem. While he was going on, I was reading this bill. The word ''fentanyl'' isn't even mentioned once in this, in this press release that is useless, that does nothing. It doesn't even mention the word ''fentanyl.'' What is going on over here?

Again, the gentleman from Pennsylvania didn't answer my question. Of all the issues he raised here, where in this bill is there funding or solutions to deal with the fentanyl problem or to deal with securing the border or to provide more assistance for our border security?

There is nothing in this. This is useless. It is a press release. This is what we are spending our time on. We could probably come together and maybe figure out some concrete things we can do to save lives, so people don't die from fentanyl. We could probably come together and find some commonality to figure out ways to strengthen our border.

Let me just tell the gentleman one of the reasons why the border is the way it is and the immigration system is so messed up is because Congress has refused to act. Every time we try to get something to the floor, Republicans find a way to derail it.

Give me a break. What a waste of time. This is pathetic.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, we had to rush over last night to an emergency Rules Committee meeting to engage in this emergency resolution. This isn't an emergency. It is Republican panic.

House Republicans are afraid of Vice President HARRIS. House Republicans are afraid of the energy and the excitement Vice President HARRIS inspires in Americans. She is a new generation of leader who is bringing us a vision of prosperity and opportunity for all Americans. They are afraid of that vision. They are afraid of the vision because she has been fighting for working families, for unions, and for women who want reproductive freedom.

Vice President HARRIS' vision stands in stark contrast to the vengeful and hateful policies House Republicans and their nominee propose.

Republicans and their nominee want to divide Americans while Vice President HARRIS wants to unite Americans. She wants to make sure she fights for reproductive freedom for women. She will fight to make sure that we have access to contraception, to IVF.

What does the stark vision of the Republicans and their Project 2025 propose? They propose a national abortion ban. They propose restricting women's ability to make their own choices. They propose controlling Americans and controlling women.

Let's talk about immigration, since that is in the title of this. For decades, House Republicans have been the ones who blocked meaningful immigration and border bills. They refuse to participate in bipartisan solutions which we know are necessary for immigration and the border. Congress, we are the ones who must act.

This year, Vice President HARRIS, along with President Biden, Democrats, and Senate Republicans, made a deal on immigration reform and border security. Then former President Trump asked them to kill the border deal, so House Republicans did. They declared it dead on arrival in the House.

House Republicans don't have a real solution for the border because they don't actually want to fix it. If they did, what would they talk about? Everything they propose is dark, and it is always siding with the billionaires and the richest corporations instead of working families.

I am excited by Vice President HARRIS, and it is telling how scared the Republicans are of our nominee for President.

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

To be clear about one thing: I am not afraid of Vice President HARRIS and neither are any of my colleagues. The people who should be most afraid of the Vice President are the American people.

In going back to talk about the southern border, every single day in this country, roughly 300 Americans die of fentanyl overdoses. That would be the equivalent of a commercial jetliner going down every single day, once a day, for the last 4 years. That should scare the American people.

Talking about more things, let's talk about crime under this administration. Americans continue to be the victims of violent crime under the Biden-Harris administration.

According to the Major Cities Chiefs Association's 2022 crime report for urban areas across the country, homicides were up 13 percent since 2020, rapes were up 23.56 percent since 2020, and aggravated assaults were up 33.89 percent since 2020.

In 2022, at least nine cities, seven of which are Democrat run, saw record homicides. 2021 was the deadliest year in two decades for our law enforcement officers.

Just listen to their party leaders, like Vice President HARRIS. She supports defunding the police. She believes it is ''wrongheaded'' and ''outdated'' to think police officers make our communities safe.

She wants to give voting rights to murderers, terrorists, rapists, and even inmates that are sitting on death row. HARRIS wants to abolish ICE which protects our communities from illegal aliens and the crimes they commit. She believes cash bail should be eliminated.

The only time Vice President HARRIS has called for law enforcement to get involved was when Jussie Smollett said men with red MAGA hats were after him. HARRIS called it a modern-day lynching, and of course, this was an absolute hoax that was fabricated by the radical left with the help of no other than Vice President HARRIS.

Americans should be afraid of the policies of the Vice President.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I can tell they are afraid of the Vice President because that is all they want to talk about. They are obsessed.

Real time fact check, Mr. Speaker: This resolution does nothing to help any of the immigration problems that anyone on the other side of the aisle is talking about. There is no money, nothing, no laws, nothing. This is a press release.

I want to correct the record on Vice President HARRIS because what is being repeated on this floor this afternoon is totally divorced from reality.

KAMALA HARRIS has won election after election by inspiring and uniting people. She earned her spot as Vice President the old-fashioned way, through hard work, political courage, and fighting for a better country.

That is why Republicans are afraid of her. I get why they are afraid. I get the contrast isn't great for them right now.

As a prosecutor, KAMALA HARRIS took on perpetrators and put sexual abusers in jail, going after fraudsters who ripped off consumers and cheaters who broke the rules for their own personal gain.

As Attorney General, KAMALA HARRIS won a $20 billion settlement for people whose homes had been foreclosed on, putting $20,000 back into the pockets of victims of unethical foreclosures.

KAMALA HARRIS went after for-profit college scammers and forced them to return money to students and veterans that they stole from.

KAMALA HARRIS is fighting nonstop to protect the freedom of women to make their own choice about their own bodies while Republicans want to institute Project 2025 to ban abortion nationwide.

KAMALA HARRIS cast the tie-breaking vote to pass the Inflation Reduction Act that is lowering drug costs for seniors and people with diabetes.

That is exactly why my Republicans friends are terrified. They are attacking her in the most vicious, personal, and insulting fashion.

Here are some of the quotes from some of our colleagues in Congress. These aren't rightwing media pundits. These are Members of Congress.

''One hundred percent she was a DEI hire.''

''I think she was a DEI hire. And I think that that's what we're seeing.''

Another quote: ''Democrats . . . have to stick with her because of her ethnic background.''

What is this, 1951? I knew they were trying to take us backward, but this is a new low. It is beyond offensive. We all know what this is. We all know what motivates these kinds of comments. I would say it on the floor, but I would probably have my words taken down again. Maybe they think it is easier to silence me than debate me. Maybe they are afraid of the truth.

The truth is that this resolution reeks of desperation. The truth is they want to distract from the Vice President's incredible track record of success, including the fact that she secured $5.2 billion in private-sector commitments that will go toward addressing the underlying causes of migration that push people to our southern border in the first place.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the Vice President, including by making reference to other sources that would have been out of order if spoken in the Member's own words.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Let me just get this straight. By the minority's logic, because Republicans are talking about Vice President HARRIS, we are somehow afraid of Vice President HARRIS. That is quite amazing because, for the last 8 years, they have been talking about President Trump. Let the American people decide who is afraid of who.

To the attack that we have done nothing about the southern border, I can give the Democrats some ideas of what to do. How about they can start requesting that the administration go back and repeal the 94 executive orders they issued when they took office which repealed President Trump's executive orders to secure the southern border. That would be a great start. You don't even need congressional action to undo those executive orders.

I have not heard one of my Democratic colleagues call for any of those executive orders to be reversed.

Here is another good idea: H.R. 2. This Chamber passed H.R. 2. It was the first border security bill that was passed in this Chamber, I believe, since the mid-nineties. That was a great bill. It ended catch and release. It reinstated remain in Mexico. It required that this administration finish the border wall. That would definitely halt illegal immigration.

That is sitting over in the Senate. Maybe my friends from across the aisle here could ask the other Chamber to run that bill. Just a few ideas.

I love it when I hear my colleagues talking about so-called bans. There are

a few bans that the Vice President is in favor of. Let's go through some of those.

Under President Biden and Vice President HARRIS, the administration has supported bans on the following: gas-powered vehicles, gas stoves, firearms, and LNG exports.

That is not enough for the Vice President. HARRIS wants to go even further than Biden. She supports bans on—this is a great list. It is like it is written by the Babylon Bee or something. She supports bans on red meat, plastic straws, private health insurance, fracking, and gas-powered schoolbuses.

Before you know it, the average American is going to have to show their grocery list to Czar Harris before they go to the grocery store.

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

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

I guess the talking points from the NRCC went out, because I think the gentleman just read them to us.

The gentleman talks about H.R. 2. It got 32 votes in the Senate. They killed it. It is dead.

Then he talks about Homeland Security appropriation bills. It wasn't killed in the Senate. My Republican friends in the House killed their own bill in the House. It is dead. It didn't go anywhere. They didn't send it over to the Senate. Give me a break. Oh, my goodness.

□ 1830

What are we left with?

A nonbinding resolution, a nonbinding resolution that does nothing. That is the big plan, a press release. Oh—well, I am not going to say that because I will get my words taken down.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. There is a lot of work that needs to be done to fix our broken immigration system and secure our border. H.R. 16 won't solve every issue, but it will address a longstanding one in our failing immigration system. It is the right thing to do, and it has the added benefit of being a bill that actually does something as compared to the resolution that we are dealing with right now.

Instead of considering the do-nothing Republican nonbinding resolution before us, which is nothing but an RNC press release, and a bad one at that, let's consider actual legislation to start fixing these issues. Let's bring up H.R. 16.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. To discuss our proposal, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and support the American Dream and Promise Act.

Here we are again, wasting our time on yet another border resolution that does nothing, nada, to secure our border, reform our broken immigration system, or provide relief to the undocumented community.

This time, however, it is a little different twist because they are targeting Vice President KAMALA HARRIS for political gain. They are spewing lies that she is Biden's border czar. Trust me, if she had been given that position, it would be border czarina, because this is all a lie. It is false, period.

She was tasked with leading diplomatic efforts in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador to reduce migration from those countries. That is what she was tasked to do.

Vice President HARRIS secured billions in private-sector investments to promote democracy and economic opportunity in those countries, and we have seen huge improvements. The numbers don't lie. In 2023, migrants from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador only made 22 percent of all border crossings, down from 41 percent in 2021. That is a huge improvement.

However, Republicans don't care about facts. They would rather make up lies and get ready for the campaign rhetoric. They want to spew lies plain and simple for political gain. The reality is that if they were serious about border security and fixing our immigration system, then here is an idea, they would work with Democrats.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. We have several solutions that we have put forward, including my bill, the American Dream and Promise Act, which would finally provide Dreamers, TPS recipients, and DED beneficiaries with a pathway to citizenship.

Not only is my bill bipartisan and popular with my colleagues, 207 of whom were cosponsors, but it is popular with the American people. Poll after poll shows that upwards of 70 percent of Americans support permanent solutions for Dreamers because Americans support Dreamers and Dreamers support America. They know that their home is here. They rose to the challenge during the pandemic and served as doctors, nurses, and teachers. They are serving in our military and protecting our communities as law enforcement officers and firefighters.

The American Dream and Promise Act is a real commonsense solution and not a rhetoric bill. It is not a MAGA waste of time. Enough of this ''pendejada,'' ''foolishness,'' BS, and garbage. Let's move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and instead support the American Dream and Promise Act, a real solution to provide relief to real people supported by Americans.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCGOVERN. I yield myself the remainder of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is the sixth time House Republicans want us to vote on nearly the exact same do-nothing border resolution. The only difference is that this time they have slapped Vice President HARRIS' name on it because she is running against Donald Trump.

Republicans are using official government resources to settle their political scores.

Isn't it wrong to use taxpayer money for a campaign rally?

Has anyone checked with the Federal Election Commission to see if this is even allowed?

Mr. Speaker, they are using your taxpayer money to turn this place into a testing ground for RNC attack ads.

My Republican colleagues should be embarrassed by this. All they talk about is their precious H.R. 2 and Homeland Security bills.

News flash: H.R. 2 is hot garbage. It is a horrible bill that only earned 32 votes in the Senate. Even Republicans in the Senate knew it was a bad bill.

They keep saying H.R. 2 is the solution, but they don't even have the votes on their side to get it to the President.

Moreover, let's not get started on their Homeland Security funding bills. Those bills never even made it to the Senate because they didn't send them over.

The solution is to pass a bipartisan bill, but they are worried if they pass one, it actually might work. It might secure the border, and then they won't have anything to campaign on.

At the end of the day, this is all about the fact that they have no vision, only division; no ideas, only attack ads; no plans, only meaningless

resolutions that do nothing and are not worth the paper that they are printed on.

Contrast that with KAMALA HARRIS and Democrats in terms of what we are offering, and what we are offering are real solutions, real action, and a future that guarantees every American has an opportunity to succeed.

We aren't afraid to work across the aisle to get things done for this country. Republicans offer nothing but anger, fear, and petty name-calling.

What a joke. Honestly, Mr. Speaker, if anyone thinks this resolution is a good idea, I think they might be in a cult. Get out of here with this nonsense. Go back to worshiping a convicted felon, and let us run this place like adults.

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 nominees for the Office of the President.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to talk about division, I have got a whole list of divisive quotes from my friends across the aisle.

It starts at the very top. Just days before what happened in Pennsylvania, President Biden said that we need to put a bull's-eye on President Trump. That was President Biden.

Former Speaker PELOSI said: ''You have to be ready to take a punch. And therefore you have to be ready to throw a punch—for the children.''

Senator JON TESTER: ''I don't think, even States where Donald Trump won big, that it does you any good running away from Donald Trump. I think you need to go back and punch him in the face.''

That was a quote from JON TESTER.

Here is Joe Biden again: ''I said if I were in high school, I would take him behind the gym and beat the hell out of him.''

Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS said this: ''And with this kind of inspiration, I will go and take out Trump tonight.''

For the Vice President, she too is engaged in some divisive rhetoric. When asked in April 2018: If you had to be stuck in an elevator with either President Trump, Mike Pence, or Jeff Sessions, who would it be?

Do you know how the Vice President responded?

She said: Does one of us have to come out alive?

Save me the rhetoric on divisiveness. I think the American people know where the divisive language is coming from.

Let's go back to the Vice President and her role as border czar, at least that is what the media was calling her up until about 3 days ago.

When HARRIS was tasked to be border czar, she promised to ''undo'' President Trump's border policies. Unfortunately for the American people, she made good on that promise.

The Biden-Harris administration has referred to the influx of illegals as newcomers. That was their word, ''newcomers,'' not illegal immigrants.

She has called for the decriminalization of illegal border crossings. Border czar HARRIS has even supported free healthcare and mass amnesty for illegal immigrants.

The question is: Who pays the price for this incompetence?

That answer is simple. That is the American people.

The border crisis has cost the United States approximately $150.7 billion every single year. That is over $1,100 per year per every American taxpayer.

In southwestern Pennsylvania, my congressional district, we are one of the epicenters of the opioid crisis. Since the passage of H.R. 2, over 17,000 pounds of fentanyl had been seized at the southern border. To get your head around how much that actually is, Mr. Speaker, that is enough fentanyl to kill over 3.8 billion people.

Nearly 15 Pennsylvanians die from drug overdoses every single day. As I said earlier in the debate, in the United States, roughly 300 Americans every single day die of a fentanyl overdose.

We have also heard horror stories like the murder of Laken Riley. Laken was a 22-year-old from Georgia who was killed by an illegal immigrant from Venezuela.

Another American, Rachel Morin of Maryland, was a mother of five. She was raped and brutally murdered by an illegal from El Salvador.

Her brother, Michael, stated after her death: ''Joe Biden and his designated border czar KAMALA HARRIS opened our borders to him and others like him empowering them to victimize the innocent.'' Yet to this day, we have not heard from Joe Biden or KAMALA HARRIS. They never apologized.

These brutal deaths are a direct result of border czar HARRIS' inaction and failed policies. That is why this week House Republicans will rightfully condemn the Biden-Harris administration for their epic failure at the southern border. House Democrats, well, they will stand over there and continue to support and stand by the border czar, Vice President HARRIS, since they are complicit partners in this man-made disaster at our southern border. This disaster has impacted every community in our Nation.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1376 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

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

SEC. 3. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 16.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2046

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON) at 8 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1376;

Adoption of House Resolution 1376, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules with respect to H. Res. 1367.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 1371, STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION AND ITS BORDER CZAR, KAMALA HARRIS'S, FAILURE TO SECURE THE UNITED STATES BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering

the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 1376) providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1371) strongly condemning the Biden Administration and its Border Czar, Kamala Harris's, failure to secure the United States border, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 195, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 391]

YEAS—208

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—195

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

NOT VOTING—29

Bishop (NC)
Bush
Castro (TX)
Costa
Craig
D'Esposito
De La Cruz
Evans
Garamendi
Garbarino
Gomez
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hoyer
Hudson
James
Jordan
LaMalfa
McHenry
Meeks
Moore (WI)
Pascrell
Pelosi
Porter
Quigley
Ruppersberger
Turner
Watson Coleman

□ 2107

Mr. LALOTA changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 202, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 392]

AYES—210

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

NOES—202

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fletcher

Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—20

Bishop (NC)
Bush
Castro (TX)
DesJarlais
Edwards
Evans
Garamendi
Granger
Griffith
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
LaTurner
McHenry
Pascrell
Porter
Quigley
Ruppersberger
Turner
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 2113

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 392.

ESTABLISHING THE TASK FORCE ON THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF DONALD J. TRUMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1367) establishing the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 393]

YEAS—416

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallego
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Posey
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—16

Bishop (NC)
Bush
Castro (TX)
Evans
Garamendi
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
McHenry
Pascrell
Porter
Quigley
Ruppersberger
Turner
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 2120

Messrs. LYNCH and DOGGETT changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1370 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. 8998.

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

□ 2123

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. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, with Mr. FERGUSON (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 93 printed in part B of House Report 118–602 offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) had been disposed of.

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 118–602 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 81 by Mr. PERRY of Pennsylvania.

Amendment No. 82 by Mr. PERRY of Pennsylvania.

Amendment No. 83 by Mr. PERRY of Pennsylvania.

Amendment No. 85 by Mr. PERRY of Pennsylvania.

Amendment No. 91 by Ms. TENNEY of New York.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 81, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, 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 Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 207, noes 211, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 394]

AYES—207

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—211

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

NOT VOTING—20

Bishop (NC)
Bush
Castro (TX)
Evans
Garamendi
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
McHenry
Moylan
Pascrell
Porter
Quigley
Radewagen
Ruppersberger
Sablan
Turner
Velázquez
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2125

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 82 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 82, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, 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 Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 185, noes 231, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 395]

AYES—185

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad

Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harshbarger
Hern
Hinson
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smucker
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—231

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Bucshon
Budzinski
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
González-Colón
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hayes
Hill
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaLota
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Molinaro
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Valadao
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Webster (FL)
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman

NOT VOTING—21

Bishop (NC)
Bush
Castro (TX)
Evans
Garamendi
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
McHenry
Moylan
Pascrell
Porter
Quigley
Radewagen
Ruppersberger
Sablan
Spartz
Turner
Velázquez
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2129

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 83 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 83, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, 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 Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 173, noes 243, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 396]

AYES—173

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—243

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bice
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
González-Colón
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Green, Al (TX)
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Joyce (OH)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
LaLota
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lucas
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin

Rogers (KY)
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Valadao
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Womack

NOT VOTING—21

Bishop (NC)
Bush
Castro (TX)
Evans
Garamendi
Granger
Graves (MO)
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
McHenry
Moylan
Pascrell
Porter
Quigley
Radewagen
Ruppersberger
Sablan
Turner
Velázquez
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2132

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 85 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 85, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, 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 Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 204, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 397]

AYES—210

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
González-Colón
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—204

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

NOT VOTING—24

Bishop (NC)
Bush
Cammack
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Evans
Garamendi
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
McHenry
Moylan
Pascrell
Pfluger
Porter
Quigley
Radewagen
Rodgers (WA)
Ruppersberger
Sablan
Turner
Velázquez
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2135

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 91 OFFERED BY MS. TENNEY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 91, printed in part B of House Report 118–602, offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY), 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 160, noes 256, answered ''present'' 1, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 398]

AYES—160

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Cammack
Carl
Carter (GA)
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow

Lopez
Loudermilk
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moran
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—256

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Bacon
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bice
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Bucshon
Budzinski
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carson
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
González-Colón
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Joyce (OH)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lucas
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Molinaro
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pressley
Ramirez
Raskin
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Ruiz
Rulli
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Steel
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Valadao
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Wagner
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Womack

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—1

Griffith

NOT VOTING—20

Bishop (NC)
Bush
Castro (TX)
Evans
Garamendi
Granger
Grijalva
Higgins (LA)
Hudson
McHenry
Moylan
Pascrell
Porter
Quigley
Radewagen
Ruppersberger
Sablan
Turner
Velázquez
Watson Coleman

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2140

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LALOTA). There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON) having assumed the chair, Mr. LALOTA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8998) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1370, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 205, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 399]

YEAS—210

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

NAYS—205

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)

Kennedy	Mullin	Sewell
Khanna	Nadler	Sherman
Kildee	Napolitano	Sherrill
Kilmer	Neal	Slotkin
Kim (NJ)	Neguse	Smith (WA)
Krishnamoorthi	Nickel	Sorensen
Kuster	Norcross	Soto
Landsman	Ocasio-Cortez	Spanberger
Larsen (WA)	Omar	Stansbury
Larson (CT)	Pallone	Stanton
Lee (CA)	Panetta	Stevens
Lee (NV)	Pappas	Strickland
Lee (PA)	Pelosi	Suozzi
Leger Fernandez	Peltola	Swalwell
Levin	Perez	Sykes
Lieu	Peters	Takano
Lofgren	Pettersen	Thanedar
Lynch	Phillips	Thompson (CA)
Magaziner	Pingree	Thompson (MS)
Manning	Pocan	Titus
Massie	Pressley	Tlaib
Matsui	Ramirez	Tokuda
McBath	Raskin	Tonko
McClellan	Ross	Torres (CA)
McClintock	Ruiz	Torres (NY)
McCollum	Ryan	Trahan
McGarvey	Salinas	Trone
McGovern	Sánchez	Underwood
Meeks	Sarbanes	Vargas
Menendez	Scanlon	Vasquez
Meng	Schakowsky	Veasey
Mfume	Schiff	Wasserman Schultz
Molinaro	Schneider	
Moore (WI)	Scholten	Waters
Morelle	Schrier	Wexton
Moskowitz	Schweikert	Wild
Moulton	Scott (VA)	Williams (GA)
Mrvan	Scott, David	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Bishop (NC)	Grijalva	Quigley
Bush	Higgins (LA)	Ruppersberger
Castro (TX)	Hudson	Turner
Evans	McHenry	Velázquez
Garamendi	Pascrell	Watson Coleman
Granger	Porter	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 2149

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. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during today's first and second vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted:

NAY on Roll Call No. 387,
NAY on Roll Call No. 388,
NAY on Roll Call No. 389,
NAY on Roll Call No. 390,
NAY on Roll Call No. 391,
NAY on Roll Call No. 392,
YEA on Roll Call No. 393,
NAY on Roll Call No. 394,
NAY on Roll Call No. 395,
NAY on Roll Call No. 396,
NAY on Roll Call No. 397,
NAY on Roll Call No. 398, and
NAY on Roll Call No. 399.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 8998, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 8998, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUNN of Iowa). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 3954

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 3954, 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 gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 2989

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 2989, a bill originally introduced by Representative McCarthy of California, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 5617

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 5617, a bill originally introduced by Representative Mr. McCarthy of California, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF SCOTT SEWELL

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary North Carolinian and someone who is a visible active leader in his community, Scott Sewell.

At the end of August, Scott will be retiring from Cook Medical, a company where he has built a distinguished career spanning nearly 40 years.

He has previously served as the chairman of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce, as president of the Winston-Salem Police Foundation, and represented Cook Medical on the boards of NC Bio and the North Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, Scott is a workhorse, and everyone who is fortunate to know him can attest to this simple fact. I congratulate Scott on his well-deserved retirement. His work has left an indelible mark upon the lives of many across the Tar Heel State.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT IRWIN ROSENBERG

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Sergeant Irwin Rosenberg of the San Fernando Police Department as he prepares to retire with a distinguished and honorable career as police commander next month.

Sergeant Rosenberg is a staple in our community, and he has dedicated his life to public service for more than 40 years. He has served as a board member and advocate for many charitable and professional organizations, such as the Special Olympics of Southern California.

He has brought joy to children for many years, as he played Santa Clause for local organizations.

Sergeant Rosenberg will say it was his childhood dream to become a police officer, and he did that and achieved it in his late forties.

At the age of 49, he graduated first in his class from the Rio Hondo Police Academy, and he joined the San Fernando Police Department.

He wears his passion for public safety and service on his sleeve. He spearheaded the reestablishment of the Neighborhood and Business Watch programs and the city of San Fernando's National Night Out.

In his exemplary career, he has come to benefit many in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and throughout the entire State. Today, we celebrate his 20 years of service in the city of San Fernando.

I thank Sergeant Rosenberg for his leadership and dedication to our community, and I wish him enjoyment of his family in his retirement.

□ 2200

CONGRATULATING EDWARD H. ZIPPERER ON HIS 93RD BIRTHDAY

(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 Ed Zipperer on his 93rd birthday.

A local legend, Ed was born in Savannah, Georgia, in 1931. He grew up working on his family farm along U.S. 17. He attended Savannah High School before earning an agricultural engineering degree from the University of Georgia.

He went on to coach basketball in 1965, forming one of the few racially integrated teams in the State. Well liked by all, he was persuaded to run for the State Senate, ultimately winning the seat and serving in the State Senate from 1967 to 1975.

Serving on 13 committees, he was instrumental in building the Skidaway Island State Park, Fort McAllister State Park, and Kings Ferry Ogeechee River public recreational area. He was dedicated to protecting and preserving land in south Georgia.

In addition, Ed served as president of the Chatham County Farm Bureau for 40 years. Ed has dedicated his life to serving those around him and continues to do that going on 93 years strong.

Mr. Speaker, we are thankful for great Americans such as Ed Zipperer.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF JULIANA TURCHETTI

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of a local hero, Juliana Turchetti, who lost her life fighting the Horse Gulch wildfire in Montana.

Many central Illinoisans know Juliana as the owner of Aviatori Coffee House in Springfield and will remember her for her warm smile, but she was also a skilled and passionate pilot and an admired figure in our aviation community.

With over 6,000 flight hours, she has been flying airplanes for 17 years, from agricultural dusting planes to her favorite, the Fire Boss.

A few months ago when she took the next step to become a full-time aerial firefighter, Juliana said that it was a dream job and that she was proud to be part of a mission.

She answered the call to service, stepping up to help protect communities and save lives.

Juliana will be remembered for her bravery and passion, her devotion to her son, and her love of good coffee.

Mr. Speaker, as we mourn her loss, let us send our thoughts and prayers to her loved ones and everyone who has been touched and inspired by her life.

WISHING OAKLEY FARRIS A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish a very special 100th birthday to my friend and constituent, Mr. Oakley Farris.

Mr. Farris grew up near Lexington, Kentucky. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and fought heroically in World War II. After returning from his tour of duty in Europe, Mr. Farris settled in Covington, Kentucky, and began working as a salesman, traveling up and down the East Coast.

It was on a sales trip to Miami that Mr. Farris met his future wife, Eva. An immigrant from Havana, Cuba, Eva went on to study at Columbia University. Together, the Farrises built a very successful business.

Mr. Farris and his late wife made countless charitable investments in our community. I am grateful for all that Mr. Farris has done for my constituents, and I am honored to represent him in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to Oakley. May he have many more years of good health and happiness.

CONDEMNING THE HIGHLY PARTISAN BORDER RESOLUTION CRITICIZING VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the highly partisan resolution criticizing Vice President KAMALA HARRIS' work on the border.

Like so many Americans, my constituents are sick and tired and they are worried that immigration and border security are being used as political talking points instead of a policy priority.

I agree, but facts are facts. It has been over 100 days since congressional Republicans walked away from the table on the most comprehensive, bipartisan border security deal in decades because former President Trump wants to politicize the issue rather than to find an actual solution.

Let's be clear: Trump killed the deal.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to restore order at the border and fix our broken immigration system is passing a bill through Congress. That is exactly what the Biden-Harris administration wanted to do. I know we can get this done, but only if we work together, not as Democrats and Republicans, but as Americans.

HONORING AN EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVANT, DAVID WILFONG

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my dear friend and an extraordinary citizen of New York's 23rd Congressional District and a devoted public servant, David Wilfong.

David has been a pillar of the Jamestown community, serving as county legislator and a former chairman of the Chautauqua County Republican committee.

He is also a U.S. Army veteran and the director of maintenance at the Rehabilitation Center in Olean. His life and his remarkable achievements can teach us all a lot about public service.

His work on projects like the Juneteenth festival and the Northside Community and Chadakoin Park projects shows his continued commitment to making Jamestown a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Dave never fails to reach across the aisle to get things done, and he always, always puts people above politics.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call David a friend, and his support over the years means the world to me. He has built a legacy of service and kindness that will continue to inspire our community for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CEDRIC HUNTLEY

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cedric Huntley, a community leader who dedicated his life to improving the lives of young people and making Rhode Island a safer place to live.

Cedric, known by many as ''Mr. Ced,'' was a powerful force for good. He served as site director of the South Providence Recreation Center, located right where he grew up on the south side of Providence and wore many hats as counselor, mentor, and listener to members of the community.

It was through his life experience and empathy for others that he connected with Rhode Islanders from all walks of life to build relationships for positive change.

He came out of retirement to lead the Nonviolence Institute as executive director to break cycles of violence that plague too many neighborhoods.

The Nonviolence Institute does crucial work in greater Providence to serve as a bridge between community members at risk from violence, social service agencies, and law enforcement to reduce crime and support victims.

When I served as Rhode Island's general treasurer, I ran the State's crime victims compensation program and had the privilege of working with Cedric and his team to help hundreds of Rhode Islanders who were victims of violent crimes get the compensation that they needed to get back on their feet.

During this time, I saw firsthand the work he did as a peacemaker and how

he worked to prevent acts of violence before they occurred.

Mr. Speaker, it was an honor and a privilege to work with him. His legacy will live on for a long time through the lives that he touched.

WE MUST STAND WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the situation facing Israel is critical and it is escalating. The nation is under attack, not just from isolated factions, but from a coordinated effort orchestrated by Iran.

Rockets have rained down on Israel from Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, and Yemen, forcing Israel to defend its citizens and its sovereignty from these relentless threats.

It is crucial to understand that these attacks are not random acts of violence but are part of a larger, more coordinated plan.

In each of these regions, there exists a militia backed by Iran. In the Gaza Strip, it is Hamas. In Yemen, it is the Houthis. In Lebanon, it is Hezbollah.

These groups are not acting independently. They are funded, supplied, and directed by Iran as part of a calculated strategy to encircle and weaken Israel.

The current situation is exacerbated by the policies of previous U.S. administrations and currently the Biden administration that has only encouraged Iran.

Secretary Blinken recently warned that Iran is potentially within weeks of nuclear weapon capabilities. This is not hyperbole; it is a dire reality.

I appreciate greatly Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu speaking to us today to underline how important our alliance is with Israel and that victory is the only acceptable outcome over the vile acts of Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand with Israel.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF CEDRIC PAUL HUNTLEY

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, like Mr. MAGAZINER previously, I recognize and stand with Rhode Islanders who are in mourning for a giant in our community, Mr. Cedric Paul Huntley.

Cedric, or Mr. Ced, as he was known, was a convener of communities and a staunch advocate for peace.

As the executive director of the Nonviolence Institute and throughout all of his youth development work, he led with heart and he led with compassion, striving to end the cycles of violence that tear families and neighborhoods apart.

In this effort, he lived by example. You could always find Mr. Ced spreading the gospel of kindness, whether it was strangers he had just met or loved ones he had known for years.

Above all, Cedric believed in service to others. His legacy lives on through his work in State government and our school systems and through his work as a small business owner and as a champion for Rhode Island's charitable causes.

Last week, we came together for Cedric's memorial service and procession.

Today, it is my privilege to speak his name into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on the House floor, the people's House, so that his legacy may live on for generations to come.

□ 2210

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SPANGLER DUM DUMS

(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, this past Saturday, I joined the community of Bryan, Ohio, and people from across our region to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Spangler Candy Company's famous Dum Dums.

These lollipops and Spangler itself are true Williams County institutions that have made northwest Ohio proud for generations.

It was great to see so many friendly faces, both young and old, including local officials, community members, families, children, and members of the namesake Spangler family themselves.

Dum Dums are so synonymous with Bryan, Ohio, their town water tower is made to look like a bundle of these famous suckers.

I don't miss an opportunity to share these homegrown gems. Earlier this month, I brought a bunch of lollipops to each of my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee to keep them sweet and kind.

I invite all my colleagues to stop by my office to grab a Dum Dum or come out to Bryan to tour Spangler's magnificent facility.

Cheers to many more years of these sweet treats and delightful people of all ages across the globe. Onward, Dum Dums. Onward, Spangler. Onward, Bryan, Ohio. We are so proud of you.

RECOGNIZING KAREN TAMLEY AND MICHELLE GARCIA

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend two of my incredible constituents for Disability Pride Month: Karen Tamley and Michelle Garcia.

Karen and Michelle are both leaders in the disability community and serve Chicago through their work at Access Living.

Karen serves as the CEO of Access Living and prior to that served three Chicago mayors as commissioner of the mayor's office for people with disabilities. She has served on a wide variety of government and nonprofit boards and has made a lifetime of contributions to disability advocacy locally and nationally. I commend Karen.

As their Latine community organizer, through her exceptional leadership, relationship building, and advocacy, Michelle has increased the number of Latine people with disabilities, leading the work and organizing on issues like immigration and healthcare.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my great honor to commend Karen Tamley and Michelle Garcia for making Chicago a more inclusive and accessible city for all of its residents. I congratulate them.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA OLYMPIANS

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Virginia athletes who will soon compete in the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

This year, nearly 600 athletes will compete for Team USA, including 15 talented individuals from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As we look forward to Friday's opening ceremony and prepare to cheer on our Olympians, we have to recognize the incredible achievement of having been bestowed the honor and privilege that they have in representing our country on the world stage.

Their success is a testament to their relentless pursuit of greatness—the years of rigorous training, the sacrifice, and the instrumental support of their families, their friends, their coaches, and their communities.

Today, I commend these Americans, these Virginians, for their exceptional talents, for the challenges they have overcome, and for the countless hours they have dedicated to mastering their sport.

These athletes carry with them the pride and encouragement of every Virginian, and I wish them the best of luck as they make our Commonwealth and our country proud.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

(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. I rise today to remind us of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King: The truest measure of the person is not where you stand in times of comfort and convenience but where you stand in times of great challenge and controversy.

Where do you stand when children in Gaza are being killed by the thousands?

Where do you stand when the infrastructure of Gaza is being destroyed—schools, hospitals, homes?

Where do you stand?

I cannot in good conscience stand with Mr. Netanyahu. I will not be in this facility today when he speaks. I will not, if it is a standalone bill, vote to send another dime to Mr. Netanyahu's administration.

It is not just Hamas that he wants to destroy. He is destroying Gaza, and he would, if he could, take all of Palestine.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot in good conscience stand in this House today and say that I will attend the Netanyahu address to Congress for the same rationale that caused me to vote against the Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024. I include in the RECORD the entirety of my rationale, which was published in a Houston Chronicle full-page ad on April 25, 2024.

Re Why I voted no on The Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024

Israel suffered a tragic loss on October 7, 2023. The people of Israel are in mourning. The lives of innocent civilian Israeli men, women, and especially children matter. They must be protected. This includes the hostages, all of whom must be immediately returned in tandem with a lasting ceasefire as the genesis of a two-state solution.

After the horrific human rights violations committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023, the Netanyahu administration had just cause catalyzing a de jure right to pursue justice as it did by declaring war on Hamas, not hundreds of thousands of innocent civilian Palestinian men, women, and especially children.

To the contrary, and shamefully, Prime Minister Netanyahu has engaged in an unjust, revengeful, might-makes-right offense, creating more enemies than have been killed. He has engaged in lethal atrocities wherein the ends of destroying Hamas justifies:

Killing thousands of innocent civilian Palestinian children;

Collectively harming thousands upon thousands of innocent civilian Palestinian men, women, and especially children;

Failing to properly aid hundreds of thousands of food-deprived Palestinians; and

Committing domicide by destroying approximately 62 percent of Palestinian homes in Gaza, as well as damaging at least 84 percent of Gaza's health facilities, together with over 275 schools.

It has become intuitively and painfully obvious to me that Prime Minister Netanyahu's definition of ''the right to defend'' embraces an invidious ends-justifies-the-means strategy. This imprudent and unjust strategy of domicide, collective harm, and failure to feed the hungry, in tandem with the killing of thousands of innocent Palestinian children, cannot in good conscience receive a blind eye.

No one, no political entity, no country can commit such atrocious injustices in the name of justice and expect the blessings of people of good will. Injustice in the name of justice is still an injustice. Israel's de jure right (in the hands of Prime Minister Netanyahu) to defend itself in the name of justice has metamorphosed into unconscionable de facto human rights violations that offend the conscience and grievously tarnishes Israel's global image. In truth, Prime Minister Netanyahu's might makes right, by any means necessary—war—is making Israel an existential threat to Palestinians living in Gaza.

I cannot in good conscience oppose the above-cited atrocious transgressions and contemporaneously provide the munitions which can beget more of these God-awful inhumanities. Sadly, but righteously, I cannot vote to send the pending billions of supplemental funds to the opprobrious administration of Prime Minister Netanyahu. To do so would allow those funds, or free up other funds in their treasury, to purchase the lethality to kill more innocent civilian Palestinian men, women, and especially children, which I oppose.

Palestinians (like Israelis) are in mourning, and the lives of innocent civilian Palestinian men, women, and especially children matter. They too must be protected.

For the reasons enumerated above, I voted no on The Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024.

Sincerely,

AL GREEN,
Member of Congress.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–4994. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Third-Party Attendance at Appointments for Passport, Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA), and Certain Other Services [Public Notice: 12387] (RIN: 1400-AF54) received July 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–4995. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT case 21-8096, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–4996. A letter from the Chair, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting recommendations adopted by the Assembly of the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 81st Plenary Session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 9115. A bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from transporting Palestinian refugees to the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 9116. A bill to make ineligible for asylum any alien who commits certain actions against the National Guard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 9117. A bill to subject aliens convicted of certain crimes to expedited removal from the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 9118. A bill to cancel Federal oil and gas leases held by entities that manipulate the market price of oil or gas in violation of certain Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 9119. A bill to direct the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice to establish a training course relating to Alzheimer's disease and similar forms of dementia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 9120. A bill to establish an integrated national approach to respond to ongoing and expected effects of extreme weather and climate change by protecting, managing, and conserving the fish, wildlife, and plants of the United States, and to maximize Government efficiency and reduce costs, in cooperation with State and local governments, Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiians, and other entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 9121. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian Tribal Governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

H.R. 9122. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 so that procedures relating to termination of electric service provide that such service may not be terminated during any extreme heat weather event or extreme cold weather event, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KEATING (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 9123. A bill to encourage increased trade and investment between the United States and the countries in the Western Balkans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILEY (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FONG, Mr. COSTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr.

CORREA, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 9124. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the ''Louis A. Conter VA Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 9125. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the accuracy and predictability of Medicare payments to long-term care hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 9126. A bill to require digital social companies to adopt terms of service that meet certain minimum requirements; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 9127. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to include territorial disproportionate share hospitals as covered entities under the 340B drug discount program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 9128. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a designation for territorial safety net hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. SCHRIER, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H.R. 9129. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish certain standards and requirements with respect to financial assistance and medical debt collection for hospitals participating in the Medicare program, and to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program for purposes of medical debt relief; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHU, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.J. Res. 193. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that there is no immunity from criminal prosecution for an act on the grounds that such act was within the constitutional authority or official duties of an individual, and providing that the President may not grant a pardon to himself or herself; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. EVANS, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. PORTER):

H. Res. 1381. A resolution commemorating the past success of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams and supporting the United States Olympic and Paralympic Teams in the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Summer Games; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI (for himself and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H. Res. 1382. A resolution expressing the need of all Americans, even when they care most deeply or disagree most strongly, to settle their political differences without resorting to threats or violence of any kind; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself and Mr. BRECHEEN):

H. Res. 1383. A resolution condemning the International Criminal Court's request to issue arrest warrants for the Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BACON, Mrs. BICE, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 1384. A resolution recognizing the seriousness of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and expressing support for the designation of the month of September 2024 as ''PCOS Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself and Ms. PINGREE):

H. Res. 1385. A resolution designating the week of August 4 through August 10, 2024, as ''National Farmers Market Week''; to the Committee on Agriculture.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN introduced a bill (H.R. 9130) for the relief of Diego Montoya Bedoya; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 9115.

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:

immigration

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 9116.

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:

immigration

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 9117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

The single subject of this legislation is:

Crime

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 9118.

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:

Prevents bids on new federal oil and gas leases for energy companies that are found by the Federal Trade Commission to collude with OPEC, and ends existing leases for those colluding companies.

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 9119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services of the Department of Justice to establisha training course relating to Alzheimers disease

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 9120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which states that the United States Congress shall have power ''to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes an integrated national approach to respond to ongoing and expected effects of extreme weather and climate change.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:
H.R. 9121.
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:
To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to allow Indian Tribal Governments to directly request fire management assistance declarations and grants, and for other purposes.
By Ms. DELBENE:
H.R. 9122.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Addressing utility disconnections during extreme heat and cold under PURPA
By Mr. KEATING:
H.R. 9123.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
This is a bill to encourage increased trade and investment between the United States and the countries in the Western Balkans, and for other purposes.
By Mr. KILEY:
H.R. 9124.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Auburn, California, as the ''Louis A. Conter VA Clinic''
By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:
H.R. 9125.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Health Care
By Ms. PORTER:
H.R. 9126.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To require digital social companies to adopt terms of service that meet certain minimum requirements.
By Mr. SABLAN:
H.R. 9127.
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:
340B Program
By Mr. SABLAN:
H.R. 9128.
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:
Safety Net Hospitals
By Mr. VASQUEZ:
H.R. 9129.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United State Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Medical Debt
By Mrs. GONZÁLES-COLÓN:
H.R. 9130.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section I of the U.S. Constitution
''All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.''
The single subject of this legislation is:
Provides for the relief for Diego Montoya Bedoya.
By Mr. MORELLE:
H.J. Res. 193.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to the power granted Congress by Article V of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Immunity

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 34: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 51: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 549: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 700: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 773: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 976: Mr. CLYDE.
H.R. 1002: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 1088: Mrs. STEEL, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1293: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1406: Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 1440: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1462: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 1638: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 1716: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1737: Mr. LAWLER and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 1764: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 1831: Mrs. SYKES, Mr. FONG, Mr. MORAN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. ALFORD, Ms. MALOY, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. EZELL, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 2407: Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 2413: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 2451: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 2662: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 2742: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 2802: Mr. SOTO, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 2828: Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 2923: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 2998: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 3005: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 3036: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 3161: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 3270: Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 3366: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3387: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 3413: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 3442: Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PETERS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILD, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 3489: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3611: Mr. MCCORMICK and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 3677: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 3826: Mr. FLOOD.
H.R. 3894: Mr. STANTON, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3962: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 4157: Mr. TURNER, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 4184: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 4274: Mr. IVEY and Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 4387: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 4391: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 4422: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. AMO, and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 4561: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 4583: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 4690: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4721: Mr. FONG.
H.R. 4771: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4787: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 4895: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 4897: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 5041: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 5048: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 5074: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 5145: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 5266: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 5275: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 5467: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 5530: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5561: Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 5741: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6003: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 6023: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 6058: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 6129: Ms. MALOY and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 6131: Mr. FONG.
H.R. 6371: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 6451: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 6487: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 6598: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 6727: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 6734: Mr. EMMER.
H.R. 6790: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 6887: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 6957: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 6980: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 7039: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 7056: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 7165: Mr. KILMER and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 7438: Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Ms. MALOY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 7450: Mr. OGLES, Mr. COMER, and Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 7629: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 7634: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 7670: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 7682: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 7764: Mr. KILMER, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. MANN.
H.R. 7786: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 7906: Ms. VAN DUYNE.
H.R. 8011: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 8047: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 8192: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 8331: Mr. POCAN, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CLYDE.
H.R. 8347: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 8358: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 8371: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 8411: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 8420: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 8426: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 8427: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 8434: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 8437: Mr. RULLI.
H.R. 8473: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 8474: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 8475: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 8476: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 8501: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 8571: Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 8617: MR. CONNOLLY, MR. MOORE OF UTAH, MS. BROWNLEY, AND MR. SMITH OF NEBRASKA.
H.R. 8702: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BAIRD, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 8706: Mr. CLYDE.
H.R. 8716: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 8777: Ms. MALOY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CAREY, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 8796: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 8821: Mrs. STEEL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 8859: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 8886: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 8887: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 8926: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 8977: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 8985: Mr. BANKS and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 8989: Mr. COSTA, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 8995: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 9003: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 9015: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 9080: Mr. CARL and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 9093: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 9101: Mr. NADLER, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 9106: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Mr. GUEST.
H.J. Res. 182: Mr. MOONEY.
H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. RULLI.
H. Res. 277: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 439: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 566: Mr. THANEDAR.
H. Res. 594: Mrs. HAYES.
H. Res. 616: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H. Res. 643: Mr. CARSON.
H. Res. 990: Mr. NORCROSS.
H. Res. 1131: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 1199: Mr. RYAN.
H. Res. 1203: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H. Res. 1367: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. FRY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BACON, and Mr. FINSTAD.
H. Res. 1369: Mr. EZELL and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H. Res. 1371: Mr. ROSE, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. FRY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HERN, Mr. BARR, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024 *No. 120*

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, author of liberty, who has made and preserved us as a nation, bless today our lawmakers who are called to serve the Republic by bringing order out of chaos, truth out of falsehood, and peace out of strife. May our Senators lift the shield of their integrity against the enemies of justice, freedom, and faith at this time when the world's hopes depend on character. Lord, guide our legislators with Your providence until this Nation shall gleam undimmed by tears of want, worry, and woe.

Make us all worthy of the sacrifices of those who have given the last, full measure of devotion for freedom.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 24, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kashi Way, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The majority leader is recognized.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Acting President pro tempore of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, later this afternoon, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu will address a joint meeting of Congress.

It has been 291 days since Israel suffered the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust at the hands of evil Hamas terrorists. The pain of October 7 remains fresh because, to this day, at least 116 Israeli hostages remain in captivity, including women, teenagers, the elderly; including American citizens; including New Yorkers—my constituents.

Yesterday afternoon, I met with some of the families of the hostages, where I reaffirmed a solemn promise I made months ago and each day since: I am doing everything in my power to ensure their loved ones come home safe and sound. Today is yet another opportunity to fight for just that.

Even though I disagree with many of Bibi Netanyahu's policies, I will attend the speech because the United States' relationship with Israel remains ironclad and transcends any Prime Minister or President, and we must do all we can to get our hostages home.

I told the families of the hostages I will continue supporting the Biden administration and all negotiators as they push Hamas to agree to a deal that will release the hostages and bring relief to Gaza. The negotiators have agreed on a framework, and now is the time to close the deal.

Later today, I will also meet with Prime Minister Netanyahu during a bipartisan, bicameral meeting of the congressional leadership. I promised the families I would relay their message directly with the Prime Minister: Do all you can to bring the hostages home now.

Many of the families I met with yesterday were the very same families I met with during my trip to Israel just a few days after the October 7 attack

Printed on recycled paper.

where their loved ones were captured. I can only imagine what the last 8 months have been like for these courageous souls, not knowing if their loves ones are even alive.

I was particularly glad to meet with some of the families from New York, including the family of Itay Chen, who was murdered on October 7 and whose body is still being held hostage. I also met with the family of Omer Neutra, who remains in captivity and whose family will be attending the speech as my guests.

Omer was serving as a tank commander near Gaza when he was taken, but back home he had his whole life ahead of him. He is a student athlete, a Knicks fan, the captain of his school's basketball team, and was set to attend Binghamton University, one of the finest universities in the country, after his service. And there are many, many just like Omer whom we still need to bring home.

There is simply no time to waste with a deal within reach. Yesterday, another hostage family member told me the tragic story of her family. Her mother and brother were both taken captive by Hamas on October 7. Today, her mother is home, released in the November hostage deal, but her brother is dead, murdered in captivity. As she told me, ''the difference in fates of her mother and her brother lies at the negotiating table.''

The survival of the hostages depends on closing a deal now. The Prime Minister must make bringing the hostages home a top priority, and I promised the families that is what I will tell him when we meet this afternoon.

KOSA-COPPA

Mr. President, on a different issue, KOSA and COPPA, tomorrow, the Senate will get the chance to take a major step forward on ensuring our kids' safety. We will hold a cloture vote on a measure that contains two resoundingly bipartisan bills: the Kids Online Safety Act, or KOSA, and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA.

Both of these bills have been around since last Congress. Both have gone through the Senate Commerce Committee without opposition. But there have been many roadblocks to both KOSA and COPPA, and the parents who have been pushing and pushing and pushing for kids' online safety are fed up with the delay.

But I believe this time will be different. This time I am very hopeful that we can pass these bills through the Chamber.

I have worked closely with Members on both sides to get these bills ready for the floor. I made sure Members had plenty of time to offer their input, work through disagreements, and arrive at a consensus. Now, the moment to act has arrived. We are going to get our chance to take the next big step tomorrow.

I have had many difficult meetings with constituents as a Member of this body, but few, few have been as heartwrenching as the meetings I have had with the parents of kids who took their own lives because of what happened to them on social media.

I met with one parent from New York yesterday whose child suffered this terrible fate. She has lost her child forever.

And I have met many others back home and across the country who are in a similar situation. Some of the parents told me about how their kids were relentlessly bullied online. Others told me about how their kids were targeted by predators or duped into buying deadly drugs. Virtually all the parents shared their stories about the intense mental anguish their kids suffered.

When I talked to the parents who lost their children, when I saw the pictures of their kids that they were holding up yesterday—I have seen those pictures before. I think of my kids when they were little. I think of my grandkids today. What if one of them goes online and loses their life? God forbid. God forbid.

The loss shatters your heart, and I think to myself that if we could get these bills done, it would do so much good for millions of families across the country. Tomorrow is the day we must act.

So I want to thank so many of the Senators who labored tirelessly on these bills. I especially want to thank Senators BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN for their work on KOSA, as well as Senators MARKEY and CASSIDY for their work on COPPA. I also wish to thank Chair CANTWELL for her excellent leadership on the Commerce Committee. I look forward to voting on advancing KOSA/COPPA here on the floor later this week.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, now, next topic, tonight President Biden will address the Nation on a most solemn matter, his decision—his generous, wonderful decision—to pass the torch at the end of his term and his vision for the future of America.

President Biden's decision to stand down from a second term in office will go down as one of the greatest acts of patriotism of any President in our long, storied U.S. history. To pass the torch is one of the hardest decisions possible for someone whose life has been entirely about leadership, but he did it because he believed it was the right thing to do for the country he loved so much.

Nevertheless, tonight I expect President Biden to remind the American people that one thing hasn't changed: Right now, our democracy stands at a crossroads, and we—all of us—have a lot of work left to do.

Democrats want to keep America moving forward with greater hope and opportunity for everybody. Republicans, on the other hand, are hell-bent on taking our country backward with chaos, with dysfunction.

If anyone needed a clearer contrast between the Democrats' and the Republicans' vision for America, just take a look at the latest Trump plan proposed by the very conservative, the arch conservative Heritage Foundation. The more the American people learn the details of Project 2025, the more trouble Donald Trump is going to have. Let me say that again: The more the American people learn the details about Project 2025, the more trouble Donald Trump is going to have. The Trump plan calls for the most conservative agenda in American history, chocked full of radical, rightwing MAGA proposals that are way out of line with the mainstream.

While Democrats are focused on protecting reproductive rights and a woman's right to choose, the Trump plan lays the groundwork for a national abortion ban. While Democrats are focused on providing student debt relief to millions of borrowers, the Trump plans calls for defunding the Department of Education. While Democrats are focused on creating jobs and making our Tax Code fairer for working families, the Trump plan calls for more tax cuts for the very wealthy, the corporate elites, the mega corporations. While Democrats are focused on tackling climate change and lowering energy costs, the Trump plan would gut our clean energy investments, empower the Nation's biggest oil and gas producers, and throw thousands and thousands who are now in good-paying jobs out of work.

The list goes on and on and on, but the bottom line is this: America cannot afford 4 years of the Trump plan. It would be dangerous for our democracy, disastrous for our economy, horrible for the average American family, and downright destructive for the progress we have made in the last 4 years.

HONORING DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON AND OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT

Mr. President, 26 years ago today, Detective John Gibson and Officer Jacob Chestnut of the Capitol Police gave their lives in the line of duty while defending the Capitol from an attack by a lone gunman.

On what was a very dark day in the history of this building, Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut demonstrated extraordinary courage in the face of extraordinary danger. If not for their selfless actions that day, many innocent people would have been injured or would have lost their lives.

Days like today remind us of the immense responsibilities of the Capitol Police. It is no easy task to be the guardians of the Capitol complex, but Capitol Police do it every single day with unwavering dedication and courage.

So we will never forget the sacrifice that Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut made 26 years ago. May their memories continue to be a blessing to their families, to all of us here who remember that awful day, and to their brave brothers and sisters in the Capitol Police.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

TRUMP RALLY SHOOTING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, some events in our lives make such an impression that we can recall exactly where we were and what we were doing when we reflect on learning about them. On November 22, 1963, I was a sophomore at Georgetown University here in Washington, DC, when the news broke that President John F. Kennedy had been shot in Dallas, TX. I was in the library, and the news spread through that quiet room like wildfire. We all stopped what we were doing and went outside and stood in the street and listened to the car radio's report of the news that was just tragic news, of course, that President Kennedy had given his life.

It has been more than 60 years since the assassination of President Kennedy and 43 years since President Reagan was shot. A week and a half ago, Americans were shocked to witness on live television an assassination attempt against former President Donald Trump as well as the murder of Corey Comperatore at a Pennsylvania political rally.

We should all take a moment to reflect on Mr. Comperatore's family loss. His wife reported that when shots were ringing out, he shielded his wife and children with his body. It is an amazing scene to think that at that moment—that emergency moment—he thought of others to protect them. They have been in my thoughts since the tragic events of that Saturday afternoon.

We have a responsibility in Congress to learn how the Secret Service failed to protect former President Trump on July 13. We need to do this on a bipartisan basis; keep politics out of it.

The Judiciary Committee, which I chair, has jurisdiction over the Secret Service. Tomorrow morning, the Judiciary Committee, along with the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committees, will receive a classified briefing on the shooting. I hope that we learn more since the hearings that occurred in the House of Representatives.

Next Tuesday morning, the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee will hold a joint, bipartisan hearing on the assassination attempt, where we hope to learn more from the FBI and the Secret Service.

We need to ask probing and important questions and do it in a responsible way that avoids the kind of incendiary language that has become all too common in our country. It is irresponsible for a Member of Congress to accuse the opposing political party of being ''flat out evil and . . . [trying] to murder President Trump,'' but a Member of Congress actually said that. Another Member said, ''Joe Biden sent the orders.'' Can you imagine? Those kinds of statements are so irresponsible, mean-spirited. They don't belong as part of the national debate.

As a country, we have become desensitized to toxic and violent rhetoric that some politicians have embraced as standard fare. We should all be disturbed by the April poll from Marist which found that ''one in 5 U.S. adults believe Americans have to resort to violence to get their country back on track.''

I have said this repeatedly, and it bears repeating: Political violence is never acceptable. It is never the answer. Political parties should not elevate leaders who say these things that are so irresponsible.

Candidates should encourage Americans to exercise their constitutional right to speak and vote, not open a rally with an official declaring: If we lose this election, it is going to take a civil war to save this country.

As the most powerful democracy in the world, the eyes of our allies and rivals are always on us. Our political discourse should reflect our solemn responsibility to encourage free and fair elections not just abroad but at home because, in the land of the free, everyone should feel safe expressing their political views and participating in this country's most sacred and fought-for legacy, a free and fair democracy.

ISRAEL

Mr. President, later today, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will address a joint session of Congress. I believe this invitation to speak was ill-timed and one which the Prime Minister should have had the good sense to decline. But if there is one thing we know about Prime Minister Netanyahu is that he never misses an opportunity to further his political agenda.

Let me be clear: There are nations and proxy groups that seek to destroy Israel, and that is not something we can or ever should take for granted. We have seen this with the horrific slaughter by Hamas on October 7, the subsequent Iranian missile barrage, the ongoing attacks by Hezbollah, and the continued holding of innocent Israeli hostages, including Hersh Goldberg-Polin with ties to my State of Illinois. That is why I have long supported helping Israel in its self-defense.

But let me also make clear that support for Israel's right to exist is not a blank check for extremist policies of Prime Minister Netanyahu.

Even before the October attack, Netanyahu was pursuing a deeply troubling agenda compelled by his self-interested desire to hold together his far-right coalition and avoid legal problems.

He enabled illegal settlement expansion, entertained outrageous proposals to annex the West Bank, advance policies that would have undermined Israel's judicial independence, and ignored any long-term vision for peace with the Palestinians.

Pressure from Israel's friends, including President Biden, to rethink those policies were often brushed aside or manipulated to create domestic political support in Israel.

Tragically, it has been clear for years that neither the current Israeli nor the current Palestinian leadership have a vision of political will to find a lasting peace for two people—with tragic consequences.

Shortly after the October 7 attack by Hamas, many of us warned our Israeli friends to learn from our own mistakes we made in the fog of rage and pain following September 11, 2001. But I fear these lessons have been lost upon Netanyahu, and the cost for Israel and Palestinians alike has been heartbreaking.

Netanyahu has failed to create a postconflict plan, has ignored increased settler violence in the West Bank and extremists blocking humanitarian aid from entering Gaza.

When I think about the right of Israel to exist, it is pretty clear to me, start to finish, that is the basic foundational position to take: the right to defend themselves, of course. October 7 was proof positive that that is necessary.

But you take a look at the course of the war in Gaza ever since: 39,000 innocent Palestinians have died; 90,000 have been injured. The scenes that come back to us from what is happening in Gaza are heartbreaking. To think that these children are dying of famine and starvation because they have stopped the shipments of humanitarian aid into Gaza in a regular, orderly way, that is unacceptable.

In the end, I fear the devastating civilian toll in Gaza will not only be judged a moral and humanitarian calamity but a likely strategic failure by the Israelis as well.

I have long supported a two-state solution for Israel and Palestinians. In fact, out of the terrible Yom Kippur war came an unimaginable, yet lasting, peace between Egypt and Israel.

So with the right leaders on both sides, it can be done. And the United States has a responsibility for a renewed push on all sides toward this goal, one in which Israel and Palestinian children can once and for all live together in peace and dignity.

A pending cease-fire that would see hostages released, humanitarian aid increased, and eventually lead to a desperately needed outcome seems finally within reach.

Last night, at the invitation of BEN CARDIN, our colleague from Maryland, I met with some of the hostage families here in the Capitol. I cannot imagine what it must be like, many of them wondering if the person whom they

love—their sons, their daughters, their wives, their friends—are even alive today. Unimaginable.

We have to bring this to an end. And a cease-fire agreement with Hamas is the only way to get that done.

Instead of stirring the same old pot, I urge Prime Minister Netanyahu to share such a vision for the future when he speaks to the U.S. Congress today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRUMP RALLY SHOOTING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the attempted assassination of President Trump 11 days ago at a peaceful rally in Pennsylvania shook the Nation. I am very thankful that he was not seriously harmed. I am grateful also for the law enforcement personnel who rushed in to cover the President when the shooting started. But, as every American knows by now, the events of July 13 should never have happened.

There was not just one but a number of apparent security breakdowns—notably, a failure to secure the roof before the rally. While we are grateful for the fact that President Trump was not killed, the security failures resulted in the death of one innocent American and serious injury to two others.

It is appropriate that the Secret Service Director resigned yesterday in the wake of this tragedy, but there is more work to be done. Multiple investigations are currently being conducted—several of them here in Congress—to identify everything that went wrong that Saturday and to explore ways to ensure that it never happens again.

Among other things, we obviously need to take a hard look at what needs to be done at the Secret Service. I have no doubt that there are many dedicated agents serving there, including those who heroically dived to cover President Trump when the shooting started, but the fact is that the Secret Service has been beset by problems for a number of years now, including staffing issues and a number of previous security failures. It is time to fix these problems once and for all and ensure that the Secret Service is fully prepared to fulfill its mission. We also need a new Secret Service Director committed to making reform of the Agency a priority.

Events like the ones of July 13 always horrify because they demonstrate the worst of which human beings are capable, but they also often give us a glimpse of the very best, and that was certainly true in Pennsylvania. There was Corey Comperatore, the volunteer firefighter who died protecting his family; the emergency room physician and others who attempted to render medical assistance; the everyday Americans who stepped in to help their fellow rally-goers.

If there is one thing we can take from the events of July 13 other than the immediate practical need of addressing security failures, it is a renewed determination to live our lives in such a way that we, too, at the time of our testing, would be among those whose responses were to help and protect their fellow man.

Soon after surviving the attempt on his life, President Trump said:

In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United and show our True Character as Americans.

That is a call that we should all heed. That doesn't mean, of course, that our disagreements suddenly disappear, but it does mean that we recognize and remember that most Americans, regardless of where they land politically, want what is best for the country's future, and I hope that out of this tragedy can come a renewed sense of what unites us.

Amid the outpouring of shock and concern after the attempted assassination, there were those who actually made remarks lamenting that President Trump wasn't killed, and it is disturbing that our discourse and our regard for the value of human life have deteriorated to such an extent that there would actually be people wishing bodily harm on a political candidate simply because they don't like his politics. In the midst of our real and valid disagreements, I hope we can remember the people beneath the politics and emerge with a greater respect for our fellow Americans.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with those injured on July 13 and with the families of the injured and deceased, and I pray—I pray—that the events in Butler, PA, will never be repeated.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, BINYAMIN NETANYAHU

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this afternoon—in just, actually, a few short hours—Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu will deliver an address to a joint session of Congress.

As his country faces multiple attacks on multiple fronts—an existential threat, actually—Prime Minister Netanyahu has come to the United States to affirm the strong relationship between his country and ours and to highlight the stakes of this war.

This joint address comes at a critical time, and I am absolutely stunned and profoundly disappointed that the Vice President of the United States has decided to boycott participating in this particular speech. As we all know, it is traditional that the Vice President, as the President of the Senate, and the Speaker sit behind the invited speaker—in this case, Prime Minister Netanyahu.

I remember several years back, when Prime Minister Netanyahu was last here, that the Vice President and the Speaker both sat in those chairs, recognizing the importance of lending that dignity and sense of gravity to the proceeding. But Vice President HARRIS can't be bothered with any of that. She is blaming her decision on a scheduling conflict even though the date of this speech was announced in early June. The only other item on the Vice President's schedule is a speech to a sorority convention in Indianapolis. The world is on fire—we have never seen a more dangerous environment since World War II—and the Vice President can't be bothered to show up at the Nation's Capitol, in the House Chamber, and demonstrate the respect and courtesy that we thought was a given—but apparently not in this case.

Not only has the Vice President chosen to skip this address, so has the Senate's President pro tempore, Senator MURRAY. We learned this morning, the majority whip, Senator DURBIN, is boycotting this address as well. I think it is absolutely disgraceful that the most senior members of the Democratic Party have chosen to give the Heisman to one of our closest allies in the Middle East—the only democracy in the Middle East that is fighting for its very existence. Why would they do something like this? Well, it is pretty obvious. It is pandering. It is pandering to the most radical elements of the Democratic base.

I am proud of the deep friendship between the United States and Israel. Our national security is tied up in the national security of Israel. We know Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism, wants to wipe Israel off the map, like Hamas, which is a proxy for Iran, like Hezbollah, like the Houthis in Yemen, which all are determined to destroy the nation of Israel. So it has never been more important for the United States to stand shoulder to shoulder with our ally and friend against these unprovoked attacks by terrorist groups against innocent civilians.

There were 251 hostages taken on October 7—innocent civilians—in addition to all of the thousand-plus individuals who were murdered. Eight of the current hostages are American citizens, and the Vice President can't be bothered to show up? It is disgraceful.

ELECTION DAY

Mr. President, on another matter, election day, November 5, is only 104 days away. On November 5, the voters will head to the polls to chart a new direction for our country.

The Presidential race, of course, has garnered the most attention given the

surreal events of the last 10 days. In the last several days, the Democratic candidate has dropped out of the race, and the Republican candidate has survived an assassination attempt. You couldn't make this up. If you wrote this as a novel, people wouldn't believe it.

This Presidential race is unprecedented and with high stakes, but there is more on the line this November than just the future of the White House. From the top of the ballot to the bottom of the ballot, the American people will vote for candidates to represent their interests at every level of government—at the local level: mayors, city councilmen; to Governors; to Members of Congress, including the U.S. Senate.

As we know, election years are not known for their productivity here in the Senate. Our colleagues are always eager to spend more time at home campaigning, which does present some serious scheduling problems.

Historically, the prospects of legislating grows dimmer as election day grows closer. Even still, the outlook for the next few months looks pretty shocking and pretty dismal.

Including today, the Senate is scheduled to be in session for 18 days. Let me say that again. We have 104 days until the election, and the Senate is scheduled to be in session for only 18 days. That is about 1 day a week.

If the Senate had already completed its most basic duties, this might not be quite shocking and alarming. But the truth is, we have a mountain of critical work that needs to be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

Before the end of September, which is the end of the fiscal year, we need to pass the National Defense Authorization Act—something we have done, I think it is, 63 years in a row—which is essential to our military's readiness. As I said earlier, this is the most dangerous time we have seen since World War II. You would think the National Defense Authorization Act would be a priority, but apparently not for Leader SCHUMER. I had hoped the Senate would take up and pass this bill before the end of July, but that is clearly looking unlikely at this point.

Then we have to pass all 12 annual appropriations bills to fund everything from national defense to processing passports, to veterans' benefits, to administering Social Security, Medicare—you name it. Failure to complete that job on time could result in a government shutdown.

We also need to pass a farm bill to support our mighty agriculture industry and the dedicated farmers and ranchers and producers who depend on it. This task should have been completed last fall, but Congress punted that deadline. We can't keep our ag producers, farmers, and ranchers in limbo forever, but that is what is happening.

These are three basic functions of governing: funding the government, strengthening our national defense, and protecting our food supply. All these deadlines were known well in advance, but the Senate has not taken up or passed even one of these bills.

We know it is not uncommon for a single bill to occupy a couple weeks of floor time, but the majority leader has given us 18 days to complete 14 bills.

If the Senate had spent its time working on other important matters, I might understand the legislative pileup like we are facing today, but that has not been the case at all.

This Chamber is barely in session, and even when we are in Washington, our time is wasted on show votes and occasional nominees. The past few session weeks have been dominated by votes on radical nominees and partisan messaging bills—not the best use of our time.

The situation has been so common that I was shocked to hear that Senator SCHUMER planned to put two real bipartisan bills on the floor this week, and I am appreciative of his willingness to do so. We need to do more of that, not less of it.

We all know that the age of social media has created serious safety risks for America's children. We have heard countless stories about the devastating impact social media has on children's mental health. More and more children and teens are dealing with bullying and harassment online. It is no surprise teen depression rates are on the rise, and parents are eager for something to change. So this is one of the bright spots of bipartisan cooperation, where Republicans and Democrats have made this issue a priority.

We have held countless hearings across multiple committees to learn about the danger kids face online as well as Big Tech's failures to keep our children safe.

Senators have authored a number of bipartisan bills to keep kids safe, and we have been clamoring for a long time for the majority leader to put those bills on the Senate floor. So I am glad that Senator SCHUMER has hit the pause button on partisan show votes for at least a week so we can take action on two critical bills to address this crisis.

The first is the Kids Online Safety Act introduced by Senators BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN. It provides children and parents tools and safeguards they need to keep safe online. It includes keeping harmful content about suicide, eating disorders, and substance abuse out of children's algorithms. More than two-thirds of the Senate has cosponsored this bill, and I am proud to be one of them.

We are also expected to build on the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act introduced by Senators MARKEY and CASSIDY. This bill prohibits internet companies from collecting personal information from the youngest users and establishes better safeguards to protect children's privacy.

In short, it does what Big Tech has failed to do. It prevents Big Tech from tracking and targeting kids with the most addictive content possible.

These are complex issues, and I want to commend my colleagues Senators BLACKBURN and CASSIDY for their work in this area. They managed to draft legislation that balances the First Amendment rights of online users with the safety of our children. These bills are on the verge of passing the Senate, and that would not be the case without their dedication and tireless efforts.

Again, I am proud to cosponsor these bills, and I am glad the Senate will finally vote on them this week. They will make critical advancements to keep kids safe from the dangers lurking online and finally provide parents across the country with a little peace of mind.

It is great the Senate is finally doing some productive work for a change, but it is embarrassing that it has taken this long to put this legislation on the floor, which only the majority leader can do. He sets the schedule.

Once it passes, we hardly have time, though, to celebrate because of the mountain of bills we need to advance before the end of September: the NDAA—the Defense Authorization Act—12 appropriations bills, the farm bill. All of those need to be dealt with by the end of September. But to state the obvious, this was entirely avoidable, this crunch time.

Again, election day is 104 days away, and in my book, it can't come soon enough.

The past 3½ years have brought us one crisis after another under the current administration, most notably at the border.

We need new leadership, and I am eager for the American people to make their voices heard at the ballot box in just a few months. Until then, we have a lot of work to do. I just hope the majority leader will give us the opportunity to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, two or three times lately, I have been coming to the floor to have a conversation with my colleagues on the subject of national security.

Remember, all of us, that wars are being waged right now in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and I presume elsewhere on this globe. We have uncertainty and unrest looming on the horizon in the South China Sea and the Horn of Africa.

There are also serious national security concerns right here in the United States. For the last 3 years, our own southern border, hundreds of thousands of migrants from around the world have come to America without our permission, including people on the Terrorist Watchlist.

Earlier this month, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of NATO, the most successful military alliance in modern history. Winston Churchill sowed the

seeds for the idea of NATO. He did this in the aftermath of the failed League of Nations. He delivered his speech called ''Sinews of Peace''—he did this in America's heartland—a famous speech at a college campus in Fulton, MO.

Churchill spoke of two great dangers that imperil the hearth and home of common people. Those two dangers are war and tyranny. In his speech, he called for a military coalition to build what he called a ''temple of peace'' that would be, as he said in a quote, a ''force for action, and not merely a frothing of words.'' That was Churchill's way of saying a blueprint for peace that actually worked.

No European NATO member was invaded post-World War II because of NATO. By contrast, the nations that wanted to be very aggressive during the Cold War, particularly the Soviet Union, instigated conflicts in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, but they didn't mess around with Europe. Churchill's words of wisdom, then, stand the test the time.

I would like to further quote Churchill:

> From what I have seen of our Russian friends and Allies during the war, I am convinced that there is nothing they admire so much as strength, and there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness, especially military weakness.

The fall of the Iron Curtain opened the lane to freedom, symbolizing victory over tyranny that we must never take for granted. It is no secret that Russian President Vladimir Putin—remember, a former KGB officer—wants to resurrect the Soviet Empire from the ash heap of history. You can consider Russia's recent timeline of aggression.

In 2008, Russia invaded the Republic of Georgia. In 2014, Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and occupied parts of eastern Ukraine. And then 3 years ago, Putin launched what we now know as a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Appeasement was a key ingredient in Putin's recipe for Russian expansion.

Let's not forget that Russia marked NATO's 75th anniversary—celebrated here in Washington, DC—by, at that time, launching 40 missiles into Ukraine, targeting a children's hospital, killing scores of innocent civilians. Putin very much has hitched his horse to America's foreign adversaries by getting supplies for his war efforts from China, Iran, and North Korea—kind of the 21st century axis similar to Germany, Italy, and Japan during World War II. Just as dangerous for us now as that other axis was dangerous and brought great conflict during World War II.

With global conflicts and terrorist threats in mind, history must inform our Nation's path forward. History shows a strong U.S. military is an impenetrable instrument of peace. A weakened U.S. military is, for sure, an invitation for our foreign adversaries to keep pushing the envelope.

Now, make no mistake, Russia and Russian allies' mission is to do whatever it takes to undermine the United States as a leader of the free world. We didn't seek that title—being leader of the free world—but we learned the hard way that allowing dictators to get away with aggression eventually threatens American freedom.

This brings me back then to square one. The core responsibility of the Federal Government is national security, and that fundamental responsibility begins and ends with a strong national defense. An impenetrable U.S. military safeguards America's food security, energy security, infrastructure security, and cyber security.

In a nutshell, the U.S. Armed Forces are the nucleus for peace and prosperity at home and abroad. So when the Senate takes up the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act and the Defense appropriations bill, I urge my colleagues to invest in America. Doing so will cement our national security interests for generations to come.

First, we must enhance pay and benefits for members of the military and their families. Next, we must restock America's arsenal and boost our military preparedness.

In recent decades, Washington has allowed our Armed Forces to lose their wartime footing. When we lose our footing on any one of those rungs, know that our enemies are circling the waters to take us down a notch.

My colleague from Mississippi, Senator WICKER, serves as ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. I reviewed his plan that outlines where the U.S. military most needs defense dollars.

As it stands, the United States is ill-equipped to meet the emerging global threats to our national security. Senator WICKER's blueprint would put us back on the right path to secure peace through strength. The plan estimates that the annual defense budget needs to grow to 5 percent of gross domestic product.

Our defense spending as a share of GDP has been falling and is nearing a historic low. Meanwhile, many of our European NATO allies have been dramatically increasing defense expenditures because they see how dangerous the world has become.

Another key NATO metric is the percentage of defense funds going toward equipment—in other words, warfighting capability. The United States is in the bottom of the pack among our NATO allies on this very score.

It is no coincidence that the United States became the leader of the free world by leveraging its commitment to peace around the world through unassailable military power.

In the first quarter of the 21st century and a key period in history, America stands at the crossroads. We cannot bury our heads in the sand when China's spending on defense is on a pace to match our own country. And that is according to estimates from our intelligence community.

To be sure, China is plotting to leapfrog America as the global superpower: China leveraging every tool at its disposal, China infiltrating our education system, China manipulating data on TikTok, China deploying debt-trap diplomacy, and, finally, China unleashing military exercises in the Taiwan Straits and even close to Alaska, in the Bering Sea.

We can't afford to ignore what is really obvious: A diminished military puts our national security at risk and our troops very much in harm's way.

Today, I call upon my colleagues here in the Congress to stand by our duty and our constitutional obligation of national security being the No. 1 responsibility of the Federal Government. We must stand shoulder to shoulder to meet this moment. In fact, we have a responsibility to do so on behalf of our constituents and, more importantly, getting future generations protected, and that is a long-term responsibility.

As Senator WICKER's report details, we must modernize U.S. nuclear programs, revive homeland defense sites, and restore the U.S. Navy and fleet readiness. And we need to bolster the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force, bring Cyber Command up to speed, and provide our servicemembers better training, technology, and modernized munitions to fulfill their missions.

There is no time for dillydallying. Right now, our foreign adversaries are cobbling alliances to skirt sanctions, undermine freedom, and secure their own self-interests.

In closing, I will finish with three messages. First, we can avoid war by anticipating war. Second, preparing for war does not mean writing a blank check to the Pentagon. You can be sure that I will continue my oversight work to get the most bang for our defense buck. Thirdly, we must respond to the writing on the wall. If we allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security about our military power, historians will write about America's twilight instead of an American-led 21st century.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I would like unanimous consent to complete my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE FIGHTING IRISH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S LACROSSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to honor the Fighting Irish. This May, the University of Notre Dame men's lacrosse team won the 2024 NCAA Division I title with a resounding victory over the Maryland Terrapins. The final score was 15 to 5.

This year's victory marked the second national lacrosse title for the Fighting Irish. It was also a consecutive national championship—very hard to do in this day and age in the competitive arena of college sports.

The Fighting Irish is the first team since 2019 and 2021 to win those back-to-back men's lacrosse national championships and only the eighth team in division I history to accomplish the feat.

I would like to personally congratulate Notre Dame men's lacrosse team for claiming the 2024 title. It is a university that has distinguished itself in so many ways over the years. Blessed to be in my home State and I'm very proud of them across the board.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 768, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 768) congratulating the Fighting Irish of the University of Notre Dame men's lacrosse team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse National Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BRAUN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 768) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:49 a.m., recessed until 3 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATIONS OF ADAM B. LANDY, KASHI WAY, AND ROSE E. JENKINS

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to again voice my strong support for the nominations of Adam Landy and Kashi Way to serve as judges of the United States Tax Court. The Senate will be voting on their nominations soon, Mr. Way's in just a few minutes and I believe Mr. Landy's later this afternoon.

The U.S. Tax Court is the judicial backbone of the Federal Tax Code. Americans rely on the Tax Court to dispute tax bills before they need to pay them. It is key to making sure taxpayers are heard in a timely manner and an essential way to protect fairness in our tax system.

The nominees for these positions have never been controversial. And as I am about to make clear, both these nominees have the right experience and the qualifications for the job.

Adam Landy has served as a special trial judge on the Tax Court since 2021. He also has several years of experience at the Office of the IRS Chief Counsel in Baltimore, San Francisco, and in the private sector.

Kashi Way is a senior legislative counsel with the Joint Committee on Taxation staff. During his 18 years at the joint committee, Mr. Way had a major impact on just about every piece of energy tax legislation that has gotten any traction in the Congress, as well as a host of other tax bills. This committee and our staff will be sorry to lose Mr. Way on the joint committee, but he is, in my view, going to make an excellent Tax Court judge.

These two Tax Court nominees have experience in both the public and private sector. Their broad experience will be invaluable to take on the role as Tax Court judges.

I would also like to reiterate my strong support for the nomination of Rose Jenkins to serve on the Tax Court. She is a qualified nominee and will make an excellent judge. I will be working with my colleagues to ensure we can bring her nomination to the floor for a final confirmation vote as soon as possible so she can get to work for the American people.

Madam President, and let me just close by way of saying, I think it is particularly important—I see a number of my colleagues on the Finance Committee here—that we continue to work in a bipartisan way on this and that we make this experience more bearable and understandable for the citizens who are a part of it. And I think these nominees will help to do that.

So I close by saying, in my view, there is no question that these nominees are highly qualified for the roles that they are nominated to fill. We have worked on these in a bipartisan way. I support each of them. And when the Senate votes on their nominations, I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 701, Kashi Way, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kashi Way, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 78, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 215 Ex.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Duckworth	Murkowski
Barrasso	Durbin	Murphy
Bennet	Fetterman	Murray
Blumenthal	Fischer	Ossoff
Booker	Gillibrand	Padilla
Boozman	Graham	Peters
Braun	Grassley	Reed
Britt	Hassan	Ricketts
Brown	Heinrich	Risch
Budd	Hickenlooper	Romney
Butler	Hirono	Rosen
Cantwell	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Sanders
Cardin	Kelly	Schatz
Carper	King	Schumer
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lankford	Sinema
Collins	Luján	Smith
Coons	Lummis	Stabenow
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Thune
Cotton	Merkley	Tillis
Crapo	Moran	Van Hollen
Daines	Mullin	Warner

Warnock	Whitehouse	Wyden
Welch	Wicker	Young

NAYS—16

Blackburn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Cruz	McConnell	Sullivan
Ernst	Paul	Tuberville
Hawley	Rubio	
Hyde-Smith	Schmitt	

NOT VOTING—6

Hagerty	Lee	Vance
Kaine	Menendez	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 78, the nays are 16, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

ISRAEL

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, earlier today, Members of Congress had the distinct honor of hearing from Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of the State of Israel. He is a leader of one of our most steadfast allies in an unprecedented time of strife for his country.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's message to Congress today was a snapshot into the reality that his nation is facing and what they have experienced since the morning of October 7. He spoke to the urgency of bringing our hostages home and received a standing ovation for that; the courage and bravery of his Israeli forces and citizens and received a standing ovation for that; and his vision to bring peace, prosperity, and security to the Middle East—again, standing room only.

Israel is a country at war, and, as the only democracy in the Middle East and a friend of freedom, Israel deserves the unwavering support of these United States. That is why it is incredibly disheartening to see that many of our Democratic colleagues were absolutely absent from the address—especially the Vice President. Her absence unleashed a completely unnecessary discussion about who would join the Speaker to preside over the joint address. For a time, her seat behind the podium was just simply up for grabs.

I extend my thanks to my colleague from Maryland, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for welcoming Prime Minister Netanyahu on behalf of the Senate, and that was Senator BEN CARDIN.

But unfortunately public debate over the Vice President's absence is not the message that we should be sending to the world.

It seems some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have forgotten that 291 days ago, on October 7, 2023, Israel was the victim of an unprovoked terrorist attack. The attacking force, Hamas, killed 1,200 innocent Israelis, committed unspeakable acts of sexual violence, and took men and women and children as hostages. They also took Holocaust survivors. They even took an infant under 1 year old. Prime Minister Netanyahu mentioned that infant earlier today. That poor child, that poor baby, has now spent more of his life in Hamas captivity than in freedom.

To this day, nearly 10 months later, hostages still remain in captivity, including American citizens, and they are being used as human shields at the same time. I was incredibly moved to see some of the hostages and their families represented in the House Chamber today.

Hamas has proven itself to be a violent terrorist organization that continues to hide underneath schools and hospitals, intentionally putting civilians in harm's way. They have publicly called for the attacks of October 7 to be repeated again and again and again.

The bottom line is this: Hamas has made it clear it has no interest in seriously negotiating a cease-fire, and they would rather engage in barbaric and, honestly, cowardly acts of terror, joining forces with terrorist organizations like Hezbollah and the Houthis, which continue their bombardment in bombarding Israel in every single direction. Just last week, Hezbollah fired 65 rockets into Israel. The Houthis conducted a deadly drone attack on Israel's soil as well as a ballistic missile that was thankfully intercepted by Israel's air defense. It is clear that Israel needs our support now more than ever.

It is important that we take this moment to reflect on the longstanding ties that bind our country to Israel. The United States was the very first country to recognize the State of Israel. They have been our most stable and longest partner and ally in the Middle East. They have stood beside us in our Nation when we faced unprovoked acts of terror on our own soil. They have joined with us to develop ties with their neighbors through the Abraham Accords. They have been an essential ally in our efforts to dismantle Iran's nuclear program. This is a level of historic partnership that cannot be forgotten. Yet far too many in our country are willing to abandon our relationship with Israel, starting with this administration.

Israel is in a fight for their survival against a terrorist organization that is not bound by laws. We know what it is like to be attacked in our country, but we don't know what it is like to be geographically surrounded by our worst enemies.

Standing with Israel should not be an issue that divides us but, rather, one that unites us in defense of our longtime ally and friend.

It is vital that the American public and my Democratic colleagues who missed the Prime Minister's speech today acknowledge the differences between Israel and Hamas. Israel is a bastion of freedom and democracy in the Middle East who is engaged in a war they did not start, by an organization whose only goal—only goal—is to destroy Israel. In keeping with their stated goal, Hamas has unleashed horrific, illegal, and unthinkable acts of violence on people simply because they are Jewish or Israeli.

Hamas and their allies have made commanding use of the information space to sway public opinion here in our country, in the United States, in an attempt to make it appear that Israel is the aggressor in this conflict. My Republican colleagues, including those joining me here in these speeches today, know that claim is far from the truth.

As the Prime Minister mentioned today, misinformation has long been used to target Israel and the Jewish people, and we have seen it lead to chaos on our college campuses and acts of aggression of anti-Semitism I never thought I would see. We have protesters waving Hamas, Houthis, and Hezbollah flags on streets right here in the United States, including today, surrounding the Capitol. At Union Station, they are burning the American flag.

After those protesters were publicly applauded and will be—the ones today will be publicly applauded by the Supreme Leader of Iran, we now know that Iran is working behind the scenes to fan the flames of these protests.

We need to be honest with ourselves about what each side of this conflict wants. The actions of Hamas are indefensible, and protesters conveniently forget that there was a cease-fire in place on the morning of October 7.

I would say to these protesters: If the Iranian Supreme Leader thinks that you are on the right side of history, that is a pretty clear sign that you are not.

The reality is this: Both Israelis and Americans want the fighting to end. For that to happen, both sides of the conflict need to agree to stop. That means Israel, but it also means Hamas. And right now, we are missing that signal from Hamas.

As the Prime Minister mentioned in his speech today, Hamas could end this right now. Hamas must surrender, and Hamas must return the hostages.

Now more than ever, our Nation must reject terrorism and stand with our ally Israel. While the White House has left our relationship in limbo, Republicans will not let it falter. We will continue to push for true American leadership on the world stage that keeps our promises to our friends in their time of need, that strikes fear in our adversaries and those who wish to do our allies harm, and that returns the moral clarity that is deeply needed in moments like this.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Madam President, I rise today in support of America's great ally, Israel. Israel is more than an ally; she represents hope in the Middle East, hope for the world.

I actually visited Israel 2 weeks after October 7, after that attack, visited with a bipartisan delegation not only to Israel but throughout the Middle East.

Remember that Israel was created after the Holocaust so that the Jewish

people would never have to hide again. This is something that former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer talked to us about during our visit.

A colleague of mine shared that his daughter asked him right after 9/11: Are we safe?

The truth is that October 7 was similar to our 9/11. However, there is also a large difference. On October 8, Israel knew exactly who the perpetrator was. They knew exactly where they were. They were just miles away—their neighbor. It is like if we woke up on September 12, 2001, and we had the terrorists who had masterminded the attacks of 9/11 living next door in Brooklyn. Additionally, they said they would come back again and again and again and again until they eradicated the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

That is the proximity and the gravity of the threat that Israel faces. It is literally at their doorstep. And, bottom line, they can't tell their daughters that they are safe right now.

Madam President, 291 days—over 9 months—have passed now, but we can't forget what happened on October 7. Make no mistake, what Hamas did was pure evil.

They murdered entire families, beheaded babies, dragged grandparents—some, Holocaust survivors—from their wheelchairs to a brutal death. They raped women. They took mothers and daughters hostage after slaughtering their fathers and brothers. They held innocent people hostage and used them as human shields.

As I think about this as a mom, I can't imagine the agony that parents were going through knowing that their children, their loved ones, are being held hostage and used as human shields. I think about the moment when they talk about parents being murdered in front of their children, children being murdered in front of their parents. How could anyone be so evil?

There is no doubt that ''never again'' is now, and not just overseas—unfortunately, here at home. Look no further than the disgusting pro-Hamas anti-Semitic protests that have taken place on college campuses, in cities across our Nation, and today in our Nation's capital.

Today, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu came before Congress and asked us to do what we promised: to stand behind Israel, to stand behind the Jewish people.

America cannot be a country of broken promises. We cannot let our allies down. We cannot be viewed as a country that is weak and unreliable around the world. We must stand strongly with Israel and show her support not just in normal times, but when she needs us the most.

Israel has more than a right to defend herself; she has an obligation. She has an obligation to freedom-loving people around the world, as a beacon of democracy in the Middle East, and to the very people that she serves.

Israel must ensure that this never happens again. America can and must help Israel fulfill that mission, help to bring every single hostage home, and help to bring about sustainable peace and more prosperity there in the Middle East.

Remember, Hamas doesn't just want to destroy peace in the Middle East; they want to destroy Israel and wipe the Jewish people off the face of the planet.

We also have to remember who funds and fuels Hamas. It is time to use every tool in our toolbox to dry up Iran financially. We have done it before under the Trump administration, and I know we can do it again. This isn't complicated. The more money that Iran has—they use it for nuclear proliferation, and they use it to fund terrorism. They fund Hamas in Gaza; they fund the Houthis in Yemen; and they fund Hezbollah in Lebanon. We know what that means for Israel, and, frankly, we know what that means for America.

It is past time to reestablish credibility in America and its deterrence. We will only achieve peace through strength, and that means giving Israel everything she needs to permanently end the threat of Hamas.

As I listened to Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech today, I was in awe of the Israeli people's courage: the courage to fight for democracy, the courage to secure peace in the Middle East, and the courage to fight for their very existence.

Congress is behind Israel. Alabama, the first State in America to call for the establishment of the Jewish State, stands behind Israel. And the United States of America is behind Israel.

As a Christian, as an American, as an Alabamian, I firmly support Israel, and I am incredibly proud to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise to join my colleague from Alabama and other colleagues and outline the importance of maintaining and continuing to strengthen our Nation's support for our essential ally in the Middle East, Israel.

The U.S.-Israel partnership is vital for Israel. It is vital for the United States. It is vital for security in the world. It is vital in this global fight against terror.

Israel needs our help. It needs our help to fend off numerous attacks from Iran and its proxies, and I am proud of the contributions our Armed Forces have made in helping defend Israel from a wide variety of drone and missile attacks. The skill of our committed airmen, airwomen, soldiers, sailors, marines, special forces—their skill, unbelievable; their bravery, courage under fire; the technology that we have utilized, it is just incredible. The things that they have been able to do in terms of helping Israel, it is just beyond belief. And so we commend all of them.

But we need to continue. We need to continue. We need to help Israel defeat Hamas. They need our help to completely destroy Hamas's military capability, and we can't relent until that is done. This is not a one-way partnership. This is not just the United States supporting our ally Israel. Israel is really the tip of the spear.

Israel plays a vital role in standing against terror and deterring Iranian aggression across the Middle East. When you look at Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis, and other groups, these are terrorists that are financed, trained, sponsored, and directed by Iran. We need to recognize that. We need to take a tough stance on sanctions and other measures against Iran and recognize that these proxies for Iran are conducting its missives, its directions.

We are deeply appreciative of Israel's efforts to push back on Iran, on the Houthis, on terrorists, and all those who seek to destabilize not only the Middle East region, but across the world.

And as we have heard Prime Minister Netanyahu say many times of these extremists: If they are not stopped in the Middle East, they will set their sights on America. They will, and they have, and they will continue to do so.

Our partnership with Israel is based on our shared values and our shared commitment to freedom. Without that partnership, terrorists, extremists, and authoritarians would run rampant across the Middle East and other parts of the world, threatening the global economy and positioning themselves to threaten the United States directly.

And so the peace and stability we seek in the Middle East will come as the result of a strong U.S.-Israel partnership, and that is emblematic of the type of relationships that we must have with our allies. We must stand with our allies and stand up against our adversaries. And standing with our allies means not second-guessing them; for example, when Israel is conducting this war, they know how to defeat Hamas. And we need to help them do it, not second-guess how they are doing it.

That is why it is so important that we heard from Prime Minister Netanyahu in person today. We needed to hear directly from him about exactly what is going on as Israel prosecutes this war and the support that they need to be successful in defeating Hamas. And now we need to move in a bipartisan fashion to continue to strengthen that relationship.

There is really no time to lose. Iran's time to a nuclear breakout is down to a very short period. We need to stand together and prevent Iran from developing and, potentially, deploying a nuclear weapon.

Hamas remains a dangerous terrorist organization. Hezbollah presents a growing threat in northern Israel. The Houthis, backed by Iran, pose a threat to Israel and the wider region in the

Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf, attacking shipping from many different countries.

So it is essential that we make sure that Israel has the military assistance required to stand against these threats. Again, they are the tip of the spear. They are doing the fighting, and we need to help them. We need to offer all the support we can in every form, and we must oppose anti-Semitism in all its forms and wherever we find it.

I want to express my appreciation for Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit and for his remarks to our joint session of Congress today. I thought it was an incredibly powerful and moving speech and one that not only the Senators and the Members of Congress needed to hear but all Americans—all Americans—needed to hear. And I hope that we can respond to the Prime Minister's visit by continuing to move in a bipartisan way to work with Israel to defeat the threats it faces and affirm our shared values, our shared commitment to freedom, liberty, and democracy.

Standing with Israel is good for the United States. It is good for the region. It is good for the world.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, this afternoon Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in his remarks to a joint session of Congress, reiterated to Congress; to us, the Senate; to the American people; and, really, to the world his determination to defend his country from terrorists supported by Iran who seek the elimination of the Jewish State of Israel.

The United States must continue to provide Israel with crucial military and diplomatic support to make certain the dangers Israel faces can be deterred; and that, if possible, they are defeated, defeated those efforts to terrorize Israel.

The horrific attack by Hamas 9 months ago remains vivid in our thoughts. A few weeks after that attack, I was in Israel to visit with the Prime Minister, to hear firsthand the circumstances that Israel and its citizens faced.

In addition to those killed, the widespread instances of sexual assault and taking hostage of elderly and infants—under these circumstances, no person, no person of conscience, can fail to understand the desire to eliminate Hamas as a threat to the people of Israel.

Our continued assistance to Israel is in our own national interest because the threats our friends face are also threats faced by the United States. This conflict may seem distant from our shores, but make no mistake that those who seek Israel's destruction, aspire to harm American citizens wherever they may be, including here at home.

Madam President, 12 Americans were taken hostage by Hamas on October 7, and 8 still remain held in captivity. Many hostages have died in captivity these last 9 months, making it imperative that Hamas immediately free our citizens.

Hezbollah continues to menace Israel on the northern border with fire being exchanged daily, forcing the evacuation of thousands of Israelis. With more than 100,000 rockets aimed at Israel, Hezbollah, like Hamas, is a direct threat to American citizens living there. It is true there; it is true beyond Israel.

The intelligence community's worldwide threat assessment released this year found that Hezbollah ''maintains the capability to target U.S. persons and interests in the region, worldwide, and, to a lesser extent, in the United States.'' That assessment warns that that group will ''continue to develop its global terrorist capabilities.''

Our government—the United States of America—must commit, alongside our allies and our partners, to degrading Hezbollah's capabilities as a matter of international security.

As we saw, as recently as last Friday's drone strike on a Tel Aviv apartment building, the Houthis in Yemen also pose a significant regional threat. Their slogan, of course, includes ''Death to America, Death to Israel.''

Their capabilities are expanding and have disrupted shipping through the Red Sea by launching attacks on cargo vessels. In response, the U.S. Navy has worked the last 8 months to reestablish the freedom of navigation.

All these attacks—these three groups—what they have in common, with their varying ideologies, is the support that is provided to them by Iran. It is financial aid. It is weapons. It is training. Iran sustains these groups at the expense of our friends in the region and at the expense of our own security and well-being.

Almost exactly 1 year ago today, I stood on this Senate floor—I stood here in the Senate—and called on President Biden to enforce the bipartisan sanctions Congress had passed to choke off the resources Tehran uses to fund its activities. The regime has plotted terrorist attacks on our soil and threatens to assassinate former President Trump along with other officials from his administration. With its nuclear program now only weeks away from producing nuclear weapons, it is all the more imperative to take measures authorized by Congress.

Israel's existence is nonnegotiable, and our shared adversaries must not doubt the resolution of American support. That is one reason why I viewed it as critical to pass the national security supplemental earlier this year, which provided Israel with $26 billion to bolster its military.

Standing with Israel goes beyond a one-off piece of legislation, and I would remind my colleagues that we have begun the appropriations process here in the U.S. Senate. And I will continue this year to advocate for military assistance that strengthens Israel's abilities to defend itself.

As the committee begins to mark up 12 bills for the next fiscal year, I remind my colleagues that it is important we quickly advance our appropriations legislation because of what is at stake for our Nation and for our allies and for those who support our friends.

Support for Israel goes beyond Israel's security. That is an important goal in and of itself. But I remind my colleagues that support for Israel is support for the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak, for up to 5 minutes each, prior to the scheduled rollcall vote: Senators WICKER, BARRASSO, and RICKETTS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, we stand here today having had the opportunity in a joint session of Congress to hear one of the most powerful and profound and significant addresses that has ever been made to a joint session of Congress.

We have a few people listening in right now. I notice we have a number of our pages on the floor. I am glad that our young people—our rising seniors in high school who work for us—were able to be there and to be here in Washington, in this Capitol, and see and listen to this magnificent speech today by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of the State of Israel—our steadfast ally, the only democracy in that section of the world. And, I will say, I doubt if we will very often see remarks that were as powerful and as important.

Israel has been our steadfast ally for over seven decades. It was a Democratic President, Harry Truman, postwar, who put his administration behind the recognition of the Jewish State in Palestine as Israel, and we became one of the earliest countries to recognize Israel. That has stood for over seven decades.

The recognition by the United States, on a bipartisan basis, has recognized an important fact: that the Jewish people are certainly not colonialists in the Holy Land. The place where Israel exists now is the place where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and Esau were born and lived in the era of 5,000 years ago.

To say that the Jewish people are colonialists in Israel is the Big Lie. The Big Lie is something that our enemies have used down through the years. You say something so unbelievable and so unimaginable; if you say it long enough, people will start to believe it.

The Jewish people are no colonialists in the Holy Land. The Holy Land is their ancestral home, and they deserve—the world's Jewish people deserve—a Jewish State so they can avoid the centuries of discrimination and anti-Semitism that they have endured over time.

The Jewish people, as I say—the Israeli people—which includes, of course, people who are not Jewish by heritage, have had the only democracy in the area for the longest time. And they have been surrounded by people who want nothing less than the destruction of Israel, and they don't make any bones about it.

Support in this Congress—support in the United States—for Israel has for these seven decades always been bipartisan. And it breaks my heart—and I think it should come as a shock to all Americans—that bipartisan support seems to be fracturing on the other side of the aisle among my Democratic colleagues.

It is a shame that the Vice President of this country—the Vice President of the United States, KAMALA HARRIS—declined to fulfill her duties to preside over the session. She found an excuse in another State to be at a meeting that could easily have been rescheduled. It is a shame that our Vice President—that the future nominee of her party for President of the United States—would make that statement that she was unwilling to preside over a joint meeting addressed by the Prime Minister of Israel.

The President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate refused to attend. Many Members of this body on the Democratic side of the aisle and many Members of the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives boycotted this speech by our steadfast ally of 70 years or more.

I noticed, when the Prime Minister of Israel came down through the center aisle there in the House of Representatives, shaking hands on both sides, and he rounded the corner, and the majority leader of this body, the senior Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, declined to extend his hand to the Prime Minister of this, our steadfast ally.

We also need to remember, as my colleagues have stated already, that in the region where Israel is the only democratic government, in the Middle East, exists the Islamic Republic of Iran. They are a sworn enemy of Israel, and they are a sworn enemy of the United States of America. ''Death to America'' is what they say. And they want to start with ''Death to America'' by pronouncing ''Death to Israel.''

More than that, they have proxies—at least three proxies—that we have been talking about recently: the Houthis in Yemen, Hezbollah to the north of Israel, and Hamas, the terrorist group that perpetrated the October slaughter on people near Gaza.

Hamas has one reason to exist—one stated, admitted reason and one reason only: the complete destruction of Israel. And they demonstrated their ruthlessness on October 7: rapes, beheadings, babies being burned, unspeakable acts of violence. And Prime Minister Netanyahu was correct to point out that people protesting outside this building on behalf of Hamas should be ashamed of themselves in protesting on behalf of a group that was so violent.

Hamas uses civilians as human shields. That is a violation of international law. By contrast—contrary to what people have been told in the press—Israel is doing the best job that any combatant has ever done in protecting civilians while trying to root out terrorist groups.

I am calling on people on both sides of the aisle, in conclusion, to return to our bipartisan support of the right of a people to exist somewhere and to have one place on the face of the Earth where they know they can be safe in their own beliefs, in their own population, and, for the first time in centuries and millennia, to be safe and have their own homeland.

So I congratulate the Prime Minister of Israel. I congratulate the Members of Congress who received him well. And I invite my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to remember the importance of bipartisan support for Israel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Wyoming.

ISRAEL

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, the Prime Minister of Israel, Binyamin Netanyahu, just delivered a historic speech to Congress. This is the fourth time the Prime Minister has spoken to the U.S. Congress. That is more than the late Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill.

Like Prime Minister Churchill, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu spoke about a battle between freedom and evil. He shared with us welcome news, and that news is that freedom is winning.

Israel is committed to bringing home the hostages, to protecting its citizens from the atrocities that occurred on the October 7 attack.

Meanwhile, the Hamas terrorist network is under more pressure than ever. Half of its senior leadership is dead. Its military chief has likely been eliminated.

Remember, Hamas is a terrorist group. It governs through fear and through violence. Hamas violently rejects the right of Israel to exist and the right of the Jewish people to live in Israel. Hamas hides behind civilians. It uses them as human shields.

Hamas stores its military weapons designed to kill in hospitals, in schools, and in homes. It has stolen billions of dollars of humanitarian aid to build its terrorist tunnels all around the area of the Gaza Strip. This is the same tunnel network where, for 9 months and counting, 116 hostages, including 8 American hostages, have been held by Hamas terrorists.

I stand firmly with Israel as Israel fights to finish the war and defeat Hamas. Sadly, supporting Israel has grown more divisive in this country than I have ever seen it before.

Today, Democrats are abandoning our greatest ally in the Middle East. They are calling to put conditions on aid to Israel. The Biden-Harris administration has delayed the delivery of war-winning weapons.

The Senate Democrat leader meddled in Israeli politics. He proclaimed in no uncertain terms on the floor of this very body that Prime Minister Netanyahu should step down.

The senior Senator from Vermont went even further. Last month, he declared that Prime Minister Netanyahu is a ''war criminal.'' That accusation is disturbing, it is damaging, and it is dishonest.

If that weren't bad enough, Vice President HARRIS skipped the Prime Minister's speech entirely. The Vice President typically presides over joint sessions of Congress. With her snub of Israel, Vice President HARRIS is leading the Democrats' Bibi boycott.

Catering to the pro-Hamas wing of the Democratic Party is not serious leadership—not at all.

The Vice President now wants to be Commander in Chief of the United States of America. Yet she refuses to put politics aside and work with our indispensable ally. Her actions send a defeatist message—a defeatist message to our enemies and a defeatist message to our allies alike.

This is a time when it is so critical for us to restore confidence in America. Here is what we need to do and how to do it: You do it with peace through strength, with strong, steady, and serious support for Israel and for Israel's right to exist.

What is the approach of President Biden today? What is the approach of Vice President HARRIS? What is the approach of the Senate Democrats, Members of this body? Is it to continue to appease our adversaries and at the same time abandon our friends? This is a dangerous world. It is more dangerous under the failed policies of the Biden-Harris administration.

America cannot continue down the Democrats' path of war and weakness. Keeping America safe requires that America and Israel work together. We heard that today in the joint session of Congress.

Republicans believe in Israel's mission to defeat Hamas. We understand fully what is at stake, and our support is firm. We must unite and bring back peace through strength.

Now more than ever, the American people need to stand with Israel, and I am one of those people who will continue to stand with Israel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, Israel is our strongest and closest ally in the Middle East. It is in our mutual interest to provide Israel the support they need to be able to destroy the terrorist group Hamas and secure the release of the remaining hostages. I am committed to doing that. My colleagues joining me today are committed to doing that.

Yet the Biden-Harris administration has repeatedly appeased the radical pro-Hamas elements of their base. In fact, President Biden had to be pressured to put a meeting on the calendar with the Prime Minister. That should have been a no-brainer.

Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, whose only constitutional duty is to preside over the Senate, didn't even attend today's speech. She has one job—and I understand that being the presumptive nominee is new, but she does have a day job. Instead, she chose a petty snub of our closest ally in the Middle East and a democratically elected leader. This is not how America should treat its allies.

Sadly, this is one part of a larger pattern. The Biden-Harris administration has consistently undermined Israel's democratically elected government. After taking office, this administration gave $730 million to UNRWA, an organization that has been described as essentially being a branch of Hamas. President Trump had ended their U.S. taxpayer funding. President Biden and Vice President HARRIS brought it back. Their actions caused American taxpayer dollars to directly support Hamas terrorists in their attacks on our ally and our citizens.

At least 12 UNRWA employees, funded in part by Biden-Harris, directly participated in the barbaric terror attack on October 7. Over 100 UNRWA employees have ties to Hamas or other Islamic jihad entities. Over 1,200 Israelis were killed, including nearly two dozen American citizens. Many were taken as hostages. Eight Americans are still being held hostage today somewhere in Gaza 291 days after October 7.

We need to stand with Israel until Israel completes its mission to free the hostages, bring justice to the terrorists, and restore peace. That is the best solution for the Israelis. That is the best solution for the Gazans. That is the best solution, period.

The Biden-Harris administration has also pressured Israel toward a ceasefire with the same barbaric Hamas terrorists who want to kill Jews and have pledged to continue to perpetrate atrocities like October 7. Meanwhile, Biden and Harris have repeatedly withheld or delayed critical shipments of weapons needed to destroy Hamas. They have attacked the legitimacy of Israel's democratically elected leader. So much for ''ironclad.''

Americans stand with Israel. My colleagues and I stand with Israel. We are proud to stand with Israel. The Biden-Harris administration should do the same.

Thank you to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for his comments earlier today. They reminded us why it is so important that Israel is successful in destroying Hamas. They will be doing the world and civilization a favor in doing so.

Thank you to my colleagues for joining me today on the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 702, Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Ron Wyden, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, John W. Hickenlooper, Christopher Murphy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 85, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 216 Ex.]

YEAS—85

Baldwin	Fischer	Peters
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Reed
Bennet	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blumenthal	Hassan	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Braun	Hirono	Sanders
Britt	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Johnson	Schumer
Budd	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Capito	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lankford	Stabenow
Carper	Luján	Tester
Casey	Lummis	Thune
Cassidy	Manchin	Tillis
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	McConnell	Warner
Cornyn	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warren
Cotton	Mullin	Welch
Cramer	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Crapo	Murphy	Wicker
Daines	Murray	Wyden
Duckworth	Ossoff	Young
Durbin	Padilla	
Fetterman	Paul	

NAYS—12

Cruz	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Ernst	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Hagerty	Marshall	Sullivan
Hawley	Rubio	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—3

Lee	Menendez	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 85, the nays are 12, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 551, Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

Charles E. Schumer, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Peter Welch, Jeff Merkley, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. I ask for up to 5 minutes, equally divided for myself and Senator CARDIN, prior to the rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MARGARET L. TAYLOR

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the nomination of Margaret Taylor to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

While serving as general counsel at USAID, some USAID contractors and partners repeatedly promoted abortion overseas in violation of clear U.S. law. The legal office is responsible for interpreting how, when, and where U.S. laws are applied across the full range of U.S. diplomatic engagement and foreign assistance programs.

Given her negligence in applying longstanding, clear-cut laws restricting abortion advocacy at USAID and the lack of enforcement, I have zero confidence in her willingness and ability to manage this enormous responsibility at the Department of State.

In addition to these concerns, I have an even additional reason for that, and that is the fact that the State Department refuses to share the information about Rob Malley's suspended security clearance. Mr. Malley was U.S. Special Envoy to Iran and was engaged in back-channel talks with the regime. Last April, his security clearance was suspended without explanation.

For over a year now, I and Democrats have asked for information on the suspension: Can the Department confirm

Mr. Malley mishandled classified information by storing secret documents in his personal email? Did he send this information to anyone before he was allegedly hacked and information was stolen? Why hasn't the Department of Justice charged him?

I get no answers to these; neither do the Democrats. The State Department admits they have this information but refuses to give it to us.

In light of all of the above, I cannot support and will not vote for Ms. Taylor's nomination and encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first I have got to acknowledge that I am not objective when it comes to Margaret Taylor, since I have had a chance to work with her. When I was the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, she was the legal counsel for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for the Democrats. She was well respected in the legal advice that she gave us, both to Republicans and Democrats, and well respected by all Members of our committee. She is an outstanding public servant and is desperately needed to have a confirmed position for legal counsel in the State Department.

And, I must tell you, it is no surprise that all of the living former Legal Advisers, from Reagan to Trump—40 years, Democrats and Republicans—wrote to our committee to strongly endorse her and urge her prompt confirmation.

In regards to the two points that Senator RISCH has raised, one in regards to the interpretation of reproductive rights, she advised full compliance with U.S. law, including relating to statutory restrictions on foreign assistance related to reproductive health. It is the same advice that was given by general counsel to the Trump administration. There was no difference between the two administrations.

And as for the issue concerning Mr. Malley, that issue was 6 months before this nomination was considered.

This nomination needs to be confirmed. We need to have a confirmed person in this position. There has been no substantive argument as to why she should not be confirmed. She is highly qualified.

I urge my colleagues to support the nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) would have voted ''nay.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 217 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Ricketts
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hagerty	Rounds
Britt	Hawley	Rubio
Budd	Hoeven	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Wicker
Crapo	Moran	Young
Daines	Mullin	
Ernst	Paul	

NOT VOTING—6

Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Lee	Menendez	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Massachusetts.

TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL POLICIES ACT

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise today in support of my bill, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. If voted into law, this bill would begin the process of delivering long overdue justice to stolen Native children and to their communities.

The Indian Boarding School system was one of the most devastating Federal creations in American history. The scale was truly staggering. For over a century, the United States forced hundreds of thousands of children out of their homes and into over 500 ''boarding schools.'' These boarding schools were not unlike prisons.

At least 408 schools were federally funded. They were scattered across 37 States, including Alaska and Hawaii. By the 1920s, 83 percent of school-age indigenous children were in boarding schools—imagine, four out of every five Native children taken from their families, some never to be seen again.

The process was a waking nightmare. Armed officers were sent onto reservations to rip children as young as 4 from their families. Mothers and fathers who resisted could be severely punished.

Once at boarding school, kids were stripped of their heritage. Their hair was cut off, their clothing was burned, and they were given new names. Children who tried to practice even remnants of their Native cultures could be starved, whipped, and put in solitary confinement. Many children were farmed out to nearby properties for forced labor. Some were deployed to fight in war. Some were sexually abused.

Conditions at the boarding schools were deadly. Dormitories were overcrowded so that diseases spread easily. Documentation shows that hundreds of children died in these schools. It is estimated that the actual number of deaths was in the thousands or possibly even the tens of thousands. So far, 53 mass graves have been uncovered. Some are unmarked. Many children's remains were never returned to their families.

The boarding schools' motto was ''Kill the Indian, and save the man.'' This approach was part of a larger effort. By isolating children from their families and their cultures, it was possible to break down the fabric of Tribal nations and take land more easily. Decision makers calculated that it was ''cheaper to educate our wards than to make war on them.''

Congress funded the majority of these schools, often using funds held in trust accounts that were legally designated for the benefit of Tribal nations. Congress paid for the schools and then authorized law enforcement to take Indian children from their homes and their Tribes. It now comes to this Congress to do everything we can to begin to heal the damage that this body inflicted.

Make no mistake, the harms of the Indian boarding schools live on today. In my time working on this bill, I have heard countless harrowing stories from survivors and from their families. There isn't an indigenous community in this country that hasn't been affected. Survivors have faced chronic medical issues and psychological trauma. They have struggled to reconnect with their loved ones, their language, and their cultures. We cannot rectify that past until we face it head-on.

There is still so much that we don't know about these boarding schools. We don't know how many children died in boarding school custody. We don't know the full spectrum of the violence that occurred. We don't know all of the ways the schools affect survivors and

descendants to this day. My bill would establish a Truth and Healing Commission to find those answers.

The Commission would formally investigate the Indian boarding schools to determine what happened and the lasting impact these schools have on survivors, their families, and their Tribal communities.

The Commission would hold hearings and convenings for victims to speak about their experiences, some for the very first time.

The Commission would have the authority to use subpoena power to gather witness testimony and to review documentation.

The Commission would be charged with making recommendations about how the history of the Indian boarding schools should inform Federal policy today.

It would address how the Federal Government should acknowledge its role in this systematic attempt to eradicate indigenous cultures and how to take that history into account when developing new Federal policies and budgets.

One last note. The boarding school policy ended just before 1970. Most of those affected have passed away, but there are remaining survivors in their sixties, seventies, and beyond. Every day that goes by, these survivors grow older, and their chance to tell their stories moves further away. These people have been harmed enough. Their wounds go deep, and they deserve a chance to stand before the U.S. Government and tell their stories in their lifetimes.

I urge my colleagues not to delay adoption of this bill. Our actions cannot make up for the harms that Congress inflicted, but by moving now, we can at least offer some token of care to those survivors who offered themselves up as living witnesses of a cruel chapter in American history.

Make no mistake, this work will be painful, but it will make us a stronger Nation. By telling the truth, we can give communities a better chance to heal, and we can begin to repair the U.S. Government's relationship with Tribal nations.

This bill has broad support. It is bipartisan. It is supported by boarding school survivors, and 32 Members of Congress have cosponsored the bill.

I urge my colleagues now to pass this bill. We should delay no longer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I am here today to follow my colleague Senator WARREN to discuss the legislation that we have been working on together, S. 1723. This is the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act.

As Senator WARREN has just noted, this is legislation that will allow the Nation to address a chapter of American history that I think has been overlooked for far too long. This is a dark history, a dark legacy of the Indian boarding school era.

From 1819 to 1969—1969, not too terribly long ago—throughout that period, the U.S. Government forcibly removed Native children from their families and their Tribes, placing them in boarding schools. These Indian boarding schools, as they came to be called, were not just education institutions, but many were tools to eradicate Native cultures, languages, and traditions to ''civilize'' Native American children.

The traumatic effects of these boarding schools are still being felt by their survivors—not only by their survivors but by their children and really by their communities as well.

I heard from some of those survivors who are still with us that the act of sharing, being able to tell the truth about their experiences, can help contribute to healing. But it takes courage, it takes extraordinary courage, and I have heard that.

Fred John, Jr., who is the son of Katie John and Fred John, Sr., attended the Wrangell Institute in Alaska. He was assigned the number 77. He was not referred to as Fred John, Jr.; he was No. 77.

In 2018, he wrote that following his time at the boarding school, he still carried the pain and scars from his time at the institute. He never talked about it until his children gave him the strength and the encouragement to do so.

General Pratt, who opened the Carlisle Industrial School, established what he called a ''rapid coercive assimilation'' process in these schools. The goal there was to separate Native children from their Tribes, from their language, and from their ways so that they might never want to return home. The stated purpose of the policy at that time was to ''Kill the Indian, and save the man''—again, a dark, dark legacy.

Our committee report details this history. To hear just some memories of how these policies were implemented really is devastating.

Fred John, Jr., describes seeing a group of kids arriving from Anaktuvuk Pass. This is a small Native community at the gates of the Arctic, very far into the interior of the State, very far—1,000 miles away from the Wrangell Institute down in southeastern Alaska. Fred John, Jr., remembered the fur parkas that they were wearing. He remembered their caribou pants. These were kids who came from a part of the State where caribou was their primary food source. He remembered how beautiful they all were. But when they came in, the school staff stripped them down, taking all their clothes, all the food, including the dry caribou and the salmon that they had been given to tide them over. The staff showered them, shaved them, and gave them a number.

But the most painful in his retelling was how all of their clothes—the beautiful fur parkas, the caribou pants—all their clothes—everything—were taken and burned up in a furnace to completely wipe away their connection not just to the clothing but to the culture.

In this time period, students were punished and endured violence. Some survived and are pursuing healing, but unfortunately, many others did not.

This photo—there are two of them, actually, here on the same chart, and it may be difficult to see from a distance, but the photo on top is of a child laying on the floor. It is part of the Sheldon Jackson collection at the Presbyterian Historical Society. This shows an Alaskan Native child aboard a ship—it is called the *Revenue Cutter Bear*—to be taken to the boarding schools by Sheldon Jackson. According to Alaskan Native Heritage Center research, most of the children who were taken aboard never returned to their homes. It was a long and lengthy journey. Many went to school and never returned to their homes, passing away at the various boarding schools they were sent to, including the Sitka and Carlisle Industrial Indian Schools.

This photo on the bottom here—you can see how young these children are. This comes from the National Library of Congress, and it shows a group of children who were sent to Catholic Holy Cross Mission—again, in the interior part of the State. Here, they are wearing essentially military uniforms—everything from the boots to the uniforms themselves.

Benjamin Jacuk-Dolchok was one of the experts we worked with on this topic, and he shared his research, including these photos.

According to testimony from elders who attended the Holy Cross school, every child received a haircut upon entrance, but if they disobeyed, if they angered any of the matrons or the priests, their heads would be completely shaved as punishment.

And these are just a handful of the stories from survivors from Alaska, but Alaska was not the exception. Over the 19th and the 20th century, stories like these from survivors are, unfortunately, not too uncommon across the country.

One of the most profound reasons for Congress to establish this Commission is that it is time. It is time the Federal Government take responsibility for the legacy of its harmful policies. So our Commission will provide a Native-led process for communities to share the stories, share the truth, and pursue healing with the goal of breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma.

And like other congressional advisory Commissions that this body has established, it will be an independent, bipartisan, formal forum with expertise to examine the Federal Indian boarding schools' legacy but also to document it and to provide recommendations for action.

Our legislation builds on an extensive congressional record that was developed through strong bipartisan work that started several Congresses ago. We

have had multiple hearings throughout our committees, listening sessions, and meetings and research by the relevant Senate and House committees. Over 100 written comments for the record from Indian Tribes, from Native communities and organizations, individuals, and religious institutions helped shape this legislation that we have reported to the floor of the Senate.

And I think it is worth taking a moment here to talk about that process that we had in the Indian Affairs Committee. We had a pretty robust markup that began with a strong bipartisan effort by our staffs to put together a substitute amendment to the bill for the committee to consider, and that substitute amendment was then further amended by our down-dais members on the committee, who offered some really good amendments to address the hot-button issues, including extending subpoena authority to the Commission. These amendments were adopted, and the bill, as amended, was reported from the committee by voice vote.

And through these additional amendments that we adopted at the business meeting, we now have a Commission that will have to meet higher standards than any other congressionally established Federal Commission in order to exercise that subpoena authority. And that is OK. That is OK here because subpoena authority should be a tool of last resort, but I do think that it is important for the Commission to have the tool to ensure that it can meet its investigatory function and deliver complete findings and recommendations to Congress.

So I want to thank all those, the many, who have shared their stories—Fred John, Jr., and so many who have shared their stories—and for offering ways to pursue healing. Again, I want to acknowledge and thank Senator WARREN for her leadership on this issue and for the leadership of Chairman SCHATZ from the Indian Affairs Committee for being a great partner as we have worked to develop this legislation through the committee process.

So I am looking forward to building even more bipartisan support for this and would urge my colleagues to support this very important and very timely matter.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor, and I see my friend and colleague from Colorado is here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Madam President, standing here listening to my distinguished colleague from Alaska, it is hard not to be angry at what we as a country did, and we are here today to reckon with this disgraceful part of our past. The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act is the first attempt by the Federal Government to formally investigate and address this horrific period in U.S. history. This legislation and the truth that it will unearth is an essential step toward healing.

Now, from the early 19th to the mid-20th century, the U.S. Government established 408 Federal boarding schools across the United States. Now, these schools were created for the purpose of stripping Native American children of their language, their religion, and their cultural identity. In the over 100 years that these schools were in operation, our government took an estimated 100,000 Native American children from their homes and from their families. An estimated 40,000 of these children died alone, without their family, at government-sanctioned schools.

And this is the story of one of those schools.

Now, in 2022, I visited Colorado's Fort Lewis College. It is a wonderful, remarkable college. It has one of the highest, if not the highest, proportion of Native American students of any college in the country. But it traces its origin back to the Fort Lewis Indian Boarding School, and I went there to discuss the boarding school's history with students at Fort Lewis and with the Tribal Council of the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribes.

It is because of the hard work of Fort Lewis College and the hard work of the Tribes that we can bring many of the details of this dark history to light.

Now, Fort Lewis was established in 1892 in Hesperus, CO. To call Fort Lewis a school really is—that is a bald-faced lie. Native American children were not given an education in reading or writing or math. The education model, instead, was based on assimilation into a White and Western way of life, and it came at a truly devastating cost.

From 1892 to 1909, an estimated 1,100 children attended this boarding school in southern Colorado. These children were forcibly taken from their families of the Southern Ute, Navajo, Apache, and other numerous Tribes.

Desperate to save their children, many Southern Ute families refused to turn their children over. As punishment, the school's superintendent Dr. Thomas Breen cut off the Tribe's food rations to try to force the children's attendance.

Breen's tactics failed. The Southern Ute Tribe was steadfast in their resistance and their refusal to give up their children.

Upon arrival at Fort Lewis, students were stripped of their clothing, their names, and, as Senator MURKOWSKI said, their hair. Each day, the children were required to perform manual labor, like digging ditches and planting crops, oftentimes in the hot midafternoon sun. Combined with the poor sanitation and lack of food, many students quickly became ill. Disaster struck in the school's first year. A tuberculosis epidemic hit, followed by trachoma, known at that time as ''sore eyes.'' Two children died. Four others became blind. All were under the age of 12.

Now, punishment of children at Fort Lewis was often severe. One father reported that his sons were forced to sleep outside in a coal shed in the middle of winter without adequate blankets. Superintendent Breen himself was known for sexually abusing his young female students and teachers. When the girls became pregnant, school officials made sure that they ''disappeared,'' transporting them to other schools to avoid suspicion.

Our Federal Government never held Breen accountable. School reports show that 31 children died during the 16 years that the Fort Lewis school was in operation. I can guarantee you that the actual number is probably higher.

This is the story of just one of these schools. There were four others in Colorado. There were 403 more across the country. That is 407 other Superintendent Breens, tens of thousands of children who died in unmarked graves and who never saw their families again.

It is hard to imagine why our government was preying on our own children. Why would our government sanction such conduct? Our government understood that erasing Native people's identity was a necessary condition to erase their claim to their land, to assimilate them right out of existence, and to ignore the lands guaranteed by treaty to the Tribes.

Don't take my word for it. In less than 50 years, from 1887 to 1934, Native Americans lost two-thirds of their Tribal lands, of their treaty lands.

And the legacies of this deep trauma remain embedded in Tribal communities today. In Colorado, we see it in the high rates of poverty, the high rates of addiction, the high rates of suicide among our Native American communities. We see it in children who don't know their parents' indigenous names or who have lost their own language, families who don't know what happened to their relatives, to their ancestors, many of whom just never returned home.

The Truth and Healing Act is not going to erase this dark past, but it does acknowledge our responsibility to unearth the stories of suffering and injustice that we have buried for generations.

In 2022, I joined Secretary Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior, at a dedication ceremony for the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. In front of Tribal leaders and elected officials, Secretary Haaland told the crowd:

> Stories like the Sand Creek massacre are not easy to tell but it is . . . our duty to ensure that they are told. This story is part of America's story.

The Fort Lewis Indian Boarding School, along with the 407 others, is a part of our story. When we pass the Truth and Healing Act, we make a choice to tell the whole story, and we make a choice never to repeat it.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I rise in support of S.1723, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act. I thank Senator WARREN for her leadership on

this issue and her efforts, along with those of Chairman SCHATZ, Vice Chairman MURKOWSKI, and the Indian Affairs Committee, to pass this bill. I also want to thank the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition based in Minnesota for its work to raise awareness of Indian boarding school policies and the experiences of those harmed by them.

We know that between 1819 and 1969, Native American youth were forced against their will to attend Indian boarding schools across the country, including 21 in Minnesota. We know that these schools, of which there were hundreds, sought to strip these children of their Native identities, beliefs, and languages. And we know these schools subjected Native children to abuse and neglect. What we do not know is how many children were taken from their homes and families. And far too many families do not know what came of their children. For 150 years, countless voices have been silenced; countless stories have gone untold.

This bipartisan legislation is about telling those stories. It is about addressing and investigating the lasting harms these boarding schools caused for generation after generation of Native Americans. And it is about beginning the healing process for the descendants of the victims of the Indian boarding school policies.

Our Nation's strength comes from the diversity of our people, including our more than 10 million American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians in our country. Their cultures and traditions should be celebrated, not suppressed as the Indian boarding school policies sought to do.

The United States has a unique and sacred government-to-government relationship with Tribal nations that is deeply rooted in treaties, the law, and the Constitution. This relationship demands an unwavering Federal commitment to supporting the well-being of Native Americans. This legislation and the commission it would establish are critical steps toward fulfilling that commitment.

One of the Native philosophies that has always resonated with me is the belief that decisions are not made just for today, but for seven generations from now.

That is what this bill is: an investment in future generations. By putting us on a path to healing today, this legislation paves the way to a better tomorrow for Native families.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I rise today in support of the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act and in remembrance of the thousands of Native children who died and suffered in these schools.

Thousands of children were ripped from their families in the name of assimilation. Thousands of children were the victims of physical and sexual abuse. And thousands of children were forbidden from practicing their culture and speaking their Native languages.

The operation of Federal Indian boarding schools by the U.S. Department of the Interior is one of the darkest chapters of American history, a chapter whose consequences are still being felt deeply by boarding school survivors, their families, and Tribal communities.

The Federal Government funded more than 400 Indian boarding schools over the course of 150 years, one of the earliest being the Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, where Wampanoag children from my own home State of Massachusetts were stolen from their families, sent hundreds of miles away, and subjected to cruel and inhumane assimilation practices.

When Captain Richard Henry Pratt founded the Carlisle Indian School in 1879, he imbued it with this model:

Kill the Indian, save the man.

But we know all too well that these boarding schools did only the former. They acted as a violent means of assimilation and an essential tool in the U.S. Government's dispossession of Native people's aboriginal rights, land, and culture. Children as young as 4 years old were subjected to systemic, violent abuse.

The Department of the Interior's recent investigation found that children were renamed from Native names to English names; had their hair cut off; were discouraged or prevented from using their languages, religion, and cultural practices; and organized into units to perform military drills.

The Department of the Interior has since identified marked and unmarked burial sites at 53 schools. This is just the tip of the tragic, horrifying, unacceptable iceberg of our history.

In a confidential message to Congress, Thomas Jefferson said about Native people that ''when they withdraw themselves to the culture of a small piece of land, they will perceive how useless to them are their extensive forests, and will be willing to pare them off from time to time.''

He directed Congress—Thomas Jefferson—to ''encourage them to abandon hunting'' so that ''the extensive forests necessary in the hunting life, will then become useless.''

What was once a plot to take Native land also became the foundation of our Nation's century-long legacy of forced assimilation, displacement, and, ultimately, attempted eradication of Native language, culture, and the people themselves.

We have not simply a moral responsibility but a legal obligation to the welfare of Tribes across the country to uphold treaty rights and to recognize the dark history of our own country. And this obligation cannot be met without securing truth, justice, and healing for every Native person, family, and Tribe affected by these genocidal policies.

In Massachusetts, we have seen the healing process in action. After centuries of forced assimilation led to the extinction of the Wopanaak language, members of the Mashpee, Aquinnah, Assonet, and Herring Pond Wampanoag communities came together to widely reintroduce and reengage with their ancestral language.

Today, the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's school serves as a shining example of how Native students can thrive when they are surrounded by their language and their culture and not stripped of it.

But Tribes should not be left to fight alone to recover what was stolen from them by the American government. Passing the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act would be an essential step to turn the American government from an historic enemy to a future ally in righting these wrongs.

So I thank Senator SCHATZ. I thank him for his great leadership on these issues and for his excellent staff. I thank Senator MURKOWSKI for organizing this floor time for us to bring attention to this part of American history that we must never forget; and Senator WARREN for introducing this important legislation that begins to put us on a path of truth and healing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I want to thank everybody for being part of this series of very compelling speeches about the atrocities that the U.S. Government perpetrated against the first peoples of the United States.

For over 150 years, the U.S. Government stole hundreds of thousands of Native children from their families and communities and forced them into federally run and supported ''boarding schools,'' often far away from their homes. These institutions, by design, worked with efficient, brutal, and systematic diligence to force Native children to abandon their culture, abandon their language, and abandon their very identity through unspeakably cruel punishment, abuse, and neglect. As one school superintendent noted: ''Only by complete isolation of the Indian child from his savage antecedents can he be satisfactorily educated.''

These inhumane policies were part of the government's longstanding colonial project to rob Native people's land through assimilation. The goal was to ''civilize'' Native children by killing the Indian in him and saving the man. That was the motto at the time: Killing the Indian and saving the man.

These were not faraway bad guys. These were employees and agents of the U.S. Federal Government. To hear this history today is appalling, it is infuriating, it is heartbreaking, because as the late Senator Ted Kennedy put it, it ''challenges the most precious assumptions about what this country stands for—cultural pluralism, equity and justice, the integrity of the individual, freedom of conscience and action, and the pursuit of happiness.''

But it is not just the history that demands a reckoning. It is also the lasting legacy of these immoral policies, which continue to this day. The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, which I chair, has heard devastating testimony from survivors, descendants, communities, and leaders about the impact of these schools decades later—a legacy of enduring trauma passed down from parent to child to grandchild to great-grandchild, fracturing families and communities over and over again.

I want you to imagine a Native community with no kids left, just the parents and grandparents. Imagine, not just the trauma for that group of children who were abducted, but what kind of community is left there. As a parent, I would be absolutely catatonic for the rest of my life—across Indian reservations and Hawaiian homelands and Alaska Native communities, from coast to coast in cities and in rural communities. And we see it manifest in so many ways with Native communities, whether it is higher rates of mental health challenges or substance abuse or suicide.

So it is not enough to just face up to the wrongs of the past; although, that is essential. It is equally important to provide justice and support for survivors and descendants. The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act does both of these things. The bill establishes a Truth and Healing Commission as well as several advisory bodies tasked with uncovering the full scope of what took place at these schools. The Commission will provide a platform for survivors to share their experience, for the Nation to hear and acknowledge their pain. Doing so ensures that these stories are preserved and that the atrocities are never forgotten.

Importantly, this bill is sensitive to the trauma experienced by survivors and descendants and requires the Commission to provide them with trauma-informed care.

Ultimately, the Commission's final report will provide a comprehensive account of the boarding school era and recommendations to Congress for future action.

Madam President, before I close, I want to take a moment to directly acknowledge the survivors, the descendants, the families, and the communities that have been devastated by these policies. Some of them are here with us today in the Gallery. Their advocacy and courage have been the driving force behind this bill. And the fact that we have reached this point—having passed the bill unanimously out of Committee and ready to consider it before the full U.S. Senate—is testament to their unwavering commitment to truth and justice.

Their stories will not be forgotten. This bill is not just a legislative act; it is a moral imperative. It is our duty to unflinchingly confront the full scope of this shameful history and help to heal the deep pains this very body helped create.

We can't change the past, but we can and we must shape a better future—a future where the mistakes of the past are never again repeated, where every child can grow up with pride in their heritage and their identity.

I urge my colleagues to join me and Senator MURKOWSKI and all of the previous speakers and the author of this bill, Senator WARREN, in supporting this important legislation. Too many have waited too long for truth, for closure, and for justice. By passing this bill, we can finally begin the work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF SINCLAIR AND THE SINCLAIR REFINERY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the town of Sinclair and the Sinclair Refinery in Sinclair, WY.

The town of Sinclair is undeniably unique and filled with a rich history of rural industrialization. Located in Central Carbon County, Sinclair is home to 366 residents. Its residents are fortunate to live in the charming and quaint ''Oasis in the Desert.''

Frank Kistler, the head of Producers and Refiners Corporation—P&R Co.—came to Wyoming in 1922 to find an area suitable for a refinery location. He chose a site close to the town of Rawlins, along both lanes of the Lincoln Highway. The ground was broken for the refinery in October 1922. The town was not yet established, so corporation officials lived in Rawlins. Workers resided in ''Rag Town,'' rundown tents and shacks on the south side of the Union Pacific train tracks. March 13, 1923, marked the first day of operation for the Producers and Refiners Corporation Refinery. News about the refinery spread throughout the region, and business started to boom.

The land adjacent to the refinery was bought by P&R Co. in 1922–1923 so it could be used as a townsite. The refinery post office began receiving letters using the initials P&R Co. This led to the name ''Parco'' for the new town.

In 1924, Frank Kistler hired Fisher and Fisher, a Denver architectural firm, to design the style and layout of the town. The result was a Spanish colonial revival style, with a central plaza and fountain commemorating Frank Kistler. Most of the original buildings remain standing today, illuminating the town's rich history and development.

With the town established, a community began to form. People flocked to the Parco Inn, a bustling 60-room hotel spanning an entire block. The Parco Inn housed a dry cleaner, bar, cafe, clothing stores, and a barber shop. It was the main attraction for the booming town and remains an important relic today.

Low crude oil prices during the Great Depression caused Frank Kistler's firm to sell the Parco holdings in 1934. The firm was purchased by Consolidated Oil—later Sinclair. The name Parco was changed to Sinclair in 1942. In 1967, the Sinclair Refining Company sold the townsite and buildings to local residents.

During World War II, the oil market improved due to increased demand. The war efforts comprised 24 percent of the Sinclair Corporation's total business. As the oil industry constantly shifted over the years, Sinclair continued to adapt and evolve.

The refinery is a cornerstone for the people in Sinclair and surrounding communities. Sinclair believes ''if you take care of your people, your people will take care of you.'' The corporation focuses on job and community prosperity, which can be seen by their support to the residents of Sinclair and Rawlins, WY.

In 2022, the HF Sinclair Corporation was formed when Sinclair joined HollyFrontier Corporation. The Sinclair refinery is one of two operated in Wyoming by HF Sinclair.

Serving the greater Rocky Mountain region, the Sinclair Refinery runs a mix of Canadian and United States sweet and sour crudes. They process 94,000 barrels per day. The refinery site also contains a 10,000 barrels per day renewable diesel unit. This unit participates in the Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program pathways in California and British Columbia.

The Sinclair Refinery has 475 employees and an average of 350 contractors. During ''turnarounds,'' there are over 3,000 contractors. Thank you to vice president and refinery manager Jim Ruble and his dedicated staff who keep this refinery in operation.

The town of Sinclair is led by mayor Cullan Meeks, vice mayor Michelle Serres, clerk/treasurer Becky Slater, assistant treasurer Gina Helmetag, and council members Forest Ortiz, David Robinson, and Brennan Dunlap.

On August 17, 2024, the town and refinery will celebrate this momentous occasion, They will commemorate their joint history with many festivities including a parade, lunch, a children's carnival, entertainment acts, and music bands. A fireworks display will close out the celebration.

It is an honor for me to rise in recognition of this significant milestone. I applaud the workers and citizens who have worked tirelessly to contribute to the success of this booming oil town

and refinery. They should be proud to welcome this momentous accomplishment. Congratulations to the town of Sinclair and the Sinclair Refinery on their 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO DAVIS BILLUPS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Davis for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Davis is a native of Virginia. He attends Southern Methodist University, where he studies history. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Davis for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO MOLLY FINLAY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Molly for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Molly is a native of Virginia. She attends Vanderbilt University, where she studies law, history, and society. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Molly for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO DALJIT KAUR

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Daljit for her hard work as an intern in my office in Cheyenne, WY. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Daljit is a native of Burns. She is a sophomore at the University of Wyoming, where she studies accounting and economics. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Daljit for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO MAEVE KNEPPER

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Maeve for her hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Maeve is a native of Cheyenne, WY. She will soon attend Georgetown University, as a Donald M. Payne International Development Graduate Fellow, in pursuit of a M.S. in foreign service. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Maeve for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO ISABELLE RADAKOVICH

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Isabelle for her hard work as an intern in my office in Cheyenne, WY. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Isabelle is a native of Cody. She is a junior at Michigan State University, where she studies international relations and political theory and constitutional democracy. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Isabelle for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO COLE SHOLLY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Cole for his hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Cole is a native of Yellowstone, WY. He attends Montana State University, where he studies business finance. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Cole for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO SABER SMITH

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Saber for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Saber is a native of Gillette, WY. He recently graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's in criminal justice and political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Saber for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE STEENBERGEN

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Grace for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Grace is a native of Pine Bluffs, WY. She attends Baylor University, where she studies political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Grace for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN-LUC WILSON

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Jean-Luc for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Conference. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Jean-Luc is a native of Thermopolis, WY. He attends the University of Wyoming, where he studies political science and international studies. He

has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Jean-Luc for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACK STONE

● Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise today to commend Mr. Jack Stone, a distinguished veteran and pillar of the Tifton community, whose lifelong dedication to service and our State are an inspiration to all Georgians.

Drafted into the Korean war in 1950, Mr. Stone bravely served and displayed exceptional courage and leadership. After his Active-Duty service, he then served an additional 7 years in the Army Reserves.

Mr. Stone was a leader in working to establish Tifton's Veterans Memorial Park over three decades ago, which has since renamed in his honor as Jack Stone Veterans Park. The park now also features a monument with the names of more than 80 men and women from Tifton who were killed in action serving our country.

Through his tireless efforts, Mr. Stone not only helped secured funding for the park, but also served as its volunteer curator, ensuring that it remains a place of reverence and reflection for generations to come. He was also instrumental in opening Tifton's Veterans Museum in 2019 and helped secure a U.S. Veterans Administration clinic in Tifton to better serve the area's veterans.

Mr. Stone has been actively involved in various other community organizations, including the Downtown Tifton Merchants Association and the Tifton-Tift County Tourism Association. His leadership and dedication have been instrumental in the growth and prosperity of the Tifton community.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, I recognize, commend, and express my gratitude to Mr. Jack Stone for his service to our Nation, his contributions to the Tifton community, and his commitment to honoring our veterans.●

TRIBUTE TO 2024 SUMMER INTERNS

● Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, today I stand before you to express my gratitude and admiration for the exceptional students who joined our team as summer interns in 2024.

These talented young women and men brought a unique blend of enthusiasm, dedication, and a passion for making a difference to my offices in Washington, DC, office and across the State of Nebraska.

Our interns have consistently shown a motivation to learn and a strong commitment to our State. Their presence has not only enriched our workspace, but also inspired my team and me. As the torchbearers of the next generation, their spirit and determination fill us with anticipation for what the future holds.

As they leave our office, I want to take a moment to extend my sincerest thanks to: Caitlyn Haggstrom, Preston Kotik, Turner Vaughn, and Esme Vroom, who served in my Washington, DC, office; Carson Kreager, who served in my Kearney office; Bayleigh Donahoe, who served in my Omaha office; and Mackenzie Hamilton, who served in my Lincoln office.

Your dedication and contributions have truly made our team stronger. I hope you will carry the lessons learned here into your bright future. Congratulations, and best of luck.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:18 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 227. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes.

S. 3706. An act to amend section 3663A of title 18, United States Code, to clarify that restitution includes necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by a person who has assumed the victim's rights.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony as part of the unveiling of the statue of Johnny Cash, provided by the State of Arkansas.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled ''Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2025'' (Rept. No. 118–197).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4756. A bill to subject aliens convicted of certain crimes to expedited removal from the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 4757. A bill to improve the environmental health outcomes of incarcerated people and carceral facility workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 4758. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program on using artificial intelligence-enabled software to optimize the workflow and operations of depots, shipyards, and other manufacturing facilities run by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 4759. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to exclude from the limit on leverage certain amounts invested in smaller enterprises located in rural or low-income areas and small businesses in critical technology areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4760. A bill to establish requirements for investigations of certain complaints of discrimination; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 4761. A bill to require increased duties for goods and services imported from countries that import crude oil or petroleum products produced in the Islamic Republic of Iran; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4762. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs and research relating to autism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 4763. A bill to prohibit the operation within 25 miles of a military installation, a facility of the Federal Government, or sensitive infrastructure of certain technology manufactured in a country that is an adversary of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 4764. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 4765. A bill to reauthorize the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990, to improve access to relative caregivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 4766. A bill to strengthen requirements for the use of accessible information and communications technology by Federal departments and agencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4767. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reduce fraudulent enrollments in qualified health plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 4768. A bill to require an evaluation of the Nutrition Services Incentive Program of the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 4769. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop voluntary guidelines and specifications for internal and external assurances of artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 768. A resolution congratulating the Fighting Irish of the University of Notre Dame men's lacrosse team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 769. A resolution recognizing the importance of mental health for youth in the United States, and expressing the pressing need for awareness and support for mental health care for children and adolescents; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 770. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 2024 as ''Disability Pride Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Con. Res. 38. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Operation Legend was successful in reducing and combating violent crime in the largest cities of the United States and that a future presidential administration committed to enforcing and maintaining law and order should consider implementing a similar policy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 91

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 91, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

S. 949

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 949, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to transition the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1007, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 1310

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1310, a bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1409, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1418

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1418, a bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1418, supra.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2669

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2669, a bill to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, and for other purposes.

S. 3345

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3345, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that floor plan financing includes the financing of certain trailers and campers.

S. 3457

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3457, a bill to promote fairness in the sale of event tickets.

S. 3625

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3625, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide small businesses with additional time to file beneficial ownership information, and for other purposes.

S. 3696

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3696, a bill to improve rights to relief for individuals affected by non-consensual activities involving intimate digital forgeries, and for other purposes.

S. 4075

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4075, a bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes.

S. 4199

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4199, a bill to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships.

S. 4532

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4532, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 4632

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4632, a bill to establish an earlier application processing cycle for the FAFSA.

S. 4666

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4666, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to apply the ban on contributions and expenditures by foreign nationals under such Act to foreign-controlled, foreign-influenced, and foreign-owned domestic business entities, and for other purposes.

S. 4695

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 4695, a bill to repeal the District of Columbia Home Rule Act.

S. 4727

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4727, a bill to amend title 5,

United States Code, to clarify the nature of judicial review of agency interpretations of statutory and regulatory provisions.

S.J. RES. 80

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 80, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations Pertaining to Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants''.

S.J. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 81, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Marine Fisheries Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Interagency Cooperation''.

S.J. RES. 86

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 86, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Interagency Cooperation''.

S. RES. 669

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 669, a resolution designating October 10, 2024, as ''American Girls in Sports Day''.

S. RES. 687

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 687, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's ''One China Principle'' and the United States ''One China Policy''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2169

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2169 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2199

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2199 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2225

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2225 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2596

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2596 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2597

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2597 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2598

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2598 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2613

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2613 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2701

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2701 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2770

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2770 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2785

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2785 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2788

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2788 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2831

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2831 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2843

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2843 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2853

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2853 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2863

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2863 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2875

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2875 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2915

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2915 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2974

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2974 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2988

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2988 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 2998

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2998 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 3045

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3045 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, a bill 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.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 768—CONGRATULATING THE FIGHTING IRISH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2024 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S LACROSSE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 768

Whereas, on May 27, 2024, the University of Notre Dame Men's Lacrosse Team (referred to in this preamble as the ''Fighting Irish'') won the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the ''NCAA'') Division I title with a 15 to 5 win over the Maryland Terrapins in Philadelphia;

Whereas the victory marked the second national title and a consecutive national championship for the Fighting Irish;

Whereas the Fighting Irish is the first team since 2019 and 2021 to win back-to-back men's lacrosse NCAA national championships in consecutive seasons, and the eighth team in NCAA Division I history to accomplish the feat;

Whereas head coach Kevin Corrigan was supported by assistant coaches and staff, including Ryan Wellner, Chris Wojcik, Ryder Garnsey, Rob Simpson, Joshua Skube, Mandy Merritt, Robby Hamman, Zach Korten, Darin Ottaviani, and Ron Powlus;

Whereas the full player roster of the 2024 national championship Fighting Irish team includes Christian Alacqua, Will Angrick, Sam Assaf, Fulton Bayman, Brock Behrman, Jake Bonomi, Tyler Buchner, Ross Burgmaster, Gavin Burlace, BJ Burlace, Max Busenkell, Chris Conlin, Jack Conroy, Declan Cooke, Anderson Davis, Conrad Delgado, Eric Dobson, Ronan Doherty, Will Donovan, Andrew Donovan, Casey Doyle, Pat Eilers, Liam Entenmann, Jordan Faison, Fisher Finley, Will Gallagher, Christian Gallaher, Griffin Grant, Reilly Gray, Andrew Greenspan, Logan Gutzwiller, Colin Hagstrom, Nick Harris, Ridge Johnson, Pat Kavanagh, Chris Kavanagh, Mick Lee, Shawn Lyght, Will Lynch, Michael Lynch, Will Maheras, Maxim Manyak, Devon McLane, Marco Napolitano, Danny Parker, Carter Parlette, Thomas Porell, Ben Ramsey, Thomas Ricciardelli, Jeffery Ricciardelli, Michael Ridgway, Nate Schwitzenberg, Jalen Seymour, Ryan Sforzo, Jake Sommer, Jake Taylor, Bryce Walker, Karter Williams, Mason Wordelman, and Alex Zepf;

Whereas Chris Kavanagh was named the Most Outstanding Player of the 2024 NCAA Championships;

Whereas Pat Kavanagh became the first men's lacrosse player in the history of the Fighting Irish to win the Tewaaraton Award, the most coveted individual honor in college lacrosse; and

Whereas Chris Kavanagh, Pat Kavanagh, Liam Entenmann, Shawn Lyght, Devon McLane and Ben Ramsey were named to the 2024 NCAA All-Tournament Team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Notre Dame men's lacrosse team for its victory in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this resolution as the ''NCAA'') tournament, claiming the 2024 NCAA Division I title; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) former president of the University of Notre Dame, Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.;

(B) the head coach of the University of Notre Dame men's lacrosse team, Kevin Corrigan; and

(C) the vice president and James E. Rohr director of athletics at Notre Dame University, Pete Bevacqua.

SENATE RESOLUTION 769—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH FOR YOUTH IN THE UNITED STATES, AND EXPRESSING THE PRESSING NEED FOR AWARENESS AND SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 769

Whereas, over the past few decades and during the COVID–19 pandemic, mental health issues among young people have steadily become worse;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 49.5 percent of adolescents in the United States have faced a mental health disorder at some point in their lives;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that in 2020, during

the COVID–19 pandemic, mental health-related emergency room visits for children aged 5 through 11 years increased by 24 percent, and for children aged 12 through 17 years increased more than 30 percent;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—

(1) suicide is the third leading cause of death among 14- to 18-year-olds in the United States; and

(2) over 20 percent of high school students seriously consider attempting suicide and 10 percent attempt to take their lives;

Whereas the National Institute of Mental Health states that mental health disorders, such as anxiety and depression, can lead to a higher propensity to engage in substance use; and

Whereas youth populations in rural or underserved areas are less likely to be connected to mental health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the importance of mental health among youth in the United States, and that in order to increase awareness for mental health care for children and adolescents, the Federal Government must work collaboratively to—

(1) encourage States, local educational agencies, schools, and community organizations to support children, youth, and students experiencing mental health challenges at all grade levels by—

(A) improving the professional development given to educators so that educators are better equipped to—

(i) support student well-being through evidence-based prevention strategies; and

(ii) respond to signs and symptoms of mental health disorders among students that educators are in direct contact with;

(B) recognizing that young children often go misdiagnosed, undiagnosed, or face stigma when it comes to mental health disorders, and therefore lack adequate services and support when dealing with mental health challenges and crises;

(C) raising awareness for high-quality school- and campus-based mental health services that are evidence-based and trauma-informed; and

(D) evaluating the preservation of continuity of care for students whose treatment is interrupted;

(2) recognize that mental health and physical health are intertwined and can be treated through integrated care services, and that age is not a determinant for experiencing a mental health disorder, in that children can face mental health challenges even in early childhood;

(3) recognize the urgency for increasing public knowledge of mental health disorders by encouraging Federal, State, and local institutions to disseminate robust resources regarding the effects and available treatment options for various mental health disorders;

(4) address the stigmas associated with mental health challenges by urging States to adopt peer-to-peer mental health treatment models that prioritize community-based care;

(5) create a comprehensive strategy to contact isolated communities with little access to knowledge about and resources for supporting young people experiencing mental health disorders; and

(6) address and prevent adverse childhood experiences, including previous childhood trauma, and other childhood and family risk factors that can lead to involvement in the justice and child welfare systems.

SENATE RESOLUTION 770—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 2024 AS ''DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH''

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 770

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 61,000,000 adults in the United States have a disability;

Whereas the United States Census Bureau reports that more than 3,000,000 children in the United States have a disability;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) was signed into law on July 26, 1990;

Whereas individuals with disabilities remain at an increased risk of experiencing discrimination and social isolation;

Whereas individuals with disabilities are vital and make meaningful contributions to the workforce, arts, science, health care, technology, sports, education, law, and many more sectors; and

Whereas ''Disability Pride Month'' is celebrated in July by people across the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of July 2024 as ''Disability Pride Month''; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected people to observe ''Disability Pride Month'' with appropriate celebrations and activities.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT OPERATION LEGEND WAS SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING AND COMBATING VIOLENT CRIME IN THE LARGEST CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT A FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTED TO ENFORCING AND MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER SHOULD CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING A SIMILAR POLICY

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 38

Whereas, in the wake of a surge in violent crime throughout many of the largest cities in the United States, Attorney General William Barr announced the launch of Operation Legend on July 8, 2020;

Whereas this groundbreaking operation was named in honor of LeGend Taliferro, a 4-year-old boy from Kansas City, Missouri, who was tragically shot and killed while he was sleeping;

Whereas, throughout the summer of 2020, violent crime—including homicides, aggravated assaults, and firearm offenses—rose dramatically in large cities like Chicago, New York City, Kansas City, Philadelphia, and Memphis;

Whereas the Trump administration took decisive steps to curb the rampant violence occurring in these cities by instituting Operation Legend;

Whereas Operation Legend was a measured, coordinated, and effective initiative that deployed Federal law enforcement agents to work in conjunction with State and local law enforcement officials to fight violent crime;

Whereas, over the course of 6 months, Operation Legend provided Federal law enforcement agents to 10 of the largest cities in the United States: Albuquerque, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Memphis, Milwaukee, and St. Louis;

Whereas Operation Legend was tremendously successful in targeting the surge in violent crime, resulting in over 6,000 arrests—including an estimated 467 arrests for homicide—in addition to the seizures of over 2,600 illegal firearms and over 17 kilograms of fentanyl;

Whereas, 4 years after the launch of Operation Legend, several major cities in the United States continue to struggle with waves of violent crime;

Whereas Kansas City recorded its deadliest year on record in 2023 with 185 homicides and, between 2022 and 2023, violent crime increased by 11.5 percent in Chicago, the homicide rate in Memphis rose by 50 percent, and Washington, D.C. saw a significant increase in homicides, carjackings, and armed robberies;

Whereas several of the largest cities in the United States continue to bear the brunt of violent crime surges, with their citizens feeling increasingly unsafe;

Whereas, according to Attorney General Merrick Garland, ''there is no acceptable level of violent crime. Too many communities are still struggling, too many people are still scared'';

Whereas, according to a recent Gallup poll, 63 percent of people in the United States, the highest rate in decades, view crime as a serious problem; and

Whereas, given the continuing scourge of violent crime in several cities in the United States, an initiative similar to Operation Legend is essential to reducing violent crime in those areas: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that a future presidential administration committed to enforcing or maintaining law and order should—

(1) consider instituting a policy similar to Operation Legend that deploys Federal law enforcement agents to systematically target crime in cities still plagued with rises in homicides and other violent offenses; and

(2) provide significant grant funding to State and local governments that shall be used to—

(A) hire and train more law enforcement officers, including by awarding bonuses to law enforcement officers;

(B) prevent violent crime by prioritizing stringent sentences for repeat offenders; and

(C) utilize public safety tools such as bail and pretrial detention to prevent dangerous offenders from returning to communities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3050. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3051. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3052. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3053. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3054. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3055. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3056. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3057. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3058. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3059. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3060. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3061. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3062. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3063. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3064. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3065. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3066. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3067. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3068. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3069. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3070. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3071. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3072. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3073. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3074. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3075. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3076. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3077. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3078. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3079. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3080. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3081. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3082. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3083. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3084. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3085. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3086. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3087. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3088. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3089. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3090. Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3091. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3092. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3093. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3094. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3095. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3096. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3097. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3098. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3099. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3100. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3101. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3102. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3103. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3104. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3105. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3106. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3107. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3108. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3109. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3110. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3111. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3112. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3113. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3114. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3115. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3116. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3117. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3118. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3119. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3120. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3121. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3122. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3123. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3124. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3125. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3126. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3127. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3128. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3129. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3130. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3131. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3132. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3133. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3134. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3135. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3136. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3137. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3138. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3139. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3140. Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3141. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3142. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3143. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3144. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3145. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3146. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3147. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3148. Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3149. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3150. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3151. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3152. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3153. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3154. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3155. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3021 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3156. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3157. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3158. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3159. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3160. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3161. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3162. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3163. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3164. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3165. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3166. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3167. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3168. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3169. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3050. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 855. CLARIFYING THE STATUTORY DEFINITION OF "DISTRESSED AREA" FOR THE PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 4951(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) a tribe, reservation, economic enterprise, or organization as defined in section 3(c), (d), (e) and (f) of the Indian Financing Act of 1974 (Public Law 93–262; 25 U.S.C. 1452(c), (d), (e) and (f)).''.

SA 3051. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 358. PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES ASSETS FROM INCURSIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Comprehensive Operations for Unmanned-System Neutralization and Threat Elimination Response Act'' or the ''COUNTER Act''.

(b) MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 130i of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking ''**aircraft**'' and inserting ''**systems**'';

(B) by striking ''or unmanned aircraft'' each place it appears and inserting '', unmanned aircraft, or unmanned system'';

(C) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking ''Notwithstanding'' and inserting ''(1) Notwithstanding''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) The Secretary of Defense shall delegate the authority under paragraph (1) to take actions described in subsection (b)(1) to the commander of a combatant command for those covered facilities or assets that are under the protection of that combatant command.'';

(D) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting before the period at the end the follow: '', including through the use of remote identification broadcast''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking ''coordination'' and inserting ''consultation'';

(E) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''coordinate'' and inserting ''consult''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) If the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation, pursuant to regulations prescribed or guidance issued under paragraph (1), have approved a system to protect a covered facility or asset, approval of all like systems and all additional systems of the same kind shall be encompassed by that approval.'';

(F) in subsection (e)—

(i) by striking ''unmanned aircraft system'' each place it appears and inserting ''unmanned aircraft system, unmanned aircraft, or unmanned system''; and

(ii) in paragraph (4)—

(I) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

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

(III) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) would support another Federal agency with authority to mitigate the threat of unmanned aircraft systems, unmanned aircraft, or unmanned systems in mitigating such threats; or'';

(G) by redesignating subsections (g) through (j) as subsections (h) through (k), respectively;

(H) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

''(g) EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.—Information pertaining to the technology, procedures, and protocols used to carry out this section, including any regulations or guidance issued to carry out this section, shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5 and any State or local law requiring the disclosure of information.'';

and

(I) in subsection (j), as redesignated by subparagraph (G)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking ''subsection (j)(3)(C)'' and inserting ''subsection (k)(3)(C)''; and

(II) by striking ''December 31, 2026'' and inserting ''December 31, 2030''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by striking ''180 days'' and inserting ''one year''; and

(II) by striking ''November 15, 2026'' and inserting ''November 15, 2030''; and

(J) in subsection (k), as so redesignated—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (3):

''(3) The term 'combatant command' has the meaning given that term in section 161 of this title.'';

(iii) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by clause (i)—

(I) in clause (viii), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(II) in clause (ix)—

(aa) by striking ''sections'' and inserting ''section''; and

(bb) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(III) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

''(x) protection of an installation of the Air National Guard;

''(xi) protection of the buildings, grounds, and property to which the public are not permitted regular, unrestricted access and that are under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of the Department of Defense and the persons on that property pursuant to section 2672 of this title;

''(xii) assistance to Federal, State, or local officials in responding to incidents involving nuclear, radiological, biological, or chemical weapons, high-yield explosives, or related materials or technologies, including pursuant to section 282 of this title or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq);

''(xiii) transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal of explosives by the Department pursuant to section 2692(b) of this title; or

''(xiv) emergency response that is limited to a specified timeframe and location.''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(8) The term 'unmanned system' means an unmanned air, ground, or surface vehicle and its associated elements, including communication links and the components required to control, program, or direct navigation or function.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 3 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 130i and inserting the following new item:

''130i. Protection of certain facilities and assets from unmanned systems.''.

(c) PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES AIRSPACE, MARITIME DOMAIN, AND TERRITORY FROM INCURSIONS BY FOREIGN POWERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 130j. Protection of United States airspace, maritime domain, and territory from incursions by foreign powers

''(a) SUPPORT AUTHORIZED TO FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS OR AGENCIES.—Notwithstanding any provision of title 18 (except for section 1385 of such title) or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), the Secretary of Defense may provide the support described in subsection (b) to any element of the Department of Defense, or to any other department or agency of the Federal Government at the request of the head of such department or agency—

''(1) to prevent or respond to an incursion reasonably believed to be by a foreign power or agent of a foreign power in the territory, including the territorial waters, of the United States or the airspace above such territory; or

''(2) to respond to any exigent threat to public safety declared by the President in a declaration of national emergency issued pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), if the Secretary reasonably believes that the threat to public safety is directed by a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power.

''(b) SUPPORT DESCRIBED.—The support described in this subsection is the collection,

processing, analysis, production, and dissemination of signals intelligence information, including through the use of electronic surveillance.

''(c) PROHIBITION ON TARGETING UNITED STATES PERSONS.—The Secretary may not provide support under this section that intentionally targets a United States person to acquire information.

''(d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall promptly report to the congressional defense committees and the congressional intelligence committees any support provided under this section.

''(e) REIMBURSABLE SUPPORT.—The head of a department or agency of the Federal Government to which support is provided under this section shall reimburse the Department of Defense for such support pursuant to section 1535 of title 31.

''(f) CLASSIFICATION REVIEW.—(1) Upon completion of support authorized under this section, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the head of a department or agency of the Federal Government to which such support was provided, shall conduct a declassification review of the report required by subsection (d) and make publicly available such report or a summary of such report to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with the protection of national security.

''(2) The Secretary of Defense shall complete the declassification review required by paragraph (1) of a report required by subsection (d) as soon as practicable following the completion of the support that is the subject such report and not later than 180 days after the date on which such declassification review begins.

''(g) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS TO ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE MITIGATION OF THREATS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS OR UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.—Sections 32, 1030, and 1367 of title 18 and section 46502 of title 49 may not be construed to apply to activities of the Department of Defense or the Coast Guard, whether under this section or any other provision of law, that—

''(1) are conducted outside the United States; and

''(2) are related to the mitigation of threats from unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft.

''(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The terms 'agent of a foreign power', 'electronic surveillance', 'foreign power', and 'United States person' have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 (50 U.S.C. 1801).

''(2) The term 'congressional intelligence committees' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section relating to section 130i the following new item:

''130j. Protection of United States airspace, maritime domain, and territory from incursions by foreign powers.''.

SA 3052. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. REPORT ON NATIONAL SECURITY IMPACTS OF TECHNOLOGY PROTECTIONISM BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the national security implications of the discrimination by the Republic of Korea against United States technology companies, which works to the advantage of technology firms of the People's Republic of China.

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

(1) a determination as to whether—

(A) legislation of the Republic of Korea known as the ''Online Platform Monopoly Regulation Act'' would impact United States national security by discriminating against United States technology companies;

(B) such legislation would allow technology firms of the People's Republic of China that pose national security risks to the United States to gain market share in the Republic of Korea; and

(C) dominance over the digital sectors of the Republic of Korea by technology firms of the People's Republic of China would impact the information security of the United States Armed Forces based in the Republic of Korea; and

(2) a determination of the manner in which the passage of such legislation and the mitigation of its national security impacts should be accounted for in the Special Measures Agreement, and other United States defense funding intended for the protection of the Republic of Korea.

SA 3053. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

TITLE XVII—NO ICBMS FOR IRAN ACT OF 2024

SEC. 1701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024''.

Subtitle A—Sanctions and Report on Iranian Space-launch Vehicles and Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles

SEC. 1711. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Islamic Republic of Iran has the largest ballistic missile arsenal in the Middle East, which Iran uses to threaten forces of the United States and partners of the United States in the region.

(2) Iran is progressing toward developing an intercontinental ballistic missile (commonly referred to an ''ICBM'') capability. In 2023, the Defense Intelligence Agency reported that Iran's progress on its space-launch vehicles shortens the time needed for Iran to produce an ICBM since space-launch vehicles and ICBMs use similar technologies.

(3) Iran continues to rely on illicit foreign procurement to support its long-range missile aspirations. For example, Iran recently tried to purchase from the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China ammonium perchlorate, which is the main ingredient in solid propellants to power missiles.

(4) Iran relies at least in part on networks in Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China to procure dual-use materials and equipment for its longer-range ballistic missile program.

(5) North Korea historically has played a role in supporting longer-range Iranian ballistic missile capabilities. Specifically, North Korea provided the Nodong-A to Iran in the 1990s, which Iran used to develop both its first nuclear-capable medium-range ballistic missile and liquid propellant engines for its space-launch vehicles.

(6) While the Iran Space Agency, a government organization subject to sanctions, develops space capabilities for Iran's ministry of defense as well as the communications sector, Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps Aerospace Force (commonly referred to as the ''IRGC–AF'') runs a parallel space program employing solid-propellant motors, which if used in ICBM technology, would enable launches with little warning.

(7) Iran continues work on larger diameter solid-propellant motors, like the Rafa'e, and is now reportedly in the possession of an all-solid-propellant space-launch vehicle called the Qaem–100. Iran successfully launched a satellite into orbit using its Qaem–100 rocket January 2024.

(8) Iran's development, production, and transfer of space-launch vehicle and ballistic missile technology violated Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), which enshrined certain restrictions under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Those restrictions expired on October 18, 2023.

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

(1) Iran's space program continues to function as a cover for Iran's quest for an ICBM;

(2) the possession by Iran of an ICBM would pose a direct threat to the United States homeland and partners of the United States in Europe; and

(3) the United States should work to deny Iran the ability to hold the United States homeland or European partners of the United States at risk with an ICBM.

SEC. 1712. DETERMINATION AND MANDATORY IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 13382.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall—

(1) determine whether each individual or entity specified in subsection (b) meets the criteria for the imposition of sanctions under Executive Order 13382 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of weapons of mass destruction proliferators and their supporters); and

(2) with respect to any such individual or entity the President determines does meet such criteria, impose such sanctions.

(b) INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES SPECIFIED.—The individuals and entities specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) The Space Division of the IRGC–AF.

(2) All senior officers of the IRGC–AF.

(3) Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh, the commander of the IRGC–AF.

(4) General Majid Mousavi, the deputy commander of the IRGC–AF.

(5) Second Brigadier General Ali-Jafarabadi, the commander of the Space Division of the IRGC–AF.

SEC. 1713. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR IRAN'S SPACE, AEROSPACE, AND BALLISTIC MISSILE SECTORS AND UNITED STATES CAPACITY TO DENY INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACKS FROM IRAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An identification of entities in Iran not subject to sanctions imposed by the United States as of the date of the report that are helping to support Iran's space, aerospace, and ballistic missile sectors, including public and private entities making a material contribution to Iran's development of space-launch vehicles or ICBMs.

(2) An identification of the countries the governments of which continue to support Iran's space, aerospace, and ballistic missile activities.

(3) With respect to each country identified under paragraph (2), the following:

(A) Actions taken by the government of the country or other entities within the country to support Iran's space, aerospace, and ballistic missile activities, including the transfer of missiles, engines, propellant or materials that can be used for fuel, or other technologies that could make a material contribution to development of space-launch vehicles or ICBMs.

(B) Any actions described in subparagraph (A) or proposals for such actions being negotiated or discussed as of the date of the report.

(4) An assessment of Iran's ICBM technology, including the following:

(A) Key steps Iran would need to take to develop an ICBM.

(B) An assessment of which rocket motors Iran would likely use to build an ICBM.

(C) Technological hurdles Iran would still need to overcome to develop an ICBM.

(D) Pathways to overcome the hurdles described in subparagraph (C), including the potential transfer of technologies from North Korea, the Russian Federation, or the People's Republic of China.

(E) An estimated timeline for Iran to develop an ICBM if Iran chooses to do so.

(b) UPDATES.—As new information becomes available and not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees an updated version of the report required by subsection (a) that includes updated information under paragraphs (1) through (4) of that subsection.

(c) FORM.—Each report submitted under this section shall be submitting in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 1714. REPORT ON SENIOR OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT OF IRAN RESPONSIBLE FOR SPACE-LAUNCH VEHICLE OR BALLISTIC MISSILE TESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the President determines that the Government of Iran has conducted a test of a space-launch vehicle or ballistic missile, the President shall submit to the congressional defense committees a notification that identifies each senior official of the Government of Iran that the President determines is responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing the test.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The notification required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) available information on the ballistic missile or the generic class of ballistic missile or space rocket that was launched;

(2) the trajectory, duration, range, and altitude of the flight of the missile or rocket;

(3) the duration, range, and altitude of the flight of each stage of the missile or rocket;

(4) the location of the launch point and impact point;

(5) the payload; and

(6) other technical information that is available.

(c) FORM.—The notification required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

Subtitle B—Sanctions and Reports Relating to Iranian Unmanned Aerial Systems

SEC. 1721. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Iran has a robust unmanned aerial system program under which Iran operates several unmanned aerial systems, including combat drones, drones capable of conducting intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, and suicide or kamikaze drones.

(2) Iran has supplied thousands of unmanned aerial systems to the Russian Federation, including several hundred of the Shahed–136 suicide drone.

(3) Iran and the Russian Federation are reportedly planning to build 6,000 Geran–2 drones, the Russian-made version of the Iranian Shahed–136, at a new facility in the Russian Federation.

(4) The Iranian supply of unmanned aerial systems to the Russian Federation has fueled the Russian Federation's murderous invasion of Ukraine and caused countless civilian deaths.

(5) The United States found parts made by more than a dozen United States or western companies in an Iranian unmanned aerial system downed in Ukraine, which are likely transferred to Iran illegally.

(6) Iran is also responsible for the proliferation of unmanned aerial systems to terrorist groups in the Middle East, including Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon, and the Houthis in Yemen, which have all employed drones in their murderous attacks on Israel following the October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks by Hamas in Israel, which killed more than 1,400 innocent civilians.

(7) Iran's transfer of unmanned aerial systems to other governments and terrorist groups has violated Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) and restrictions imposed under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which expired on October 18, 2023.

(8) Upon the expiration of those restrictions, Iran's transfer of deadly unmanned aerial systems and ballistic missiles to actors like Hamas and the Russian Federation became legal under international law.

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

(1) Iran's unmanned aerial system program contributes significantly to the instability of the Middle East and threatens the security of the United States and its partners in the Middle East, including Israel;

(2) the provision of Iranian unmanned aerial systems gives the Russian Federation an advantage in its war in Ukraine and contributes to the dangerous partnership between Iran and the Russian Federation;

(3) the expiration of restrictions under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 on October 18, 2023, helps facilitate Iran's development and transfer of deadly unmanned aerial systems and ballistic missiles to actors like Hamas and the Russian Federation; and

(4) the United States should seek to hinder Iran's unmanned aerial system production, its transfer of such systems to the Russian Federation, Hamas, and other hostile state and non-state actors, and to prevent the further use of United States components in Iranian unmanned aerial systems.

SEC. 1722. INCLUSION OF UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS AND CRUISE MISSILES UNDER COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2010.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(1) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501(1)) is amended by striking ''and ballistic missiles'' and inserting '', ballistic missiles, and unmanned aerial systems and cruise missiles''.

(b) INCLUSION IN GOODS, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES OF DIVERSION CONCERN.—Section 302(b)(1)(B) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8542(b)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (ii), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) unmanned aerial system (as defined in section 1727 of the No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024) or cruise missile program; or''.

(c) SUNSET.—Section 401(a)(2) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8551(a)(2)) is amended by striking ''and ballistic missiles and ballistic missile launch technology'' and inserting '', ballistic missiles and ballistic missile launch technology, and unmanned aerial system (as defined in section 1727 of the No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024) and cruise missile programs.''.

SEC. 1723. INCLUSION OF UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS IN ENFORCEMENT OF ARMS EMBARGOS UNDER COUNTERING AMERICA'S ADVERSARIES THROUGH SANCTIONS ACT.

Section 107(a)(1) of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9406(a)(1)) is amended by inserting ''unmanned aerial systems (as defined in section 1727 of the No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024),'' after ''warships,''.

SEC. 1724. INCLUSION OF UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS UNDER IRAN-IRAQ ARMS NON-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 1992.

Section 1608(1) of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (Public Law 102–484; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by inserting ''unmanned aerial systems (as defined in section 1727 of the No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024),'' after ''cruise missiles,''.

SEC. 1725. STRATEGY TO COUNTER IRANIAN UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report (with a classified annex) that includes a strategy for countering Iran's growing unmanned aerial systems program and its transfer of unmanned aerial systems and related technology to foreign states and non-state actors.

(b) PLAN TO PREVENT IRAN OBTAINING UNITED STATES MATERIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall draw upon the work of the President Biden's interagency task force investigating the presence of United States parts in Iranian unmanned aerial systems to develop a plan for preventing Iran from obtaining United States materials for its unmanned aerial system program.

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

(A) A list of identified United States components found in Iranian unmanned aerial systems and a list of United States suppliers of those components.

(B) An assessment of existing export controls for components described in subparagraph (A) and a plan to strengthen those export controls, including through any necessary legislative action by Congress.

(C) An investigation into and identification of foreign actors, including individuals and government and nongovernmental entities, that are supplying components to the Iranian unmanned aerial system and weapons programs.

(D) Strategies to deny supply chains for such components, including any sanctions or other actions to target the individuals or entities identified under subparagraph (C).

(E) An identification of any additional authorities or funding needed to enable the investigation of how Iran is obtaining United States components for its unmanned aerial system program.

(F) An assessment of how the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce is monitoring compliance with their restrictions on Iranian unmanned aerial system producers aimed at ensuring United States and other foreign-made components are not being used in Iranian unmanned aerial systems.

(G) An investigation into Iran's use of shell companies to evade sanctions and restrictions on the use of United States or other foreign-made components in Iranian unmanned aerial system production.

(H) Strategies to ensure United States manufacturers of critical components for unmanned aerial systems can verify the end users of those components.

(I) Any other actions that could be use to disrupt Iran's unmanned aerial system and weapons programs and its transfers to foreign states and non-state actors.

(c) DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include a diplomatic strategy to coordinate with allies of the United States to counter Iran's unmanned aerial system production and transfer of unmanned aerial systems and related technologies to foreign states and non-state actors, including the following:

(1) Coordination with respect to sanctions comparable to the sanctions the United States is required to apply under the amendments made by this subtitle.

(2) Intelligence sharing with allies of the United States to determine how Iran is obtaining western components for its unmanned aerial system program.

(3) Intelligence sharing with allies of the United States to track, monitor, and disrupt Iranian transfers of its unmanned aerial system technology to foreign states and non-state actors.

(4) A plan to cooperate with allies of the United States to develop or advance anti-unmanned aerial system equipment.

SEC. 1726. REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR IRAN'S UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM PROGRAM AND RELATED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report that outlines the following:

(1) Domestic industries, individuals, or entities in Iran not subject to sanctions imposed by the United States as of the date of the report that are helping to support Iran's unmanned aerial system program, including both public and private entities making a material contribution to Iran's production of unmanned aerial systems.

(2) A list of foreign states or non-state actors using Iranian unmanned aerial system technology or looking to purchase it, including any negotiations or discussions ongoing as of the date of the enactment of this Act between Iran and a foreign state or non-state actor to acquire such technology from Iran.

(3) An assessment of cooperation between Iran and the People's Republic of China to develop, produce, acquire, or export unmanned aerial system technology.

(4) An assessment of cooperation between Iran and the Russian Federation to develop, produce, acquire, or export unmanned aerial system technology, including a status update on Russian capabilities to produce Iranian unmanned aerial systems.

(5) An assessment on how the October 18, 2023, expiration of sanctions and other restrictions under Annex B of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) have or have not increased cooperation between Iran and the Russian Federation or Iran and the People's Republic of China relating to transactions previously restricted under that resolution.

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

SEC. 1727. UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM DEFINED.

In this subtitle, the term ''unmanned aerial system''—

(1) means an aircraft without a human pilot onboard that is controlled by an operator remotely or programmed to fly autonomously; and

(2) includes—

(A) unmanned vehicles that conduct intelligence, surveillance, or reconnaissance operations;

(B) unmanned vehicles that can loiter, such as suicide or kamikaze drones; and

(C) unmanned combat aerial vehicles.

Subtitle C—Expansion of Iran Sanctions Act of 1996

SEC. 1731. EXPANSION OF IRAN SANCTIONS ACT OF 1996.

(a) EXPANSION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.—Section 5(b)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''EXPORTS, TRANSFERS, AND TRANSSHIPMENTS'' and inserting ''WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012'' and inserting ''the No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024'';

(3) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''would likely'' and inserting ''may'';

(B) in clause (ii)—

(i) in subclause (I)—

(I) by striking ''or develop'' and inserting ''develop, or export''; and

(II) by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (IV); and

(iii) by inserting after subclause (I) the following:

''(II) acquire or develop ballistic missiles or ballistic missile launch technologies;

''(III) acquire or develop unmanned aerial systems (as defined in section 1727 of the No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024); or''.

(b) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SPACE-LAUNCH AND BALLISTIC MISSILE PROGRAMS.—Section 5(b) of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) SPACE-LAUNCH AND BALLISTIC MISSILE GOODS, SERVICES, OR TECHNOLOGY.—

''(A) TRANSFER TO IRAN.—Except as provided in subsection (f), the President shall impose 5 or more of the sanctions described in section 6(a) with respect to a person if the President determines that the person, on or after the date of the enactment of the No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024, knowingly exports, transfers, or permits or otherwise facilitates the transshipment or reexport of goods, services, technology, or other items to Iran that may support Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or export its space-launch programs, space-launch vehicles, or ballistic missiles or ballistic missile launch technologies.

''(B) DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT.—Except as provided in subsection (f), the President shall impose 5 or more of the sanctions described in section 6(a) with respect to—

''(i) an agency or instrumentality of the Government of Iran if the President determines that the agency or instrumentality knowingly, on or after the date of the enactment of the No ICBMs for Iran Act of 2024, seeks to develop, procure, or acquire goods, services, or technology that may support efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to space-launch vehicle or ballistic missile-related goods, services, and items listed on the Equipment, Software, and Technology Annex of the Missile Technology Control Regime (commonly referred to as the 'MTCR Annex');

''(ii) a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state (as defined in section 1603(b) of title 28, United States Code) if the President determines that the person or agency or instrumentality knowingly, on or after such date of enactment, provides material support to the Government of Iran that may support efforts by the Government of Iran with respect to space-launch vehicle or ballistic missile-related goods, services, and items listed on the MTCR Annex; and

''(iii) a foreign person that the President determines knowingly, on or after such date of enactment, engages in a transaction or transactions with, or provides financial services for, a foreign person or an agency or instrumentality of a foreign state described in clause (i) or (ii) with respect to space-launch vehicle or ballistic missile-related goods, services, and items listed on the MTCR Annex.

''(C) CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a request from the chairman or ranking member of the appropriate congressional committees with respect to whether a person meets the criteria for the imposition of sanctions under subparagraph (A) or (B), the President shall—

''(i) determine if the person meets such criteria; and

''(ii) submit a report to the chairman or ranking member, as the case may be, who submitted the request with respect to that determination that includes a statement of whether or not the President imposed or intends to impose sanctions with respect to the person.''.

SA 3054. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. WITHDRAWAL OF NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions of title I of Public Law 106–286 (114 Stat. 880) or any other provision of law, effective on the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) normal trade relations treatment shall not apply pursuant to section 101 of that Act to the products of the People's Republic of China;

(2) normal trade relations treatment may thereafter be extended to the products of the People's Republic of China only in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1 of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2431 et

seq.), as in effect with respect to the products of the People's Republic of China on the day before the effective date of the accession of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization; and

(3) the extension of waiver authority that was in effect with respect to the People's Republic of China under section 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1)) on the day before the effective date of the accession of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization shall, upon the enactment of this Act, be deemed not to have expired, and shall continue in effect until the date that is 90 days after the date of such enactment.

(b) EXPANSION OF BASES OF INELIGIBILITY OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2432) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking ''**FREEDOM OF EMIGRATION IN EAST-WEST TRADE**'' and inserting ''**EAST-WEST TRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(f) ADDITIONAL BASES OF INELIGIBILITY OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA FOR NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Products of the People's Republic of China shall not be eligible to receive nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations), the People's Republic of China shall not participate in any program of the Government of the United States which extends credits or credit guarantees or investment guarantees, directly or indirectly, and the President shall not conclude any commercial agreement with the People's Republic of China, during the period—

''(A) beginning with the date on which the President determines that the People's Republic of China—

''(i) is in violation of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a);

''(ii) uses or provides for the use of slave labor;

''(iii) operates 'vocational training and education centers' or other concentration camps where people are held against their will;

''(iv) performs or otherwise orders forced abortion or sterilization procedures;

''(v) harvests the organs of prisoners without their consent;

''(vi) hinders the free exercise of religion;

''(vii) intimidates or harasses nationals of the People's Republic of China living outside the People's Republic of China; or

''(viii) engages in systematic economic espionage against the United States, including theft of the intellectual property of United States persons; and

''(B) ending on the date on which the President determines that the People's Republic of China is no longer in violation of any of clauses (i) through (viii) of subparagraph (A).

''(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After the date of the enactment of this subsection, products of the People's Republic of China may be eligible to receive nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations), the People's Republic of China may participate in any program of the Government of the United States which extends credits or credit guarantees or investment guarantees, and the President may conclude a commercial agreement with the People's Republic of China, only after the President has submitted to Congress a report indicating that the People's Republic of China is not in violation of any of clauses (i) through (viii) of paragraph (1)(A).

''(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include information as to the nature and implementation of laws and policies of the People's Republic of China relating to the matters specified in clauses (i) through (viii) of paragraph (1)(A).

''(C) DEADLINES.—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted on or before each June 30 and December 31 of each year for as long as products of the People's Republic of China receive nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations), the People's Republic of China participates in any program of the Government of the United States which extends credits or credit guarantees or investment guarantees, or a commercial agreement with the People's Republic of China is in effect.

''(3) WAIVER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to waive by Executive order the application of paragraphs (1) and (2) for a 12-month period if the President submits to Congress a report that the President—

''(i) has determined that such waiver will substantially promote the objectives of this subsection; and

''(ii) has received assurances that the practices of the People's Republic of China relating to the matters specified in clauses (i) through (viii) of paragraph (1)(A) will in the future lead substantially to the achievement of the objectives of this subsection.

''(B) TERMINATION OF WAIVER.—A waiver under subparagraph (A) shall terminate on the earlier of—

''(i) the day after the waiver authority granted by this paragraph ceases to be effective under paragraph (4); or

''(ii) the effective date of an Executive order providing for termination of the waiver.

''(4) EXTENSION OF WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

''(A) RECOMMENDATIONS.—If the President determines that the further extension of the waiver authority granted under paragraph (3) will substantially promote the objectives of this subsection, the President may recommend further extensions of such authority for successive 12-month periods. Any such recommendations shall—

''(i) be made not later than 30 days before the expiration of such authority;

''(ii) be made in a document submitted to the House of Representatives and the Senate setting forth the reasons of the President for recommending the extension of such authority; and

''(iii) include—

''(I) a determination that continuation of the waiver will substantially promote the objectives of this subsection; and

''(II) a statement setting forth the reasons of the President for such determination.

''(B) CONTINUATION IN EFFECT OF WAIVER.—If the President recommends under subparagraph (A) the further extension of the waiver authority granted under paragraph (3), such authority shall continue in effect until the end of the 12-month period following the end of the previous 12-month extension, unless—

''(i) Congress adopts and transmits to the President a joint resolution of disapproval under paragraph (5) before the end of the 60-day period beginning on the date the waiver authority would expire but for an extension under subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) if the President vetoes the joint resolution, each House of Congress votes to override the veto on or before the later of—

''(I) the last day of the 60-day period referred to in clause (i); or

''(II) the last day of the 15-day period (excluding any day described in section 154(b)) beginning on the date on which Congress receives the veto message from the President.

''(C) TERMINATION OF WAIVER PURSUANT TO JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—If a joint resolution of disapproval is enacted into law pursuant to paragraph (5), the waiver authority granted under paragraph (3) shall cease to be effective as of the day after the 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of the joint resolution.

''(5) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—

''(A) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'joint resolution of disapproval' means a joint resolution the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: 'That Congress does not approve the extension of the authority contained in paragraph (3) of section 402(f) of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to the People's Republic of China recommended by the President to Congress under paragraph (4) of that section on _____.', with the blank space being filled with the appropriate date.

''(B) PROCEDURES IN HOUSE AND SENATE.—The provisions of subsections (b) through (f) of section 152 shall apply with respect to a joint resolution of approval to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions apply with respect to a resolution described in subsection (a) of that section, except that subsection (e)(2) of that section shall be applied and administered by substituting 'Consideration' for 'Debate'.

''(C) RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This paragraph is enacted by Congress—

''(i) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such other rules; and

''(ii) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Trade Act of 1974 is amended by striking the item relating to section 402 and inserting the following:

''Sec. 402. East-West trade and human rights.''.

SA 3055. Mr. COTTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. LOSS OF PENSIONS ACCRUED FOR ABUSING THE PUBLIC TRUST.

(a) CSRS.—Section 8332(o) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence—

(A) by inserting ''as an employee or Member (irrespective of when rendered) who is'' after ''service of an individual''; and

(B) by striking '', except'' and all that follows through ''rendered)'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ''an employee,'' before ''a Member,'';

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting ''an employee,'' before ''a Member,''; and

(C) in clause (iii)—

(i) in subclause (I)(bb), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in subclause (II)(bb), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) in the case of service as an employee, is committed after the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''or an employee'' after ''serving as a Member''.

(b) FERS.—Section 8411(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence—

(A) by inserting ''as an employee or Member (irrespective of when rendered) who is'' after ''service of an individual''; and

(B) by striking '', except'' and all that follows through ''rendered)'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''an employee,'' before ''a Member,'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''an employee,'' before ''a Member,''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking ''offense is committed'' and inserting the following: ''offense—

''(i) is committed'';

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) in the case of service as an employee, is committed after the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025.''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''or an employee'' after ''serving as a Member''.

SA 3056. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. COORDINATOR FOR COMBATING FOREIGN KLEPTOCRACY AND CORRUPTION.

Section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) assess the national security implications of foreign corruption and kleptocracy (including strategic corruption) and coordinate, without assuming operational authority, the United States Government efforts to counter foreign corruption and kleptocracy.'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) COORDINATOR FOR COMBATING FOREIGN KLEPTOCRACY AND CORRUPTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate an officer of the National Security Council to be responsible for—

''(A) the assessment of the national security implications of foreign corruption and kleptocracy (including strategic corruption); and

''(B) the coordination of the interagency process to counter foreign corruption and kleptocracy.

''(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the coordination and assessment described in paragraph (1), the officer designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be responsible for the following:

''(A) Coordinating and deconflicting anti-corruption and counter-kleptocracy initiatives across the Federal Government, including those at the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, and the United States Agency for International Development.

''(B) Informing deliberations of the Council by highlighting the wide-ranging and destabilizing effects of corruption on a variety of issues, including drug trafficking, arms trafficking, sanctions evasion, cybercrime, voting rights and global democracy initiatives, and other matters of national security concern to the Council.

''(C) Updating, as appropriate, and coordinating the implementation of the United States strategy on countering corruption.

''(3) COORDINATION WITH COORDINATOR FOR COMBATING MALIGN FOREIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS.—The officer designated under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall coordinate with the employee designated under subsection (g)(1).

''(4) LIAISON.—The officer designated under paragraph (1) shall serve as a liaison, for purposes of coordination described in such paragraph and paragraph (2)(A), with the following:

''(A) The Department of State.

''(B) The Department of the Treasury.

''(C) The Department of Justice.

''(D) The intelligence community.

''(E) The United States Agency for International Development.

''(F) Any other Federal agency that the President considers appropriate.

''(G) Good government transparency groups in civil society.

''(5) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once each year, the officer designated pursuant to paragraph (1), or the officer's designee, shall provide to the congressional committees specified in subparagraph (B) a briefing on the responsibilities and activities of the officer designated under this subsection.

''(B) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The congressional committees specified in this subparagraph are the following:

''(i) The Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Caucus on International Narcotics Control of the Senate.

''(ii) The Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.''.

SA 3057. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—International Freedom Protection

SEC. 1291. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''International Freedom Protection Act''.

SEC. 1292. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

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

(2) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The term ''relevant Federal agencies'' means—

(A) the Department of State; and

(B) the United States Agency for International Development.

(3) TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION.—The term ''transnational repression''—

(A) means actions of a foreign government, or agents of a foreign government, involving the transgression of national borders through physical, digital, or analog means to intimidate, silence, coerce, harass, or harm members of diaspora populations, political opponents, civil society activists, journalists, or members of ethnic or religious minority groups to prevent their exercise of internationally recognized human rights; and

(B) may include—

(i) extrajudicial killings;

(ii) physical assaults and intimidation;

(iii) arbitrary detentions;

(iv) renditions;

(v) deportations;

(vi) unexplained or enforced disappearances;

(vii) physical or online surveillance or stalking;

(viii) unwarranted passport cancellation or control over other identification documents;

(ix) abuse of international law enforcement systems;

(x) unlawful asset freezes;

(xi) digital threats, such as cyberattacks, targeted surveillance and spyware, online harassment, and intimidation; and

(xii) coercion by proxy, such as harassment of, or threats or harm to, family and associates of private individuals who remain in their country of origin.

SEC. 1293. COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION ABROAD.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY ON TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to identify and address transnational repression, including by protecting targeted individuals and groups, as a direct threat to the United States national interests of upholding and promoting democratic values and internationally recognized human rights;

(2) to address transnational repression, including by protecting targeted individuals and groups;

(3) to strengthen the capacity of United States embassy and mission staff to counter transnational repression, including by—

(A) monitoring and documenting instances of transnational repression;

(B) conducting regular outreach with at-risk or affected populations to provide information regarding available resources without putting such people at further risk; and

(C) working with local and national law enforcement, as appropriate, to support victims of transnational repression;

(4) to develop policy and programmatic responses based on input from—

(A) vulnerable populations who are at risk of, or are experiencing, transnational repression;

(B) nongovernmental organizations working to address transnational repression; and

(C) the private sector;

(5) to provide training to relevant Federal personnel—

(A) to enhance their understanding of transnational repression; and

(B) to identify and combat threats of transnational repression;

(6) to strengthen documentation and monitoring by the United States Government of transnational repression by foreign governments in the United States, in foreign countries, and within international organizations; and

(7) to seek to hold perpetrators of transnational repression accountable.

(b) REPORT ON TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter for the following 10 years, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a classified report to the appropriate congressional committees that assesses the efforts of the United States Government to implement the policy objectives described in subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a detailed description and assessment of United States Government efforts to monitor, prevent, and respond to transnational repression abroad;

(B) a detailed accounting of the most common tactics of transnational repression;

(C) instances of transnational repression occurring within international organizations;

(D) a description of—

(i) efforts by personnel at United States embassies and missions to support victims of or those at risk of transnational repression; and

(ii) resources provided to United States embassies and missions to support such efforts; and

(E) a strategy to strengthen interagency efforts and coordination to combat transnational repression, which shall include—

(i) a plan, developed in consultation with partner governments, civil society, the business community, and other entities, to promote respect for rule of law and human rights in surveillance technology use, which shall include—

(I) protecting personal digital data from being used for the purposes of transnational repression;

(II) establishing safeguards to prevent the misuse of surveillance technology, including elements such as appropriate legal protections, a prohibition on discrimination, oversight and accountability mechanisms, transparency on the applicable legal framework, limiting biometric tools for surveillance to what is lawful and appropriate, testing and evaluation, and training; and

(III) working to ensure, as applicable, that such technologies are designed, developed, and deployed with safeguards to protect human rights (including privacy), consistent with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;

(ii) public diplomacy efforts and plans for, including the use of the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at international organizations, to promote awareness of and oppose acts of transnational repression;

(iii) a plan to develop or enhance global coalitions to monitor cases of transnational repression at international organizations and to strengthen alert mechanisms for key stakeholders worldwide;

(iv) a description, as appropriate, of how the United States Government has previously provided, and will continue to provide, support to civil society organizations in foreign countries in which transnational repression occurs—

(I) to improve the documentation, investigation, and research of cases, trends, and tactics of transnational repression; and

(II) to promote accountability and transparency in government actions impacting victims of transnational repression; and

(v) a description of new or existing emergency assistance mechanisms, to aid at-risk groups, communities, and individuals in countries abroad in which transnational repression occurs.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in classified form, but may include an unclassified annex.

(c) TRAINING OF UNITED STATES PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall develop and provide training to relevant personnel, including appropriate Foreign Service nationals, of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, whether serving in the United States or overseas, to advance the purposes of this Act, including training on the identification of—

(1) physical and nonphysical threats of transnational repression;

(2) foreign governments that are most frequently involved in transnational repression;

(3) foreign governments that are known to frequently cooperate with other governments in committing transnational repression;

(4) digital surveillance and cyber tools commonly used in transnational repression;

(5) safe outreach methods for vulnerable populations at risk of transnational repression; and

(6) tools to respond to transnational repression threats, including relevant authorities which may be invoked.

(d) TRAINING OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AND PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES.—Section 708(a)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) for Foreign Service Officers and Presidential appointees, including chiefs of mission and USAID Mission Directors, in missions abroad who work on political, economic, public diplomacy, security, or development issues, a dedicated module of instruction on transnational repression (as such term is defined in section 1292(3) of the International Freedom Protection Act), including—

''(i) how to recognize threats of transnational repression;

''(ii) an overview of relevant laws that can be invoked to combat such threats; and

''(iii) how to support individuals experiencing transnational repression.''.

SEC. 1294. STRENGTHENING TOOLS TO COMBAT AUTHORITARIANISM.

(a) TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION.—The President should consider the use of transnational repression by a foreign person in determining whether to take appropriate action with respect to such foreign person under—

(1) the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.); or

(2) any other relevant statutory provision.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually thereafter until 5 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that, except as provided in paragraph (2), identifies each foreign person about whom the President has taken action in regards to paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) based on the consideration of the use of transnational repression.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The report required under paragraph (1) may not identify individuals if such identification would interfere with law enforcement efforts.

(3) FORM.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) ANTI-KLEPTOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS INELIGIBILITY.—

(1) INELIGIBILITY.—

(A) SIGNIFICANT CORRUPTION OR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), a foreign government official shall be ineligible for entry into the United States if the Secretary of State determines that such official was directly or indirectly involved in—

(i) significant corruption, including corruption related to the extraction of natural resources; or

(ii) a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights (as defined in section 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(1))), including the wrongful detention of—

(I) locally employed staff of a United States diplomatic mission; or

(II) a United States citizen or national.

(B) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS.—The immediate family members of an official described in subparagraph (A) shall be subject to the same restriction on entry into the United States as such official.

(C) DESIGNATION OR DETERMINATION.—The Secretary of State shall publicly or privately designate or make the determination that the foreign government officials or party members about whom the Secretary has made such designation or determination regarding significant corruption or gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and their immediate family members, without regard to whether any such individual has applied for a visa.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Individuals are not ineligible for entry into the United States pursuant to paragraph (1) if such entry—

(i) would further important United States law enforcement objectives; or

(ii) is necessary to permit the United States to fulfill its obligations under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States or under other international obligations of the United States.

(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) may be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements or obligations.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the application of paragraph (1) with respect to any individual if the Secretary determines that—

(A) such waiver would serve a compelling national interest of the United States; or

(B) the circumstances that caused such individual to be ineligible for entry into the United States have sufficiently changed.

(4) SEMIANNUAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter until 5 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of State shall submit a report, including a classified annex if necessary, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives. Each such report shall include—

(i) all relevant information relating to corruption or gross violations of internationally recognized human rights that was a factor in identifying, during the most recent 12-month period—

(I) individuals who are ineligible for entry into the United States under paragraph (1)(A); and

(II) individuals about whom the Secretary has made a designation or determination pursuant to paragraph (1)(D); and

(III) individuals who would be ineligible for entry into the United States under paragraph (1)(A), but were excluded from such restriction pursuant to paragraph (2);

(ii) a list of any waivers granted by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (3); and

(iii) a description of the justification for each such waiver.

(B) POSTING OF REPORT.—The unclassified portion of each report required under subparagraph (A) shall be posted on a publicly accessible website of the Department of State.

(5) CLARIFICATION.—For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (4), the records of the Department of State and of diplomatic and consular offices of the United States pertaining to the issuance or refusal of visas or permits to enter the United States shall not be considered confidential.

(d) RESTRICTION ON ASSISTANCE IN THE WAKE OF A COUP D'ÉTAT.—Chapter 1 of part III of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 620N. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE IN THE WAKE OF A COUP D'ÉTAT.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsections (b) and (d), no assistance may be provided under this Act or under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751) to the central government of any country in which the head of government, as recognized by the United States, was deposed by a military coup d'état or decree or a coup d'état or decree in which the military played a decisive role.

''(b) EXEMPTION FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, after consultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, may exempt assistance from the restriction described in subsection (a), on a program by program basis for an annual renewable period, if the Secretary determines that the continuation of such assistance is in the national security interest of the United States.

''(2) JUSTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State shall provide a justification to the appropriate congressional committees for each exemption granted pursuant to paragraph (1) not later than 5 days after making such determination.

''(3) UPDATES.—The Secretary of State shall provide periodic updates, not less frequently than every 90 days, regarding the status of any assistance subject to the exemption granted pursuant to paragraph (1).

''(c) RESUMPTION OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance to a foreign government that is subject to the restriction described in subsection (a) may be resumed if the Secretary of State certifies and reports to the appropriate congressional committees, not fewer than 30 days before the resumption of such assistance, that a democratically-elected government has taken office subsequent to the termination of assistance pursuant to subsection (a).

''(d) EXCEPTION FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—The restriction under subsection (a) shall not apply to any assistance used—

''(1) to promote democratic elections or public participation in the democratic processes;

''(2) to support a democratic transition; or

''(3) for humanitarian purposes.

''(e) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term 'appropriate congressional committees' means—

''(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

''(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

''(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.''.

SEC. 1295. AMENDMENT TO REWARDS FOR JUSTICE PROGRAM.

Section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(15) the restraining, seizing, forfeiting, or repatriating of stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption.''.

SEC. 1296. INVESTING IN DEMOCRACY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, should establish, within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, a program for democracy research and development that—

(1) supports research and development by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and the National Endowment for Democracy on policies and programs relating to democracy efforts;

(2) drives innovation within such agencies regarding the response to complex, multidimensional challenges to democracy;

(3) identifies lessons learned and best practices for democracy programs and diplomatic approaches to create feedback loops and shape future evidence-based programming and diplomacy;

(4) encourages private sector actors to establish and implement business practices that will—

(A) strengthen democratic institutions; and

(B) bolster democratic processes; and

(5) strengthens the resilience of democratic actors and institutions.

SEC. 1297. ADDRESSING AUTHORITARIANS IN THE MULTILATERAL SYSTEM.

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State and the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations should use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations and with other multilateral bodies—

(1)(A) to promote the full participation of civil society actors within the United Nations Human Rights Council and other multilateral bodies;

(B) to closely monitor instances of reprisals against such actors; and

(C) to support accountability measures, censure of member states, and other diplomatic measures to hold responsible any person who engages in reprisals against human rights defenders and civil society within such multilateral bodies;

(2) to reform the process for suspending the rights of membership in the United Nations Human Rights Council for member states that commit gross and systemic violations of internationally recognized human rights, including—

(A) ensuring information detailing the member state's human rights record is publicly available before a vote for membership or a vote on suspending the rights of membership of such member state; and

(B) making publicly available the vote of each member state on the suspension of rights of membership from the United Nations Human Rights Council;

(3) to reform the rules for electing members to the United Nations Human Rights Council to seek to ensure that member states that have committed gross and systemic violations of internationally recognized human rights are not elected to the Human Rights Council; and

(4) to oppose the election to the United Nations Human Rights Council of any member state—

(A) that engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, as determined pursuant to section 116 or 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n and 2304);

(B) the government of which has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined pursuant to section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(C) that is designated as a Tier 3 country under section 110(b)(1)(C) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)(C));

(D) that is included on the list published by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 404(b)(1) of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2370c–1(b)(1)) as a government that recruits and uses child soldiers; or

(E) the government of which the United States determines to have committed genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, or ethnic cleansing.

SEC. 1298. CONFRONTING DIGITAL AUTHORITARIANISM.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to combat digital authoritarianism, including the use of digital technologies, that—

(A) restricts the exercise of civil and political rights (as defined in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, done at New York December 16, 1966);

(B) weakens democratic processes and institutions, including elections; or

(C) surveils, censors, or represses human rights defenders, democracy activists, civil society actors, independent media, or political opponents;

(2) to promote internet freedom; and

(3) to support efforts to counter government censorship and surveillance, including efforts—

(A) to bypass internet shutdowns and other forms of censorship, including blocks on services through circumvention technologies; and

(B) to provide digital security support and training for democracy activists, journalists, and other at-risk groups.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the efforts to implement the policy objectives described in subsection (a).

SEC. 1299. PROTECTING POLITICAL PRISONERS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that includes, with respect to unjustly detained political prisoners worldwide—

(1) a description of existing Department of State processes and efforts to carry out the political prisoner-related activities described in subsection (b);

(2) an assessment of any resource gaps or institutional deficiencies that adversely impact the Department of State's ability to engage in the activities described in subsection (b) in order to respond to increasing numbers of unjustly detained political prisoners; and

(3) a strategy for enhancing the efforts of the Department of State and other Federal

agencies to carry out the political prisoner-related activities described in subsection (b).

(b) POLITICAL PRISONER-RELATED ACTIVITIES.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of the Department of State's efforts—

(1) to monitor regional and global trends concerning unjustly detained political prisoners and maintain information regarding individual cases;

(2) to consistently raise concerns regarding unjustly detained political prisoners, including specific individuals, through public and private engagement with foreign governments, public reporting, and multilateral engagement;

(3) to routinely—

(A) attend the trials of political prisoners;

(B) conduct wellness visits of political prisoners, to the extent practicable and pending approval from political prisoners or their legal counsel;

(C) visit political prisoners incarcerated under home arrest, subject to a travel ban, or confined in detention; and

(D) report on the well-being of such political prisoners;

(4) to regularly request information and specific actions related to individual prisoners' medical conditions, treatment, access to legal counsel, location, and family visits;

(5) to identify cases in which an imminent arrest, a potential re-arrest, or physical violence poses a risk to an at-risk individual;

(6) to utilize embassy resources to provide shelter or facilitate the safe evacuation of willing individuals and their families, whenever feasible; and

(7) to use accountability mechanisms to encourage the release of unjustly detained political prisoners.

SA 3058. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2024

SEC. 1291. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2024''.

PART I—COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING ABROAD

SEC. 1292. EXPANDING PREVENTION EFFORTS AT THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to strengthen prevention efforts by the United States abroad, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as the ''Administrator'') shall, to the extent practicable and appropriate—

(1) encourage the integration of activities to counter trafficking in persons (referred to in this section as ''C-TIP'') into broader assistance programming;

(2) determine a reasonable definition for the term ''C-TIP Integrated Development Programs,'' which shall include any programming to address health, food security, economic development, education, democracy and governance, and humanitarian assistance that includes a sufficient C-TIP element; and

(3) ensure that each mission of the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this section as ''USAID'')—

(A) integrates a C-TIP component into development programs, project design, and methods for program monitoring and evaluation, as necessary and appropriate, when addressing issues, including—

(i) health;

(ii) food security;

(iii) economic development;

(iv) education;

(v) democracy and governance; and

(vi) humanitarian assistance;

(B) continuously adapts, strengthens, and implements training and tools related to the integration of a C-TIP perspective into the work of development actors; and

(C) encourages USAID Country Development Cooperation Strategies to include C-TIP components in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, as necessary and appropriate.

(b) REPORTS AND BRIEFINGS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of an Act making appropriations for the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs through fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on obligations and expenditures of all funds managed by the Department of State and USAID in the prior fiscal year to combat human trafficking and forced labor, including integrated C-TIP activities.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of funding aggregated by program, project, and activity; and

(B) a description of the management structure at the Department of State and USAID used to manage such programs.

(3) BIENNIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 6 months of after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter through fiscal year 2027, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator, shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on the implementation of subsection (a).

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

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

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

SEC. 1293. COUNTER-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS EFFORTS IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE POLICY.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 102(b)(4)(22 U.S.C. 2151–1(b)(4))—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) effective counter-trafficking in persons policies and programs.''; and

(2) in section 492(d)(1)(22 U.S.C. 2292a(d)(1))—

(A) by striking ''that the funds'' and inserting the following: ''that—

''(A) the funds'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), as added by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) in carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the President shall, to the greatest extent possible—

''(i) ensure that assistance made available under this section does not create or contribute to conditions that can be reasonably expected to result in an increase in trafficking in persons who are in conditions of heightened vulnerability as a result of natural and manmade disasters; and

''(ii) integrate appropriate protections into the planning and execution of activities authorized under this chapter.''.

SEC. 1294. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO TIER RANKINGS.

(a) MODIFICATIONS TO TIER 2 WATCH LIST.—Section 110(b)(2) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)), is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL'' and inserting ''TIER 2''; and

(2) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''of the following countries'' and all that follows through ''annual report, where—''and inserting ''of countries that have been listed pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) pursuant to the current annual report, in which—''; and

(B) by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and moving such clauses (as so redesignated) 2 ems to the left.

(b) MODIFICATION TO SPECIAL RULE FOR DOWNGRADED AND REINSTATED COUNTRIES.—Section 110(b)(2)(F) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(2)(F)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''special watch list described in subparagraph (A)(iii) for more than 1 consecutive year after the country'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A) for more than one year immediately after the country consecutively'';

(2) in clause (i), in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''special watch list described in subparagraph (A)(iii)'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list described in subparagraph (A)''; and

(3) in clause (ii), by inserting ''in the year following such waiver under subparagraph (D)(ii)'' after ''paragraph (1)(C)''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.—Section 110(b) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)), as amended by subsections (a) and (b), is further amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL WATCH LIST'' and inserting ''TIER 2 WATCH LIST''; and

(II) by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''SPECIAL WATCH LIST'' and inserting ''TIER 2 WATCH LIST''; and

(II) in clause (i), by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list'';

(B) in paragraph (3)(B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of''; and

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''each country described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''each country described in paragraph (2)(A)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking ''the Special Watch List'' and inserting ''the Tier 2 watch list''.

(2) FREDERICK DOUGLASS TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PREVENTION AND PROTECTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018.—Section 204(b)(1) of the

Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–425) is amended by striking ''special watch list'' and inserting ''Tier 2 watch list''.

SEC. 1295. MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROGRAM TO END MODERN SLAVERY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the International Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2024'';

(2) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking ''APPROPRIATIONS'' in the heading and all that follows through ''There is authorized'' and inserting ''APPROPRIATIONS .—There is authorized''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(3) in subsection (h)(1), by striking ''Not later than September 30, 2018, and September 30, 2020'' and inserting ''Not later than September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2028''.

(b) AWARD OF FUNDS.—All grants issued under the Program to End Modern Slavery of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons shall be—

(1) awarded on a competitive basis; and

(2) subject to the regular congressional notification procedures applicable with respect to grants made available under section 1298(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114(b)).

SEC. 1296. CLARIFICATION OF NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE OF WITHHELD ASSISTANCE.—Section 110(d)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) WITHHOLDING OF ASSISTANCE.—The President has determined that—

''(A) the United States will not provide nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance to the central government of the country or funding to facilitate the participation by officials or employees of such central government in educational and cultural exchange programs, for the subsequent fiscal year until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance; and

''(B) the President will instruct the United States Executive Director of each multilateral development bank and of the International Monetary Fund to vote against, and to use the Executive Director's best efforts to deny, any loan or other utilization of the funds of the respective institution to that country (other than for humanitarian assistance, for trade-related assistance, or for development assistance that directly addresses basic human needs, is not administered by the central government of the sanctioned country, and is not provided for the benefit of that government) for the subsequent fiscal year until such government complies with the minimum standards or makes significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.''.

(b) DEFINITION OF NON-HUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE RELATED ASSISTANCE.—Section 103(10) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(10)) is amended to read as follows:

''(10) NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance' means—

''(i) United States foreign assistance, other than—

''(I) with respect to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961—

''(aa) assistance for international narcotics and law enforcement under chapter 8 of part I of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2291 et seq.);

''(bb) assistance for International Disaster Assistance under subsections (b) and (c) of section 491 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2292);

''(cc) antiterrorism assistance under chapter 8 of part II of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2349aa et seq.); and

''(dd) health programs under chapters 1 and 10 of part I and chapter 4 of part II of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.);

''(II) assistance under the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.);

''(III) assistance under sections 2(a), (b), and (c) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601(a), (b), (c)) to meet refugee and migration needs;

''(IV) any form of United States foreign assistance provided through nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, or private sector partners—

''(aa) to combat human and wildlife trafficking;

''(bb) to promote food security;

''(cc) to respond to emergencies;

''(dd) to provide humanitarian assistance;

''(ee) to address basic human needs, including for education;

''(ff) to advance global health security; or

''(gg) to promote trade; and

''(V) any other form of United States foreign assistance that the President determines, by not later than October 1 of each fiscal year, is necessary to advance the security, economic, humanitarian, or global health interests of the United States without compromising the steadfast U.S. commitment to combatting human trafficking globally; or

''(ii) sales, or financing on any terms, under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), other than sales or financing provided for narcotics-related purposes following notification in accordance with the prior notification procedures applicable to reprogrammings pursuant to section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1).

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'nonhumanitarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance' shall not include payments to or the participation of government entities necessary or incidental to the implementation of a program that is otherwise consistent with section 110.''.

SEC. 1297. PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY FOREIGN MISSION OFFICIALS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION PERSONNEL.

Section 203(b) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1375c(b)) is amended by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) NATIONAL EXPANSION OF IN-PERSON REGISTRATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall administer the Domestic Worker In-Person Registration Program for employees with A–3 visas or G–5 visas employed by accredited foreign mission members or international organization employees and shall expand this program nationally, which shall include—

''(A) after the arrival of each such employee in the United States, and annually during the course of such employee's employment, a description of the rights of such employee under applicable Federal and State law; and

''(B) provision of a copy of the pamphlet developed pursuant to section 202 to the employee with an A–3 visa or a G–5 visa; and

''(C) information on how to contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

''(6) MONITORING AND TRAINING OF A–3 AND G–5 VISA EMPLOYERS ACCREDITED TO FOREIGN MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary shall—

''(A) inform embassies, international organizations, and foreign missions of the rights of A–3 and G–5 domestic workers under the applicable labor laws of the United States, including the fair labor standards described in the pamphlet developed pursuant to section 202. Information provided to foreign missions, embassies, and international organizations should include material on labor standards and labor rights of domestic worker employees who hold A–3 and G–5 visas;

''(B) inform embassies, international organizations, and foreign missions of the potential consequences to individuals holding a nonimmigrant visa issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), (A)(ii), (G)(i), (G)(ii), or (G)(iii) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) who violate the laws described in subclause (I)(aa), including (at the discretion of the Secretary)—

''(i) the suspension of A–3 visas and G–5 visas;

''(ii) request for waiver of immunity;

''(iii) criminal prosecution;

''(iv) civil damages; and

''(v) permanent revocation of or refusal to renew the visa of the accredited foreign mission or international organization employee; and

''(C) require all accredited foreign mission and international organization employers of individuals holding A–3 visas or G–5 visas to report the wages paid to such employees on an annual basis.''.

SEC. 1298. EFFECTIVE DATES.

Sections 1294(b) and 1296 and the amendments made by those sections take effect on the date that is the first day of the first full reporting period for the report required by section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)) after the date of the enactment of this Act.

PART II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 1299. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.

Section 113 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7110) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2018 through 2021, $13,822,000'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028, $17,000,000''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''2018 through 2021, $65,000,000'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028, $102,500,000, of which $22,000,000 shall be made available each fiscal year to the United States Agency for International Development and the remainder of'';

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) to fund programs to end modern slavery, in an amount not to exceed $37,500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2028.''.

SEC. 1299A. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATIONS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL MEGAN'S LAW.

Section 11 of the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders (34 U.S.C. 21509) is amended by striking ''2018 through 2021'' and inserting ''2024 through 2028''.

PART III—BRIEFINGS

SEC. 1299B. BRIEFING ON ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSON'S REPORT.

Not later than 30 days after the public designation of country tier rankings and subsequent publishing of the Trafficking in Persons Report, the Secretary of State shall

brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on—

(1) countries that were downgraded or upgraded in the most recent Trafficking in Persons Report; and

(2) the efforts made by the United States to improve counter-trafficking efforts in those countries, including foreign government efforts to better meet minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking.

SEC. 1299C. BRIEFING ON USE AND JUSTIFICATION OF WAIVERS.

Not later than 30 days after the President has determined to issue a waiver under section 110(d)(5) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(d)(5)), the Secretary of State shall brief the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives on—

(a) each country that received a waiver;

(b) the justification for each such waiver; and

(c) a description of the efforts made by each country to meet the minimum standards to eliminate human trafficking.

PART IV—INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROTECTION ACT

SEC. 1299D. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), there are approximately 240,000,000 children and youth with disabilities in the world, including approximately 53,000,000 children under the age of 5.

(2) Millions of children, particularly children with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, are placed in large or small residential institutions and most of those children are left to grow up without love, support, and guidance of a family.

(3) The vast majority of children placed in residential institutions have at least one living parent or have extended family, many of whom would keep their children at home, if they had the support and legal protections necessary to do so.

(4) Leading child protection organizations have documented that children and adolescents raised without families in residential institutions face high risk of violence, trafficking for forced labor or sex, forced abortion or sterilization, and criminal detention.

(5) According to the Department of State, persons with disabilities face a heightened risk of human trafficking, including children in residential institutions, who may be targeted by traffickers seeking to coerce them to leave or find ways to exploit them.

(6) According to the Department of State, residential institutions have been complicit or directly involved in human trafficking, even extending to the practice of recruiting children for residential institutions for such purposes.

(7) Children with disabilities placed in residential institutions remain vulnerable to human trafficking even after leaving, in part due to the physical and psychological damage such children have suffered, social isolation, and inadequate schooling, and traffickers target individuals who leave or age out of institutions.

SEC. 1299E. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) stigma and discrimination against children with disabilities, particularly intellectual and other developmental disabilities, and lack of support for community inclusion have left people with disabilities and their families economically and socially marginalized;

(2) organizations of persons with disabilities and family members of persons with disabilities are often too small to apply for or obtain funds from domestic or international sources or ineligible to receive funds from such sources;

(3) as a result of the factors described in paragraphs (1) and (2), key stakeholders have often been left out of public policymaking on matters that affect children with disabilities; and

(4) financial support, technical assistance, and active engagement of persons with disabilities and their families is needed to ensure the development of effective policies that protect families, ensure the full inclusion in society of children with disabilities, and promote the ability of persons with disabilities to live in the community with choices equal to others.

SEC. 1299F. DEFINITIONS.

In this part:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of State.

(2) ELIGIBLE IMPLEMENTING PARTNER.—The term ''eligible implementing partner'' means a nongovernmental organization or other civil society organization that—

(A) has the capacity to administer grants directly or through subgrants that can be effectively used by local organizations of persons with disabilities; and

(B) has international expertise in the rights of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities and their families.

(3) ORGANIZATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.—The term ''organization of persons with disabilities'' means a nongovernmental civil society organization run by and for persons with disabilities and families of children with disabilities.

SEC. 1299G. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) assist partner countries in developing policies and programs that recognize, support, and protect the civil and political rights of and enjoyment of fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, including children, such that the latter may grow and thrive in supportive family environments and make the transition to independent living as adults, and to counter human trafficking of children with disabilities within residential institutions;

(2) promote the development of advocacy and leadership skills among persons with disabilities and their families in a manner that enables effective civic engagement, including at the local, national, and regional levels, and promote policy reforms and programs that support full economic and civic inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families;

(3) promote the development of laws and policies that—

(A) strengthen families and protect against the unnecessary institutionalization of children with disabilities; and

(B) create opportunities for children and youth with disabilities to access the resources and support needed to achieve their full potential to live independently in the community with choices equal to others;

(4) promote the participation of persons with disabilities and their families in advocacy efforts and legal frameworks to recognize, support, and protect the civil and political rights of and enjoyment of fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities; and

(5) promote the sustainable action needed to bring about changes in law, policy, and programs to ensure full family inclusion of children with disabilities and the transition of children with disabilities to independent living as adults.

SEC. 1299H. INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROTECTION PROGRAM AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

(a) INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROTECTION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be established within the Department of State a program to be known as the ''International Children with Disabilities Protection Program'' (in this section referred to as the ''Program'') to carry out the policy described in section 1299G.

(2) CRITERIA.—In carrying out the Program under this section, the Secretary of State, in consultation with leading civil society groups with expertise in the protection of civil and political rights of and enjoyment of fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities, may establish criteria for priority activities under the Program in selected countries.

(3) DISABILITY INCLUSION GRANTS.—The Secretary of State may award grants to eligible implementing partners to administer grant amounts directly or through subgrants.

(4) SUBGRANTS.—An eligible implementing partner that receives a grant under paragraph (3) should provide subgrants and, in doing so, shall prioritize local organizations of persons with disabilities working within a focus country or region to advance the policy described in section 1299G.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of funds made available in fiscal years 2025 through 2030 to carry out the purposes of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part amounts as follows:

(A) $2,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

(B) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

(2) CAPACITY-BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by paragraph (1), not less than $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030 should be available for capacity-building and technical assistance programs to—

(A) develop the leadership skills of persons with disabilities, legislators, policymakers, and service providers in the planning and implementation of programs to advance the policy described in section 1299G;

(B) increase awareness of successful models of the promotion of civil and political rights and fundamental freedoms, family support, and economic and civic inclusion among organizations of persons with disabilities and allied civil society advocates, attorneys, and professionals to advance the policy described in section 1299G; and

(C) create online programs to train policymakers, advocates, and other individuals on successful models to advance reforms, services, and protection measures that enable children with disabilities to live within supportive family environments and become full participants in society, which—

(i) are available globally;

(ii) offer low-cost or no-cost training accessible to persons with disabilities, family members of such persons, and other individuals with potential to offer future leadership in the advancement of the goals of family inclusion, transition to independent living as adults, and protection measures for children with disabilities; and

(iii) should be targeted to government policymakers, advocates, and other potential allies and supporters among civil society groups.

SEC. 1299I. ANNUAL REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than annually through fiscal year 2030, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on—

(A) the programs and activities carried out to advance the policy described in section 1299G; and

(B) any broader work of the Department in advancing that policy.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to each program carried out under section 1299H—

(A) the rationale for the country and program selection;

(B) the goals and objectives of the program, and the kinds of participants in the activities and programs supported;

(C) a description of the types of technical assistance and capacity building provided; and

(D) an identification of any gaps in funding or support needed to ensure full participation of organizations of persons with disabilities or inclusion of children with disabilities in the program.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In preparing each report required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall consult with organizations of persons with disabilities.

SEC. 1299J. PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PROGRAMMING AND PROGRAMS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all programming of the Department and the United States Agency for International Development related to health systems; countering human trafficking, strengthening, primary and secondary education, and the protection of civil and political rights of persons with disabilities should seek to be consistent with the policy described in section 1299G; and

(2) programs of the Department and the United States Agency for International Development related to children, global health, countering human trafficking, and education—

(A) should—

(i) engage organizations of persons with disabilities in policymaking and program implementation; and

(ii) support full inclusion of children with disabilities in families; and

(B) should aim to avoid support for residential institutions for children with disabilities except in situations of conflict or emergency in a manner that protects family connections as described in subsection (b).

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CONFLICT AND EMERGENCIES.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) programs of the Department and the United States Agency for International Development serving children in situations of conflict or emergency, among displaced or refugee populations, or in natural disasters should seek to ensure that children with and without disabilities can maintain family ties; and

(2) in situations of emergency, if children are separated from parents or have no family, every effort should be made to ensure that children are placed with extended family, in kinship care, or in an adoptive or foster family.

SA 3059. Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—Keep STEM Talent Act

SEC. 1096. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Keep STEM Talent Act of 2024''.

SEC. 1097. VISA REQUIREMENTS.

(a) GRADUATE DEGREE VISA REQUIREMENTS.—To be approved for or maintain nonimmigrant status under section 101(a)(15)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)), a student seeking to pursue an advanced degree in a STEM field (as defined in section 201(b)(1)(F)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1)(F)(ii))) (as amended by section 1098(a) of this Act) for a degree at the master's level or higher at a United States institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) must apply for a nonimmigrant visa and admission, or must apply to change or extend nonimmigrant status and have such application approved, prior to beginning such advanced degree program.

(b) STRENGTHENED VETTING PROCESS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall establish procedures to ensure that aliens described in subsection (a) are admissible pursuant to section 212(a)(3)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(A)). Such procedures shall ensure that such aliens seeking change or extension of nonimmigrant status from within the United States undergo verification of academic credentials, comprehensive background checks, and interviews in a manner equivalent to that of an alien seeking a nonimmigrant visa and admission from outside the United States. To the greatest extent practicable, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall also take steps to ensure that such applications for a nonimmigrant visa and admission, or change or extension of nonimmigrant status, are processed in a timely manner to allow the pursuit of graduate education. No court shall have jurisdiction to review the denial of an application for change or extension of nonimmigrant status filed by an alien described in subsection (a).

(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall submit an annual report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives detailing the implementation and effectiveness of the requirement for foreign graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in STEM fields to seek a nonimmigrant visa and admission, or change or extension of nonimmigrant status, prior to pursuing a graduate degree program. The report shall include data on visa application volumes, processing times, security outcomes, and economic impacts.

SEC. 1098. LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR CERTAIN ADVANCED STEM DEGREE HOLDERS.

(a) ALIENS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECT NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Section 201(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F)(i) Aliens who—

''(I)(aa) have earned a degree in a STEM field at the master's level or higher, while physically present in the United States from a United States institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) accredited by an accrediting entity recognized by the Department of Education;

''(bb) have an offer of employment from, or are employed by, a United States employer to perform work that is directly related to such degree at a rate of pay that is higher than the median wage level for the occupational classification in the area of employment, as determined by the Secretary of Labor; and

''(cc) have an approved labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A)(i); or

''(II) are the spouses and children of aliens described in subclause (I) who are accompanying or following to join such aliens.

''(ii) In this subparagraph, the term 'STEM field' means a field of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics described in the most recent version of the Classification of Instructional Programs of the Department of Education taxonomy under the summary group of—

''(I) computer and information sciences and support services;

''(II) engineering;

''(III) mathematics and statistics;

''(IV) biological and biomedical sciences;

''(V) physical sciences;

''(VI) agriculture sciences; or

''(VII) natural resources and conservation sciences.

''(iii) The Secretary of Homeland Security has the sole and unreviewable discretion to determine whether an alien's degree or degree program is in a STEM field.''.

(b) PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING IMMIGRATION STATUS.—Section 204(a)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(F)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''203(b)(2)'' and all that follows through ''Attorney General''; and

(2) by inserting ''203(b)(2), 203(b)(3), or 201(b)(1)(F) may file a petition with the Secretary of Homeland Security''.

(c) LABOR CERTIFICATION.—Section 212(a)(5)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(5)(D)) is amended by inserting ''section 201(b)(1)(F) or under'' after ''adjustment of status under''.

(d) DUAL INTENT FOR NONIMMIGRANTS SEEKING ADVANCED STEM DEGREES AT UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Notwithstanding sections 101(a)(15)(F)(i) and 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i) and 1184(b)), an alien who is a bona fide student admitted to a program in a STEM field (as defined in subparagraph (F)(ii) of section 201(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1))) for a degree at the master's level or higher at a United States institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))) accredited by an accrediting entity recognized by the Department of Education may obtain a student visa, be admitted to the United States as a nonimmigrant student, or extend or change nonimmigrant status to pursue such degree even if such alien seeks lawful permanent resident status in the United States. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to modify or amend section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) or 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i) or 1184(b)), or any regulation interpreting these authorities for an alien who is not described in this subsection.

SEC. 1099. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to expand the statutory law enforcement or regulatory authority of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of State.

SEC. 1100. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this subtitle.

SA 3060. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require

agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. DIGITAL ADVERTISING PLATFORMS PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISING REPORTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered digital advertising platform shall submit to the Commission an annual report that includes the following:

(1) The number and percentage of total advertisements on the platform during the previous 12-month period that were public service advertisements.

(2) The estimated dollar value of such public service advertisements.

(3) The number of such public service advertisements that focus on local or regional mental, behavioral, and physical health resources.

(4) The number of such public service advertisements that promote free mental, behavioral, or physical health care resources.

(5) A description of how such advertisements meet the definition of a public service advertisement as described in subsection (c)(3).

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after receiving the reports required under subsection (a), and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a publicly available report summarizing the information reported under such subsection.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) PUBLIC SERVICE ADVERTISEMENT.—The term ''public service advertisement'' means an advertisement that—

(A) a covered digital advertising platform displays for free and without receiving any payment or other consideration in exchange;

(B) promotes mental, behavioral, or physical health care resources, and may include advertisements that—

(i) raise awareness of community events to address social isolation; or

(ii) promote State, local, or regional mental health care resources that are approved by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that mitigate—

(I) self-harm, suicide, eating disorders, substance abuse, and other matters that pose a risk to physical and mental health;

(II) patterns of addiction-like behaviors; or

(III) social isolation; and

(C) is relevant and accessible to targeted audiences.

(3) COVERED DIGITAL ADVERTISING PLATFORM.—The term ''covered digital advertising platform'' means a social media platform, search engine, or other public-facing website, online service, or application that—

(A) sells digital advertising space; and

(B) has more than 100,000,000 unique monthly users.

(d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede any applicable privacy or data security laws.

SA 3061. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 865. SMALL BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Small Business Subcontractor Utilization Act of 2024''.

(b) REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE SUBCONTRACTORS ARE UTILIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SUBCONTRACTING PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (D) through (I), respectively;

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

''(C) If a subcontracting plan is required with respect to this contract under paragraph (4) or (5) of section 8(d) of the Small Business Act—

''(i) at the same time as the contractor submits the subcontracting report with respect to this contract, the contractor shall provide to the contracting officer a utilization report that identifies, for each covered small business subcontractor for this contract—

''(I) the service or product that the covered small business subcontractor is required to provide to the prime contractor;

''(II) the total contract dollars that are to be paid to the covered small business subcontractor;

''(III) the total contract dollars that have been paid to the covered small business subcontractor, to date;

''(IV) the estimated date range for the performance of the covered small business subcontractor on the contract; and

''(V) any change to the contract, including changes to the services and products required or total contract dollars, that impacts the ability of the prime contractor to utilize the covered small business subcontractor as anticipated during the bid and proposal process; and

''(ii) not later than 30 days after the deadline to submit to the contracting officer the subcontracting report with respect to this contract, the contractor shall provide to each covered small business subcontractor for this contract a utilization report that identifies, for that covered small business subcontractor—

''(I) the service or product that the covered small business subcontractor is required to provide to the prime contractor;

''(II) the total contract dollars that are to be paid to the covered small business subcontractor;

''(III) the total contract dollars that have been paid to the covered small business subcontractor, to date;

''(IV) the estimated date range for the performance of the covered small business subcontractor on the contract; and

''(V) any change to the contract, including changes to the services and products required or total contract dollars, that impacts the ability of the prime contractor to utilize the covered small business subcontractor as anticipated during the bid and proposal process.''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) In this contract, the term 'covered small business subcontractor' means a first-tier subcontractor that—

''(i) is a small business concern; and

''(ii)(I) was used in preparing the bid or proposal of the prime contractor; or

''(II) provides goods or services to the prime contractor in performance of the contract.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(18) NONCOMPLIANCE WITH SUBCONTRACTING PLAN.—

''(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

''(i) the term 'covered small business subcontractor' means a first-tier subcontractor that—

''(I) is a small business concern; and

''(II)(aa) was used in preparing the bid or proposal of the prime contractor; or

''(bb) provides goods or services to the prime contractor in performance of the contract; and

''(ii) the term 'subcontracting plan' means a subcontracting plan required under paragraph (4) or (5).

''(B) REVIEW.—A covered small business subcontractor is authorized to confidentially report to the contracting officer that the covered small business subcontractor is not being utilized in accordance with the subcontracting plan of the prime contractor. If reported, the contracting officer shall, in consultation with the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization or the Office of Small Business Programs, determine whether the prime contractor made a good faith effort to utilize the covered small business subcontractor in accordance with the subcontracting plan.

''(C) ACTION.—After the review required under subparagraph (B), if the contracting officer determines that the prime contractor failed to make a good faith effort to utilize the covered small business subcontractor in accordance with the subcontracting plan, the contracting officer shall assess liquidated damages in accordance with paragraph (4)(F).''.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall promulgate regulations pursuant to this Act.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, in consultation with relevant Federal agencies, including the General Services Administration, shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the improvements that can be made to SAM.gov, the Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS), the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS), and any other successor database to—

(1) incorporate the reporting requirements under the amendments made by subsection (b); and

(2) improve the ability of contracting officers to—

(A) evaluate whether prime contractors achieved their subcontracting goals; and

(B) make evidence-based determinations regarding whether small subcontractors are being utilized to the extent outlined in subcontracting plans.

SA 3062. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 865. UNCONDITIONAL OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEE-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration;

(2) the term ''budget justification materials'' has the meaning given that term in section 3(b)(2) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

(3) the term ''eligible worker-owned cooperative'' has the meaning given that term in section 1042(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(4) the term ''employee stock ownership plan'' has the meaning given that term in section 4975(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(5) the term ''small business concern owned and controlled by women'' has the meaning given that term in section 8(m)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(1)).

(b) REPORT ON OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL THROUGH AN EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN OR ELIGIBLE WORKER-OWNED COOPERATIVE RELATING TO SET-ASIDE PROCUREMENT.—

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

(A) employee stock ownership plans and eligible worker-owned cooperatives have unique ownership structures that create barriers to accessing set-aside procurement programs due to unconditional ownership and control requirements; and

(B) the ownership structures of an employee stock ownership plan or an eligible worker-owned cooperative should not prevent an otherwise eligible entity from accessing set-aside procurement programs.

(2) STUDY AND REPORT.—

(A) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with stakeholders, including national certifying agencies approved by the Administrator for certifying small business concerns owned and controlled by women and relevant Federal agencies, shall complete a study and recommend alternatives to unconditional ownership and control requirements for employee stock ownership plans and eligible worker-owned cooperatives that would enable access to set-aside procurement programs.

(B) REPORT.—The Administrator shall—

(i) not later than 5 days after the date on which the Administrator completes the study required under subparagraph (A), make that study, including the recommendations developed under that subparagraph, publicly available on the website of the Small Business Administration; and

(ii) not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator completes the study required under subparagraph (A), submit to Congress the recommendations developed under that subparagraph and a plan to implement the recommendations for all set-aside procurement programs.

(C) NECESSARY STATUTORY CHANGES.—In the first budget justification materials submitted by the Administrator on or after the date on which the Administrator submits the recommendations and plan required under subparagraph (B)(ii), the Administrator shall identify any applicable statutory changes necessary to implement the recommendations.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''(not including any stock owned by an ESOP)'' each place it appears;

(2) by striking paragraph (6); and

(3) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (6).

SA 3063. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 7 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3064. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike ''7 days'' and insert ''8 days''.

SA 3065. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date that is 9 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3066. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, strike ''9 days'' and insert ''10 days''.

SA 3067. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike ''10 days'' and insert ''11 days''.

SA 3068. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, insert the following:

Subtitle I—NSF AI Education Act of 2024

SEC. 1099. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''NSF AI Education Act of 2024''.

SEC. 1099A. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE; AI.—The term ''artificial intelligence'' or ''AI'' has the meaning given such term in section 5002 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

(2) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term ''community college'' has the meaning given the term ''junior or community college'' in section 312(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f)).

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(4) EMERGING RESEARCH INSTITUTION.—The term ''emerging research institution'' has the meaning given the term in section 10002 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18901).

(5) EPSCoR INSTITUTION.—The term ''EPSCoR institution'' means an institution of higher education, nonprofit organization, or other institution located in a jurisdiction eligible to participate in the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research under section 113 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1862g).

(6) HIGH SCHOOL.—The term ''high school'' has the meaning given that term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(7) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY.—The term ''historically Black college and university'' has the meaning given the term ''part B institution'' in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(8) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(9) KEY EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—The term ''key emerging technologies'' means the technologies included in the initial list of key technology focus areas set forth by section 10387(c) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19107(c)), photonics, and electronics.

(10) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term ''labor organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 2(5) of the National Labor Relations Act (29 U.S.C. 152(5)), except that such term shall also include—

(A) any organization composed of labor organizations, such as a labor union federation or a State or municipal labor body; and

(B) any organization that would be included in the definition for such term under such section 2(5) but for the fact that the organization represents—

(i) individuals employed by the United States, any wholly owned Government corporation, any Federal Reserve Bank, or any State or political subdivision thereof;

(ii) individuals employed by persons subject to the Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 151 et seq.); or

(iii) individuals employed as agricultural laborers.

(11) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term ''minority-serving institution'' has the meaning given the term in section 10002 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18901).

(12) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(13) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ''nonprofit organization'' means an organization which is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code.

(14) QUANTUM HYBRID COMPUTING.—The term ''quantum hybrid computing'' means the use of quantum computing in conjunction with classical computing.

(15) QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE.—The term ''quantum information science'' means the use of the laws of quantum physics for the storage, transmission, manipulation, computing, or measurement of information.

(16) RURAL-LOCATED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''rural-located institution of higher education'' means an institution of higher education that is located in or near areas that are not classified as urban by the Census Bureau.

(17) RURAL-SERVING INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''rural-serving institution of higher education'' means an institution of higher education that—

(A) primarily serves areas that are not classified as urban by the Census Bureau; and

(B) offers degrees that are unique and helpful to rural regions that are not classified as urban by the Census Bureau.

(18) STEM.—The term ''STEM'' means science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including computer science.

(19) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term ''Tribal College or University'' has the meaning given the term in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

SEC. 1099B. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EDUCATION.

(a) SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO AI OR QUANTUM HYBRID COMPUTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award merit- or need-based scholarships to undergraduate students at institutions of higher education in order to enable such students to study—

(A) the development, deployment, integration, or application of artificial intelligence; or

(B) quantum hybrid computing.

(2) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Scholarships awarded under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of annual grant awards for a 4-year period in amounts that cover the cost of tuition, education-related fees, and a stipend. Such scholarships shall be paid directly to the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled.

(b) SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO AI AND AGRICULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award merit- or need-based scholarships to undergraduate students at institutions of higher education in order to enable such students to study—

(A) artificial intelligence and agriculture; or

(B) the integration of artificial intelligence into agricultural operations, prediction, and decisionmaking.

(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding scholarships under this subsection, the Director shall give preference to students who are attending rural-located institutions of higher education, rural-serving institutions of higher education, or Tribal Colleges or Universities.

(3) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Scholarships awarded under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of annual grant awards for a 4-year period in amounts that cover the cost of tuition, education-related fees, and a stipend. Such scholarships shall be paid directly to the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled.

(c) SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO AI AND EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award merit- or need-based scholarships to undergraduate students at institutions of higher education in order to enable such students to study the teaching of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence skills at elementary schools, secondary schools, career and technical education schools, institutions of higher education, or through other higher education and professional education programs.

(2) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Scholarships awarded under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of annual grant awards for a 4-year period that cover the cost of tuition, education-related fees, and a stipend. Such scholarships shall be paid directly to the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled.

(d) SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO AI AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award merit- or need-based scholarships to undergraduate students at institutions of higher education in order to enable such students to study—

(A) artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing; or

(B) the integration of artificial intelligence into advanced manufacturing operations.

(2) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Scholarships awarded under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of annual grant awards for a 4-year period that cover the cost of tuition, education-related fees, and a stipend. Such scholarships shall be paid directly to the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled.

(e) METHOD.—The Director may carry out this section by making awards through new or existing programs.

SEC. 1099C. GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EDUCATION.

(a) GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO AI OR QUANTUM HYBRID COMPUTING.—The Director shall award merit- or need-based scholarships to graduate students at institutions of higher education in order to enable such students to study—

(1) the development, deployment, integration, or application of artificial intelligence; or

(2) quantum hybrid computing.

(b) SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO AI AND AGRICULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award merit- or need-based scholarships to graduate students at institutions of higher education in order to enable such students to study—

(A) artificial intelligence and agriculture; or

(B) the integration of artificial intelligence into agricultural operations, prediction, and decisionmaking.

(2) PRIORITY.—In awarding scholarships under this subsection, the Director shall give preference to students who are attending rural-located institutions of higher education, rural-serving institutions of higher education, or Tribal Colleges or Universities.

(c) GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO AI AND EDUCATION.—The Director shall award merit- or need-based scholarships to graduate students at institutions of higher education in order to enable such students to study the teaching of artificial intelligence and artificial intelligence skills at elementary schools, secondary schools, career and technical education schools, institutions of higher education, or through other higher education and professional education programs.

(d) GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS RELATED TO AI AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING.—The Director shall award merit- or need-based scholarships to graduate students at institutions of higher education in order to enable such students to study—

(1) artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing; or

(2) the integration of artificial intelligence into advanced manufacturing operations.

(e) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Scholarships awarded under this section shall be in the form of annual grant awards for a 3-year period that cover the cost of tuition, education-related fees, and a stipend. Such scholarships shall be paid directly to the institution of higher education in which the student is enrolled.

(f) METHOD.—The Director may carry out this section by making awards through new or existing programs.

SEC. 1099D. NSF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a program to promote the exchange of ideas and encourage collaborations between institutions of higher education and industry partners in the fields of artificial intelligence and key emerging technologies, including through fellowships for students and industry professionals.

(b) FELLOWSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall award merit-based fellowships for professionals for professional development programs in STEM fields or the field of education that are administered by or affiliated with institutions of higher education, in order to enable fellowship recipients to attain skills or training on—

(A) the development, deployment, integration, or application of artificial intelligence;

(B) prompt engineering; or

(C) quantum hybrid computing.

(2) FELLOWSHIP AWARDS.—Awards under this subsection shall be in the form of one annual award that covers the cost of tuition, education-related fees, and a stipend. Such awards shall be paid directly to the institution of higher education that administers, or that is affiliated with, the program in which the fellowship recipient is participating.

SEC. 1099E. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING FOR LAND-GRANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, in collaboration with the Director of the National Science Foundation, shall award grants to land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) for artificial intelligence in agriculture.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under this section may be used for—

(1) research and development on the use of artificial intelligence in agriculture or the integration of artificial intelligence into agricultural operations, predictions, and decision making;

(2) the dissemination of educational resources for artificial intelligence in rural areas; and

(3) artificial intelligence tools for agriculture.

SEC. 1099F. QUANTUM FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may establish or use existing programs to support fellowships and scholarships for students at institutions of higher education for the purpose of—

(1) increasing quantum information science, engineering, and technology exposure for undergraduate and graduate STEM students; and

(2) increasing post-graduation employment opportunities for STEM students who demonstrate potential to pursue careers in quantum information science, engineering, and

technology, or fields that support the quantum industry.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Eligible participants in the fellowship and scholarship program shall—

(1) be enrolled in or have graduated from a STEM degree program at a domestic institution of higher education; and

(2) have taken at least one quantum-science or quantum-relevant course as part of their degree programs.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—Eligible fellowships and scholarships may include temporary quantum-related positions at State or Federal agencies, National Laboratories, private sector entities, institutions of higher education, or other quantum-relevant entities, as determined appropriate by the Director.

(d) COMPETITIVE AWARDS.—Fellowships and scholarships shall be competitively awarded through a merit-review process. The Director may prioritize fellowships that include an industry partner that provides financial assistance to the applicant for direct or indirect costs.

SEC. 1099G. NSF OUTREACH CAMPAIGN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall carry out a nationwide outreach campaign to students at elementary schools, secondary schools, career and technical education schools, institutions of higher education, or through other higher education and professional education programs to increase awareness about AI or quantum education opportunities at the National Science Foundation.

(b) PRIORITY.—In carrying out such campaign, the Director shall prioritize outreach to underserved and rural areas.

SEC. 1099H. COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL CENTERS OF AI EXCELLENCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SCHOOL.—The term ''area career and technical education school'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

(2) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term ''eligible applicant'' means a community college, vocational school, or area career and technical education school, in partnership with 1 or more of the following:

(A) A Federal, State, local, or Tribal government entity.

(B) An institution of higher education.

(C) An entity in private industry.

(D) An economic development organization or venture development organization.

(E) A labor organization.

(F) A nonprofit organization.

(3) VENTURE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—The term ''venture development organization'' has the meaning given the term in section 27(a) of the Stevenson-Wydler Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3722(a)).

(4) VOCATIONAL SCHOOL.—The term ''vocational school'' has the meaning given the term ''postsecondary vocational institution'' in section 102(c) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(c)).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS OF AI EXCELLENCE.—The Director, in coordination with the Regional Technology Hubs program at the Department of Commerce and the Regional Innovation Engines program at the National Science Foundation, shall choose not less than 5 regionally and geographically diverse eligible applicants to be designated as Community College and Vocational School Centers of AI Excellence (referred to in this section as ''Centers of AI Excellence'').

(c) EPSCOR STATE PARTICIPATION.—Not less than 20 percent of designated Community College and Vocational School Centers of AI Excellence shall be eligible applicants that are located in a State jurisdiction eligible to participate in the National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research under section 113 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1862g).

(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible applicant that desires to be designated as a Center of AI Excellence shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may reasonably require. Such application shall specify a focus area for the Center of AI Excellence, which may be any of the following:

(1) AI education and training related to agriculture.

(2) AI education and training related to manufacturing.

(3) AI education.

(4) AI education and training related to another focus area as specified by the eligible applicant.

(e) ACTIVITIES.—A designated Center of AI Excellence shall develop and disseminate information about best practices for—

(1) artificial intelligence research and education at community colleges and area career and technical education schools;

(2) methods to scale up successful programs that perform research or provide education on artificial intelligence at community colleges and area career and technical education schools;

(3) providing hands-on research opportunities on artificial intelligence and learning opportunities for students that are enabled through artificial intelligence; and

(4) identifying pathways for students to jobs that are enabled by artificial intelligence.

SEC. 1099I. AWARD PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH ON AI IN EDUCATION.

(a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term ''eligible entity'' means—

(1) an institution of higher education;

(2) a nonprofit organization; or

(3) a consortium of 1 or more institution of higher education or a nonprofit organization and 1 or more private entities.

(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall make awards, on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis, to eligible entities, to enable the eligible entities to promote research on teaching models, tools, and materials for artificial intelligence and integration with other key emerging technologies, such as quantum information science and technologies and photonics, with a focus on teaching and learning for kindergarten through grade 12 students who are from low-income, rural, or Tribal populations.

(2) METHOD.—The Director may carry out this section by making awards through new or existing programs.

(c) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that desires to receive an award under this section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

(2) CONTENTS.—An application described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of the student demographics on which the research supported under the award intends to focus;

(B) a description of any regional partnerships the eligible entity plans to utilize to carry out the award;

(C) with respect to an application that concerns the use or integration of artificial intelligence, a description of potential ethical concerns and implications of teacher and student interactions with artificial intelligence systems;

(D) a description of how the research on teaching models, tools, and materials were developed in consultation with other educators, academia, industry, and civil society organizations; and

(E) such other information as the Director may require.

(d) USE OF AWARD FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives an award under this section shall carry out a program described in subsection (b)(1) that—

(1) emphasizes preparing incoming teachers to integrate artificial intelligence, key emerging technologies, and computational thinking into their classrooms in innovative ways; and

(2) supports research to develop, pilot, fully implement, or test areas, such as—

(A) instructional materials and high-quality learning opportunities for teaching artificial intelligence and key emerging technologies;

(B) models for the preparation of new teachers who will teach artificial intelligence and key emerging technologies;

(C) scalable models of professional development and ongoing support for teachers; and

(D) tools and models for teaching and learning aimed at supporting student success and inclusion in artificial intelligence and key emerging technologies across diverse populations, including low-income, rural, and Tribal populations.

SEC. 1099J. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AWARDS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) an elementary school or secondary school, as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8101);

(B) an institution of higher education, including—

(i) an emerging research institution;

(ii) an EPSCoR institution;

(iii) a minority-serving institution;

(iv) a historically Black college or university;

(v) a Tribal College or University; or

(vi) a community college; or

(C) a technical and vocational school.

(2) TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL.—The term ''technical and vocational school'' has the meaning given the term ''area career and technical school'' in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).

(b) AWARDS AUTHORIZED.—The Director shall make awards to eligible entities to enable the eligible entities to provide or increase access to artificial intelligence tools and applications to the students and researchers served by the eligible entities.

(c) PREFERENCE.—In making awards under subsection (b), the Director shall give preference to eligible entities that—

(1) expand the geographic diversity of funded entities; or

(2) are emerging research institutions, EPSCoR institutions, minority-serving institutions, historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges or Universities, community colleges, or technical and vocational schools.

SEC. 1099K. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION NATIONAL STEM TEACHERS CORPS.

Section 10311(c)(6) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18991(c)(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(H) incorporating artificial intelligence skills development into the priorities of the

National STEM Teacher Corps, including prioritizing the development of artificial intelligence best practices for high school teachers, created in consultation with other educators and academia.''.

SEC. 1099L. GUIDANCE FOR THE INTRODUCTION AND USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Director, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, shall develop and make publicly available guidance for the introduction and use of artificial intelligence in prekindergarten through grade 12 classrooms.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) considerations for—

(A) the use of artificial intelligence in prekindergarten through grade 12 classrooms in rural areas and economically distressed areas; and

(B) the differing applications of artificial intelligence in STEM and the liberal arts; and

(2) a description of how the guidance was developed in consultation with educators, academia, industry, and civil society organizations.

SEC. 1099M. NSF GRAND CHALLENGES RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

(a) GRAND CHALLENGE.—The term ''grand challenge'' means a prize competition under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in coordination with the Secretaries of Labor and Education, shall support grand challenges to stimulate innovation regarding—

(1) how to train 1,000,000 or more workers, including educators, technical and vocational workers, and professionals, in the United States by 2028 in areas related to the creation, deployment, or use of artificial intelligence, such as foundational knowledge, critical thinking, programming skills, machine learning, or deep learning;

(2) how to overcome barriers in the development of the artificial intelligence education and training;

(3) methods and strategies for creating artificial intelligence education and training that does not displace workers, including teachers, in the workforce;

(4) ways to increase the number of women who receive artificial intelligence education and training; and

(5) how to ensure rural areas of the United States are able to benefit from artificial intelligence education and training.

SEC. 1099N. GIFT AUTHORITY.

In carrying out this subtitle, the Director may receive and use funds donated by others, including receipt and use of donations from private entities to fund scholarships and fellowships authorized under this subtitle.

SA 3069. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TRAINING RESOURCES AND TOOLKITS FOR SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term ''artificial intelligence'' has the meaning given such term in section 5002 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

(3) CENTER.—The term ''Center'' has the meaning given such term in section 25(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(5) HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership'' has the meaning given such term in section 25(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

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

(7) KEY EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—The term ''key emerging technologies'' means the technologies included in the initial list of key technology focus areas set forth by section 10387(c) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19107(c)), photonics, and electronics.

(8) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term ''rural community'' means a community that is located in areas that are not classified as urban by the Bureau of the Census.

(9) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Commerce.

(10) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given such term in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)).

(b) DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING RESOURCES AND TOOLKITS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, acting through the Director, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and the Centers and in consultation and coordination with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture, and such persons in the private sector as the Secretary of Commerce considers appropriate, develop training resources and toolkits for small business concerns, including small business concerns located in rural, Tribal, or underserved communities or involved in advanced manufacturing, relating to the adoption and use of artificial intelligence and such other key emerging technologies, such as quantum-hybrid computing, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) CONTENTS.—The training and toolkits developed under paragraph (1) shall include prompt engineering and the use of artificial intelligence or emerging technologies, such as quantum hybrid tools, relating to access to credit and capital, financial management and accounting, business planning and operations, cybersecurity, marketing, supply chain management, government contracting, and exporting.

(c) REVIEW AND UPDATE OF TRAINING RESOURCES AND TOOLKITS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall—

(1) review the training resources and toolkits developed pursuant to subsection (b); and

(2) update such resources and toolkits as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF TRAINING RESOURCES AND TOOLKITS.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration on the distribution and use of the training resources and toolkits that are developed pursuant to subsection (b) through the resource partners of the Small Business Administration, including small business development centers, women business centers, SCORE, veteran business opportunity centers, and the Apex Accelerator.

(e) GRANTS PROGRAM.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may carry out a program on the award of grants to persons providing training relating to artificial intelligence to small business concerns using the training resources developed under subsection (b).

(2) GIFT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may receive gifts that the Secretary shall use to carry out paragraph (1).

(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the development, distribution, and use of the training resources and toolkits developed pursuant to subsection (b).

(2) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—

(A) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to appropriate committees of Congress a biennial report on the development, distribution, and use of training resources and toolkits developed pursuant to subsection (b).

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted to subparagraph (A) shall include, for the period of covered by the report, the following:

(i) A list of the training resources and toolkits developed pursuant to subsection (b).

(ii) A description of the measurable outcomes of the distribution of such training resources and toolkits, including the following:

(I) The number and type of small business concerns using such training resources and toolkits.

(II) The effect of such use on the revenues, sales, and workforces of the small business concerns.

SA 3070. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. TRANSPARENCY WITH RESPECT TO CONTENT PROVENANCE INFORMATION.

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

(1) there is a lack of—

(A) visibility into how artificial intelligence systems work;

(B) transparency regarding the information used to train such systems; and

(C) consensus-based standards and practices to guide the development and deployment of such systems;

(2) it is becoming increasingly difficult to assess the nature, origins, and authenticity of digital content that has been generated or modified algorithmically;

(3) these deficiencies negatively impact the public and, particularly, the journalists, publishers, broadcasters, and artists whose content is used to train these systems and is manipulated to produce synthetic content and synthetically-modified content that competes unfairly in the digital marketplace with covered content; and

(4) the development and adoption of consensus-based standards would mitigate these impacts, catalyze innovation in this nascent industry, and put the United States in a position to lead the development of artificial intelligence systems moving forward.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term ''artificial intelligence'' has the meaning given the term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BLUE-TEAMING.—The term ''artificial intelligence blue-teaming'' means an effort to conduct operational vulnerability evaluations and provide mitigation techniques to entities who have a need for an independent technical review of the security posture of an artificial intelligence system.

(3) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RED-TEAMING.—The term ''artificial intelligence red-teaming'' means structured adversarial testing efforts of an artificial intelligence system to identify risks, flaws, and vulnerabilities of the artificial intelligence system, such as harmful outputs from the system, unforeseen or undesirable system behaviors, limitations, or potential risks associated with the misuse of the system.

(4) CONTENT PROVENANCE INFORMATION.—The term ''content provenance information'' means state-of-the-art, machine-readable information documenting the origin and history of a piece of digital content, such as an image, a video, audio, or text.

(5) COVERED CONTENT .—The term ''covered content'' means a digital representation, such as text, an image, or audio or video content, of any work of authorship described in section 102 of title 17, United States Code.

(6) COVERED PLATFORM.—The term ''covered platform'' means a website, internet application, or mobile application available to users in the United States, including a social networking site, video sharing service, search engine, or content aggregation service available to users in the United States, that either—

(A) generates at least $50,000,000 in annual revenue; or

(B) had at least 25,000,000 monthly active users for not fewer than 3 of the 12 months immediately preceding any conduct by the covered platform in violation of this Act.

(7) DEEPFAKE.—The term ''deepfake'' means synthetic content or synthetically-modified content that—

(A) appears authentic to a reasonable person; and

(B) creates a false understanding or impression.

(8) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

(9) SYNTHETIC CONTENT.—The term ''synthetic content'' means information, including works of human authorship such as images, videos, audio clips, and text, that has been wholly generated by algorithms, including by artificial intelligence.

(10) SYNTHETICALLY-MODIFIED CONTENT.—The term ''synthetically-modified content'' means information, including works of human authorship such as images, videos, audio clips, and text, that has been significantly modified by algorithms, including by artificial intelligence.

(11) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ''Under Secretary'' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

(12) WATERMARKING.—The term ''watermarking'' means the act of embedding information that is intended to be difficult to remove into an output, including an output such as text, an image, an audio, a video, software code, or any other digital content or data, for the purposes of verifying the authenticity of the output or the identity or characteristics of its provenance, modifications, or conveyance

(c) FACILITATION OF DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR CONTENT PROVENANCE INFORMATION AND DETECTION OF SYNTHETIC CONTENT AND SYNTHETICALLY-MODIFIED CONTENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary shall establish a public-private partnership to facilitate the development of standards regarding content provenance information technologies and the detection of synthetic content and synthetically-modified content, including with respect to the following:

(A) Facilitating the development of guidelines and voluntary, consensus-based standards and best practices for watermarking, content provenance information, synthetic content and synthetically-modified content detection, including for images, audio, video, text, and multimodal content, the use of data to train artificial intelligence systems, and such other matters relating to transparency of synthetic media as the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

(B) Facilitating the development of guidelines, metrics, and practices to evaluate and assess tools to detect and label synthetic content, synthetically-modified content, and non-synthetic content, including artificial intelligence red-teaming and artificial intelligence blue-teaming.

(C) Establishing grand challenges and prizes in coordination with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Science Foundation to detect and label synthetic content, synthetically-modified content, and non-synthetic content and to develop cybersecurity and other countermeasures to defend against tampering with detection tools, watermarks, or content provenance information.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the standards described in paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall consult with the Register of Copyrights and the Director.

(d) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND PUBLIC EDUCATION REGARDING SYNTHETIC CONTENT AND SYNTHETICALLY-MODIFIED CONTENT.—

(1) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Under Secretary shall carry out a research program to enable advances in measurement science, standards, and testing relating to the robustness and efficacy of—

(A) technologies for synthetic content and synthetically-modified content detection, watermarking, and content provenance information; and

(B) cybersecurity protections and other countermeasures used to prevent tampering with such technologies.

(2) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS REGARDING SYNTHETIC CONTENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall, in consultation with the Register of Copyrights and the Director, carry out a public education campaign regarding synthetic content and synthetically-modified content (including deepfakes), watermarking, and content provenance information.

(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTENT PROVENANCE INFORMATION; PROHIBITED ACTS.—

(1) CONTENT PROVENANCE INFORMATION.—

(A) SYNTHETIC CONTENT AND SYNTHETICALLY-MODIFIED CONTENT.—Beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, any person who, for a commercial purpose, makes available in interstate commerce a tool used for the primary purpose of creating synthetic content or synthetically-modified content shall—

(i) taking into consideration the content provenance information standards established under subsection (c), provide users of such tool with the ability to include content provenance information that indicates the piece of digital content is synthetic content or synthetically-modified content for any synthetic content or synthetically-modified content created by the tool; and

(ii) in the event a user opts to include content provenance information under clause (i), establish, to the extent technically feasible, reasonable security measures to ensure that such content provenance information is machine-readable and not easily removed, altered, or separated from the underlying content.

(B) COVERED CONTENT.—Beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, any person who, for a commercial purpose, makes available in interstate commerce a tool used for the primary purpose of creating or substantially modifying covered content shall—

(i) taking into consideration the content provenance information standards established under subsection (c), provide users of such tool with the ability to include content provenance information for any covered content created or significantly modified by the tool; and

(ii) in the event a user opts to include content provenance information under clause (i), establish, to the extent technically feasible, reasonable security measures to ensure that such content provenance information is machine-readable and not easily removed, altered, or separated from the underlying content.

(2) REMOVAL OF CONTENT PROVENANCE INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly remove, alter, tamper with, or disable content provenance information in furtherance of an unfair or deceptive act or practice in or affecting commerce.

(B) COVERED PLATFORMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), it shall be unlawful for a covered platform, to remove, alter, tamper with, or disable content provenance information or to separate the content provenance information from the content so that the content provenance information cannot be accessed by users of the platform.

(ii) EXCEPTION FOR SECURITY RESEARCH.—A covered platform shall not be liable for a violation of clause (i) if such covered platform removes, alters, tampers with, or disables content provenance information for a purpose necessary, proportionate, and limited to perform research to enhance the security of the covered platform.

(3) PROHIBITION ON NON-CONSENSUAL USE OF COVERED CONTENT THAT HAS ATTACHED OR ASSOCIATED CONTENT PROVENANCE INFORMATION.—It shall be unlawful for any person, for a commercial purpose, to knowingly use any covered content that has content provenance information that is attached to or associated with such covered content or covered content from which the person knows or should know that content provenance information has been removed or separated in violation of paragraph (2), in order to train a system

that uses artificial intelligence or an algorithm or to generate synthetic content or synthetically-modified content unless such person obtains the express, informed consent of the person who owns the covered content, and complies with any terms of use pertaining to the use of such content, including terms regarding compensation for such use, as required by the owner of copyright in such content.

(f) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) ENFORCEMENT BY THE COMMISSION.—

(A) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(B) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(ii) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates this section, or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(iii) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(2) ENFORCEMENT BY STATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that an interest of the residents of the State has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the engagement of any person in a practice that violates this section, the attorney general of the State may, as parens patriae, bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate district court of the United States to—

(i) enjoin further violation of this section by such person;

(ii) compel compliance with this section;

(iii) obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation on behalf of such residents; and

(iv) obtain such other relief as the court may consider to be appropriate.

(B) RIGHTS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(i) NOTICE TO THE COMMISSION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (III), the attorney general of a State shall notify the Commission in writing that the attorney general intends to bring a civil action under subparagraph (A) before initiating the civil action.

(II) CONTENTS.—The notification required by subclause (I) with respect to a civil action shall include a copy of the complaint to be filed to initiate the civil action.

(III) EXCEPTION.—If it is not feasible for the attorney general of a State to provide the notification required by subclause (I) before initiating a civil action under subparagraph (A), the attorney general shall notify the Commission immediately upon instituting the civil action.

(ii) INTERVENTION BY THE COMMISSION.—The Commission may—

(I) intervene in any civil action brought by the attorney general of a State under subparagraph (A); and

(II) upon intervening—

(aa) be heard on all matters arising in the civil action; and

(bb) file petitions for appeal of a decision in the civil action.

(C) INVESTIGATORY POWERS.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prevent the attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of the State to conduct investigations, to administer oaths or affirmations, or to compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary or other evidence.

(D) ACTION BY THE COMMISSION.—If the Commission institutes a civil action or an administrative action with respect to a violation of this section, the attorney general of a State may not, during the pendency of such action, bring a civil action under subparagraph (A) against any defendant named in the complaint of the Commission for the violation with respect to which the Commission instituted such action.

(E) VENUE; SERVICE OR PROCESS.—

(i) VENUE.—Any action brought under subparagraph (A) may be brought in—

(I) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(II) another court of competent jurisdiction.

(ii) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under subparagraph (A), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

(I) is an inhabitant; or

(II) may be found.

(F) ACTIONS BY OTHER STATE OFFICIALS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to civil actions brought by attorneys general under subparagraph (A), any other officer of a State who is authorized by the State to do so may bring a civil action under subparagraph (A), subject to the same requirements and limitations that apply under this paragraph to civil actions brought by attorneys general.

(ii) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to prohibit an authorized official of a State from initiating or continuing any proceeding in a court of the State for a violation of any civil or criminal law of the State.

(G) DAMAGES.—If a person brings a civil action for a violation of this section pursuant to paragraph (3) and receives any monetary damages, the court shall reduce the amount of any damages awarded under this paragraph by the amount of monetary damages awarded to such person.

(3) ENFORCEMENT BY PRIVATE PARTIES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person who owns covered content that has content provenance information that is attached to or associated with such covered content may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against—

(i) any person or covered platform for removing, altering, tampering with, or disabling such content provenance information in violation of subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (e)(2); and

(ii) any person for using such covered content in violation of subsection (e)(3).

(B) RELIEF.—In a civil action brought under subparagraph (A) in which the plaintiff prevails, the court may award the plaintiff declaratory or injunctive relief, compensatory damages, and reasonable litigation expenses, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

(C) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—An action for a violation of this section brought under this paragraph may be commenced not later than 4 years after the date upon which the plaintiff discovers or should have discovered the facts giving rise to such violation.

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section does not impair or in any way alter the rights of copyright owners under any other applicable law.

(h) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, or an amendment made by this section, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this section and the amendments made by this section shall not be affected.

SA 3071. Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION __—FUTURE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INNOVATION

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Future of Artificial Intelligence Innovation Act of 2024''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 3. Definitions.
TITLE I—VOLUNTARY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STANDARDS, METRICS, EVALUATION TOOLS, TESTBEDS, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
Subtitle A—Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute and Testbeds
Sec. 101. Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute.
Sec. 102. Program on artificial intelligence testbeds.
Sec. 103. National Institute of Standards and Technology and Department of Energy testbed to identify, test, and synthesize new materials.
Sec. 104. National Science Foundation and Department of Energy collaboration to make scientific discoveries through the use of artificial intelligence.
Sec. 105. Progress report.
Subtitle B—International Cooperation
Sec. 111. International coalition on innovation, development, and harmonization of standards with respect to artificial intelligence.
Sec. 112. Requirement to support bilateral and multilateral artificial intelligence research collaborations.
Subtitle C—Identifying Regulatory Barriers to Innovation
Sec. 121. Comptroller General of the United States identification of risks and obstacles relating to artificial intelligence and Federal agencies.
TITLE II—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES
Sec. 201. Public data for artificial intelligence systems.
Sec. 202. Federal grand challenges in artificial intelligence.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that policies governing artificial intelligence should maximize the potential and development of artificial intelligence to benefit all private and public stakeholders.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given such term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code, except such term shall include an independent regulatory agency, as defined in such section.

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—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) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BLUE-TEAMING.—The term ''artificial intelligence blue-teaming'' means an effort to conduct operational network vulnerability evaluations and provide mitigation techniques to entities who have a need for an independent technical review of the network security posture of an artificial intelligence system.

(4) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MODEL.—The term ''artificial intelligence model'' means a component of an artificial intelligence system that is a model—

(A) derived using mathematical, computational, statistical, or machine-learning techniques; and

(B) used as part of an artificial intelligence system to produce outputs from a given set of inputs.

(5) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RED-TEAMING.—The term ''artificial intelligence red-teaming'' means structured adversarial testing efforts of an artificial intelligence system to identify risks, flaws, and vulnerabilities of the artificial intelligence system, such as harmful outputs from the system, unforeseen or undesirable system behaviors, limitations, or potential risks associated with the misuse of the system.

(6) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK.—The term ''Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework'' means the most recently updated version of the framework developed and updated pursuant to section 22A(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278h–1(c)).

(7) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM.—The term ''artificial intelligence system'' has the meaning given such term in section 7223 of the Advancing American AI Act (40 U.S.C. 11301 note).

(8) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''critical infrastructure'' has the meaning given such term in section 1016(e) of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT ACT) Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

(9) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term ''Federal laboratory'' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(10) FOUNDATION MODEL.—The term ''foundation model'' means an artificial intelligence model trained on broad data at scale and is adaptable to a wide range of downstream tasks.

(11) GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term ''generative artificial intelligence'' means the class of artificial intelligence models that utilize the structure and characteristics of input data in order to generate outputs in the form of derived synthetic content. Such derived synthetic content can include images, videos, audio, text, software, code, and other digital content.

(12) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

(13) SYNTHETIC CONTENT.—The term ''synthetic content'' means information, such as images, videos, audio clips, and text, that has been significantly modified or generated by algorithms, including by artificial intelligence.

(14) TESTBED.—The term ''testbed'' means a facility or mechanism equipped for conducting rigorous, transparent, and replicable testing of tools and technologies, including artificial intelligence systems, to help evaluate the functionality, trustworthiness, usability, and performance of those tools or technologies.

(15) TEVV.—The term ''TEVV'' means methodologies, metrics, techniques, and tasks for testing, evaluating, verifying, and validating artificial intelligence systems or components.

(16) WATERMARKING.—The term ''watermarking'' means the act of embedding information that is intended to be difficult to remove, into outputs generated by artificial intelligence, including outputs such as text, images, audio, videos, software code, or any other digital content or data, for the purposes of verifying the authenticity of the output or the identity or characteristics of its provenance, modifications, or conveyance.

TITLE I—VOLUNTARY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STANDARDS, METRICS, EVALUATION TOOLS, TESTBEDS, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Subtitle A—Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute and Testbeds

SEC. 101. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SAFETY INSTITUTE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTITUTE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology (in this section referred to as the ''Under Secretary'') shall establish an institute on artificial intelligence.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The institute established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as the ''Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute'' (in this section referred to as the ''Institute'').

(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Institute is as follows:

(A) To assist the private sector and agencies in developing voluntary best practices for the robust assessment of artificial intelligence systems.

(B) To provide technical assistance for the adoption and use of artificial intelligence across the Federal Government to improve the quality of government services.

(C) To develop guidelines, methodologies, and best practices to promote—

(i) development and adoption of voluntary, consensus-based technical standards or industry standards;

(ii) long-term advancements in artificial intelligence technologies; and

(iii) innovation in the artificial intelligence industry by ensuring that companies of all sizes can succeed and thrive.

(b) DIRECTOR.—The Under Secretary shall appoint a director of the Institute, who shall be known as the ''Director of the Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute'' (in this section referred to as the ''Director'') and report directly to the Under Secretary.

(c) STAFF AND AUTHORITIES.—

(1) STAFF.—The Director may hire such full-time employees as the Director considers appropriate to assist the Director in carrying out the functions of the Institute.

(2) USE OF AUTHORITY TO HIRE CRITICAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS.—In addition to making appointments under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Director, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce, may make appointments of scientific, engineering, and professional personnel, and fix their basic pay, under subsection (b) of section 6 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 275) to hire critical technical experts.

(3) EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO HIRE CRITICAL TECHNICAL EXPERTS.—Such subsection is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''15'' and inserting ''30''.

(4) MODIFICATION OF SUNSET.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended by striking ''the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this section'' and inserting ''December 30, 2035''.

(5) AGREEMENTS.—The Director may enter into such agreements, including contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and other transactions, as the Director considers necessary to carry out the functions of the Institute and on such terms as the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.—In establishing the Institute, the Under Secretary shall—

(1) coordinate with—

(A) the Secretary of Energy;

(B) the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(C) the Secretary of Defense;

(D) the Director of the National Science Foundation; and

(E) the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy; and

(2) consult with the heads of such other Federal agencies as the Under Secretary considers appropriate.

(e) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Institute, which the Institute shall carry out in coordination with the laboratories of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, are as follows:

(1) RESEARCH, EVALUATION, TESTING, AND STANDARDS.—The following functions relating to research, evaluation, testing, and standards:

(A) Conducting measurement research into system and model safety, validity and reliability, security, capabilities and limitations, explainability, interpretability, and privacy.

(B) Working with the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, public-private partnerships, including the Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute Consortium established under subsection (f), and other private sector organizations to develop testing environments and perform regular benchmarking and capability evaluations, including artificial intelligence red-teaming as the Director considers appropriate.

(C) Working with consensus-based, open, and transparent standards development organizations (SDOs) and relevant industry, Federal laboratories, civil society, and academic institutions to advance development and adoption of clear, implementable, technically sound, and technology-neutral voluntary standards and guidelines that incorporate appropriate variations in approach depending on the size of the entity, the potential risks and potential benefits of the artificial intelligence system, and the role of the entity (such as developer, deployer, or user) relating to artificial intelligence systems.

(D) Building upon the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework to incorporate guidelines on generative artificial intelligence systems.

(E) Developing a companion resource to the Secure Software Development Framework to incorporate secure development practices for generative artificial intelligence and for foundation models.

(F) Developing and publishing cybersecurity tools, methodologies, best practices, voluntary guidelines, and other supporting information to assist persons who maintain systems used to create or train artificial intelligence models to discover and mitigate vulnerabilities and attacks.

(G) Coordinating or developing guidelines, metrics, benchmarks, and methodologies for

evaluating artificial intelligence systems, including the following:

(i) Cataloging existing artificial intelligence metrics, benchmarks, and evaluation methodologies used in industry and academia.

(ii) Testing and validating the efficacy of existing metrics, benchmarks, and evaluations, as well as TEVV tools and products.

(iii) Funding and facilitating research and other activities in a transparent manner, including at institutions of higher education and other nonprofit and private sector partners, to evaluate, develop, or improve TEVV capabilities, with rigorous scientific merit, for artificial intelligence systems.

(iv) Evaluating foundation models for their potential effect in downstream systems, such as when retrained or fine-tuned.

(H) Coordinating with counterpart institutions of international partners and allies to promote global interoperability in the development of research, evaluation, testing, and standards relating to artificial intelligence.

(I) Developing tools, methodologies, best practices, and voluntary guidelines for identifying vulnerabilities in foundation models.

(J) Developing tools, methodologies, best practices, and voluntary guidelines for relevant agencies to track incidents resulting in harm caused by artificial intelligence systems.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The following functions relating to implementation:

(A) Using publicly available and voluntarily provided information, conducting evaluations to assess the impacts of artificial intelligence systems, and developing guidelines and practices for safe development, deployment, and use of artificial intelligence technology.

(B) Aligning capability evaluation and red-teaming guidelines and benchmarks, sharing best practices, and coordinating on building testbeds and test environments with allies of the United States and international partners and allies.

(C) Coordinating vulnerability and incident data sharing with international partners and allies.

(D) Integrating appropriate testing capabilities and infrastructure for testing of models and systems.

(E) Establishing blue-teaming capabilities to develop mitigation approaches and partner with industry to address risks and negative impacts.

(F) Developing voluntary guidelines on—

(i) detecting synthetic content, authenticating content and tracking of the provenance of content, labeling original and synthetic content, such as by watermarking, and evaluating software and systems relating to detection and labeling of synthetic content;

(ii) ensuring artificial intelligence systems do not violate privacy rights or other rights; and

(iii) transparency documentation of artificial intelligence datasets and artificial intelligence models.

(G) Coordinating with relevant agencies to develop or support, as the heads of the agencies determine appropriate, sector- and application-specific profiles of the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework for different use cases, integrating end-user experience and on-going development work into a continuously evolving toolkit.

(3) OPERATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT.—The following functions relating to operations and engagement:

(A) Managing the work of the Institute, developing internal processes, and ensuring that the Institute meets applicable goals and targets.

(B) Engaging with the private sector to promote innovation and competitiveness.

(C) Engaging with international standards organizations, multilateral organizations, and similar institutes among allies and partners.

(f) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SAFETY INSTITUTE CONSORTIUM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall establish a consortium of stakeholders from academic or research communities, Federal laboratories, private industry, including companies of all sizes with different roles in the use of artificial intelligence systems, including developers, deployers, and users, and civil society with expertise in matters relating to artificial intelligence to support the Institute in carrying out the functions set forth under subsection (e).

(B) DESIGNATION.—The consortium established pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be known as the ''Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute Consortium''.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Under Secretary, acting through the Director, shall consult with the consortium established under this subsection not less frequently than quarterly.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the contributions of the members of the consortium established under this subsection in support the efforts of the Institute.

(g) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM TESTING.—In carrying out the Institute functions required by subsection (a), the Under Secretary shall support and contribute to the development of voluntary, consensus-based technical standards for testing artificial intelligence system components, including, as the Under Secretary considers appropriate, the following:

(1) Physical infrastructure for training or developing artificial intelligence models and systems, including cloud infrastructure.

(2) Physical infrastructure for operating artificial intelligence systems, including cloud infrastructure.

(3) Data for training artificial intelligence models.

(4) Data for evaluating the functionality and trustworthiness of trained artificial intelligence models and systems.

(5) Trained or partially trained artificial intelligence models and any resulting software systems or products.

(h) GIFTS.—

(1) AUTHORITY.—The Director may seek, accept, hold, administer, and use gifts from public and private sources whenever the Director determines it would be in the interest of the United States to do so.

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Director, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, shall ensure that authority under this subsection is exercised consistent with all relevant ethical constraints and principles, including—

(A) the avoidance of any prohibited conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety; and

(B) a prohibition against the acceptance of a gift from a foreign government or an agent of a foreign government.

(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology any enforcement authority that was not in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. PROGRAM ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TESTBEDS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(3) INSTITUTE.—The term ''Institute'' means the Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute established by section 101.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(5) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ''Under Secretary'' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

(b) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall, in coordination with the Secretary and the Director, establish and commence carrying out a testbed program to encourage collaboration and support partnerships between the National Laboratories, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource pilot program established by the Director of the National Science Foundation, or any successor program, and public and private sector entities, including companies of all sizes, to conduct research and development, tests, evaluations, and risk assessments of artificial intelligence systems, including measurement methodologies developed by the Institute.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out this program, the Under Secretary shall, in coordination with the Secretary—

(1) use the advanced computing resources, testbeds, and expertise of the National Laboratories, the Institute, the National Science Foundation, and private sector entities to run tests and evaluations on the capabilities and limitations of artificial intelligence systems;

(2) use existing solutions to the maximum extent practicable;

(3) develop automated and reproducible tests, evaluations, and risk assessments for artificial intelligence systems to the extent that is practicable;

(4) assess the computational resources necessary to run tests, evaluations, and risk assessments of artificial intelligence systems;

(5) research methods to effectively minimize the computational resources needed to run tests, evaluations, and risk assessments of artificial intelligence systems;

(6) consider developing tests, evaluations, and risk assessments for artificial intelligence systems that are designed for high-, medium-, and low-computational intensity; and

(7) prioritize identifying and evaluating scenarios in which the artificial intelligence systems tested or evaluated by a testbed could be deployed in a way that poses security risks, and either establishing classified testbeds, or utilizing existing classified testbeds, at the National Laboratories if necessary, including with respect to—

(A) autonomous offensive cyber capabilities;

(B) cybersecurity vulnerabilities in the artificial intelligence software ecosystem and beyond;

(C) chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, critical infrastructure, and energy-security threats or hazards; and

(D) such other capabilities as the Under Secretary determines necessary.

(d) CONSIDERATION GIVEN.—In carrying out the activities required by subsection (c), the

Under Secretary shall, in coordination with the Secretary, take under consideration the applicability of any tests, evaluations, and risk assessments to artificial intelligence systems trained using primarily biological sequence data, including those systems used for gene synthesis.

(e) METRICS.—The Under Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary, shall develop metrics—

(1) to assess the effectiveness of the program in encouraging collaboration and supporting partnerships as described in subsection (b); and

(2) to assess the impact of the program on public and private sector integration and use of artificial intelligence systems.

(f) USE OF EXISTING PROGRAM.—In carrying out the program required by subsection (a), the Under Secretary may, in collaboration with the Secretary and the Director, use a program that was in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(g) EVALUATION AND FINDINGS.—Not later than 3 years after the start of this program, the Under Secretary shall, in collaboration with the Secretary—

(1) evaluate the success of the program in encouraging collaboration and supporting partnerships as described in subsection (b), using the metrics developed pursuant to subsection (e);

(2) evaluate the success of the program in encouraging public and private sector integration and use of artificial intelligence systems by using the metrics developed pursuant to subsection (e); and

(3) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress the evaluation supported pursuant to paragraph (1) and the findings of the Under Secretary, the Secretary, and the Director with respect to the testbed program.

(h) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Under Secretary shall consult, as the Under Secretary considers appropriate, with the following:

(1) Industry, including private artificial intelligence laboratories, companies of all sizes, and representatives from the United States financial sector.

(2) Academia and institutions of higher education.

(3) Civil society.

(4) Third-party evaluators.

(i) ESTABLISHMENT OF FOUNDATION MODELS TEST PROGRAM.—In carrying out the program under subsection (b), the Under Secretary shall, acting through the Director of the Institute and in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, carry out a test program to provide vendors of foundation models the opportunity to voluntarily test foundation models across a range of modalities, such as models that ingest and output text, images, audio, video, software code, and mixed modalities, relative to the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework, by—

(1) conducting research and regular testing to improve and benchmark the accuracy, efficacy, and bias of foundation models;

(2) conducting research to identify key capabilities, limitations, and unexpected behaviors of foundation models;

(3) identifying and evaluating scenarios in which these models could pose risks;

(4) establishing reference use cases for foundation models and performance criteria for assessing each use case, including accuracy, efficacy, and bias metrics;

(5) enabling developers and deployers of foundation models to evaluate such systems for risks, incidents, and vulnerabilities if deployed in such use cases;

(6) coordinating public evaluations, which may include prizes and challenges, to evaluate foundation models; and

(7) as the Under Secretary and the Secretary consider appropriate, producing public-facing reports of the findings from such testing for a general audience.

(j) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a person to disclose any information, including information—

(1) relating to a trade secret or other protected intellectual property right;

(2) that is confidential business information; or

(3) that is privileged.

SEC. 103. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TESTBED TO IDENTIFY, TEST, AND SYNTHESIZE NEW MATERIALS.

(a) TESTBED AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the Secretary of Energy shall jointly establish a testbed to identify, test, and synthesize new materials to advance materials science and to support advanced manufacturing for the benefit of the United States economy through the use of artificial intelligence, autonomous laboratories, and artificial intelligence integrated with emerging technologies, such as quantum hybrid computing and robotics.

(b) SUPPORT FOR ACCELERATED TECHNOLOGIES.—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Energy shall ensure that technologies accelerated using the testbed established pursuant to subsection (a) are supported by advanced algorithms and models, uncertainty quantification, and software and workforce development tools to produce benchmark data, model comparison tools, and best practices guides.

(c) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Energy shall, in consultation with industry, civil society, and academia, enter into such public-private partnerships as the Secretaries jointly determine appropriate.

(d) RESOURCES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretaries may use resources from National Laboratories and the private sector.

SEC. 104. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY COLLABORATION TO MAKE SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES THROUGH THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation (referred to in this section as the ''Director'') and the Secretary of Energy (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall collaborate to support new translational scientific discoveries and advancements for the benefit of the economy of the United States through the use of artificial intelligence, including artificial intelligence integrated with emerging technologies, such as quantum hybrid computing and robotics.

(b) PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Director and the Secretary shall enter into such public-private partnerships as the Director and the Secretary jointly determine appropriate.

(c) RESOURCES.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Director and the Secretary may accept and use resources from the National Laboratories, resources from the private sector, and academic resources.

SEC. 105. PROGRESS REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Energy, submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this subtitle.

Subtitle B—International Cooperation

SEC. 111. INTERNATIONAL COALITION ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND HARMONIZATION OF STANDARDS WITH RESPECT TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (in this section referred to as the ''Director''), in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, shall jointly seek to form an alliance or coalition with like-minded governments of foreign countries—

(1) to cooperate on approaches to innovation and advancements in artificial intelligence and ecosystems for artificial intelligence;

(2) to coordinate on development and use of interoperable international standards or harmonization of standards with respect to artificial intelligence;

(3) to promote adoption of common artificial intelligence standards;

(4) to develop the government-to-government infrastructure needed to facilitate coordination of coherent global application of artificial intelligence safety standards, including, where appropriate, putting in place agreements for information sharing between governments; and

(5) to involve private-sector stakeholders from partner countries to help inform coalition partners on recent developments in artificial intelligence and associated standards development.

(b) CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION.—In forming an alliance or coalition of like-minded governments of foreign countries under subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of State, and the Director, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, shall jointly establish technology trust criteria—

(1) to ensure all participating countries that have a high level of scientific and technological advancement;

(2) to ensure all participating countries commit to using open international standards; and

(3) to support the governance principles for international standards as detailed in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, done at Geneva April 12, 1979, on international standards, such as transparency, openness, and consensus-based decision-making.

(c) CONSULTATION ON INNOVATION AND ADVANCEMENTS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—In forming an alliance or coalition under subsection (a), the Director, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of State shall consult with the Secretary of Energy and the Director of the National Science Foundation on approaches to innovation and advancements in artificial intelligence.

(d) SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The Director, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of State shall jointly ensure that an alliance or coalition formed under subsection (a) is only formed with countries that—

(1) have in place sufficient intellectual property protections, safety standards, and risk management approaches relevant to innovation and artificial intelligence; and

(2) develop and coordinate research security measures, export controls, and intellectual property protections relevant to innovation, development, and standard-setting relating to artificial intelligence.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit anyone from participating in other international standards bodies.

SEC. 112. REQUIREMENT TO SUPPORT BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall support bilateral and multilateral collaborations to facilitate innovation in research and development of artificial intelligence.

(b) ALIGNMENT WITH PRIORITIES.—The Director shall ensure that collaborations supported under subsection (a) align with the priorities of the Foundation and United States research community and have the potential to benefit United States prosperity, security, health, and well-being.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The Director shall ensure that collaborations supported under subsection (a)—

(1) support innovation and advancement in research on the development and use of artificial intelligence;

(2) facilitate international collaboration on innovation and advancement in artificial intelligence research and development, including data sharing, expertise, and resources; and

(3) leverage existing National Science Foundation programs, such as the National Science Foundation-supported National Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes and Global Centers programs.

(d) COORDINATION OF SECURITY MEASURES AND EXPORT CONTROLS.—When entering into agreements in order to support collaborations pursuant to subsection (a), the Director shall ensure that participating countries have developed and coordinated security measures and export controls to protect intellectual property and research and development.

Subtitle C—Identifying Regulatory Barriers to Innovation

SEC. 121. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES IDENTIFICATION OF RISKS AND OBSTACLES RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—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 on regulatory impediments to innovation in artificial intelligence systems.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Significant examples of Federal statutes and regulations that directly affect the innovation of artificial intelligence systems, including the ability of companies of all sizes to compete in artificial intelligence, which should also account for the effect of voluntary standards and best practices developed by the Federal Government.

(2) An assessment of challenges that Federal agencies face in the enforcement of provisions of law identified pursuant to paragraph (1).

(3) An evaluation of the progress in government adoption of artificial intelligence and use of artificial intelligence to improve the quality of government services.

(4) Based on the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to paragraphs (1) through (4), such recommendations as the Comptroller General may have for legislative or administrative action to increase the rate of innovation in artificial intelligence systems.

TITLE II—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

SEC. 201. PUBLIC DATA FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS.

(a) LIST OF PRIORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To expedite the development of artificial intelligence systems in the United States, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall, acting through the National Science and Technology Council and the Interagency Committee established or designated pursuant to section 5103 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9413), develop a list of priorities for Federal investment in creating or improving curated, publicly available Federal Government data for training and evaluating artificial intelligence systems.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The list developed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(i) prioritize data that will advance novel artificial intelligence systems in the public interest; and

(ii) prioritize datasets unlikely to independently receive sufficient private sector support to enable their creation, absent Federal funding.

(B) DATASETS IDENTIFIED.—In carrying out subparagraph (A)(ii), the Director shall identify 20 datasets to be prioritized.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the list under paragraph (1), the Director shall consider the following:

(A) Applicability to the initial list of societal, national, and geostrategic challenges set forth by subsection (b) of section 10387 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19107), or any successor list.

(B) Applicability to the initial list of key technology focus areas set forth by subsection (c) of such section, or any successor list.

(C) Applicability to other major United States economic sectors, such as agriculture, health care, transportation, manufacturing, communications, weather services, and positive utility to small and medium United States businesses.

(D) Opportunities to improve datasets in effect before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(E) Inclusion of data representative of the entire population of the United States.

(F) Potential national security threats to releasing datasets, consistent with the United States Government approach to data flows.

(G) Requirements of laws in effect.

(H) Applicability to the priorities listed in the National Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Strategic Plan of the National Science and Technology Council, dated October 2016.

(I) Ability to use data already made available to the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Pilot program or any successor program.

(4) PUBLIC INPUT.—Before finalizing the list required by paragraph (1), the Director shall implement public comment procedures for receiving input and comment from private industry, academia, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders.

(b) NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL AGENCIES.—The head of each agency with a representative included in the Interagency Committee pursuant to section 5103(c) of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9413(c)) or the heads of multiple agencies with a representative included in the Interagency Committee working cooperatively, consistent with the missions or responsibilities of each Executive agency—

(1) subject to the availability of appropriations, shall award grants or otherwise establish incentives, through new or existing programs, for the creation or improvement of curated datasets identified in the list developed pursuant to subsection (a)(1), including methods for addressing data scarcity;

(2) may establish or leverage existing initiatives, including public-private partnerships, to encourage private sector cost-sharing in the creation or improvement of such datasets;

(3) may apply the priorities set forth in the list developed pursuant to subsection (a)(1) to the enactment of Federal public access and open government data policies;

(4) in carrying out this subsection, shall ensure consistency with Federal provisions of law relating to privacy, including the technology and privacy standards applied to the National Secure Data Service under section 10375(f) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19085(f)); and

(5) in carrying out this subsection, shall ensure data sharing is limited with any country that the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence, determines to be engaged in conduct that is detrimental to the national security or foreign policy of the United States.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF DATASETS.—Datasets that are created or improved by Federal agencies may be made available to the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource pilot program established by the Director of the National Science Foundation in accordance with Executive Order 14110 (88 Fed. Reg. 75191; relating to safe, secure, and trustworthy development and use of artificial intelligence), or any successor program.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the Federal Government or other contributors to disclose any information—

(1) relating to a trade secret or other protected intellectual property right;

(2) that is confidential business information; or

(3) that is privileged.

SEC. 202. FEDERAL GRAND CHALLENGES IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) LIST OF PRIORITIES FOR FEDERAL GRAND CHALLENGES IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—

(1) LIST REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall, acting through the National Science and Technology Council and the Interagency Committee established or designated pursuant to section 5103 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9413), in consultation with industry, civil society, and academia, establish a list of priorities for Federal grand challenges in artificial intelligence that seek—

(A) to expedite the development of artificial intelligence systems in the United States; and

(B) to stimulate artificial intelligence research, development, and commercialization that solves or advances specific, well-defined, and measurable challenges.

(2) CONTENTS.—The list established pursuant to paragraph (1) may include the following priorities:

(A) To overcome challenges with engineering of and applied research on microelectronics, including through integration of artificial intelligence with emerging technologies, such as machine learning and quantum computing, or with respect to the physical limits on transistors, electrical interconnects, and memory elements.

(B) To promote transformational or long-term advancements in computing and artificial intelligence technologies through—

(i) next-generation algorithm design;

(ii) next-generation compute capability;

(iii) generative and adaptive artificial intelligence for design applications;

(iv) photonics-based microprocessors and optical communication networks, including electrophotonics;

(v) the chemistry and physics of new materials;

(vi) energy use or energy efficiency;

(vii) techniques to establish cryptographically secure content provenance information; or

(viii) safety and controls for artificial intelligence applications.

(C) To develop artificial intelligence solutions, including through integration among emerging technologies such as quantum computing and machine learning, to overcome barriers relating to innovations in advanced manufacturing in the United States, including areas such as—

(i) materials, nanomaterials, and composites;

(ii) rapid, complex design;

(iii) sustainability and environmental impact of manufacturing operations;

(iv) predictive maintenance of machinery;

(v) improved part quality;

(vi) process inspections;

(vii) worker safety; and

(viii) robotics.

(D) To develop artificial intelligence solutions in sectors of the economy, such as expanding the use of artificial intelligence in maritime vessels, including in navigation and in the design of propulsion systems and fuels.

(E) To develop artificial intelligence solutions to improve border security, including solutions relevant to the detection of fentanyl, illicit contraband, and other illegal activities.

(3) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Director shall update the list established pursuant to paragraph (1) periodically as the Director determines necessary.

(b) FEDERAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVES REQUIRED.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the head of each agency with a representative on the Interagency Committee pursuant to section 5103(c) of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9413(c)) or the heads of multiple agencies with a representative on the Interagency Committee working cooperatively, shall, consistent with the missions or responsibilities of each agency, establish 1 or more prize competitions under section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719), challenge-based acquisitions, or other research and development investments that each agency head deems appropriate consistent with the list of priorities established pursuant to subsection (a)(1).

(c) TIMING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FEDERAL INVESTMENT INITIATIVES.—The President, acting through the Director, shall ensure that, not later than 1 year after the date on which the Director establishes the list required by subsection (a)(1), at least 3 prize competitions, challenge-based acquisitions, or other research and development investments are announced by heads of Federal agencies under subsection (b).

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—Each head of an agency carrying out an investment initiative under subsection (b) shall ensure that—

(1) for each prize competition or investment initiative carried out by the agency under such subsection, there is—

(A) a positive impact on the economic competitiveness of the United States;

(B) a benefit to United States industry;

(C) to the extent possible, leveraging of the resources and expertise of industry and philanthropic partners in shaping the investments; and

(D) in a case involving development and manufacturing, use of advanced manufacturing in the United States; and

(2) all research conducted for purposes of the investment initiative is conducted in the United States.

SA 3072. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. KELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL ASSETS SALE AND TRANSFER ACT OF 2016.

(a) PURPOSES.—Section 2 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

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

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3(5)(B)(viii) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by inserting '', other than office buildings and warehouses,'' after ''Properties''.

(c) BOARD.—Section 4(c)(3) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) by striking ''The term'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the term of a member of the Board shall continue beyond 6 years until such time as the President appoints a replacement member of the Board.''.

(d) BOARD MEETINGS.—Section 5(b) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''Five Board members'' and inserting ''4 Board members''.

(e) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—Section 7 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) RETURN TO CIVIL SERVICE.—An Executive Director selected from the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code) shall be entitled to return to the civil service (as so defined) after service to the Board ends if the service of the Executive Director to the Board ends for reasons other than misconduct, neglect of duty, or malfeasance.''.

(f) STAFF.—Section 8 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''and the Director of OMB''; and

(B) by inserting ''for a period of not less than 1 year'' before ''to assist the Board'';

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

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

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

(g) TERMINATION.—Section 10 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''6 years after the date on which the Board members are appointed pursuant to section 4'' and inserting ''on December 31, 2026''.

(h) DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD.—Section 11 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

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

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''and square'' and inserting ''number of Federal employees physically reporting to the respective property each work day, square''; and

(ii) by inserting '', amount of acreage associated with the respective property, and whether the respective property is on a campus or larger facility, other than Federal civilian real properties excluded for reasons of national security in accordance with section 3(5)(B)(iii)'' before the period at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) CONSOLIDATION PLANS.—Any Federal agency plans to consolidate, reconfigure, or otherwise reduce the use of owned and leased Federal civilian real property of the Federal agency if those plans are estimated to further the purposes of this Act as described in section 2.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(3)(J), by inserting '', including access by members of federally recognized Indian Tribes,'' after ''public access''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—The Board may not publicly disclose any information received under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) until the Board, the Administrator, and the Director of OMB enter into an agreement describing what information is ready to be publicly disclosed.''.

(i) BOARD DUTIES.—Section 12 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: ''In the case of a failure by a Federal agency to comply with a request of the Board, the Board shall notify the committees listed in section 5(c), the relevant congressional committees of jurisdiction for the Federal agency, and the inspector general of the Federal agency of that failure.'';

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', Tribal,'' after ''State''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', Tribal,'' after ''State'';

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

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

''(d) PREPARATION OF PROPERTIES FOR DISPOSAL.—At the request of, and in coordination with, the Board, a Federal agency may undertake any analyses and due diligence as necessary, to supplement the independent analysis of the Board under subsection (c), to prepare a property for disposition so that the property may be included in the recommendations of the Board under subsection (h), including completion of the requirements of section 306108 of title 54, United

States Code, for historic preservation and identification of the likely highest and best use of the property subsequent to disposition.'';

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

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

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

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

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

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

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION.—45 days before the date on which the Board transmits the third report required under paragraph (1), the Board shall notify—

''(A) any State or local government of any findings, conclusions, or recommendations contained in that report that relate to a Federal civilian real property located in the State or locality, as applicable; and

''(B) any federally recognized Indian Tribe of any findings, conclusions, or recommendations contained in that report that relate to a Federal civilian real property that—

''(i) is in close geographic proximity to a property described in section 3(5)(B)(v); or

''(ii) relates to a Federal civilian real property that is known to be accessed at regular frequency by members of the federally recognized Indian Tribe for other reasons.''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

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

(j) REVIEW BY OMB.—Section 13 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''subsections (b) and (g)'' and inserting ''subsections (b) and (h)''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(4)—

(A) by inserting '', in whole or in part,'' before ''received under paragraph (3)''; and

(B) by striking ''revised'' the second place it appears.

(k) AGENCY RETENTION OF RECORDS.—Section 20 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

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

''(1) transactions contained in that report; and

''(2) any transactions conducted after the date on which the Board terminates under section 10.''.

(l) FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY DATABASE.—Section 21(b) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9)(A) Whether the Federal real property is on a campus or similar facility; and

''(B) if applicable, identification of the campus or facility and related details, including total acreage of the campus or facility.''.

(m) ACCESS TO FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

''The Federal Real Property Council established by subsection (a) of section 623 of title 40, United States Code, shall ensure that the Board has access to any meetings of the Federal Real Property Council and any reports required under that section, subject to the condition that the Board enters into a memorandum of understanding relating to public disclosure with the Administrator and the Federal Real Property Council before the Board has access to those meetings and reports.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–287; 130 Stat. 1463) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 25 the following:

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

(n) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 3(9) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''section 12(e)'' and inserting ''section 12(f)''.

(2) Section 14(g)(1)(A) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''section 12(g)'' and inserting ''section 12(h)''.

(o) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 16(b)(1) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''of General Services''.

(2) Section 21(a) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''of General Services''.

(3) Section 24 of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended, in each of subsections (a), (b), and (c), by striking ''of General Services''.

(4) Section 25(b) of the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act of 2016 (40 U.S.C. 1303 note; Public Law 114–287) is amended by striking ''of General Services''.

SA 3073. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ___. NET ASSESSMENT OF ARTIFICIAL GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall, acting through the Office of Net Assessment, conduct a study to analyze the impact of future developments in artificial general intelligence on the military readiness and economic competitiveness of the United States.

(b) SCENARIOS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the study required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall analyze multiple scenarios in which a specified artificial intelligence capability is assumed to exist and the goal is to understand what the implications would be on the United States military and the broader United States economy.

(2) LEVELS OF CAPABILITY.—Each scenario analyzed under paragraph (1) shall assume the existence of a certain level of capability to perform intellectual or physical tasks using software or hardware, but without human involvement, and may assume a specific cost of this artificial intelligence capability, such as the ability to perform all job tasks that a typical human would perform at a specified price.

(3) DYNAMIC CAPABILITIES.—Scenarios analyzed under this subsection may allow the capabilities of artificial intelligence systems to increase over time instead of remaining fixed.

(c) PROPERTIES.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall have the following properties:

(1) A taxonomy of levels of artificial general intelligence. To the degree possible, such taxonomy shall be developed in conjunction with relevant experts in the Federal Government or outside of government and shall be as consistent as possible with any similar taxonomy developed by such experts.

(2) At least one scenario under subsection (b) shall assume the existence of an artificial general intelligence system that is more intelligent than any human.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) FORM.—The report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the submittal of the report under subsection (d), the Secretary shall provide the congressional defense committees a briefing on the main findings of the Secretary with respect to the study conducted under subsection (a).

SA 3074. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 3123. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY.

(a) REQUIREMENTS ON COMMERCIAL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROVIDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any commercial cloud computing service that provides unclassified

access to artificial intelligence systems on its platform, and which in general offers software services in a classified computing environment to the National Nuclear Security Administration or the Department of Defense, shall, at the request of the Administrator, offer a particular artificial intelligence system in a classified computing environment at no cost to the National Nuclear Security Administration, upon a determination by the Administrator that the specified artificial intelligence system is relevant for performing evaluations of risks posed to national nuclear security by that artificial intelligence system, or similar artificial intelligence systems.

(2) ASSISTANCE.—Developers of any such artificial intelligence systems shall provide any necessary design and engineering assistance necessary to support the usage of those systems in the classified computing environment.

(b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall provide to the congressional defense committees a classified briefing that includes—

(1) a description of the work performed by the National Nuclear Security Administration in response to Executive Order 14110 (88 Fed. Reg. 75191; relating to safe, secure, and trustworthy development and use of artificial intelligence) and the evaluations conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to understand the national security risks posed by artificial intelligence;

(2) a description of the extent to which commercial and open source artificial intelligence systems can generate sensitive or classified information about nuclear weapons, and whether any such systems are developed using classified information;

(3) a description of the status of authorities for running commercial and open source artificial intelligence systems on classified computational infrastructure;

(4) a summary of potential risk mitigation and response options in the event that Restricted Data (as that term is defined in section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014)) is discovered on, or generated by, commercial or open source artificial intelligence systems;

(5) recommendations regarding the infrastructure and personnel needed to continue to evaluate the national security risks of artificial intelligence systems; and

(6) recommendations on the legal authorities needed by the National Nuclear Security Administration to address national security risks of artificial intelligence systems.

SA 3075. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. THUNE to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act''.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—KIDS ONLINE SAFETY

Sec. 101. Definitions.
Sec. 102. Duty of care.
Sec. 103. Safeguards for minors.
Sec. 104. Disclosure.
Sec. 105. Transparency.
Sec. 106. Research on social media and minors.
Sec. 107. Market research.
Sec. 108. Age verification study and report.
Sec. 109. Guidance.
Sec. 110. Enforcement.
Sec. 111. Kids online safety council.
Sec. 112. Effective date.
Sec. 113. Rules of construction and other matters.

TITLE II—CHILDREN AND TEEN'S ONLINE PRIVACY

Sec. 201. Online collection, use, disclosure, and deletion of personal information of children and teens.
Sec. 202. Study and reports of mobile and online application oversight and enforcement.
Sec. 203. GAO study.
Sec. 204. Severability.

TITLE III—ELIMINATING USELESS REPORTS

Sec. 301. Sunsets for agency reports.

TITLE IV—SCREEN ACT

Sec. 401. Short title.
Sec. 402. Findings; sense of Congress.
Sec. 403. Definitions.
Sec. 404. Technology verification measures.
Sec. 405. Consultation requirements.
Sec. 406. Commission requirements.
Sec. 407. Enforcement.
Sec. 408. GAO report.
Sec. 409. Severability clause.

TITLE I—KIDS ONLINE SAFETY

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CHILD.—The term ''child'' means an individual who is under the age of 13.

(2) COMPULSIVE USAGE.—The term ''compulsive usage'' means any response stimulated by external factors that causes an individual to engage in repetitive behavior reasonably likely to cause psychological distress.

(3) COVERED PLATFORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''covered platform'' means an online platform, online video game, messaging application, or video streaming service that connects to the internet and that is used, or is reasonably likely to be used, by a minor.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term ''covered platform'' does not include—

(i) an entity acting in its capacity as a provider of—

(I) a common carrier service subject to the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and all Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto;

(II) a broadband internet access service (as such term is defined for purposes of section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation);

(III) an email service;

(IV) a teleconferencing or video conferencing service that allows reception and transmission of audio or video signals for real-time communication, provided that—

(aa) the service is not an online platform, including a social media service or social network; and

(bb) the real-time communication is initiated by using a unique link or identifier to facilitate access; or

(V) a wireless messaging service, including such a service provided through short messaging service or multimedia messaging service protocols, that is not a component of, or linked to, an online platform and where the predominant or exclusive function is direct messaging consisting of the transmission of text, photos or videos that are sent by electronic means, where messages are transmitted from the sender to a recipient, and are not posted within an online platform or publicly;

(ii) an organization not organized to carry on business for its own profit or that of its members;

(iii) any public or private preschool, elementary, or secondary school, or any institution of vocational, professional, or higher education;

(iv) a library (as defined in section 213(1) of the Library Services and Technology Act (20 U.S.C. 9122(1)));

(v) a news or sports coverage website or app where—

(I) the inclusion of video content on the website or app is related to the website or app's own gathering, reporting, or publishing of news content or sports coverage; and

(II) the website or app is not otherwise an online platform;

(vi) a product or service that primarily functions as business-to-business software, a cloud storage, file sharing, or file collaboration service, provided that the product or service is not an online platform; or

(vii) a virtual private network or similar service that exists solely to route internet traffic between locations.

(4) DESIGN FEATURE.—The term ''design feature'' means any feature or component of a covered platform that will encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform. Design features include—

(A) infinite scrolling or auto play;

(B) rewards for time spent on the platform;

(C) notifications;

(D) personalized recommendation systems;

(E) in-game purchases; or

(F) appearance altering filters.

(5) GEOLOCATION.—The term ''geolocation'' means information sufficient to identify street name and name of a city or town.

(6) INDIVIDUAL-SPECIFIC ADVERTISING TO MINORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''individual-specific advertising to minors'' means advertising or any other effort to market a product or service that is directed to a specific minor or a device that is linked or reasonably linkable to a minor based on—

(i) the personal data of—

(I) the minor; or

(II) a group of minors who are similar in sex, age, income level, race, or ethnicity to the specific minor to whom the product or service is marketed;

(ii) profiling of a minor or group of minors; or

(iii) a unique identifier of the device.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''individual-specific advertising to minors'' shall not include—

(i) advertising or marketing to an individual or the device of an individual in response to the individual's specific request for information or feedback, such as a minor's current search query;

(ii) contextual advertising, such as when an advertisement is displayed based on the content of the covered platform on which the advertisement appears and does not vary based on personal data related to the viewer;

(iii) processing personal data solely for measuring or reporting advertising or content performance, reach, or frequency, including independent measurement;

(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit a covered platform that knows an individual is under the age of 17 from delivering advertising or marketing that is age-appropriate for the individual involved and intended for a child or teen audience (as applicable), so long as the covered platform does not use any personal data other than whether the user is under the age of 17 to deliver such advertising or marketing.

(7) KNOW OR KNOWS.—The term ''know'' or ''knows'' means to have actual knowledge or

knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances.

(8) MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER.—The term ''mental health disorder'' has the meaning given the term ''mental disorder'' in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders, 5th Edition (or the most current successor edition).

(9) MICROTRANSACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''microtransaction'' means a purchase made in an online video game (including a purchase made using a virtual currency that is purchasable or redeemable using cash or credit or that is included as part of a paid subscription service).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes a purchase involving surprise mechanics, new characters, or in-game items.

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include—

(i) a purchase made in an online video game using a virtual currency that is earned through gameplay and is not otherwise purchasable or redeemable using cash or credit or included as part of a paid subscription service; or

(ii) a purchase of additional levels within the game or an overall expansion of the game.

(10) MINOR.—The term ''minor'' means an individual who is under the age of 17.

(11) ONLINE PLATFORM.—The term ''online platform'' means any public-facing website, online service, online application, or mobile application that predominantly provides a community forum for user generated content, such as sharing videos, images, games, audio files, or other content, including a social media service, social network, or virtual reality environment.

(12) ONLINE VIDEO GAME.—The term ''online video game'' means a video game, including an educational video game, that connects to the internet and that—

(A) allows a user to—

(i) create and upload content other than content that is incidental to gameplay, such as character or level designs created by the user, preselected phrases, or short interactions with other users;

(ii) engage in microtransactions within the game; or

(iii) communicate with other users; or

(B) incorporates individual-specific advertising to minors.

(13) PARENT.—The term ''parent'' has the meaning given that term in section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501).

(14) PERSONAL DATA.—The term ''personal data'' has the same meaning as the term ''personal information'' as defined in section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501).

(15) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM.—The term ''personalized recommendation system'' means a fully or partially automated system used to suggest, promote, or rank content, including other users, hashtags, or posts, based on the personal data of users. A recommendation system that suggests, promotes, or ranks content based solely on the user's language, city or town, or age shall not be considered a personalized recommendation system.

(16) SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.—The term ''sexual exploitation and abuse'' means any of the following:

(A) Coercion and enticement, as described in section 2422 of title 18, United States Code.

(B) Child sexual abuse material, as described in sections 2251, 2252, 2252A, and 2260 of title 18, United States Code.

(C) Trafficking for the production of images, as described in section 2251A of title 18, United States Code.

(D) Sex trafficking of children, as described in section 1591 of title 18, United States Code.

(17) USER.—The term ''user'' means, with respect to a covered platform, an individual who registers an account or creates a profile on the covered platform.

SEC. 102. DUTY OF CARE.

(a) PREVENTION OF HARM TO MINORS.—A covered platform shall exercise reasonable care in the creation and implementation of any design feature to prevent and mitigate the following harms to minors:

(1) Consistent with evidence-informed medical information, content that is distributed with the intent to exacerbate the following mental health disorders: anxiety, depression, eating disorders, substance use disorders, and suicidal behaviors.

(2) Patterns of use that indicate or encourage addiction-like behaviors by minors.

(3) Physical violence, online bullying, and harassment of the minor.

(4) Sexual exploitation and abuse of minors.

(5) Promotion and marketing of narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol.

(6) Promotion and marketing of obscene matter (as that term is used in section 1470 of title 18, United States Code).

(7) Predatory, unfair, or deceptive marketing practices, or other financial harms.

(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to require a covered platform to prevent or preclude any minor from—

(1) deliberately and independently searching for, or specifically requesting, content; or

(2) accessing resources and information regarding the prevention or mitigation of the harms described in subsection (a).

SEC. 103. SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.

(a) SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.—

(1) SAFEGUARDS.—A covered platform shall provide a user or visitor that the covered platform knows is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use safeguards to, as applicable—

(A) limit the ability of other users or visitors to communicate with the minor;

(B) prevent other users or visitors, whether registered or not, from viewing the minor's personal data collected by or shared on the covered platform, in particular restricting public access to personal data;

(C) limit design features that encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform, such as infinite scrolling, auto playing, rewards for time spent on the platform, notifications, and other design features that result in compulsive usage of the covered platform by the minor;

(D) control personalized recommendation systems, including the ability for a minor to have at least 1 of the following options—

(i) opt out of such personalized recommendation systems, while still allowing the display of content based on a chronological format; or

(ii) limit types or categories of recommendations from such systems; and

(E) restrict the sharing of the geolocation of the minor and provide notice regarding the tracking of the minor's geolocation.

(2) OPTIONS.—A covered platform shall provide a user that the covered platform knows is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use options to—

(A) delete the minor's account and delete any personal data collected from, or shared by, the minor on the covered platform; or

(B) limit the amount of time spent by the minor on the covered platform.

(3) DEFAULT SAFEGUARD SETTINGS FOR MINORS.—A covered platform shall provide that, in the case of a user or visitor that the platform knows is a minor, the default setting for any safeguard described under paragraph (1) shall be the option available on the platform that provides the most protective level of control that is offered by the platform over privacy and safety for that user or visitor.

(b) PARENTAL TOOLS.—

(1) TOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide readily-accessible and easy-to-use settings for parents to support a user that the platform knows is a minor with respect to the user's use of the platform.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The parental tools provided by a covered platform shall include—

(A) the ability to manage a minor's privacy and account settings, including the safeguards and options established under subsection (a), in a manner that allows parents to—

(i) view the privacy and account settings; and

(ii) in the case of a user that the platform knows is a child, change and control the privacy and account settings;

(B) the ability to restrict purchases and financial transactions by the minor, where applicable; and

(C) the ability to view metrics of total time spent on the covered platform and restrict time spent on the covered platform by the minor.

(3) NOTICE TO MINORS.—A covered platform shall provide clear and conspicuous notice to a user when the tools described in this subsection are in effect and what settings or controls have been applied.

(4) DEFAULT TOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide that, in the case of a user that the platform knows is a child, the tools required under paragraph (1) shall be enabled by default.

(5) APPLICATION TO EXISTING ACCOUNTS.—If, prior to the effective date of this subsection, a covered platform provided a parent of a user that the platform knows is a child with notice and the ability to enable the parental tools described under this subsection in a manner that would otherwise comply with this subsection, and the parent opted out of enabling such tools, the covered platform is not required to enable such tools with respect to such user by default when this subsection takes effect.

(c) REPORTING MECHANISM.—

(1) REPORTS SUBMITTED BY PARENTS, MINORS, AND SCHOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide—

(A) a readily-accessible and easy-to-use means to submit reports to the covered platform of harms to a minor;

(B) an electronic point of contact specific to matters involving harms to a minor; and

(C) confirmation of the receipt of such a report and, within the applicable time period described in paragraph (2), a substantive response to the individual that submitted the report.

(2) TIMING.—A covered platform shall establish an internal process to receive and substantively respond to such reports in a reasonable and timely manner, but in no case later than—

(A) 10 days after the receipt of a report, if, for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States;

(B) 21 days after the receipt of a report, if, for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged less than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States; and

(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), if the report involves an imminent

threat to the safety of a minor, as promptly as needed to address the reported threat to safety.

(d) ADVERTISING OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTS.—A covered platform shall not facilitate the advertising of narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol to an individual that the covered platform knows is a minor.

(e) RULES OF APPLICATION.—

(1) ACCESSIBILITY.—With respect to safeguards and parental tools described under subsections (a) and (b), a covered platform shall provide—

(A) information and control options in a clear and conspicuous manner that takes into consideration the differing ages, capacities, and developmental needs of the minors most likely to access the covered platform and does not encourage minors or parents to weaken or disable safeguards or parental tools;

(B) readily-accessible and easy-to-use controls to enable or disable safeguards or parental tools, as appropriate; and

(C) information and control options in the same language, form, and manner as the covered platform provides the product or service used by minors and their parents.

(2) DARK PATTERNS PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any covered platform to design, modify, or manipulate a user interface of a covered platform with the purpose or substantial effect of subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or choice with respect to safeguards or parental tools required under this section.

(3) TIMING CONSIDERATIONS.—

(A) NO INTERRUPTION TO GAMEPLAY.—Subsections (a)(1)(C) and (b)(3) shall not require an online video game to interrupt the natural sequence of game play, such as progressing through game levels or finishing a competition.

(B) APPLICATION OF CHANGES TO OFFLINE DEVICES OR ACCOUNTS.—If a user's device or user account does not have access to the internet at the time of a change to parental tools, a covered platform shall apply changes the next time the device or user is connected to the internet.

(4) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(A) prevent a covered platform from taking reasonable measures to—

(i) block, detect, or prevent the distribution of unlawful, obscene, or other harmful material to minors as described in section 102(a); or

(ii) block or filter spam, prevent criminal activity, or protect the security of a platform or service;

(B) require the disclosure of a minor's browsing behavior, search history, messages, contact list, or other content or metadata of their communications;

(C) prevent a covered platform from using a personalized recommendation system to display content to a minor if the system only uses information on—

(i) the language spoken by the minor;

(ii) the city the minor is located in; or

(iii) the minor's age; or

(D) prevent an online video game from disclosing a username or other user identification for the purpose of competitive gameplay or to allow for the reporting of users.

(f) DEVICE OR CONSOLE CONTROLS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a covered platform from integrating its products or service with, or duplicate controls or tools provided by, third-party systems, including operating systems or gaming consoles, to meet the requirements imposed under subsections (a) and (b) relating to safeguards for minors and parental tools, provided that—

(A) the controls or tools meet such requirements; and

(B) the minor or parent is provided sufficient notice of the integration and use of the parental tools.

(2) PRESERVATION OF PROTECTIONS.—In the event of a conflict between the controls or tools of a third-party system, including operating systems or gaming consoles, and a covered platform, the covered platform is not required to override the controls or tools of a third-party system if it would undermine the protections for minors from the safeguards or parental tools imposed under subsections (a) and (b).

SEC. 104. DISCLOSURE.

(a) NOTICE.—

(1) REGISTRATION OR PURCHASE.—Prior to registration or purchase of a covered platform by an individual that the platform knows is a minor, the platform shall provide clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand—

(A) notice of the policies and practices of the covered platform with respect to personal data and safeguards for minors;

(B) information about how to access the safeguards and parental tools required under section 103; and

(C) notice about whether the covered platform uses or makes available to minors a product, service, or design feature, including any personalized recommendation system, that poses any heightened risk of harm to minors.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—In the case of an individual that a covered platform knows is a child, the platform shall additionally provide information about the parental tools and safeguards required under section 103 to a parent of the child and obtain verifiable parental consent (as defined in section 1302(9) of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501(9))) from the parent prior to the initial use of the covered platform by the child.

(B) REASONABLE EFFORT.—A covered platform shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement described in subparagraph (A) if the covered platform is in compliance with the requirements of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) to use reasonable efforts (taking into consideration available technology) to provide a parent with the information described in subparagraph (A) and to obtain verifiable parental consent as required.

(3) CONSOLIDATED NOTICES.—For purposes of this title, a covered platform may consolidate the process for providing information under this subsection and obtaining verifiable parental consent or the consent of the minor involved (as applicable) as required under this subsection with its obligations to provide relevant notice and obtain verifiable consent under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

(4) GUIDANCE.—The Federal Trade Commission may issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the specific notice requirements of this subsection.

(b) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM.—A covered platform that operates a personalized recommendation system shall set out in its terms and conditions, in a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand manner—

(1) an overview of how such personalized recommendation system is used by the covered platform to provide information to minors, including how such systems use the personal data of minors; and

(2) information about options for minors or their parents to opt out of or control the personalized recommendation system (as applicable).

(c) ADVERTISING AND MARKETING INFORMATION AND LABELS.—

(1) INFORMATION AND LABELS.—A covered platform that facilitates advertising aimed at users that the platform knows are minors shall provide clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand labels and information, which can be provided through a link to another web page or disclosure, to minors on advertisements regarding—

(A) the name of the product, service, or brand and the subject matter of an advertisement;

(B) if the covered platform engages in individual-specific advertising to minors, why a particular advertisement is directed to a specific minor, including material information about how the minor's personal data is used to direct the advertisement to the minor; and

(C) whether particular media displayed to the minor is an advertisement or marketing material, including disclosure of endorsements of products, services, or brands made for commercial consideration by other users of the platform.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Federal Trade Commission may issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the requirements of this subsection, including guidance about the minimum level of information and labels for the disclosures required under paragraph (1).

(d) RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND MINORS.—A covered platform shall provide to minors and parents clear, conspicuous, easy-to-understand, and comprehensive information in a prominent location, which may include a link to a web page, regarding—

(1) its policies and practices with respect to personal data and safeguards for minors; and

(2) how to access the safeguards and tools required under section 103.

(e) RESOURCES IN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES.—A covered platform shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the disclosures required by this section are made available in the same language, form, and manner as the covered platform provides any product or service used by minors and their parents.

SEC. 105. TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not less frequently than once a year, a covered platform shall issue a public report describing the reasonably foreseeable risks of harms to minors and assessing the prevention and mitigation measures taken to address such risk based on an independent, third-party audit conducted through reasonable inspection of the covered platform.

(b) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The requirements of this section shall apply to a covered platform if—

(1) for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States; and

(2) the platform predominantly provides a community forum for user-generated content and discussion, including sharing videos, images, games, audio files, discussion in a virtual setting, or other content, such as acting as a social media platform, virtual reality environment, or a social network service.

(c) CONTENT.—

(1) TRANSPARENCY.—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include—

(A) an assessment of the extent to which the platform is likely to be accessed by minors;

(B) a description of the commercial interests of the covered platform in use by minors;

(C) an accounting, based on the data held by the covered platform, of—

(i) the number of users using the covered platform that the platform knows to be minors in the United States;

(ii) the median and mean amounts of time spent on the platform by users known to be minors in the United States who have accessed the platform during the reporting year on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis; and

(iii) the amount of content being accessed by users that the platform knows to be minors in the United States that is in English, and the top 5 non-English languages used by users accessing the platform in the United States;

(D) an accounting of total reports received regarding, and the prevalence (which can be based on scientifically valid sampling methods using the content available to the covered platform in the normal course of business) of content related to, the harms described in section 102(a), disaggregated by category of harm and language, including English and the top 5 non-English languages used by users accessing the platform from the United States (as identified under subparagraph (C)(iii)); and

(E) a description of any material breaches of parental tools or assurances regarding minors, representations regarding the use of the personal data of minors, and other matters regarding non-compliance with this title.

(2) REASONABLY FORESEEABLE RISK OF HARM TO MINORS.—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include—

(A) an assessment of the reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors posed by the covered platform, specifically identifying those physical, mental, developmental, or financial harms described in section 102(a);

(B) a description of whether and how the covered platform uses design features that encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform, such as infinite scrolling, auto playing, rewards for time spent on the platform, notifications, and other design features that result in compulsive usage of the covered platform by the minor;

(C) a description of whether, how, and for what purpose the platform collects or processes categories of personal data that may cause reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors;

(D) an evaluation of the efficacy of safeguards for minors and parental tools under section 103, and any issues in delivering such safeguards and the associated parental tools;

(E) an evaluation of any other relevant matters of public concern over risk of harms to minors associated with the use of the covered platform; and

(F) an assessment of differences in risk of harm to minors across different English and non-English languages and efficacy of safeguards in those languages.

(3) MITIGATION.—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include, for English and the top 5 non-English languages used by users accessing the platform from the United States (as identified under paragraph (2)(C)(iii)))—

(A) a description of the safeguards and parental tools available to minors and parents on the covered platform;

(B) a description of interventions by the covered platform when it had or has reason to believe that harms to minors could occur;

(C) a description of the prevention and mitigation measures intended to be taken in response to the known and emerging risks identified in its assessment of reasonably foreseeable risks of harms to minors, including steps taken to—

(i) prevent harms to minors, including adapting or removing design features or addressing through parental tools;

(ii) provide the most protective level of control over privacy and safety by default; and

(iii) adapt recommendation systems to mitigate reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors, as described in section 102(a);

(D) a description of internal processes for handling reports and automated detection mechanisms for harms to minors, including the rate, timeliness, and effectiveness of responses under the requirement of section 103(c);

(E) the status of implementing prevention and mitigation measures identified in prior assessments; and

(F) a description of the additional measures to be taken by the covered platform to address the circumvention of safeguards for minors and parental tools.

(d) REASONABLE INSPECTION.—In conducting an inspection of the reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to minors under this section, an independent, third-party auditor shall—

(1) take into consideration the function of personalized recommendation systems;

(2) consult parents and youth experts, including youth and families with relevant past or current experience, public health and mental health nonprofit organizations, health and development organizations, and civil society with respect to the prevention of harms to minors;

(3) conduct research based on experiences of minors that use the covered platform, including reports under section 103(c) and information provided by law enforcement;

(4) take account of research, including research regarding design features, marketing, or product integrity, industry best practices, or outside research;

(5) consider indicia or inferences of age of users, in addition to any self-declared information about the age of users; and

(6) take into consideration differences in risk of reasonably foreseeable harms and effectiveness of safeguards across English and non-English languages.

(e) COOPERATION WITH INDEPENDENT, THIRD-PARTY AUDIT.—To facilitate the report required by subsection (c), a covered platform shall—

(1) provide or otherwise make available to the independent third-party conducting the audit all information and material in its possession, custody, or control that is relevant to the audit;

(2) provide or otherwise make available to the independent third-party conducting the audit access to all network, systems, and assets relevant to the audit; and

(3) disclose all relevant facts to the independent third-party conducting the audit, and not misrepresent in any manner, expressly or by implication, any relevant fact.

(f) PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In issuing the public reports required under this section, a covered platform shall take steps to safeguard the privacy of its users, including ensuring that data is presented in a de-identified, aggregated format such that it is not reasonably linkable to any user.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be construed to require the disclosure of information that will lead to material vulnerabilities for the privacy of users or the security of a covered platform's service or create a significant risk of the violation of Federal or State law.

(3) DEFINITION OF DE-IDENTIFIED.—As used in this subsection, the term ''de-identified'' means data that does not identify and is not linked or reasonably linkable to a device that is linked or reasonably linkable to an individual, regardless of whether the information is aggregated

(g) LOCATION.—The public reports required under this section should be posted by a covered platform on an easy to find location on a publicly-available website.

SEC. 106. RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND MINORS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term ''National Academy'' means the National Academy of Sciences.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA HARMS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy, under which the National Academy shall conduct no less than 5 scientific, comprehensive studies and reports on the risk of harms to minors by use of social media and other online platforms, including in English and non-English languages.

(c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—In contracting with the National Academy, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall seek to commission separate studies and reports, using the Commission's authority under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)), on the relationship between social media and other online platforms as defined in this title on the following matters:

(1) Anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and suicidal behaviors.

(2) Substance use disorders and the use of narcotic drugs, tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol by minors.

(3) Sexual exploitation and abuse.

(4) Addiction-like use of social media and design factors that lead to unhealthy and harmful overuse of social media.

(d) ADDITIONAL STUDY.—Not earlier than 4 years after enactment, the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy under which the National Academy shall conduct an additional study and report covering the matters described in subsection (c) for the purposes of providing additional information, considering new research, and other matters.

(e) CONTENT OF REPORTS.— The comprehensive studies and reports conducted pursuant to this section shall seek to evaluate impacts and advance understanding, knowledge, and remedies regarding the harms to minors posed by social media and other online platforms, and may include recommendations related to public policy.

(f) ACTIVE STUDIES.—If the National Academy is engaged in any active studies on the matters described in subsection (c) at the time that it enters into a contract with the Commission to conduct a study under this section, it may base the study to be conducted under this section on the active study, so long as it otherwise incorporates the requirements of this section.

(g) COLLABORATION.—In designing and conducting the studies under this section, the Commission, the Secretary, and the National Academy shall consult with the Surgeon General and the Kids Online Safety Council.

(h) ACCESS TO DATA.—

(1) FACT-FINDING AUTHORITY.—The Commission may issue orders under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to require covered platforms to provide reports, data, or answers in writing as necessary to conduct the studies required under this section.

(2) SCOPE.—In exercising its authority under paragraph (1), the Commission may

issue orders to no more than 5 covered platforms per study under this section.

(3) CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS.—Notwithstanding section 6(f) or 21 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46, 57b–2), the Commission shall enter in agreements with the National Academy to share appropriate information received from a covered platform pursuant to an order under such subsection (b) for a comprehensive study under this section in a confidential and secure manner, and to prohibit the disclosure or sharing of such information by the National Academy. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude the disclosure of any such information if authorized or required by any other law.

SEC. 107. MARKET RESEARCH.

(a) MARKET RESEARCH BY COVERED PLATFORMS.—The Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall issue guidance for covered platforms seeking to conduct market- and product-focused research on minors. Such guidance shall include—

(1) a standard consent form that provides minors and their parents a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand explanation of the scope and purpose of the research to be conducted that is available in English and the top 5 non-English languages used in the United States;

(2) information on how to obtain informed consent from the parent of a minor prior to conducting such market- and product-focused research; and

(3) recommendations for research practices for studies that may include minors, disaggregated by the age ranges of 0-5, 6-9, 10-12, and 13-16.

(b) TIMING.—The Federal Trade Commission shall issue such guidance not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act. In doing so, they shall seek input from members of the public and the representatives of the Kids Online Safety Council established under section 111.

SEC. 108. AGE VERIFICATION STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, shall conduct a study evaluating the most technologically feasible methods and options for developing systems to verify age at the device or operating system level.

(b) CONTENTS.—Such study shall consider —

(1) the benefits of creating a device or operating system level age verification system;

(2) what information may need to be collected to create this type of age verification system;

(3) the accuracy of such systems and their impact or steps to improve accessibility, including for individuals with disabilities;

(4) how such a system or systems could verify age while mitigating risks to user privacy and data security and safeguarding minors' personal data, emphasizing minimizing the amount of data collected and processed by covered platforms and age verification providers for such a system;

(5) the technical feasibility, including the need for potential hardware and software changes, including for devices currently in commerce and owned by consumers; and

(6) the impact of different age verification systems on competition, particularly the risk of different age verification systems creating barriers to entry for small companies.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies described in subsection (a) shall submit a report containing the results of the study conducted under such subsection to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 109. GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Kids Online Safety Council established under section 111, shall issue guidance to—

(1) provide information and examples for covered platforms and auditors regarding the following, with consideration given to differences across English and non-English languages—

(A) identifying design features that encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform;

(B) safeguarding minors against the possible misuse of parental tools;

(C) best practices in providing minors and parents the most protective level of control over privacy and safety;

(D) using indicia or inferences of age of users for assessing use of the covered platform by minors;

(E) methods for evaluating the efficacy of safeguards set forth in this title; and

(F) providing additional parental tool options that allow parents to address the harms described in section 102(a); and

(2) outline conduct that does not have the purpose or substantial effect of subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or choice, or of causing, increasing, or encouraging compulsive usage for a minor, such as—

(A) de minimis user interface changes derived from testing consumer preferences, including different styles, layouts, or text, where such changes are not done with the purpose of weakening or disabling safeguards or parental tools;

(B) algorithms or data outputs outside the control of a covered platform; and

(C) establishing default settings that provide enhanced privacy protection to users or otherwise enhance their autonomy and decision-making ability.

(b) GUIDANCE ON KNOWLEDGE STANDARD.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and examples, for covered platforms to understand how the Commission would determine whether a covered platform ''had knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances'' for purposes of this title.

(c) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—

(1) EFFECT OF GUIDANCE.—No guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission with respect to this title shall—

(A) confer any rights on any person, State, or locality; or

(B) operate to bind the Federal Trade Commission or any court, person, State, or locality to the approach recommended in such guidance.

(2) USE IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Federal Trade Commission or a State attorney general, as applicable—

(A) shall allege a violation of a provision of this title; and

(B) may not base such enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission with respect to this title, unless the practices are alleged to violate a provision of this title.

For purposes of enforcing this title, State attorneys general shall take into account any guidance issued by the Commission under subsection (b).

SEC. 110. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this title shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commission (referred to in this section as the ''Commission'') shall enforce this title in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person that violates this title shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and immunities, provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) CIVIL ACTIONS.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that a covered platform has violated or is violating section 103, 104, or 105, the State, as parens patriae, may bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in a district court of the United States or a State court of appropriate jurisdiction to—

(i) enjoin any practice that violates section 103, 104, or 105;

(ii) enforce compliance with section 103, 104, or 105;

(iii) on behalf of residents of the State, obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation, each of which shall be distributed in accordance with State law; or

(iv) obtain such other relief as the court may consider to be appropriate.

(B) NOTICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Before filing an action under subparagraph (A), the attorney general of the State involved shall provide to the Commission—

(I) written notice of that action; and

(II) a copy of the complaint for that action.

(ii) EXEMPTION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to the filing of an action by an attorney general of a State under this paragraph if the attorney general of the State determines that it is not feasible to provide the notice described in that clause before the filing of the action.

(II) NOTIFICATION.—In an action described in subclause (I), the attorney general of a State shall provide notice and a copy of the complaint to the Commission at the same time as the attorney general files the action.

(2) INTERVENTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—On receiving notice under paragraph (1)(B), the Commission shall have the right to intervene in the action that is the subject of the notice.

(B) EFFECT OF INTERVENTION.—If the Commission intervenes in an action under paragraph (1), it shall have the right—

(i) to be heard with respect to any matter that arises in that action; and

(ii) to file a petition for appeal.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing any civil action under paragraph (1), nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent an attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of that State to—

(A) conduct investigations;

(B) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(C) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(4) ACTIONS BY THE COMMISSION.—In any case in which an action is instituted by or on behalf of the Commission for violation of this title, no State may, during the pendency of that action, institute a separate action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint in the action instituted by or on behalf of the Commission for that violation.

(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(ii) a State court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1) in a district court of the United States, process may be served wherever defendant—

(i) is an inhabitant; or

(ii) may be found.

(6) LIMITATION.—A violation of section 102 shall not form the basis of liability in any action brought by the attorney general of a State under a State law.

SEC. 111. KIDS ONLINE SAFETY COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall establish and convene the Kids Online Safety Council for the purpose of providing advice on matters related to this title.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—The Kids Online Safety Council shall include diverse participation from—

(1) academic experts, health professionals, and members of civil society with expertise in mental health, substance use disorders, harm reduction as it relates to early exposures to pornographic material, and the prevention of harms to minors;

(2) representatives in academia and civil society with specific expertise in privacy, free expression, access to information, and civil liberties;

(3) parents and youth representation;

(4) representatives of covered platforms;

(5) representatives of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services;

(6) State attorneys general or their designees acting in State or local government;

(7) educators; and

(8) representatives of faith-based organizations.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—The matters to be addressed by the Kids Online Safety Council shall include—

(1) identifying emerging or current risks of harms to minors associated with online platforms;

(2) recommending measures and methods for assessing, preventing, and mitigating harms to minors online;

(3) recommending methods and themes for conducting research regarding online harms to minors, including in English and non-English languages; and

(4) recommending best practices and clear, consensus-based technical standards for transparency reports and audits, as required under this title, including methods, criteria, and scope to promote overall accountability.

(d) NON-APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Kids Online Safety Council shall not be subject to chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act'').

SEC. 112. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided in this title, this title shall take effect on the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 113. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER MATTERS.

(a) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to—

(1) preempt section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly known as the ''Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974'') or other Federal or State laws governing student privacy;

(2) preempt the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) or any rule or regulation promulgated under such Act;

(3) authorize any action that would conflict with section 18(h) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(h)); or

(4) expand or limit the scope of section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (commonly known as ''section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996'') (47 U.S.C. 230).

(b) DETERMINATION OF ''FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES''.—For purposes of enforcing this title, in making a determination as to whether covered platform has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a specific user is a minor, the Federal Trade Commission or a State attorney general shall rely on competent and reliable evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a minor.

(c) PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVACY.—Nothing in this title, including a determination described in subsection (b), shall be construed to require—

(1) the affirmative collection of any personal data with respect to the age of users that a covered platform is not already collecting in the normal course of business; or

(2) a covered platform to implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

(d) COMPLIANCE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to restrict a covered platform's ability to—

(1) cooperate with law enforcement agencies regarding activity that the covered platform reasonably and in good faith believes may violate Federal, State, or local laws, rules, or regulations;

(2) comply with a lawful civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, subpoena, or summons by Federal, State, local, or other government authorities; or

(3) investigate, establish, exercise, respond to, or defend against legal claims.

(e) APPLICATION TO VIDEO STREAMING SERVICES.—A video streaming service shall be deemed to be in compliance with this title if it predominantly consists of news, sports, entertainment, or other video programming content that is preselected by the provider and not user-generated, and—

(1) any chat, comment, or interactive functionality is provided incidental to, directly related to, or dependent on provision of such content;

(2) if such video streaming service requires account owner registration and is not predominantly news or sports, the service includes the capability—

(A) to limit a minor's access to the service, which may utilize a system of age-rating;

(B) to limit the automatic playing of on-demand content selected by a personalized recommendation system for an individual that the service knows is a minor;

(C) to provide an individual that the service knows is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use options to delete an account held by the minor and delete any personal data collected from the minor on the service, or, in the case of a service that allows a parent to create a profile for a minor, to allow a parent to delete the minor's profile, and to delete any personal data collected from the minor on the service;

(D) for a parent to manage a minor's privacy and account settings, and restrict purchases and financial transactions by a minor, where applicable;

(E) to provide an electronic point of contact specific to matters described in this paragraph;

(F) to offer a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand notice of its policies and practices with respect to personal data and the capabilities described in this paragraph; and

(G) when providing on-demand content, to employ measures that safeguard against serving advertising for narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol directly to the account or profile of an individual that the service knows is a minor.

(f) APPLICATION TO PARTICULAR VIEWPOINTS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to require a covered platform to alter a design feature in such a manner that would result in particular viewpoints being throttled, suppressed, or censored.

TITLE II—CHILDREN AND TEEN'S ONLINE PRIVACY

SEC. 201. ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501) is amended—

(1) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) OPERATOR.—The term 'operator'—

''(A) means any person—

''(i) who, for commercial purposes, in interstate or foreign commerce operates or provides a website on the internet, an online service, an online application, or a mobile application; and

''(ii) who—

''(I) collects or maintains, either directly or through a service provider, personal information from or about the users of that website, service, or application;

''(II) allows another person to collect personal information directly from users of that website, service, or application (in which case, the operator is deemed to have collected the information); or

''(III) allows users of that website, service, or application to publicly disclose personal information (in which case, the operator is deemed to have collected the information); and

''(B) does not include any nonprofit entity that would otherwise be exempt from coverage under section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 45).'';

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) the release of personal information collected from a child or teen by an operator for any purpose, except where the personal information is provided to a person other than an operator who—

''(i) provides support for the internal operations of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application of the operator, excluding any activity relating to individual-specific advertising to children or teens; and

''(ii) does not disclose or use that personal information for any other purpose; and''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by inserting ''or teen'' after ''child'' each place the term appears;

(ii) by striking ''website or online service'' and inserting ''website, online service, online application, or mobile application''; and

(iii) by striking ''actual knowledge'' and inserting ''actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances'';

(3) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

''(8) PERSONAL INFORMATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'personal information' means individually identifiable information about an individual collected online, including—

''(i) a first and last name;

''(ii) a home or other physical address including street name and name of a city or town;

''(iii) an e-mail address;

''(iv) a telephone number;

''(v) a Social Security number;

''(vi) any other identifier that the Commission determines permits the physical or online contacting of a specific individual;

''(vii) a persistent identifier that can be used to recognize a specific child or teen over time and across different websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications, including but not limited to a customer number held in a cookie, an Internet Protocol (IP) address, a processor or device serial number, or unique device identifier, but excluding an identifier that is used by an operator solely for providing support for the internal operations of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

''(viii) a photograph, video, or audio file where such file contains a specific child's or teen's image or voice;

''(ix) geolocation information;

''(x) information generated from the measurement or technological processing of an individual's biological, physical, or physiological characteristics that is used to identify an individual, including—

''(I) fingerprints;

''(II) voice prints;

''(III) iris or retina imagery scans;

''(IV) facial templates;

''(V) deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) information; or

''(VI) gait; or

''(xi) information linked or reasonably linkable to a child or teen or the parents of that child or teen (including any unique identifier) that an operator collects online from the child or teen and combines with an identifier described in this subparagraph.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'personal information' shall not include an audio file that contains a child's or teen's voice so long as the operator—

''(i) does not request information via voice that would otherwise be considered personal information under this paragraph;

''(ii) provides clear notice of its collection and use of the audio file and its deletion policy in its privacy policy;

''(iii) only uses the voice within the audio file solely as a replacement for written words, to perform a task, or engage with a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, such as to perform a search or fulfill a verbal instruction or request; and

''(iv) only maintains the audio file long enough to complete the stated purpose and then immediately deletes the audio file and does not make any other use of the audio file prior to deletion.

''(C) SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNAL OPERATIONS OF A WEBSITE, ONLINE SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(vii), the term 'support for the internal operations of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application' means those activities necessary to—

''(I) maintain or analyze the functioning of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

''(II) perform network communications;

''(III) authenticate users of, or personalize the content on, the website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

''(IV) serve contextual advertising, provided that any persistent identifier is only used as necessary for technical purposes to serve the contextual advertisement, or cap the frequency of advertising;

''(V) protect the security or integrity of the user, website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

''(VI) ensure legal or regulatory compliance, or

''(VII) fulfill a request of a child or teen as permitted by subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 1303(b)(2).

''(ii) CONDITION.—Except as specifically permitted under clause (i), information collected for the activities listed in clause (i) cannot be used or disclosed to contact a specific individual, including through individual-specific advertising to children or teens, to amass a profile on a specific individual, in connection with processes that encourage or prompt use of a website or online service, or for any other purpose.'';

(4) by amending paragraph (9) to read as follows:

''(9) VERIFIABLE CONSENT.—The term 'verifiable consent' means any reasonable effort (taking into consideration available technology), including a request for authorization for future collection, use, and disclosure described in the notice, to ensure that, in the case of a child, a parent of the child, or, in the case of a teen, the teen—

''(A) receives direct notice of the personal information collection, use, and disclosure practices of the operator; and

''(B) before the personal information of the child or teen is collected, freely and unambiguously authorizes—

''(i) the collection, use, and disclosure, as applicable, of that personal information; and

''(ii) any subsequent use of that personal information.'';

(5) in paragraph (10)—

(A) in the paragraph header, by striking ''WEBSITE OR ONLINE SERVICE DIRECTED TO CHILDREN'' and inserting ''WEBSITE, ONLINE SERVICE, ONLINE APPLICATION, OR MOBILE APPLICATION DIRECTED TO CHILDREN'';

(B) by striking ''website or online service'' each place it appears and inserting ''website, online service, online application, or mobile application''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—In considering whether a website, online service, online application, or mobile application, or portion thereof, is directed to children, the Commission shall apply a totality of circumstances test and will also consider competent and reliable empirical evidence regarding audience composition and evidence regarding the intended audience of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application.''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(13) CONNECTED DEVICE.—The term 'connected device' means a device that is capable of connecting to the internet, directly or indirectly, or to another connected device.

''(14) ONLINE APPLICATION.—The term 'online application'—

''(A) means an internet-connected software program; and

''(B) includes a service or application offered via a connected device.

''(15) MOBILE APPLICATION.—The term 'mobile application'—

''(A) means a software program that runs on the operating system of—

''(i) a cellular telephone;

''(ii) a tablet computer; or

''(iii) a similar portable computing device that transmits data over a wireless connection; and

''(B) includes a service or application offered via a connected device.

''(16) GEOLOCATION INFORMATION.—The term 'geolocation information' means information sufficient to identify a street name and name of a city or town.

''(17) TEEN.—The term 'teen' means an individual who has attained age 13 and is under the age of 17.

''(18) INDIVIDUAL-SPECIFIC ADVERTISING TO CHILDREN OR TEENS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'individual-specific advertising to children or teens' means advertising or any other effort to market a product or service that is directed to a specific child or teen or a connected device that is linked or reasonably linkable to a child or teen based on—

''(i) the personal information from—

''(I) the child or teen; or

''(II) a group of children or teens who are similar in sex, age, household income level, race, or ethnicity to the specific child or teen to whom the product or service is marketed;

''(ii) profiling of a child or teen or group of children or teens; or

''(iii) a unique identifier of the connected device.

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'individual-specific advertising to children or teens' shall not include—

''(i) advertising or marketing to an individual or the device of an individual in response to the individual's specific request for information or feedback, such as a child's or teen's current search query;

''(ii) contextual advertising, such as when an advertisement is displayed based on the content of the website, online service, online application, mobile application, or connected device in which the advertisement appears and does not vary based on personal information related to the viewer; or

''(iii) processing personal information solely for measuring or reporting advertising or content performance, reach, or frequency, including independent measurement.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit an operator with actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is under the age of 17 from delivering advertising or marketing that is age-appropriate and intended for a child or teen audience, so long as the operator does not use any personal information other than whether the user is under the age of 17.''.

(b) ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.—Section 1303 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6502) is amended—

(1) by striking the heading and inserting the following: ''**ONLINE COLLECTION, USE, DISCLOSURE, AND DELETION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND TEENS.**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

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

''(1) IN GENERAL.—It is unlawful for an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to

children or for any operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application with actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen—

''(A) to collect personal information from a child or teen in a manner that violates the regulations prescribed under subsection (b);

''(B) except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 1302(18), to collect, use, disclose to third parties, or maintain personal information of a child or teen for purposes of individual-specific advertising to children or teens (or to allow another person to collect, use, disclose, or maintain such information for such purpose);

''(C) to collect the personal information of a child or teen except when the collection of the personal information is—

''(i) consistent with the context of a particular transaction or service or the relationship of the child or teen with the operator, including collection necessary to fulfill a transaction or provide a product or service requested by the child or teen; or

''(ii) required or specifically authorized by Federal or State law; or

''(D) to store or transfer the personal information of a child or teen outside of the United States unless the operator provides direct notice to the parent of the child, in the case of a child, or to the teen, in the case of a teen, that the child's or teen's personal information is being stored or transferred outside of the United States; or

''(E) to retain the personal information of a child or teen for longer than is reasonably necessary to fulfill a transaction or provide a service requested by the child or teen except as required or specifically authorized by Federal or State law.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the header, by striking ''PARENT'' and inserting '' 'PARENT OR TEEN' ''

(ii) by striking ''Notwithstanding paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A)'';

(iii) by striking ''of such a website or online service''; and

(iv) by striking ''subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii) to the parent of a child'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(1)(B)(iv) to the parent of a child or under subsection (b)(1)(C)(iv) to a teen'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''operator of any website'' and all that follows through ''from a child'' and inserting ''operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application directed to children or that has actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen'';

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''notice on the website'' and inserting ''clear and conspicuous notice on the website'';

(bb) by inserting ''or teens'' after ''children'';

(cc) by striking '', and the operator's'' and inserting '', the operator's''; and

(dd) by striking ''; and'' and inserting '', the rights and opportunities available to the parent of the child or teen under subparagraphs (B) and (C), and the procedures or mechanisms the operator uses to ensure that personal information is not collected from children or teens except in accordance with the regulations promulgated under this paragraph;'';

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ''parental'';

(bb) by inserting ''or teens'' after ''children'';

(cc) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(IV) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

''(iii) to obtain verifiable consent from a parent of a child or from a teen before using or disclosing personal information of the child or teen for any purpose that is a material change from the original purposes and disclosure practices specified to the parent of the child or the teen under clause (i);'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''website or online service'' and inserting ''operator'';

(II) in clause (i), by inserting ''and the method by which the operator obtained the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator collects, uses, discloses, and retains the personal information'' before the semicolon;

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting ''to delete personal information collected from the child or content or information submitted by the child to a website, online service, online application, or mobile application and'' after ''the opportunity at any time''; and

(bb) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(IV) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv) and inserting after clause (ii) the following new clause:

''(iii) the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the personal information and, if the parent of the child establishes the inaccuracy of the personal information, to have the inaccurate personal information corrected;''; and

(V) in clause (iv), as so redesignated, by inserting '', if such information is available to the operator at the time the parent makes the request'' before the semicolon;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(iv) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) require the operator to provide, upon the request of a teen under this subparagraph who has provided personal information to the operator, upon proper identification of that teen—

''(i) a description of the specific types of personal information collected from the teen by the operator, the method by which the operator obtained the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator collects, uses, discloses, and retains the personal information;

''(ii) the opportunity at any time to delete personal information collected from the teen or content or information submitted by the teen to a website, online service, online application, or mobile application and to refuse to permit the operator's further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or online collection, of personal information from the teen;

''(iii) the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the personal information and, if the teen establishes the inaccuracy of the personal information, to have the inaccurate personal information corrected; and

''(iv) a means that is reasonable under the circumstances for the teen to obtain any personal information collected from the teen, if such information is available to the operator at the time the teen makes the request;'';

(v) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking ''a child's'' and inserting ''a child's or teen's''; and

(II) by inserting ''or teen'' after ''the child''; and

(vi) by amending subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(E) require the operator to establish, implement, and maintain reasonable security practices to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of personal information of children or teens collected by the operator, and to protect such personal information against unauthorized access.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''verifiable parental consent'' and inserting ''verifiable consent'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by inserting ''or teen'' after ''collected from a child'';

(II) by inserting ''or teen'' after ''request from the child''; and

(III) by inserting ''or teen or to contact another child or teen'' after ''to recontact the child'';

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''parent or child'' and inserting ''parent or teen''; and

(II) by striking ''parental consent'' each place the term appears and inserting ''verifiable consent'';

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''or teen'' after ''child'' each place the term appears;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by inserting ''or teen'' after ''child'' each place the term appears; and

(bb) by inserting ''or teen, as applicable,'' after ''parent'' each place the term appears; and

(III) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ''without notice to the parent'' and inserting ''without notice to the parent or teen, as applicable,''; and

(bb) by inserting ''or teen'' after ''child'' each place the term appears; and

(v) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''or teen'' after ''child'' each place the term appears;

(II) in clause (ii), by inserting ''or teen'' after ''child''; and

(III) in the flush text following clause (iii)—

(aa) by inserting ''or teen, as applicable,'' after ''parent'' each place the term appears; and

(bb) by inserting ''or teen'' after ''child'';

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4) and inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

''(3) APPLICATION TO OPERATORS ACTING UNDER AGREEMENTS WITH EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES OR INSTITUTIONS.—The regulations may provide that verifiable consent under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) is not required for an operator that is acting under a written agreement with an educational agency or institution (as defined in section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly known as the 'Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974') (20 U.S.C. 1232g(a)(3)) that, at a minimum, requires the—

''(A) operator to—

''(i) limit its collection, use, and disclosure of the personal information from a child or teen to solely educational purposes and for no other commercial purposes;

''(ii) provide the educational agency or institution with a notice of the specific types of personal information the operator will collect from the child or teen, the method by which the operator will obtain the personal information, and the purposes for which the operator will collect, use, disclose, and retain the personal information;

''(iii) provide the educational agency or institution with a link to the operator's online notice of information practices as required under subsection (b)(1)(A)(i); and

''(iv) provide the educational agency or institution, upon request, with a means to review the personal information collected from a child or teen, to prevent further use or maintenance or future collection of personal information from a child or teen, and to delete personal information collected from a

child or teen or content or information submitted by a child or teen to the operator's website, online service, online application, or mobile application;

''(B) representative of the educational agency or institution to acknowledge and agree that they have authority to authorize the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information from children or teens on behalf of the educational agency or institution, along with such authorization, their name, and title at the educational agency or institution; and

''(C) educational agency or institution to—

''(i) provide on its website a notice that identifies the operator with which it has entered into a written agreement under this subsection and provides a link to the operator's online notice of information practices as required under paragraph (1)(A)(i);

''(ii) provide the operator's notice regarding its information practices, as required under subparagraph (A)(ii), upon request, to a parent, in the case of a child, or a parent or teen, in the case of a teen; and

''(iii) upon the request of a parent, in the case of a child, or a parent or teen, in the case of a teen, request the operator provide a means to review the personal information from the child or teen and provide the parent, in the case of a child, or parent or teen, in the case of the teen, a means to review the personal information.'';

(D) by amending paragraph (4), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(4) TERMINATION OF SERVICE.—The regulations shall permit the operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application to terminate service provided to a child whose parent has refused, or a teen who has refused, under the regulations prescribed under paragraphs (1)(B)(ii) and (1)(C)(ii), to permit the operator's further use or maintenance in retrievable form, or future online collection of, personal information from that child or teen.''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—The regulations shall prohibit an operator from discontinuing service provided to a child or teen on the basis of a request by the parent of the child or by the teen, under the regulations prescribed under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), respectively, to delete personal information collected from the child or teen, to the extent that the operator is capable of providing such service without such information.

''(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—A request made pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) to delete or correct personal information of a child or teen shall not be construed—

''(A) to limit the authority of a law enforcement agency to obtain any content or information from an operator pursuant to a lawfully executed warrant or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;

''(B) to require an operator or third party delete or correct information that—

''(i) any other provision of Federal or State law requires the operator or third party to maintain; or

''(ii) was submitted to the website, online service, online application, or mobile application of the operator by any person other than the user who is attempting to erase or otherwise eliminate the content or information, including content or information submitted by the user that was republished or resubmitted by another person; or

''(C) to prohibit an operator from—

''(i) retaining a record of the deletion request and the minimum information necessary for the purposes of ensuring compliance with a request made pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C);

''(ii) preventing, detecting, protecting against, or responding to security incidents, identity theft, or fraud, or reporting those responsible for such actions;

''(iii) protecting the integrity or security of a website, online service, online application or mobile application; or

''(iv) ensuring that the child's or teen's information remains deleted.

''(7) COMMON VERIFIABLE CONSENT MECHANISM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—

''(i) FEASIBILITY OF MECHANISM.—The Commission shall assess the feasibility, with notice and public comment, of allowing operators the option to use a common verifiable consent mechanism that fully meets the requirements of this title.

''(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The feasibility assessment described in clause (i) shall consider whether a single operator could use a common verifiable consent mechanism to obtain verifiable consent, as required under this title, from a parent of a child or from a teen on behalf of multiple, listed operators that provide a joint or related service.

''(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives with the findings of the assessment required by subparagraph (A).

''(C) REGULATIONS.—If the Commission finds that the use of a common verifiable consent mechanism is feasible and would meet the requirements of this title, the Commission shall issue regulations to permit the use of a common verifiable consent mechanism in accordance with the findings outlined in such report.'';

(4) in subsection (c), by striking ''a regulation prescribed under subsection (a)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of subsection (a)(1), or of a regulation prescribed under subsection (b),''; and

(5) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) RELATIONSHIP TO STATE LAW.—The provisions of this title shall preempt any State law, rule, or regulation only to the extent that such State law, rule, or regulation conflicts with a provision of this title. Nothing in this title shall be construed to prohibit any State from enacting a law, rule, or regulation that provides greater protection to children or teens than the provisions of this title.''.

(c) SAFE HARBORS.—Section 1304 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting ''and teens'' after ''children''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) PUBLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the restrictions described in paragraph (2), the Commission shall publish on the internet website of the Commission any report or documentation required by regulation to be submitted to the Commission to carry out this section.

''(2) RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLICATION.—The restrictions described in section 6(f) and section 21 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(f), 57b–2) applicable to the disclosure of information obtained by the Commission shall apply in same manner to the disclosure under this subsection of information obtained by the Commission from a report or documentation described in paragraph (1).''.

(d) ACTIONS BY STATES.—Section 1305 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''section 1303(a)(1) or'' before ''any regulation''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''section 1303(a)(1) or'' before ''the regulation''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting ''section 1303(a)(1) or'' before ''any regulation''; and

(B) by inserting ''section 1303(a)(1) or'' before ''that regulation''.

(e) ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICABILITY OF ACT.—Section 1306 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking '', in the case of'' and all that follows through ''the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;'' and inserting the following: ''by the appropriate Federal banking agency, with respect to any insured depository institution (as those terms are defined in section 3 of that Act (12 U.S.C. 1813));''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (2) through (5), respectively;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by inserting ''section 1303(a)(1) or'' before ''a rule''; and

(B) by striking ''such rule'' and inserting ''section 1303(a)(1) or a rule of the Commission under section 1303''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(f) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN OPERATOR HAS KNOWLEDGE FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES.—

''(1) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, in making a determination as to whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a specific user is a child or teen, the Commission or State attorneys general shall rely on competent and reliable evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a child or teen. Nothing in this title, including a determination described in the preceding sentence, shall be construed to require an operator to—

''(A) affirmatively collect any personal information with respect to the age of a child or teen that an operator is not already collecting in the normal course of business; or

''(B) implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

''(2) COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days of enactment, the Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and examples for operators to understand the Commission's determination of whether an operator has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a child or teen.

''(B) LIMITATION.—No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this title shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance. In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this title. The Commission or State attorney general, as applicable, may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidance, unless the practices allegedly violate this title. For purposes of

enforcing this title or a regulation promulgated under this title, State attorneys general shall take into account any guidance issued by the Commission under subparagraph (A).

''(g) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Any regulations issued under this title shall include a description and analysis of the impact of proposed and final Rules on small entities per the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 (5 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).''.

SEC. 202. STUDY AND REPORTS OF MOBILE AND ONLINE APPLICATION OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) OVERSIGHT REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the processes of platforms that offer mobile and online applications for ensuring that, of those applications that are websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications directed to children, the applications operate in accordance with—

(1) this title, the amendments made by this title, and rules promulgated under this title; and

(2) rules promulgated by the Commission under section 18 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a) relating to unfair or deceptive acts or practices in marketing.

(b) ENFORCEMENT REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that addresses, at a minimum—

(1) the number of actions brought by the Commission during the reporting year to enforce the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501) (referred to in this subsection as the ''Act'') and the outcome of each such action;

(2) the total number of investigations or inquiries into potential violations of the Act; during the reporting year;

(3) the total number of open investigations or inquiries into potential violations of the Act as of the time the report is submitted;

(4) the number and nature of complaints received by the Commission relating to an allegation of a violation of the Act during the reporting year; and

(5) policy or legislative recommendations to strengthen online protections for children and teens.

SEC. 203. GAO STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the ''Comptroller General'') shall conduct a study on the privacy of teens who use financial technology products. Such study shall—

(1) identify the type of financial technology products that teens are using;

(2) identify the potential risks to teens' privacy from using such financial technology products; and

(3) determine whether existing laws are sufficient to address such risks to teens' privacy.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

SEC. 204. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title, or an amendment made by this title, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid, the remaining provisions of this title and the amendments made by this title shall not be affected.

TITLE III—ELIMINATING USELESS REPORTS

SEC. 301. SUNSETS FOR AGENCY REPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1125 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) BUDGET JUSTIFICATION MATERIALS.—The term 'budget justification materials' has the meaning given the term in section 3(b)(2) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note; Public Law 109–282).

''(2) PLAN OR REPORT.—The term 'plan or report' means any plan or report submitted to Congress, any committee of Congress, or subcommittee thereof, by not less than 1 agency—

''(A) in accordance with Federal law; or

''(B) at the direction or request of a congressional report.

''(3) RECURRING PLAN OR REPORT.—The term 'recurring plan or report' means a plan or report submitted on a recurring basis.

''(4) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.—The term 'relevant congressional committee'—

''(A) means a congressional committee to which a recurring plan or report is required to be submitted; and

''(B) does not include any plan or report that is required to be submitted solely to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives or the Senate.

''(b) AGENCY IDENTIFICATION OF UNNECESSARY REPORTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall include in the budget justification materials of the agency the following:

''(A) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the following:

''(i) A list of each recurring plan or report submitted by the agency.

''(ii) An identification of whether the recurring plan or report listed in clause (i) was included in the most recent report issued by the Clerk of the House of Representatives concerning the reports that any agency is required by law or directed or requested by a committee report to make to Congress, any committee of Congress, or subcommittee thereof.

''(iii) If applicable, the unique alphanumeric identifier for the recurring plan or report as required by section 7243(b)(1)(C)(vii) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263).

''(iv) The identification of any recurring plan or report the head of the agency determines to be outdated or duplicative.

''(B) With respect to each recurring plan or report identified in subparagraph (A)(iv), the following:

''(i) A recommendation on whether to sunset, modify, consolidate, or reduce the frequency of the submission of the recurring plan or report.

''(ii) A citation to each provision of law or directive or request in a congressional report that requires or requests the submission of the recurring plan or report.

''(iii) A list of the relevant congressional committees for the recurring plan or report.

''(C) A justification explaining, with respect to each recommendation described in subparagraph (B)(i) relating to a recurring plan or report—

''(i) why the head of the agency made the recommendation, which may include an estimate of the resources expended by the agency to prepare and submit the recurring plan or report; and

''(ii) the understanding of the head of the agency of the purpose of the recurring plan or report.

''(2) AGENCY CONSULTATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In preparing the list required under paragraph (1)(A), if, in submitting a recurring plan or report, an agency is required to coordinate or consult with another agency or entity, the head of the agency submitting the recurring plan or report shall consult with the head of each agency or entity with whom consultation or coordination is required.

''(B) INCLUSION IN LIST.—If, after a consultation under subparagraph (A), the head of each agency or entity consulted under that subparagraph agrees that a recurring plan or report is outdated or duplicative, the head of the agency required to submit the recurring plan or report shall—

''(i) include the recurring plan or report in the list described in paragraph (1)(A); and

''(ii) identify each agency or entity with which the head of the agency is required to coordinate or consult in submitting the recurring plan or report.

''(C) DISAGREEMENT.—If the head of any agency or entity consulted under subparagraph (A) does not agree that a recurring plan or report is outdated or duplicative, the head of the agency required to submit the recurring plan or report shall not include the recurring plan or report in the list described in paragraph (1)(A).

''(3) GOVERNMENT-WIDE OR MULTI-AGENCY PLAN AND REPORT SUBMISSIONS.—With respect to a recurring plan or report required to be submitted by not less than 2 agencies, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

''(A) determine whether the requirement to submit the recurring plan or report is outdated or duplicative; and

''(B) make recommendations to Congress accordingly.

''(4) PLAN AND REPORT SUBMISSIONS CONFORMITY TO THE ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—With respect to an agency recommendation, citation, or justification made under subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1) or a recommendation by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under paragraph (3), the agency or Director, as applicable, shall also provide this information to the Director of the Government Publishing Office in conformity with the agency submission requirements under section 7244(a) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; chapter 41 of title 44 note) in conformity with guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 7244(b) of such Act.

''(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt the head of an agency from a requirement to submit a recurring plan or report.''; and

(3) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, by striking ''in the budget of the United States Government, as provided by section 1105(a)(37)'' and inserting ''in the budget justification materials of each agency''.

(b) BUDGET CONTENTS.—Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (39).

(c) CONFORMITY TO THE ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT.—

(1) AMENDMENT.—Subsections (a) and (b) of section 7244 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; chapter 41 of title 44, United States Code, note), are amended to read as follows:

''(a) SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC COPIES OF REPORTS.—Not earlier than 30 days or later than 60 days after the date on which a congressionally mandated report is submitted to either House of Congress or to any committee of Congress or subcommittee thereof, the head of the Federal agency submitting the congressionally mandated report shall submit to the Director the information required under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of section 7243(b)(1) with respect to the congressionally mandated report. Notwithstanding section 7246, nothing in this subtitle shall relieve a Federal agency of any other requirement to publish the congressionally mandated report on the online portal of the Federal agency or otherwise submit the congressionally mandated report to Congress or specific committees of Congress, or subcommittees thereof.

''(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection and periodically thereafter as appropriate, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director, shall issue guidance to agencies on the implementation of this subtitle as well as the requirements of section 1125(b) of title 31, United States Code.''.

(2) UPDATED OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue updated guidance to agencies to ensure that the requirements under subsections (a) and (b) of section 1125 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by this Act, for agency submissions of recommendations and justifications for plans and reports to sunset, modify, consolidate, or reduce the frequency of the submission of are also submitted as a separate attachment in conformity with the agency submission requirements of electronic copies of reports submitted by agencies under section 7244(a) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; chapter 41 of title 44, United States Code, note) for publication on the online portal established under section 7243 of such Act.

TITLE IV—SCREEN ACT

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Shielding Children's Retinas from Egregious Exposure on the Net Act'' or the ''SCREEN Act''.

SEC. 402. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Over the 3 decades preceding the date of enactment of this Act, Congress has passed several bills to protect minors from access to online pornographic content, including title V of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–104) (commonly known as the ''Communications Decency Act''), section 231 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 231) (commonly known as the ''Child Online Protection Act''), and the Children's Internet Protection Act (title XVII of division B of Public Law 106–554).

(2) With the exception of the Children's Internet Protection Act (title XVII of division B of Public Law 106–554), the Supreme Court of the United States has struck down the previous efforts of Congress to shield children from pornographic content, finding that such legislation constituted a ''compelling government interest'' but that it was not the least restrictive means to achieve such interest. In Ashcroft v. ACLU, 542 U.S. 656 (2004), the Court even suggested at the time that ''blocking and filtering software'' could conceivably be a ''primary alternative'' to the requirements passed by Congress.

(3) In the nearly 2 decades since the Supreme Court of the United States suggested the use of ''blocking and filtering software'', such technology has proven to be ineffective in protecting minors from accessing online pornographic content. The Kaiser Family Foundation has found that filters do not work on 1 in 10 pornography sites accessed intentionally and 1 in 3 pornography sites that are accessed unintentionally. Further, it has been proven that children are able to bypass ''blocking and filtering'' software by employing strategic searches or measures to bypass the software completely.

(4) Additionally, Pew Research has revealed studies showing that only 39 percent of parents use blocking or filtering software for their minor's online activities, meaning that 61 percent of children only have restrictions on their internet access when they are at school or at a library.

(5) 17 States have now recognized pornography as a public health hazard that leads to a broad range of individual harms, societal harms, and public health impacts.

(6) It is estimated that 80 percent of minors between the ages of 12 to 17 have been exposed to pornography, with 54 percent of teenagers seeking it out. The internet is the most common source for minors to access pornography with pornographic websites receiving more web traffic in the United States than Twitter, Netflix, Pinterest, and LinkedIn combined.

(7) Exposure to online pornography has created unique psychological effects for minors, including anxiety, addiction, low self-esteem, body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire among minors to engage in risky sexual behavior.

(8) The Supreme Court of the United States has recognized on multiple occasions that Congress has a ''compelling government interest'' to protect the physical and psychological well-being of minors, which includes shielding them from ''indecent'' content that may not necessarily be considered ''obscene'' by adult standards.

(9) Because ''blocking and filtering software'' has not produced the results envisioned nearly 2 decades ago, it is necessary for Congress to pursue alternative policies to enable the protection of the physical and psychological well-being of minors.

(10) The evolution of our technology has now enabled the use of age verification technology that is cost efficient, not unduly burdensome, and can be operated narrowly in a manner that ensures only adults have access to a website's online pornographic content.

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

(1) shielding minors from access to online pornographic content is a compelling government interest that protects the physical and psychological well-being of minors; and

(2) requiring interactive computer services that are in the business of creating, hosting, or making available pornographic content to enact technological measures that shield minors from accessing pornographic content on their platforms is the least restrictive means for Congress to achieve its compelling government interest.

SEC. 403. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CHILD PORNOGRAPHY; MINOR.—The terms ''child pornography'' and ''minor'' have the meanings given those terms in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

(3) COVERED PLATFORM.—The term ''covered platform''—

(A) means an entity—

(i) that is an interactive computer service;

(ii) that—

(I) is engaged in interstate or foreign commerce; or

(II) purposefully avails itself of the United States market or a portion thereof; and

(iii) for which it is in the regular course of the trade or business of the entity to create, host, or make available content that meets the definition of harmful to minors under paragraph (4) and that is provided by the entity, a user, or other information content provider, with the objective of earning a profit; and

(B) includes an entity described in subparagraph (A) regardless of whether—

(i) the entity earns a profit on the activities described in subparagraph (A)(iii); or

(ii) creating, hosting, or making available content that meets the definition of harmful to minors under paragraph (4) is the sole source of income or principal business of the entity.

(4) HARMFUL TO MINORS.—The term ''harmful to minors'', with respect to a picture, image, graphic image file, film, videotape, or other visual depiction, means that the picture, image, graphic image file, film, videotape, or other depiction—

(A)(i) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

(ii) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

(iii) taken as a whole, lacks serious, literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors;

(B) is obscene; or

(C) is child pornography.

(5) INFORMATION CONTENT PROVIDER; INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SERVICE.—The terms ''information content provider'' and ''interactive computer service'' have the meanings given those terms in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f)).

(6) SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT.—The terms ''sexual act'' and ''sexual contact'' have the meanings given those terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

(7) TECHNOLOGY VERIFICATION MEASURE.—The term ''technology verification measure'' means technology that—

(A) employs a system or process to determine whether it is more likely than not that a user of a covered platform is a minor; and

(B) prevents access by minors to any content on a covered platform.

(8) TECHNOLOGY VERIFICATION MEASURE DATA.—The term ''technology verification measure data'' means information that—

(A) identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to an individual or a device that identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to an individual;

(B) is collected or processed for the purpose of fulfilling a request by an individual to access any content on a covered platform; and

(C) is collected and processed solely for the purpose of utilizing a technology verification measure and meeting the obligations imposed under this title.

SEC. 404. TECHNOLOGY VERIFICATION MEASURES.

(a) COVERED PLATFORM REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a covered platform shall adopt and utilize technology verification measures on the platform to ensure that—

(1) users of the covered platform are not minors; and

(2) minors are prevented from accessing any content on the covered platform that is harmful to minors.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES.—In order to comply with the requirement of subsection (a), the technology

verification measures adopted and utilized by a covered platform shall do the following:

(1) Use a technology verification measure in order to verify a user's age.

(2) Provide that requiring a user to confirm that the user is not a minor shall not be sufficient to satisfy the requirement of subsection (a).

(3) Make publicly available the verification process that the covered platform is employing to comply with the requirements under this title.

(4) Subject the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, including known virtual proxy network IP addresses, of all users of a covered platform to the technology verification measure described in paragraph (1) unless the covered platform determines based on available technology that a user is not located within the United States.

(c) CHOICE OF VERIFICATION MEASURES.—A covered platform may choose the specific technology verification measures to employ for purposes of complying with subsection (a), provided that the technology verification measure employed by the covered platform meets the requirements of subsection (b) and prohibits a minor from accessing the platform or any information on the platform that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.

(d) USE OF THIRD PARTIES.—A covered platform may contract with a third party to employ technology verification measures for purposes of complying with subsection (a) but the use of such a third party shall not relieve the covered platform of its obligations under this title or from liability under this title.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a covered platform to submit to the Commission any information that identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to a user of the covered platform or a device that identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to a user of the covered platform.

(f) TECHNOLOGY VERIFICATION MEASURE DATA SECURITY.—A covered platform shall—

(1) establish, implement, and maintain reasonable data security to—

(A) protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of technology verification measure data collected by the covered platform or a third party employed by the covered platform; and

(B) protect such technology verification measure data against unauthorized access; and

(2) retain the technology verification measure data for no longer than is reasonably necessary to utilize a technology verification measure or what is minimally necessary to demonstrate compliance with the obligations under this title.

SEC. 405. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS.

In enforcing the requirements under section 404, the Commission shall consult with the following individuals, including with respect to the applicable standards and metrics for making a determination on whether a user of a covered platform is not a minor:

(1) Individuals with experience in computer science and software engineering.

(2) Individuals with experience in—

(A) advocating for online child safety; or

(B) providing services to minors who have been victimized by online child exploitation.

(3) Individuals with experience in consumer protection and online privacy.

(4) Individuals who supply technology verification measure products or have expertise in technology verification measure solutions.

(5) Individuals with experience in data security and cryptography.

SEC. 406. COMMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

(1) conduct regular audits of covered platforms to ensure compliance with the requirements of section 404;

(2) make public the terms and processes for the audits conducted under paragraph (1), including the processes for any third party conducting an audit on behalf of the Commission;

(3) establish a process for each covered platform to submit only such documents or other materials as are necessary for the Commission to ensure full compliance with the requirements of section 404 when conducting audits under this section; and

(4) prescribe the appropriate documents, materials, or other measures required to demonstrate full compliance with the requirements of section 404.

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the requirements of section 404.

(2) LIMITATIONS ON GUIDANCE.—No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this title shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance. In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Commission shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this title. The Commission may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidelines, unless the practices allegedly violate a provision of this title.

SEC. 407. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE.—A violation of section 404 shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce section 404 in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(2) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates section 404 shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

SEC. 408. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the date on which covered platforms are required to comply with the requirement of section 404(a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of the effectiveness of the technology verification measures required under such section;

(2) an analysis of rates of compliance with such section among covered platforms;

(3) an analysis of the data security measures used by covered platforms in the age verification process;

(4) an analysis of the behavioral, economic, psychological, and societal effects of implementing technology verification measures;

(5) recommendations to the Commission on improving enforcement of section 404(a), if any; and

(6) recommendations to Congress on potential legislative improvements to this title, if any.

SEC. 409. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of such a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of this Act, and the application of such provisions to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.

SA 3076. Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE ____—COOPER DAVIS AND DEVIN NORRING ACT

SEC. ____01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Cooper Davis and Devin Norring Act''.

SEC. ____02. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS AND REMOTE COMPUTING SERVICES FOR CERTAIN CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES VIOLATIONS.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Part E of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 871 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS AND REMOTE COMPUTING SERVICES FOR CERTAIN CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES VIOLATIONS

''SEC. 521. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'electronic communication service' has the meaning given that term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code;

''(2) the term 'electronic mail address' has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 (15 U.S.C. 7702);

''(3) the term 'Internet' has the meaning given that term in section 1101 of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (47 U.S.C. 151 note);

''(4) the term 'provider' means an electronic communication service provider or remote computing service;

''(5) the term 'remote computing service' has the meaning given that term in section 2711 of title 18, United States Code; and

''(6) the term 'website' means any collection of material placed in a computer server-based file archive so that it is publicly accessible, over the Internet, using hypertext transfer protocol or any successor protocol.

''(b) DUTY TO REPORT.—

''(1) GENERAL DUTY.—In order to reduce the proliferation of the unlawful sale, distribution, or manufacture (as applicable) of counterfeit substances and certain controlled substances, a provider shall, as soon as reasonably possible after obtaining actual knowledge of any facts or circumstances described in paragraph (2), and in any event not later than 60 days after obtaining such knowledge, submit to the Drug Enforcement Administration a report containing—

''(A) the mailing address, telephone number, facsimile number, and electronic mailing address of, and individual point of contact for, such provider;

''(B) information described in subsection (c) concerning such facts or circumstances; and

''(C) for purposes of subsection (j), information indicating whether the facts or circumstances were discovered through content moderation conducted by a human or via a

non-human method, including use of an algorithm, machine learning, or other means.

''(2) FACTS OR CIRCUMSTANCES.—The facts or circumstances described in this paragraph are any facts or circumstances establishing that a crime is being or has already been committed involving—

''(A) creating, manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense—

''(i) fentanyl; or

''(ii) methamphetamine;

''(B) creating, manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, or possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a counterfeit substance, including a counterfeit substance purporting to be a prescription drug; or

''(C) offering, dispensing, or administering an actual or purported prescription pain medication or prescription stimulant by any individual or entity that is not a practitioner or online pharmacy, including an individual or entity that falsely claims to be a practitioner or online pharmacy.

''(3) PERMITTED ACTIONS BASED ON REASONABLE BELIEF.—In order to reduce the proliferation of the unlawful sale, distribution, or manufacture (as applicable) of counterfeit substances and certain controlled substances, if a provider has a reasonable belief that facts or circumstances described in paragraph (2) exist, the provider may submit to the Drug Enforcement Administration a report described in paragraph (1).

''(c) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent the information is within the custody or control of a provider, the facts or circumstances included in each report under subsection (b)(1)—

''(A) shall include, to the extent that it is applicable and reasonably available, information relating to the account involved in the commission of a crime described in subsection (b)(2), such as the name, address, electronic mail address, user or account identification, Internet Protocol address, uniform resource locator, screen names or monikers for the account used or any other accounts associated with the account user, or any other identifying information, including self-reported identifying information, but not including the contents of a wire communication or electronic communication, as those terms are defined in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code, except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph; and

''(B) may, at the sole discretion of the provider, include the information described in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

''(2) OTHER INFORMATION.—The information referred to in paragraph (1)(B) is the following:

''(A) HISTORICAL REFERENCE.—Information relating to when and how a user, subscriber, or customer of a provider uploaded, transmitted, or received content relating to the report or when and how content relating to the report was reported to or discovered by the provider, including a date and time stamp and time zone.

''(B) GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION INFORMATION.—Information relating to the geographic location of the involved individual or website, which may include the Internet Protocol address or verified address, or, if not reasonably available, at least one form of geographic identifying information, including area code or ZIP Code, provided by the user, subscriber, or customer, or stored or obtained by the provider, and any information as to whether a virtual private network was used.

''(C) DATA RELATING TO FACTS OR CIRCUMSTANCES.—Any data, including symbols, photos, video, icons, or direct messages, relating to activity involving the facts or circumstances described in subsection (b)(2) or other content relating to the crime.

''(D) COMPLETE COMMUNICATION.—The complete communication containing the information of the crime described in subsection (b)(2), including—

''(i) any data or information regarding the transmission of the communication; and

''(ii) any data or other digital files contained in, or attached to, the communication.

''(3) USER, SUBSCRIBER, OR CUSTOMER SUBMITTED REPORTS.—In the case of a report under subsection (b)(3), the provider may, at its sole discretion, include in the report information submitted to the provider by a user, subscriber, or customer alleging facts or circumstances described in subsection (b)(2) if the provider, upon review, has a reasonable belief that the alleged facts or circumstances exist.

''(d) HANDLING OF REPORTS.—Upon receipt of a report submitted under subsection (b), the Drug Enforcement Administration—

''(1) shall conduct a preliminary review of such report; and

''(2) after completing the preliminary review, shall—

''(A) conduct further investigation of the report, which may include making the report available to other Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies involved in the investigation of crimes described in subsection (b)(2), if the Drug Enforcement Administration determines that the report facially contains sufficient information to warrant and permit further investigation; or

''(B) conclude that no further investigative steps are warranted or possible, or that insufficient evidence exists to make a determination, and close the report.

''(e) ATTORNEY GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall enforce this section.

''(2) DESIGNATION OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Attorney General may designate a Federal law enforcement agency or agencies to which the Drug Enforcement Administration may forward a report under subsection (d).

''(3) DATA MINIMIZATION REQUIREMENTS.—The Attorney General shall take reasonable measures to—

''(A) limit the storage of a report submitted under subsection (b) and its contents to the amount that is necessary to carry out the investigation of crimes described in subsection (b)(2); and

''(B) store a report submitted under subsection (b) and its contents only as long as is reasonably necessary to carry out an investigation of crimes described in subsection (b)(2) or make the report available to other agencies under subsection (d)(2)(A), after which time the report and its contents shall be deleted unless the preservation of a report has future evidentiary value.

''(f) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—

''(A) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for a provider to knowingly fail to submit a report required under subsection (b)(1).

''(B) PENALTY.—A provider that violates subparagraph (A) shall be fined—

''(i) in the case of an initial violation, not more than $190,000; and

''(ii) in the case of any second or subsequent violation, not more than $380,000.

''(2) CIVIL PENALTY.—In addition to any other available civil or criminal penalty, a provider shall be liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty in an amount not less than $50,000 and not more than $100,000 if the provider knowingly submits a report under subsection (b) that—

''(A) contains materially false or fraudulent information; or

''(B) omits information described in subsection (c)(1)(A) that is reasonably available.

''(g) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

''(1) require a provider to monitor any user, subscriber, or customer of that provider;

''(2) require a provider to monitor the content of any communication of any person described in paragraph (1);

''(3) require a provider to affirmatively search, screen, or scan for facts or circumstances described in subsection (b)(2); or

''(4) permit actual knowledge to be proven based solely on a provider's decision not to engage in additional verification or investigation to discover facts and circumstances that are not readily apparent, so long as the provider does not deliberately blind itself to those violations.

''(h) CONDITIONS OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a law enforcement agency that receives a report under subsection (d) shall not disclose any information contained in that report.

''(2) PERMITTED DISCLOSURES BY LAW ENFORCEMENT.—A law enforcement agency may disclose information in a report received under subsection (d)—

''(A) to an attorney for the government for use in the performance of the official duties of that attorney, including providing discovery to a defendant;

''(B) to such officers and employees of that law enforcement agency, as may be necessary in the performance of their investigative and recordkeeping functions;

''(C) to such other government personnel (including personnel of a State or subdivision of a State) as are determined to be necessary by an attorney for the government to assist the attorney in the performance of the official duties of the attorney in enforcing Federal criminal law;

''(D) if the report discloses an apparent violation of State criminal law, to an appropriate official of a State or subdivision of a State for the purpose of enforcing such State law;

''(E) to a defendant in a criminal case or the attorney for that defendant to the extent the information relates to a criminal charge pending against that defendant;

''(F) to a provider if necessary to facilitate response to legal process issued in connection to a criminal investigation, prosecution, or post-conviction remedy relating to that report;

''(G) as ordered by a court upon a showing of good cause and pursuant to any protective orders or other conditions that the court may impose; and

''(H) in order to facilitate the enforcement of the penalties authorized under subsection (f).

''(i) PRESERVATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) REQUEST TO PRESERVE CONTENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), for the purposes of this section, a completed submission by a provider of a report to the Drug Enforcement Administration under subsection (b)(1) shall be treated as a request to preserve the contents provided in the report, and any data or other digital files that are reasonably accessible and may provide context or additional information about the reported material or person, for 90 days after the submission to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

''(ii) LIMITATIONS ON EXTENSION OF PRESERVATION PERIOD.—

''(I) STORED COMMUNICATIONS ACT.—The Drug Enforcement Administration may not submit a request to a provider to continue preservation of the contents of a report or

other data described in clause (i) under section 2703(f) of title 18, United States Code, beyond the required period of preservation under clause (i) of this subparagraph unless the Drug Enforcement Administration has an active or pending investigation involving the user, subscriber, or customer account at issue in the report.

''(II) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subclause (I) shall preclude another Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency from seeking continued preservation of the contents of a report or other data described in clause (i) under section 2703(f) of title 18, United States Code.

''(B) NOTIFICATION TO USER.—A provider may not notify a user, subscriber, or customer of the provider of a preservation request described in subparagraph (A) unless—

''(i) the provider has notified the Drug Enforcement Administration of its intent to provide that notice; and

''(ii) 45 business days have elapsed since the notification under clause (i).

''(2) PROTECTION OF PRESERVED MATERIALS.—A provider preserving materials under this section shall maintain the materials in a secure location and take appropriate steps to limit access to the materials by agents or employees of the service to that access necessary to comply with the requirements of this subsection.

''(3) AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed as replacing, amending, or otherwise interfering with the authorities and duties under section 2703 of title 18, United States Code.

''(4) RELATION TO REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Submission of a report as required by subsection (b)(1) does not satisfy the obligations under this subsection.

''(j) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Cooper Davis and Devin Norring Act, and annually thereafter, the Drug Enforcement Administration shall publish a report that includes, for the reporting period—

''(1) the total number of reports received from providers under subsection (b)(1);

''(2) the number of reports received under subsection (b)(1) disaggregated by—

''(A) the provider on whose electronic communication service or remote computing service the crime for which there are facts or circumstances occurred; and

''(B) the subsidiary of a provider, if any, on whose electronic communication service or remote computing service the crime for which there are facts or circumstances occurred;

''(3) the number of reports received under subsection (b)(1) that led to convictions in cases investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration;

''(4) the number of reports received under subsection (b)(1) that lacked actionable information;

''(5) the number of reports received under subsection (b)(1) where the facts or circumstances of a crime were discovered through—

''(A) content moderation conducted by a human; or

''(B) a non-human method including use of an algorithm, machine learning, or other means;

''(6) the number of reports received under subsection (b)(1) that were made available to other law enforcement agencies, disaggregated by—

''(A) the number of reports made available to Federal law enforcement agencies;

''(B) the number of reports made available to State law enforcement agencies; and

''(C) the number of reports made available to local law enforcement agencies; and

''(7) the number of requests to providers to continue preservation of the contents of a report or other data described in subsection (i)(1)(A)(i) submitted by the Drug Enforcement Administration under section 2703(f) of title 18, United States Code.

''(k) PROHIBITION ON SUBMISSION OF USER, SUBSCRIBER, CUSTOMER, OR ANONYMOUS REPORTS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—No Federal, Tribal, State, or local law enforcement officer acting in an official capacity may submit a report to a provider or arrange for another individual to submit a report to a provider on behalf of the officer under this section.

''(2) REMEDY FOR VIOLATION.—No part of the contents of a provider's report made under subsection (b)(1) or (b)(3) and no evidence derived therefrom may be received in evidence in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, department, officer, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision thereof if that provider report resulted from an action prohibited by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

''(l) EXEMPTIONS.—Subsections (b) through (k) shall not apply to a provider of broadband internet access service, as that term is defined in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), or a provider of a text messaging service, as that term is defined in section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227), insofar as the provider is acting as a provider of such service.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 520 the following:

''Sec. 521. Reporting requirements of electronic communication service providers and remote computing services for certain controlled substances violations.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO STORED COMMUNICATIONS ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2702 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (8), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) to the Drug Enforcement Administration, in connection with a report submitted thereto under section 521 of the Controlled Substances Act.''; and

(B) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (6), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) to the Drug Enforcement Administration, in connection with a report submitted thereto under section 521 of the Controlled Substances Act.''.

(2) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (7) of section 2702(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(7) to a law enforcement agency if the contents—

''(A) were inadvertently obtained by the service provider; and

''(B) appear to pertain to the commission of a crime;''.

SEC. ____03. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act or amendment made by this Act, or the application of such a provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of this Act and amendments made by this Act, and the application of such provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.

SA 3077. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____ TARGETING CHILD PREDATORS.

(a) NONDISCLOSURE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SUBPOENAS.—Section 3486(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking ''the Secretary of the Treasury'' each place it appears and inserting ''the Secretary of Homeland Security'';

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking ''ordered by a court''; and

(3) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''A United States'' and inserting ''Except as provided in subparagraph (D), a United States''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(D)(i)(I) If a subpoena issued under this section as described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(II) is accompanied by a certification under subclause (II) of this clause and notice of the right to judicial review under clause (iii) of this subparagraph, no recipient of such a subpoena shall disclose to any person that the Federal official who issued the subpoena has sought or obtained access to information or records under this section, for a period of 180 days.

''(II) The requirements of subclause (I) shall apply if the Federal official who issued the subpoena certifies that the absence of a prohibition of disclosure under this subsection may result in—

''(aa) endangering the life or physical safety of an individual;

''(bb) flight from prosecution;

''(cc) destruction of or tampering with evidence;

''(dd) intimidation of potential witnesses; or

''(ee) otherwise seriously jeopardizing an investigation.

''(ii)(I) A recipient of a subpoena under this section as described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(II) may disclose information otherwise subject to any applicable nondisclosure requirement to—

''(aa) those persons to whom disclosure is necessary in order to comply with the request;

''(bb) an attorney in order to obtain legal advice or assistance regarding the request; or

''(cc) other persons as permitted by the Federal official who issued the subpoena.

''(II) A person to whom disclosure is made under subclause (I) shall be subject to the nondisclosure requirements applicable to a person to whom a subpoena is issued under this section in the same manner as the person to whom the subpoena was issued.

''(III) Any recipient that discloses to a person described in subclause (I) information otherwise subject to a nondisclosure requirement shall notify the person of the applicable nondisclosure requirement.

''(IV) At the request of the Federal official who issued the subpoena, any person making or intending to make a disclosure under item (aa) or (cc) of subclause (I) shall identify to the individual making the request under this clause the person to whom such disclosure will be made or to whom such disclosure was made prior to the request.

''(iii)(I) A nondisclosure requirement imposed under clause (i) shall be subject to judicial review under section 3486A.

''(II) A subpoena issued under this section as described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(II), in connection with which a nondisclosure requirement under clause (i) is imposed, shall include notice of the availability of judicial review described in subclause (I).

''(iv) A nondisclosure requirement imposed under clause (i) may be extended in accordance with section 3486A(a)(4).''.

(b) JUDICIAL REVIEW OF NONDISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 223 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3486 the following:

''§ 3486A. Judicial review of nondisclosure requirements

''(a) NONDISCLOSURE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) NOTICE.—If a recipient of a subpoena under section 3486 as described in subsection (a)(1)(A)(i)(II) of section 3486 wishes to have a court review a nondisclosure requirement imposed in connection with the subpoena, the recipient may notify the Government or file a petition for judicial review in any court described in subsection (a)(5) of section 3486.

''(B) APPLICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a notification under subparagraph (A), the Government shall apply for an order prohibiting the disclosure of the existence or contents of the relevant subpoena. An application under this subparagraph may be filed in the district court of the United States for the judicial district in which the recipient of the subpoena is doing business or in the district court of the United States for any judicial district within which the authorized investigation that is the basis for the subpoena is being conducted. The applicable nondisclosure requirement shall remain in effect during the pendency of proceedings relating to the requirement.

''(C) CONSIDERATION.—A district court of the United States that receives a petition under subparagraph (A) or an application under subparagraph (B) should rule expeditiously, and shall, subject to paragraph (3), issue a nondisclosure order that includes conditions appropriate to the circumstances.

''(2) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—An application for a nondisclosure order or extension thereof or a response to a petition filed under paragraph (1) shall include a certification from the Federal official who issued the subpoena indicating that the absence of a prohibition of disclosure under this subsection may result in—

''(A) endangering the life or physical safety of an individual;

''(B) flight from prosecution;

''(C) destruction of or tampering with evidence;

''(D) intimidation of potential witnesses; or

''(E) otherwise seriously jeopardizing an investigation.

''(3) STANDARD.—A district court of the United States shall issue a nondisclosure order or extension thereof under this subsection if the court determines that there is reason to believe that disclosure of the information subject to the nondisclosure requirement during the applicable time period may result in—

''(A) endangering the life or physical safety of an individual;

''(B) flight from prosecution;

''(C) destruction of or tampering with evidence;

''(D) intimidation of potential witnesses; or

''(E) otherwise seriously jeopardizing an investigation.

''(4) EXTENSION.—Upon a showing that the circumstances described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (3) continue to exist, a district court of the United States may issue an ex parte order extending a nondisclosure order imposed under this subsection or under section 3486(a)(6)(D) for additional periods of 180 days, or, if the court determines that the circumstances necessitate a longer period of nondisclosure, for additional periods which are longer than 180 days.

''(b) CLOSED HEARINGS.—In all proceedings under this section, subject to any right to an open hearing in a contempt proceeding, the court must close any hearing to the extent necessary to prevent an unauthorized disclosure of a request for records, a report, or other information made to any person or entity under section 3486. Petitions, filings, records, orders, certifications, and subpoenas must also be kept under seal to the extent and as long as necessary to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of a subpoena under section 3486.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 223 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3486 the following:

''3486A. Judicial review of nondisclosure requirements.''.

SA 3078. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike title I and insert the following:

TITLE I—KIDS ONLINE SAFETY

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CHILD.—The term ''child'' means an individual who is under the age of 13.

(2) COMPULSIVE USAGE.—The term ''compulsive usage'' means any response stimulated by external factors that causes an individual to engage in repetitive behavior reasonably likely to cause psychological distress.

(3) COVERED PLATFORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''covered platform'' means an online platform, online video game, messaging application, or video streaming service that connects to the internet and that is used, or is reasonably likely to be used, by a minor.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term ''covered platform'' does not include—

(i) an entity acting in its capacity as a provider of—

(I) a common carrier service subject to the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) and all Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto;

(II) a broadband internet access service (as such term is defined for purposes of section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation);

(III) an email service;

(IV) a teleconferencing or video conferencing service that allows reception and transmission of audio or video signals for real-time communication, provided that—

(aa) the service is not an online platform, including a social media service or social network; and

(bb) the real-time communication is initiated by using a unique link or identifier to facilitate access; or

(V) a wireless messaging service, including such a service provided through short messaging service or multimedia messaging service protocols, that is not a component of, or linked to, an online platform and where the predominant or exclusive function is direct messaging consisting of the transmission of text, photos or videos that are sent by electronic means, where messages are transmitted from the sender to a recipient, and are not posted within an online platform or publicly;

(ii) an organization not organized to carry on business for its own profit or that of its members;

(iii) any public or private preschool, elementary, or secondary school, or any institution of vocational, professional, or higher education;

(iv) a library (as defined in section 213(1) of the Library Services and Technology Act (20 U.S.C. 9122(1)));

(v) a news or sports coverage website or app where—

(I) the inclusion of video content on the website or app is related to the website or app's own gathering, reporting, or publishing of news content or sports coverage; and

(II) the website or app is not otherwise an online platform;

(vi) a product or service that primarily functions as business-to-business software, a cloud storage, file sharing, or file collaboration service, provided that the product or service is not an online platform; or

(vii) a virtual private network or similar service that exists solely to route internet traffic between locations.

(4) DESIGN FEATURE.—The term ''design feature'' means any feature or component of a covered platform that will encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform. Design features include—

(A) infinite scrolling or auto play;

(B) rewards for time spent on the platform;

(C) notifications;

(D) personalized recommendation systems;

(E) in-game purchases; or

(F) appearance altering filters.

(5) GEOLOCATION.—The term ''geolocation'' means information sufficient to identify street name and name of a city or town.

(6) INDIVIDUAL-SPECIFIC ADVERTISING TO MINORS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''individual-specific advertising to minors'' means advertising or any other effort to market a product or service that is directed to a specific minor or a device that is linked or reasonably linkable to a minor based on—

(i) the personal data of—

(I) the minor; or

(II) a group of minors who are similar in sex, age, income level, race, or ethnicity to the specific minor to whom the product or service is marketed;

(ii) profiling of a minor or group of minors; or

(iii) a unique identifier of the device.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''individual-specific advertising to minors'' shall not include—

(i) advertising or marketing to an individual or the device of an individual in response to the individual's specific request for information or feedback, such as a minor's current search query;

(ii) contextual advertising, such as when an advertisement is displayed based on the content of the covered platform on which the advertisement appears and does not vary based on personal data related to the viewer;

(iii) processing personal data solely for measuring or reporting advertising or content performance, reach, or frequency, including independent measurement;

(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit a covered platform that knows an individual is under the age of 17 from delivering advertising or marketing that is age-appropriate for the individual involved and intended for a child or teen audience (as applicable), so long as the covered platform does not use any personal data other than whether the user is under the age of 17 to deliver such advertising or marketing.

(7) KNOW OR KNOWS.—The term ''know'' or ''knows'' means to have actual knowledge or knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances.

(8) MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER.—The term ''mental health disorder'' has the meaning given the term ''mental disorder'' in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders, 5th Edition (or the most current successor edition).

(9) MICROTRANSACTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''microtransaction'' means a purchase made in an online video game (including a purchase made using a virtual currency that is purchasable or redeemable using cash or credit or that is included as part of a paid subscription service).

(B) INCLUSIONS.—Such term includes a purchase involving surprise mechanics, new characters, or in-game items.

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include—

(i) a purchase made in an online video game using a virtual currency that is earned through gameplay and is not otherwise purchasable or redeemable using cash or credit or included as part of a paid subscription service; or

(ii) a purchase of additional levels within the game or an overall expansion of the game.

(10) MINOR.—The term ''minor'' means an individual who is under the age of 17.

(11) ONLINE PLATFORM.—The term ''online platform'' means any public-facing website, online service, online application, or mobile application that predominantly provides a community forum for user generated content, such as sharing videos, images, games, audio files, or other content, including a social media service, social network, or virtual reality environment.

(12) ONLINE VIDEO GAME.—The term ''online video game'' means a video game, including an educational video game, that connects to the internet and that—

(A) allows a user to—

(i) create and upload content other than content that is incidental to gameplay, such as character or level designs created by the user, preselected phrases, or short interactions with other users;

(ii) engage in microtransactions within the game; or

(iii) communicate with other users; or

(B) incorporates individual-specific advertising to minors.

(13) PARENT.—The term ''parent'' has the meaning given that term in section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501).

(14) PERSONAL DATA.—The term ''personal data'' has the same meaning as the term ''personal information'' as defined in section 1302 of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501).

(15) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM.—The term ''personalized recommendation system'' means a fully or partially automated system used to suggest, promote, or rank content, including other users, hashtags, or posts, based on the personal data of users. A recommendation system that suggests, promotes, or ranks content based solely on the user's language, city or town, or age shall not be considered a personalized recommendation system.

(16) SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.—The term ''sexual exploitation and abuse'' means any of the following:

(A) Coercion and enticement, as described in section 2422 of title 18, United States Code.

(B) Child sexual abuse material, as described in sections 2251, 2252, 2252A, and 2260 of title 18, United States Code.

(C) Trafficking for the production of images, as described in section 2251A of title 18, United States Code.

(D) Sex trafficking of children, as described in section 1591 of title 18, United States Code.

(17) USER.—The term ''user'' means, with respect to a covered platform, an individual who registers an account or creates a profile on the covered platform.

SEC. 102. DUTY OF CARE.

(a) PREVENTION OF HARM TO MINORS.—A covered platform shall exercise reasonable care in the creation and implementation of any design feature to prevent and mitigate the following harms to minors:

(1) Consistent with evidence-informed medical information, content that is distributed with the intent to exacerbate the following mental health disorders: anxiety, depression, eating disorders, substance use disorders, and suicidal behaviors.

(2) Patterns of use that indicate or encourage addiction-like behaviors by minors.

(3) Physical violence, online bullying, and harassment of the minor.

(4) Sexual exploitation and abuse of minors.

(5) Promotion and marketing of narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol.

(6) Promotion and marketing of obscene matter (as that term is used in section 1470 of title 18, United States Code).

(7) Predatory, unfair, or deceptive marketing practices, or other financial harms.

(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to require a covered platform to prevent or preclude any minor from—

(1) deliberately and independently searching for, or specifically requesting, content; or

(2) accessing resources and information regarding the prevention or mitigation of the harms described in subsection (a).

SEC. 103. SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.

(a) SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.—

(1) SAFEGUARDS.—A covered platform shall provide a user or visitor that the covered platform knows is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use safeguards to, as applicable—

(A) limit the ability of other users or visitors to communicate with the minor;

(B) prevent other users or visitors, whether registered or not, from viewing the minor's personal data collected by or shared on the covered platform, in particular restricting public access to personal data;

(C) limit design features that encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform, such as infinite scrolling, auto playing, rewards for time spent on the platform, notifications, and other design features that result in compulsive usage of the covered platform by the minor;

(D) control personalized recommendation systems, including the ability for a minor to have at least 1 of the following options—

(i) opt out of such personalized recommendation systems, while still allowing the display of content based on a chronological format; or

(ii) limit types or categories of recommendations from such systems; and

(E) restrict the sharing of the geolocation of the minor and provide notice regarding the tracking of the minor's geolocation.

(2) OPTIONS.—A covered platform shall provide a user that the covered platform knows is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use options to—

(A) delete the minor's account and delete any personal data collected from, or shared by, the minor on the covered platform; or

(B) limit the amount of time spent by the minor on the covered platform.

(3) DEFAULT SAFEGUARD SETTINGS FOR MINORS.—A covered platform shall provide that, in the case of a user or visitor that the platform knows is a minor, the default setting for any safeguard described under paragraph (1) shall be the option available on the platform that provides the most protective level of control that is offered by the platform over privacy and safety for that user or visitor.

(b) PARENTAL TOOLS.—

(1) TOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide readily-accessible and easy-to-use settings for parents to support a user that the platform knows is a minor with respect to the user's use of the platform.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The parental tools provided by a covered platform shall include—

(A) the ability to manage a minor's privacy and account settings, including the safeguards and options established under subsection (a), in a manner that allows parents to—

(i) view the privacy and account settings; and

(ii) in the case of a user that the platform knows is a child, change and control the privacy and account settings;

(B) the ability to restrict purchases and financial transactions by the minor, where applicable; and

(C) the ability to view metrics of total time spent on the covered platform and restrict time spent on the covered platform by the minor.

(3) NOTICE TO MINORS.—A covered platform shall provide clear and conspicuous notice to a user when the tools described in this subsection are in effect and what settings or controls have been applied.

(4) DEFAULT TOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide that, in the case of a user that the platform knows is a child, the tools required under paragraph (1) shall be enabled by default.

(5) APPLICATION TO EXISTING ACCOUNTS.—If, prior to the effective date of this subsection, a covered platform provided a parent of a user that the platform knows is a child with notice and the ability to enable the parental tools described under this subsection in a manner that would otherwise comply with this subsection, and the parent opted out of enabling such tools, the covered platform is not required to enable such tools with respect to such user by default when this subsection takes effect.

(c) REPORTING MECHANISM.—

(1) REPORTS SUBMITTED BY PARENTS, MINORS, AND SCHOOLS.—A covered platform shall provide—

(A) a readily-accessible and easy-to-use means to submit reports to the covered platform of harms to a minor;

(B) an electronic point of contact specific to matters involving harms to a minor; and

(C) confirmation of the receipt of such a report and, within the applicable time period described in paragraph (2), a substantive response to the individual that submitted the report.

(2) TIMING.—A covered platform shall establish an internal process to receive and substantively respond to such reports in a reasonable and timely manner, but in no case later than—

(A) 10 days after the receipt of a report, if, for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States;

(B) 21 days after the receipt of a report, if, for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged less than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States; and

(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A) and (B), if the report involves an imminent threat to the safety of a minor, as promptly as needed to address the reported threat to safety.

(d) ADVERTISING OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTS.—A covered platform shall not facilitate the advertising of narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol to an individual that the covered platform knows is a minor.

(e) RULES OF APPLICATION.—

(1) ACCESSIBILITY.—With respect to safeguards and parental tools described under subsections (a) and (b), a covered platform shall provide—

(A) information and control options in a clear and conspicuous manner that takes into consideration the differing ages, capacities, and developmental needs of the minors most likely to access the covered platform and does not encourage minors or parents to weaken or disable safeguards or parental tools;

(B) readily-accessible and easy-to-use controls to enable or disable safeguards or parental tools, as appropriate; and

(C) information and control options in the same language, form, and manner as the covered platform provides the product or service used by minors and their parents.

(2) DARK PATTERNS PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any covered platform to design, modify, or manipulate a user interface of a covered platform with the purpose or substantial effect of subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or choice with respect to safeguards or parental tools required under this section.

(3) TIMING CONSIDERATIONS.—

(A) NO INTERRUPTION TO GAMEPLAY.—Subsections (a)(1)(C) and (b)(3) shall not require an online video game to interrupt the natural sequence of game play, such as progressing through game levels or finishing a competition.

(B) APPLICATION OF CHANGES TO OFFLINE DEVICES OR ACCOUNTS.—If a user's device or user account does not have access to the internet at the time of a change to parental tools, a covered platform shall apply changes the next time the device or user is connected to the internet.

(4) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

(A) prevent a covered platform from taking reasonable measures to—

(i) block, detect, or prevent the distribution of unlawful, obscene, or other harmful material to minors as described in section 102(a); or

(ii) block or filter spam, prevent criminal activity, or protect the security of a platform or service;

(B) require the disclosure of a minor's browsing behavior, search history, messages, contact list, or other content or metadata of their communications;

(C) prevent a covered platform from using a personalized recommendation system to display content to a minor if the system only uses information on—

(i) the language spoken by the minor;

(ii) the city the minor is located in; or

(iii) the minor's age; or

(D) prevent an online video game from disclosing a username or other user identification for the purpose of competitive gameplay or to allow for the reporting of users.

(f) DEVICE OR CONSOLE CONTROLS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a covered platform from integrating its products or service with, or duplicate controls or tools provided by, third-party systems, including operating systems or gaming consoles, to meet the requirements imposed under subsections (a) and (b) relating to safeguards for minors and parental tools, provided that—

(A) the controls or tools meet such requirements; and

(B) the minor or parent is provided sufficient notice of the integration and use of the parental tools.

(2) PRESERVATION OF PROTECTIONS.—In the event of a conflict between the controls or tools of a third-party system, including operating systems or gaming consoles, and a covered platform, the covered platform is not required to override the controls or tools of a third-party system if it would undermine the protections for minors from the safeguards or parental tools imposed under subsections (a) and (b).

SEC. 104. DISCLOSURE.

(a) NOTICE.—

(1) REGISTRATION OR PURCHASE.—Prior to registration or purchase of a covered platform by an individual that the platform knows is a minor, the platform shall provide clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand—

(A) notice of the policies and practices of the covered platform with respect to personal data and safeguards for minors;

(B) information about how to access the safeguards and parental tools required under section 103; and

(C) notice about whether the covered platform uses or makes available to minors a product, service, or design feature, including any personalized recommendation system, that poses any heightened risk of harm to minors.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—In the case of an individual that a covered platform knows is a child, the platform shall additionally provide information about the parental tools and safeguards required under section 103 to a parent of the child and obtain verifiable parental consent (as defined in section 1302(9) of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501(9))) from the parent prior to the initial use of the covered platform by the child.

(B) REASONABLE EFFORT.—A covered platform shall be deemed to have satisfied the requirement described in subparagraph (A) if the covered platform is in compliance with the requirements of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) to use reasonable efforts (taking into consideration available technology) to provide a parent with the information described in subparagraph (A) and to obtain verifiable parental consent as required.

(3) CONSOLIDATED NOTICES.—For purposes of this title, a covered platform may consolidate the process for providing information under this subsection and obtaining verifiable parental consent or the consent of the minor involved (as applicable) as required under this subsection with its obligations to provide relevant notice and obtain verifiable consent under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

(4) GUIDANCE.—The Federal Trade Commission may issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the specific notice requirements of this subsection.

(b) PERSONALIZED RECOMMENDATION SYSTEM.—A covered platform that operates a personalized recommendation system shall set out in its terms and conditions, in a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand manner—

(1) an overview of how such personalized recommendation system is used by the covered platform to provide information to minors, including how such systems use the personal data of minors; and

(2) information about options for minors or their parents to opt out of or control the personalized recommendation system (as applicable).

(c) ADVERTISING AND MARKETING INFORMATION AND LABELS.—

(1) INFORMATION AND LABELS.—A covered platform that facilitates advertising aimed at users that the platform knows are minors shall provide clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand labels and information, which can be provided through a link to another web page or disclosure, to minors on advertisements regarding—

(A) the name of the product, service, or brand and the subject matter of an advertisement;

(B) if the covered platform engages in individual-specific advertising to minors, why a particular advertisement is directed to a specific minor, including material information about how the minor's personal data is used to direct the advertisement to the minor; and

(C) whether particular media displayed to the minor is an advertisement or marketing material, including disclosure of endorsements of products, services, or brands made for commercial consideration by other users of the platform.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Federal Trade Commission may issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the requirements of this subsection, including guidance about the minimum level of information and labels for the disclosures required under paragraph (1).

(d) RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND MINORS.—A covered platform shall provide to minors and parents clear, conspicuous, easy-to-understand, and comprehensive information in a prominent location, which may include a link to a web page, regarding—

(1) its policies and practices with respect to personal data and safeguards for minors; and

(2) how to access the safeguards and tools required under section 103.

(e) RESOURCES IN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES.—A covered platform shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the disclosures required by this section are made available in the same language, form, and manner as the covered platform provides any product or service used by minors and their parents.

SEC. 105. TRANSPARENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not less frequently than once a year, a covered platform shall issue a public report describing the reasonably foreseeable risks of harms to minors and assessing the prevention and mitigation measures taken to address such risk based on an independent, third-party audit conducted through reasonable inspection of the covered platform.

(b) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The requirements of this section shall apply to a covered platform if—

(1) for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States; and

(2) the platform predominantly provides a community forum for user-generated content and discussion, including sharing videos, images, games, audio files, discussion in a virtual setting, or other content, such as acting as a social media platform, virtual reality environment, or a social network service.

(c) CONTENT.—

(1) TRANSPARENCY.—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include—

(A) an assessment of the extent to which the platform is likely to be accessed by minors;

(B) a description of the commercial interests of the covered platform in use by minors;

(C) an accounting, based on the data held by the covered platform, of—

(i) the number of users using the covered platform that the platform knows to be minors in the United States;

(ii) the median and mean amounts of time spent on the platform by users known to be minors in the United States who have accessed the platform during the reporting year on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis; and

(iii) the amount of content being accessed by users that the platform knows to be minors in the United States that is in English, and the top 5 non-English languages used by users accessing the platform in the United States;

(D) an accounting of total reports received regarding, and the prevalence (which can be based on scientifically valid sampling methods using the content available to the covered platform in the normal course of business) of content related to, the harms described in section 102(a), disaggregated by category of harm and language, including English and the top 5 non-English languages used by users accessing the platform from the United States (as identified under subparagraph (C)(iii)); and

(E) a description of any material breaches of parental tools or assurances regarding minors, representations regarding the use of the personal data of minors, and other matters regarding non-compliance with this title.

(2) REASONABLY FORESEEABLE RISK OF HARM TO MINORS.—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include—

(A) an assessment of the reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors posed by the covered platform, specifically identifying those physical, mental, developmental, or financial harms described in section 102(a);

(B) a description of whether and how the covered platform uses design features that encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform, such as infinite scrolling, auto playing, rewards for time spent on the platform, notifications, and other design features that result in compulsive usage of the covered platform by the minor;

(C) a description of whether, how, and for what purpose the platform collects or processes categories of personal data that may cause reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors;

(D) an evaluation of the efficacy of safeguards for minors and parental tools under section 103, and any issues in delivering such safeguards and the associated parental tools;

(E) an evaluation of any other relevant matters of public concern over risk of harms to minors associated with the use of the covered platform; and

(F) an assessment of differences in risk of harm to minors across different English and non-English languages and efficacy of safeguards in those languages.

(3) MITIGATION.—The public reports required of a covered platform under this section shall include, for English and the top 5 non-English languages used by users accessing the platform from the United States (as identified under paragraph (2)(C)(iii)))—

(A) a description of the safeguards and parental tools available to minors and parents on the covered platform;

(B) a description of interventions by the covered platform when it had or has reason to believe that harms to minors could occur;

(C) a description of the prevention and mitigation measures intended to be taken in response to the known and emerging risks identified in its assessment of reasonably foreseeable risks of harms to minors, including steps taken to—

(i) prevent harms to minors, including adapting or removing design features or addressing through parental tools;

(ii) provide the most protective level of control over privacy and safety by default; and

(iii) adapt recommendation systems to mitigate reasonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors, as described in section 102(a);

(D) a description of internal processes for handling reports and automated detection mechanisms for harms to minors, including the rate, timeliness, and effectiveness of responses under the requirement of section 103(c);

(E) the status of implementing prevention and mitigation measures identified in prior assessments; and

(F) a description of the additional measures to be taken by the covered platform to address the circumvention of safeguards for minors and parental tools.

(d) REASONABLE INSPECTION.—In conducting an inspection of the reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to minors under this section, an independent, third-party auditor shall—

(1) take into consideration the function of personalized recommendation systems;

(2) consult parents and youth experts, including youth and families with relevant past or current experience, public health and mental health nonprofit organizations, health and development organizations, and civil society with respect to the prevention of harms to minors;

(3) conduct research based on experiences of minors that use the covered platform, including reports under section 103(c) and information provided by law enforcement;

(4) take account of research, including research regarding design features, marketing, or product integrity, industry best practices, or outside research;

(5) consider indicia or inferences of age of users, in addition to any self-declared information about the age of users; and

(6) take into consideration differences in risk of reasonably foreseeable harms and effectiveness of safeguards across English and non-English languages.

(e) COOPERATION WITH INDEPENDENT, THIRD-PARTY AUDIT.—To facilitate the report required by subsection (c), a covered platform shall—

(1) provide or otherwise make available to the independent third-party conducting the audit all information and material in its possession, custody, or control that is relevant to the audit;

(2) provide or otherwise make available to the independent third-party conducting the audit access to all network, systems, and assets relevant to the audit; and

(3) disclose all relevant facts to the independent third-party conducting the audit, and not misrepresent in any manner, expressly or by implication, any relevant fact.

(f) PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In issuing the public reports required under this section, a covered platform shall take steps to safeguard the privacy of its users, including ensuring that data is presented in a de-identified, aggregated format such that it is not reasonably linkable to any user.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section shall not be construed to require the disclosure of information that will lead to material vulnerabilities for the privacy of users or the security of a covered platform's service or create a significant risk of the violation of Federal or State law.

(3) DEFINITION OF DE-IDENTIFIED.—As used in this subsection, the term ''de-identified'' means data that does not identify and is not linked or reasonably linkable to a device that is linked or reasonably linkable to an individual, regardless of whether the information is aggregated

(g) LOCATION.—The public reports required under this section should be posted by a covered platform on an easy to find location on a publicly-available website.

SEC. 106. RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND MINORS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term ''National Academy'' means the National Academy of Sciences.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA HARMS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy, under which the National Academy shall conduct no less than 5 scientific, comprehensive studies and reports on the risk of harms to minors by use of social media and other online platforms, including in English and non-English languages.

(c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—In contracting with the National Academy, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall seek to commission separate studies and reports, using the Commission's authority under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)), on the relationship between social media and other online platforms as defined in this title on the following matters:

(1) Anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and suicidal behaviors.

(2) Substance use disorders and the use of narcotic drugs, tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol by minors.

(3) Sexual exploitation and abuse.

(4) Addiction-like use of social media and design factors that lead to unhealthy and harmful overuse of social media.

(d) ADDITIONAL STUDY.—Not earlier than 4 years after enactment, the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy under which the National Academy shall conduct an additional study and report covering the matters described in subsection (c) for the purposes of providing additional information, considering new research, and other matters.

(e) CONTENT OF REPORTS.— The comprehensive studies and reports conducted pursuant to this section shall seek to evaluate impacts and advance understanding, knowledge, and remedies regarding the harms to minors posed by social media and other online platforms, and may include recommendations related to public policy.

(f) ACTIVE STUDIES.—If the National Academy is engaged in any active studies on the matters described in subsection (c) at the time that it enters into a contract with the Commission to conduct a study under this section, it may base the study to be conducted under this section on the active study, so long as it otherwise incorporates the requirements of this section.

(g) COLLABORATION.—In designing and conducting the studies under this section, the

Commission, the Secretary, and the National Academy shall consult with the Surgeon General and the Kids Online Safety Council.

(h) ACCESS TO DATA.—

(1) FACT-FINDING AUTHORITY.—The Commission may issue orders under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to require covered platforms to provide reports, data, or answers in writing as necessary to conduct the studies required under this section.

(2) SCOPE.—In exercising its authority under paragraph (1), the Commission may issue orders to no more than 5 covered platforms per study under this section.

(3) CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS.—Notwithstanding section 6(f) or 21 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46, 57b–2), the Commission shall enter in agreements with the National Academy to share appropriate information received from a covered platform pursuant to an order under such subsection (b) for a comprehensive study under this section in a confidential and secure manner, and to prohibit the disclosure or sharing of such information by the National Academy. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude the disclosure of any such information if authorized or required by any other law.

SEC. 107. MARKET RESEARCH.

(a) MARKET RESEARCH BY COVERED PLATFORMS.—The Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall issue guidance for covered platforms seeking to conduct market- and product-focused research on minors. Such guidance shall include—

(1) a standard consent form that provides minors and their parents a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand explanation of the scope and purpose of the research to be conducted that is available in English and the top 5 non-English languages used in the United States;

(2) information on how to obtain informed consent from the parent of a minor prior to conducting such market- and product-focused research; and

(3) recommendations for research practices for studies that may include minors, disaggregated by the age ranges of 0-5, 6-9, 10-12, and 13-16.

(b) TIMING.—The Federal Trade Commission shall issue such guidance not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act. In doing so, they shall seek input from members of the public and the representatives of the Kids Online Safety Council established under section 111.

SEC. 108. AGE VERIFICATION STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, shall conduct a study evaluating the most technologically feasible methods and options for developing systems to verify age at the device or operating system level.

(b) CONTENTS.—Such study shall consider —

(1) the benefits of creating a device or operating system level age verification system;

(2) what information may need to be collected to create this type of age verification system;

(3) the accuracy of such systems and their impact or steps to improve accessibility, including for individuals with disabilities;

(4) how such a system or systems could verify age while mitigating risks to user privacy and data security and safeguarding minors' personal data, emphasizing minimizing the amount of data collected and processed by covered platforms and age verification providers for such a system;

(5) the technical feasibility, including the need for potential hardware and software changes, including for devices currently in commerce and owned by consumers; and

(6) the impact of different age verification systems on competition, particularly the risk of different age verification systems creating barriers to entry for small companies.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies described in subsection (a) shall submit a report containing the results of the study conducted under such subsection to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 109. GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Kids Online Safety Council established under section 111, shall issue guidance to—

(1) provide information and examples for covered platforms and auditors regarding the following, with consideration given to differences across English and non-English languages—

(A) identifying design features that encourage or increase the frequency, time spent, or activity of minors on the covered platform;

(B) safeguarding minors against the possible misuse of parental tools;

(C) best practices in providing minors and parents the most protective level of control over privacy and safety;

(D) using indicia or inferences of age of users for assessing use of the covered platform by minors;

(E) methods for evaluating the efficacy of safeguards set forth in this title; and

(F) providing additional parental tool options that allow parents to address the harms described in section 102(a); and

(2) outline conduct that does not have the purpose or substantial effect of subverting or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or choice, or of causing, increasing, or encouraging compulsive usage for a minor, such as—

(A) de minimis user interface changes derived from testing consumer preferences, including different styles, layouts, or text, where such changes are not done with the purpose of weakening or disabling safeguards or parental tools;

(B) algorithms or data outputs outside the control of a covered platform; and

(C) establishing default settings that provide enhanced privacy protection to users or otherwise enhance their autonomy and decision-making ability.

(b) GUIDANCE ON KNOWLEDGE STANDARD.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall issue guidance to provide information, including best practices and examples, for covered platforms to understand how the Commission would determine whether a covered platform ''had knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances'' for purposes of this title.

(c) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—

(1) EFFECT OF GUIDANCE.—No guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission with respect to this title shall—

(A) confer any rights on any person, State, or locality; or

(B) operate to bind the Federal Trade Commission or any court, person, State, or locality to the approach recommended in such guidance.

(2) USE IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Federal Trade Commission or a State attorney general, as applicable—

(A) shall allege a violation of a provision of this title; and

(B) may not base such enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission with respect to this title, unless the practices are alleged to violate a provision of this title.

For purposes of enforcing this title, State attorneys general shall take into account any guidance issued by the Commission under subsection (b).

SEC. 110. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this title shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commission (referred to in this section as the ''Commission'') shall enforce this title in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person that violates this title shall be subject to the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and immunities, provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) CIVIL ACTIONS.—In any case in which the attorney general of a State has reason to believe that a covered platform has violated or is violating section 103, 104, or 105, the State, as parens patriae, may bring a civil action on behalf of the residents of the State in a district court of the United States or a State court of appropriate jurisdiction to—

(i) enjoin any practice that violates section 103, 104, or 105;

(ii) enforce compliance with section 103, 104, or 105;

(iii) on behalf of residents of the State, obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation, each of which shall be distributed in accordance with State law; or

(iv) obtain such other relief as the court may consider to be appropriate.

(B) NOTICE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Before filing an action under subparagraph (A), the attorney general of the State involved shall provide to the Commission—

(I) written notice of that action; and

(II) a copy of the complaint for that action.

(ii) EXEMPTION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to the filing of an action by an attorney general of a State under this paragraph if the attorney general of the State determines that it is not feasible to provide the notice described in that clause before the filing of the action.

(II) NOTIFICATION.—In an action described in subclause (I), the attorney general of a State shall provide notice and a copy of the complaint to the Commission at the same time as the attorney general files the action.

(2) INTERVENTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—On receiving notice under paragraph (1)(B), the Commission shall have

the right to intervene in the action that is the subject of the notice.

(B) EFFECT OF INTERVENTION.—If the Commission intervenes in an action under paragraph (1), it shall have the right—

(i) to be heard with respect to any matter that arises in that action; and

(ii) to file a petition for appeal.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing any civil action under paragraph (1), nothing in this title shall be construed to prevent an attorney general of a State from exercising the powers conferred on the attorney general by the laws of that State to—

(A) conduct investigations;

(B) administer oaths or affirmations; or

(C) compel the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary and other evidence.

(4) ACTIONS BY THE COMMISSION.—In any case in which an action is instituted by or on behalf of the Commission for violation of this title, no State may, during the pendency of that action, institute a separate action under paragraph (1) against any defendant named in the complaint in the action instituted by or on behalf of the Commission for that violation.

(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under paragraph (1) may be brought in—

(i) the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1391 of title 28, United States Code; or

(ii) a State court of competent jurisdiction.

(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under paragraph (1) in a district court of the United States, process may be served wherever defendant—

(i) is an inhabitant; or

(ii) may be found.

(6) LIMITATION.—A violation of section 102 shall not form the basis of liability in any action brought by the attorney general of a State under a State law.

SEC. 111. KIDS ONLINE SAFETY COUNCIL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall establish and convene the Kids Online Safety Council for the purpose of providing advice on matters related to this title.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—The Kids Online Safety Council shall include diverse participation from—

(1) academic experts, health professionals, and members of civil society with expertise in mental health, substance use disorders, harm reduction as it relates to early exposures to pornographic material, and the prevention of harms to minors;

(2) representatives in academia and civil society with specific expertise in privacy, free expression, access to information, and civil liberties;

(3) parents and youth representation;

(4) representatives of covered platforms;

(5) representatives of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services;

(6) State attorneys general or their designees acting in State or local government;

(7) educators; and

(8) representatives of faith-based organizations.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—The matters to be addressed by the Kids Online Safety Council shall include—

(1) identifying emerging or current risks of harms to minors associated with online platforms;

(2) recommending measures and methods for assessing, preventing, and mitigating harms to minors online;

(3) recommending methods and themes for conducting research regarding online harms to minors, including in English and non-English languages; and

(4) recommending best practices and clear, consensus-based technical standards for transparency reports and audits, as required under this title, including methods, criteria, and scope to promote overall accountability.

(d) NON-APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Kids Online Safety Council shall not be subject to chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ''Federal Advisory Committee Act'').

SEC. 112. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided in this title, this title shall take effect on the date that is 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 113. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER MATTERS.

(a) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to—

(1) preempt section 444 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly known as the ''Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974'') or other Federal or State laws governing student privacy;

(2) preempt the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) or any rule or regulation promulgated under such Act;

(3) authorize any action that would conflict with section 18(h) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(h)); or

(4) expand or limit the scope of section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (commonly known as ''section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996'') (47 U.S.C. 230).

(b) DETERMINATION OF ''FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE BASIS OF OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES''.—For purposes of enforcing this title, in making a determination as to whether covered platform has knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective circumstances that a specific user is a minor, the Federal Trade Commission or a State attorney general shall rely on competent and reliable evidence, taking into account the totality of the circumstances, including whether a reasonable and prudent person under the circumstances would have known that the user is a minor.

(c) PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVACY.—Nothing in this title, including a determination described in subsection (b), shall be construed to require—

(1) the affirmative collection of any personal data with respect to the age of users that a covered platform is not already collecting in the normal course of business; or

(2) a covered platform to implement an age gating or age verification functionality.

(d) COMPLIANCE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to restrict a covered platform's ability to—

(1) cooperate with law enforcement agencies regarding activity that the covered platform reasonably and in good faith believes may violate Federal, State, or local laws, rules, or regulations;

(2) comply with a lawful civil, criminal, or regulatory inquiry, subpoena, or summons by Federal, State, local, or other government authorities; or

(3) investigate, establish, exercise, respond to, or defend against legal claims.

(e) APPLICATION TO VIDEO STREAMING SERVICES.—A video streaming service shall be deemed to be in compliance with this title if it predominantly consists of news, sports, entertainment, or other video programming content that is preselected by the provider and not user-generated, and—

(1) any chat, comment, or interactive functionality is provided incidental to, directly related to, or dependent on provision of such content;

(2) if such video streaming service requires account owner registration and is not predominantly news or sports, the service includes the capability—

(A) to limit a minor's access to the service, which may utilize a system of age-rating;

(B) to limit the automatic playing of on-demand content selected by a personalized recommendation system for an individual that the service knows is a minor;

(C) to provide an individual that the service knows is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use options to delete an account held by the minor and delete any personal data collected from the minor on the service, or, in the case of a service that allows a parent to create a profile for a minor, to allow a parent to delete the minor's profile, and to delete any personal data collected from the minor on the service;

(D) for a parent to manage a minor's privacy and account settings, and restrict purchases and financial transactions by a minor, where applicable;

(E) to provide an electronic point of contact specific to matters described in this paragraph;

(F) to offer a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand notice of its policies and practices with respect to personal data and the capabilities described in this paragraph; and

(G) when providing on-demand content, to employ measures that safeguard against serving advertising for narcotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol directly to the account or profile of an individual that the service knows is a minor.

(f) APPLICATION TO PARTICULAR VIEWPOINTS.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to require a covered platform to alter a design feature in such a manner that would result in particular viewpoints being throttled, suppressed, or censored.

SA 3079. Mr. THUNE (for Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Thune to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After title III, add the following:

TITLE IV—SCREEN ACT

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Shielding Children's Retinas from Egregious Exposure on the Net Act'' or the ''SCREEN Act''.

SEC. 402. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Over the 3 decades preceding the date of enactment of this Act, Congress has passed several bills to protect minors from access to online pornographic content, including title V of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–104) (commonly known as the ''Communications Decency Act''), section 231 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 231) (commonly known as the ''Child Online Protection Act''), and the Children's Internet Protection Act (title XVII of division B of Public Law 106–554).

(2) With the exception of the Children's Internet Protection Act (title XVII of division B of Public Law 106–554), the Supreme Court of the United States has struck down

the previous efforts of Congress to shield children from pornographic content, finding that such legislation constituted a ''compelling government interest'' but that it was not the least restrictive means to achieve such interest. In Ashcroft v. ACLU, 542 U.S. 656 (2004), the Court even suggested at the time that ''blocking and filtering software'' could conceivably be a ''primary alternative'' to the requirements passed by Congress.

(3) In the nearly 2 decades since the Supreme Court of the United States suggested the use of ''blocking and filtering software'', such technology has proven to be ineffective in protecting minors from accessing online pornographic content. The Kaiser Family Foundation has found that filters do not work on 1 in 10 pornography sites accessed intentionally and 1 in 3 pornography sites that are accessed unintentionally. Further, it has been proven that children are able to bypass ''blocking and filtering'' software by employing strategic searches or measures to bypass the software completely.

(4) Additionally, Pew Research has revealed studies showing that only 39 percent of parents use blocking or filtering software for their minor's online activities, meaning that 61 percent of children only have restrictions on their internet access when they are at school or at a library.

(5) 17 States have now recognized pornography as a public health hazard that leads to a broad range of individual harms, societal harms, and public health impacts.

(6) It is estimated that 80 percent of minors between the ages of 12 to 17 have been exposed to pornography, with 54 percent of teenagers seeking it out. The internet is the most common source for minors to access pornography with pornographic websites receiving more web traffic in the United States than Twitter, Netflix, Pinterest, and LinkedIn combined.

(7) Exposure to online pornography has created unique psychological effects for minors, including anxiety, addiction, low self-esteem, body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire among minors to engage in risky sexual behavior.

(8) The Supreme Court of the United States has recognized on multiple occasions that Congress has a ''compelling government interest'' to protect the physical and psychological well-being of minors, which includes shielding them from ''indecent'' content that may not necessarily be considered ''obscene'' by adult standards.

(9) Because ''blocking and filtering software'' has not produced the results envisioned nearly 2 decades ago, it is necessary for Congress to pursue alternative policies to enable the protection of the physical and psychological well-being of minors.

(10) The evolution of our technology has now enabled the use of age verification technology that is cost efficient, not unduly burdensome, and can be operated narrowly in a manner that ensures only adults have access to a website's online pornographic content.

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

(1) shielding minors from access to online pornographic content is a compelling government interest that protects the physical and psychological well-being of minors; and

(2) requiring interactive computer services that are in the business of creating, hosting, or making available pornographic content to enact technological measures that shield minors from accessing pornographic content on their platforms is the least restrictive means for Congress to achieve its compelling government interest.

SEC. 403. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CHILD PORNOGRAPHY; MINOR.—The terms ''child pornography'' and ''minor'' have the meanings given those terms in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

(3) COVERED PLATFORM.—The term ''covered platform''—

(A) means an entity—

(i) that is an interactive computer service;

(ii) that—

(I) is engaged in interstate or foreign commerce; or

(II) purposefully avails itself of the United States market or a portion thereof; and

(iii) for which it is in the regular course of the trade or business of the entity to create, host, or make available content that meets the definition of harmful to minors under paragraph (4) and that is provided by the entity, a user, or other information content provider, with the objective of earning a profit; and

(B) includes an entity described in subparagraph (A) regardless of whether—

(i) the entity earns a profit on the activities described in subparagraph (A)(iii); or

(ii) creating, hosting, or making available content that meets the definition of harmful to minors under paragraph (4) is the sole source of income or principal business of the entity.

(4) HARMFUL TO MINORS.—The term ''harmful to minors'', with respect to a picture, image, graphic image file, film, videotape, or other visual depiction, means that the picture, image, graphic image file, film, videotape, or other depiction—

(A)(i) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to the prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

(ii) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

(iii) taken as a whole, lacks serious, literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors;

(B) is obscene; or

(C) is child pornography.

(5) INFORMATION CONTENT PROVIDER; INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SERVICE.—The terms ''information content provider'' and ''interactive computer service'' have the meanings given those terms in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f)).

(6) SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT.—The terms ''sexual act'' and ''sexual contact'' have the meanings given those terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

(7) TECHNOLOGY VERIFICATION MEASURE.—The term ''technology verification measure'' means technology that—

(A) employs a system or process to determine whether it is more likely than not that a user of a covered platform is a minor; and

(B) prevents access by minors to any content on a covered platform.

(8) TECHNOLOGY VERIFICATION MEASURE DATA.—The term ''technology verification measure data'' means information that—

(A) identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to an individual or a device that identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to an individual;

(B) is collected or processed for the purpose of fulfilling a request by an individual to access any content on a covered platform; and

(C) is collected and processed solely for the purpose of utilizing a technology verification measure and meeting the obligations imposed under this title.

SEC. 404. TECHNOLOGY VERIFICATION MEASURES.

(a) COVERED PLATFORM REQUIREMENTS.—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a covered platform shall adopt and utilize technology verification measures on the platform to ensure that—

(1) users of the covered platform are not minors; and

(2) minors are prevented from accessing any content on the covered platform that is harmful to minors.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES.—In order to comply with the requirement of subsection (a), the technology verification measures adopted and utilized by a covered platform shall do the following:

(1) Use a technology verification measure in order to verify a user's age.

(2) Provide that requiring a user to confirm that the user is not a minor shall not be sufficient to satisfy the requirement of subsection (a).

(3) Make publicly available the verification process that the covered platform is employing to comply with the requirements under this title.

(4) Subject the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, including known virtual proxy network IP addresses, of all users of a covered platform to the technology verification measure described in paragraph (1) unless the covered platform determines based on available technology that a user is not located within the United States.

(c) CHOICE OF VERIFICATION MEASURES.—A covered platform may choose the specific technology verification measures to employ for purposes of complying with subsection (a), provided that the technology verification measure employed by the covered platform meets the requirements of subsection (b) and prohibits a minor from accessing the platform or any information on the platform that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors.

(d) USE OF THIRD PARTIES.—A covered platform may contract with a third party to employ technology verification measures for purposes of complying with subsection (a) but the use of such a third party shall not relieve the covered platform of its obligations under this title or from liability under this title.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a covered platform to submit to the Commission any information that identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to a user of the covered platform or a device that identifies, is linked to, or is reasonably linkable to a user of the covered platform.

(f) TECHNOLOGY VERIFICATION MEASURE DATA SECURITY.—A covered platform shall—

(1) establish, implement, and maintain reasonable data security to—

(A) protect the confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of technology verification measure data collected by the covered platform or a third party employed by the covered platform; and

(B) protect such technology verification measure data against unauthorized access; and

(2) retain the technology verification measure data for no longer than is reasonably necessary to utilize a technology verification measure or what is minimally necessary to demonstrate compliance with the obligations under this title.

SEC. 405. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS.

In enforcing the requirements under section 404, the Commission shall consult with the following individuals, including with respect to the applicable standards and metrics for making a determination on whether a user of a covered platform is not a minor:

(1) Individuals with experience in computer science and software engineering.

(2) Individuals with experience in—

(A) advocating for online child safety; or

(B) providing services to minors who have been victimized by online child exploitation.

(3) Individuals with experience in consumer protection and online privacy.

(4) Individuals who supply technology verification measure products or have expertise in technology verification measure solutions.

(5) Individuals with experience in data security and cryptography.

SEC. 406. COMMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

(1) conduct regular audits of covered platforms to ensure compliance with the requirements of section 404;

(2) make public the terms and processes for the audits conducted under paragraph (1), including the processes for any third party conducting an audit on behalf of the Commission;

(3) establish a process for each covered platform to submit only such documents or other materials as are necessary for the Commission to ensure full compliance with the requirements of section 404 when conducting audits under this section; and

(4) prescribe the appropriate documents, materials, or other measures required to demonstrate full compliance with the requirements of section 404.

(b) GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the requirements of section 404.

(2) LIMITATIONS ON GUIDANCE.—No guidance issued by the Commission with respect to this title shall confer any rights on any person, State, or locality, nor shall operate to bind the Commission or any person to the approach recommended in such guidance. In any enforcement action brought pursuant to this title, the Commission shall allege a specific violation of a provision of this title. The Commission may not base an enforcement action on, or execute a consent order based on, practices that are alleged to be inconsistent with any such guidelines, unless the practices allegedly violate a provision of this title.

SEC. 407. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE.—A violation of section 404 shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce section 404 in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this title.

(2) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates section 404 shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

SEC. 408. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the date on which covered platforms are required to comply with the requirement of section 404(a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of the effectiveness of the technology verification measures required under such section;

(2) an analysis of rates of compliance with such section among covered platforms;

(3) an analysis of the data security measures used by covered platforms in the age verification process;

(4) an analysis of the behavioral, economic, psychological, and societal effects of implementing technology verification measures;

(5) recommendations to the Commission on improving enforcement of section 404(a), if any; and

(6) recommendations to Congress on potential legislative improvements to this title, if any.

SEC. 409. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of such a provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of this Act, and the application of such provisions to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.

SA 3080. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—TAKE IT DOWN ACT

SEC. 401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Tools to Address Known Exploitation by Immobilizing Technological Deepfakes on Websites and Networks Act'' or the ''TAKE IT DOWN Act''.

SEC. 402. CRIMINAL PROHIBITION ON INTENTIONAL DISCLOSURE OF NONCONSENSUAL INTIMATE VISUAL DEPICTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) INTENTIONAL DISCLOSURE OF NONCONSENSUAL INTIMATE VISUAL DEPICTIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) CONSENT.—The term 'consent' means an affirmative, conscious, and voluntary authorization made by an individual free from force, fraud, duress, misrepresentation, or coercion.

''(B) DEEPFAKE.—The term 'deepfake' means a video or image that is generated or substantially modified using machine-learning techniques or any other computer-generated or machine-generated means to falsely depict an individual's appearance or conduct within an intimate visual depiction.

''(C) IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The term 'identifiable individual' means an individual—

''(I) who appears in whole or in part in an intimate visual depiction; and

''(II) whose face, likeness, or other distinguishing characteristic (including a unique birthmark or other recognizable feature) is displayed in connection with such intimate visual depiction.

''(ii) APPEARS.—For purposes of clause (i), an individual appears in an intimate visual depiction if—

''(I) the individual is actually the individual identified in the intimate visual depiction; or

''(II) a deepfake of the individual is used to realistically depict the individual such that a reasonable person would believe the individual is actually depicted in the intimate visual depiction.

''(D) INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SERVICE.—The term 'interactive computer service' has the meaning given the term in section 230.

''(E) INTIMATE VISUAL DEPICTION.—The term 'intimate visual depiction' has the meaning given such term in section 1309 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (15 U.S.C. 6851).

''(F) MINOR.—The term 'minor' means any individual under the age of 18 years.

''(2) OFFENSE.—

''(A) INVOLVING ADULTS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), it shall be unlawful for any person, in interstate or foreign commerce, to use an interactive computer service to knowingly publish an intimate visual depiction of an identifiable individual who is not a minor if—

''(i) the intimate visual depiction was obtained or created under circumstances in which the person knew or reasonably should have known the identifiable individual had a reasonable expectation of privacy;

''(ii) what is depicted was not voluntarily exposed by the identifiable individual in a public or commercial setting;

''(iii) what is depicted is not a matter of public concern; and

''(iv) publication of the intimate visual depiction—

''(I) is intended to cause harm; or

''(II) causes harm, including psychological, financial, or reputational harm, to the identifiable individual.

''(B) INVOLVING MINORS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), it shall be unlawful for any person, in interstate or foreign commerce, to use an interactive computer service to knowingly publish an intimate visual depiction of an identifiable individual who is a minor with intent to—

''(i) abuse, humiliate, harass, or degrade the minor; or

''(ii) arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.

''(C) EXCEPTIONS.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall not apply to—

''(i) a lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of—

''(I) a law enforcement agency of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State; or

''(II) an intelligence agency of the United States;

''(ii) a disclosure made reasonably and in good faith—

''(I) to a law enforcement officer or agency;

''(II) as part of a document production or filing associated with a legal proceeding;

''(III) as part of medical education, diagnosis, or treatment or for a legitimate medical, scientific, or education purpose; or

''(IV) in the reporting of unlawful content or unsolicited or unwelcome conduct or in pursuance of a legal, professional, or other lawful obligation; or

''(V) to seek support or help with respect to the receipt of an unsolicited intimate visual depiction;

''(iii) a disclosure reasonably intended to assist the identifiable individual; or

''(iv) a person who possesses or publishes an intimate visual depiction of himself or herself engaged in nudity or sexually explicit conduct (as that term is defined in section 2256(2)(A) of title 18, United States Code).

''(3) PENALTIES.—

''(A) OFFENSES INVOLVING ADULTS.—Any person who violates paragraph (2)(A) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

''(B) OFFENSES INVOLVING MINORS.—Any person who violates paragraph (2)(B) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both.

''(4) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of paragraph (2)—

''(A) the fact that the identifiable individual provided consent for the creation of the intimate visual depiction shall not establish that the individual provided consent for the publication of the intimate visual depiction; and

''(B) the fact that the identifiable individual disclosed the intimate visual depiction to another individual shall not establish that the identifiable individual provided consent for the publication of the intimate visual depiction by the person alleged to have violated paragraph (2).

''(5) THREATS.—Any person who intentionally threatens to commit an offense under paragraph (2) for the purpose of intimidation, coercion, extortion, or to create mental distress shall be punished as provided in paragraph (3).

''(6) FORFEITURE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The court, in imposing a sentence on any person convicted of a violation of subparagraph (2), shall order, in addition to any other sentence imposed and irrespective of any provision of State law, that the person forfeit to the United States—

''(i) any material distributed in violation of that paragraph;

''(ii) the person's interest in property, real or personal, constituting or derived from any gross proceeds of the violation, or any property traceable to such property, obtained or retained directly or indirectly as a result of the violation; and

''(iii) any personal property of the person used, or intended to be used, in any manner or part, to commit or to facilitate the commission of the violation.

''(B) PROCEDURES.—Section 413 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 853), with the exception of subsections (a) and (d), shall apply to the criminal forfeiture of property under subparagraph (A).

''(7) RESTITUTION.—The court shall order restitution for an offense under paragraph (2) in the same manner as under section 2264 of title 18, United States Code.''.

(b) DEFENSES.—Section 223(e)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223(e)(1)) is amended by striking ''or (d)'' and inserting '', (d), or (h)''.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (i) of section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223), as so redesignated by subsection (a), is amended by inserting ''DEFINITIONS.—'' before ''For purposes of this section''.

SEC. 403. NOTICE AND REMOVAL OF NONCONSENSUAL INTIMATE VISUAL DEPICTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) NOTICE AND REMOVAL PROCESS.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, a covered platform shall establish a process whereby an identifiable individual (or an authorized representative of such individual) may—

(i) notify the covered platform of an intimate visual depiction published on the covered platform that—

(I) includes a depiction of the identifiable individual; and

(II) was published without the consent of the identifiable individual; and

(ii) submit a request for the covered platform to remove such intimate visual depiction.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—A notification and request for removal of an intimate visual depiction submitted under the process established under subparagraph (A) shall include, in writing—

(i) a physical or electronic signature of the identifiable individual (or an authorized representative of such individual);

(ii) an identification of the intimate visual depiction of the identifiable individual; and

(iii) a brief statement that the identifiable individual has a good faith belief that any intimate visual depiction identified under clause (ii) is not consensual, including any relevant information for the covered platform to determine the intimate visual depiction was published without the consent of the identifiable individual.

(2) NOTICE OF PROCESS.—A covered platform shall provide on the platform a clear and conspicuous notice of the notice and removal process established under paragraph (1)(A).

(3) REMOVAL OF NONCONSENSUAL INTIMATE VISUAL DEPICTIONS.—Upon receiving a valid removal request from an identifiable individual (or an authorized representative of such individual) using the process described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii), a covered platform shall remove the intimate visual depiction and make reasonable efforts to remove any identical copies of such depiction as soon as possible, but not later than 48 hours after receiving such request.

(4) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—A covered platform shall not be liable for any claim based on the covered platform's good faith disabling of access to, or removal of, material claimed to be a nonconsensual intimate visual depiction based on facts or circumstances from which the unlawful publishing of an intimate visual depiction is apparent, regardless of whether the intimate visual depiction is ultimately determined to be unlawful or not.

(b) ENFORCEMENT BY THE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this section shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or a deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), the Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates this title shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(C) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(D) SCOPE OF JURISDICTION.—Notwithstanding sections 4, 5(a)(2), or 6 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44, 45(a)(2), 46), or any jurisdictional limitation of the Commission, the Commission shall also enforce this section in the same manner provided in subparagraph (A), with respect to organizations that are not organized to carry on business for their own profit or that of their members.

SEC. 404. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) CONSENT; DEEPFAKE; IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL; INTIMATE VISUAL DEPICTION.—The terms ''consent'', ''deepfake'', ''identifiable individual'', ''intimate visual depiction'', and ''minor'' have the meaning given such terms in section 223(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223), as added by section 402.

(3) COVERED PLATFORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''covered platform'' means a website, online service, online application, or mobile application that—

(i) serves the public; and

(ii) primarily provides a forum for user-generated content, including messages, videos, images, games, and audio files.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''covered platform'' shall not include the following:

(i) A provider of broadband internet access service (as described in section 8.1(b) of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulation).

(ii) Electronic mail.

(iii) An online service, application, or website—

(I) that consists primarily of content that is not user generated but is preselected by the provider of such online service, application, or website; and

(II) for which any chat, comment, or interactive functionality is incidental to, directly related to, or dependent on the provision of the content described in subclause (I).

SA 3081. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 6, line 25, strike ''or'' and all that follows through ''circumstances'' on page 7, line 2.

SA 3082. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to grant the Federal Trade Commission or the Kids Online Safety Council the authority to promulgate regulations or issue guidance beyond those required to prevent the targeted abuse of minors.

SA 3083. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

All speech protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution shall be exempt from all regulations and restrictions imposed by this Act.

SA 3084. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, nor any regulation promulgated or guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commission or the Kids Online Safety Council, shall be construed to exceed the regulations and requirements applicable to broadcast television.

SA 3085. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, nor any regulation promulgated thereunder by the Federal Trade Commission or the Kids Online Safety Council, shall be construed to apply to political, social, or religious speech.

SA 3086. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 102.

SA 3087. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act''.

SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND MINORS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) NATIONAL ACADEMY.—The term ''National Academy'' means the National Academy of Sciences.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA HARMS.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy, under which the National Academy shall conduct no less than 5 scientific, comprehensive studies and reports on the risk of harms to minors by use of social media and other online platforms, including in English and non-English languages.

(c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—In contracting with the National Academy, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall seek to commission separate studies and reports, using the Commission's authority under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)), on the relationship between social media and other online platforms as defined in this subtitle on the following matters:

(1) Anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and suicidal behaviors.

(2) Substance use disorders and the use of narcotic drugs, tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol by minors.

(3) Sexual exploitation and abuse.

(4) Addiction-like use of social media and design factors that lead to unhealthy and harmful overuse of social media.

(d) ADDITIONAL STUDY.—Not earlier than 4 years after enactment, the Commission shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Academy under which the National Academy shall conduct an additional study and report covering the matters described in subsection (c) for the purposes of providing additional information, considering new research, and other matters.

(e) CONTENT OF REPORTS.— The comprehensive studies and reports conducted pursuant to this section shall seek to evaluate impacts and advance understanding, knowledge, and remedies regarding the harms to minors posed by social media and other online platforms, and may include recommendations related to public policy.

(f) ACTIVE STUDIES.—If the National Academy is engaged in any active studies on the matters described in subsection (c) at the time that it enters into a contract with the Commission to conduct a study under this section, it may base the study to be conducted under this section on the active study, so long as it otherwise incorporates the requirements of this section.

(g) COLLABORATION.—In designing and conducting the studies under this section, the Commission, the Secretary, and the National Academy shall consult with the Surgeon General and the Kids Online Safety Council.

(h) ACCESS TO DATA.—

(1) FACT-FINDING AUTHORITY.—The Commission may issue orders under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to require covered platforms to provide reports, data, or answers in writing as necessary to conduct the studies required under this section.

(2) SCOPE.—In exercising its authority under paragraph (1), the Commission may issue orders to no more than 5 covered platforms per study under this section.

(3) CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS.—Notwithstanding section 6(f) or 21 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46, 57b–2), the Commission shall enter in agreements with the National Academy to share appropriate information received from a covered platform pursuant to an order under such subsection (b) for a comprehensive study under this section in a confidential and secure manner, and to prohibit the disclosure or sharing of such information by the National Academy. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to preclude the disclosure of any such information if authorized or required by any other law.

SEC. 3. AGE VERIFICATION STUDY AND REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal Trade Commission, shall conduct a study evaluating the most technologically feasible methods and options for developing systems to verify age at the device or operating system level.

(b) CONTENTS.—Such study shall consider—

(1) the benefits of creating a device or operating system level age verification system;

(2) what information may need to be collected to create this type of age verification system;

(3) the accuracy of such systems and their impact or steps to improve accessibility, including for individuals with disabilities;

(4) how such a system or systems could verify age while mitigating risks to user privacy and data security and safeguarding minors' personal data, emphasizing minimizing the amount of data collected and processed by covered platforms and age verification providers for such a system;

(5) the technical feasibility, including the need for potential hardware and software changes, including for devices currently in commerce and owned by consumers; and

(6) the impact of different age verification systems on competition, particularly the risk of different age verification systems creating barriers to entry for small companies.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the agencies described in subsection (a) shall submit a report containing the results of the study conducted under such subsection to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SA 3088. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—FULFILLING PROMISES TO AFGHAN ALLIES

SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

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

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

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(H) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

(I) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(J) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(2) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term ''immigration laws'' has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(4) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.—The term ''special immigrant status'' means special immigrant status provided under—

(A) the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8);

(B) section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 109–163); or

(C) subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by section 406(a).

(5) SPECIFIED APPLICATION.—The term ''specified application'' means—

(A) a pending, documentarily complete application for special immigrant status; and

(B) a case in processing in the United States Refugee Admissions Program for an individual who has received a Priority 1 or Priority 2 referral to such program.

(6) UNITED STATES REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM.—The term ''United States Refugee

Admissions Program'' means the program to resettle refugees in the United States pursuant to the authorities provided in sections 101(a)(42), 207, and 412 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42), 1157, and 1522).

SEC. 402. SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN ALLIES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES.—The Secretary of State shall respond to inquiries by Members of Congress regarding the status of a specified application submitted by, or on behalf of, a national of Afghanistan, including any information that has been provided to the applicant, in accordance with section 222(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(f)).

(b) OFFICE IN LIEU OF EMBASSY.—During the period in which there is no operational United States embassy in Afghanistan, the Secretary of State shall designate an appropriate office within the Department of State—

(1) to review specified applications submitted by nationals of Afghanistan residing in Afghanistan, including by conducting any required interviews;

(2) to issue visas or other travel documents to such nationals, in accordance with the immigration laws;

(3) to provide services to such nationals, to the greatest extent practicable, that would normally be provided by an embassy; and

(4) to carry out any other function the Secretary of State considers necessary.

SEC. 403. CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—The term ''conditional permanent resident status'' means conditional permanent resident status under section 216 and 216A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a, 1186b), subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''eligible individual'' means an alien who—

(A) is present in the United States;

(B) is a citizen or national of Afghanistan or, in the case of an alien having no nationality, is a person who last habitually resided in Afghanistan;

(C) has not been granted permanent resident status;

(D)(i) was inspected and admitted to the United States on or before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(ii) was paroled into the United States during the period beginning on July 30, 2021, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, provided that—

(I) such parole has not been terminated by the Secretary upon written notice; and

(II) the alien did not enter the United States at a location between ports of entry along the southwest land border; and

(E) is admissible to the United States as an immigrant under the applicable immigration laws, including eligibility for waivers of grounds of inadmissibility to the extent provided by the immigration laws and the terms of this section.

(b) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—

(1) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS TO CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary—

(A) may adjust the status of each eligible individual to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence status, subject to the procedures established by the Secretary to determine eligibility for conditional permanent resident status; and

(B) shall create for each eligible individual who is granted adjustment of status under this section a record of admission to such status as of the date on which the eligible individual was initially inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States, or July 30, 2021, whichever is later,

unless the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that such individual is inadmissible under any ground of inadmissibility under section 212 (other than subsection (a)(4)) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) and is not eligible for a waiver of such grounds of inadmissibility as provided by this title or by the immigration laws.

(2) CONDITIONAL BASIS.—An individual who obtains lawful permanent resident status under this section shall be considered, at the time of obtaining the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, to have obtained such status on a conditional basis subject to the provisions of this section.

(c) CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS DESCRIBED.—

(1) ASSESSMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before granting conditional permanent resident status to an eligible individual under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall conduct an assessment with respect to the eligible individual, which shall be equivalent in rigor to the assessment conducted with respect to refugees admitted to the United States through the United States Refugee Admissions Program, for the purpose of determining whether the eligible individual is inadmissible under any ground of inadmissibility under section 212 (other than subsection (a)(4)) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) and is not eligible for a waiver of such grounds of inadmissibility under paragraph (2)(C) or the immigration laws.

(B) CONSULTATION.—In conducting an assessment under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may consult with the head of any other relevant agency and review the holdings of any such agency.

(2) REMOVAL OF CONDITIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than the date described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary may remove the conditional basis of the status of an individual granted conditional permanent resident status under this section unless the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that such individual is inadmissible under any ground of inadmissibility under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)), and is not eligible for a waiver of such grounds of inadmissibility under subparagraph (C) or the immigration laws.

(B) DATE DESCRIBED.—The date described in this subparagraph is the earlier of—

(i) the date that is 4 years after the date on which the individual was admitted or paroled into the United States; or

(ii) July 1, 2027.

(C) WAIVER.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), to determine eligibility for conditional permanent resident status under subsection (b) or removal of conditions under this paragraph, the Secretary may waive the application of the grounds of inadmissibility under 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)) for humanitarian purposes or to ensure family unity.

(ii) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary may not waive under clause (i) the application of subparagraphs (C) through (E) and (G) through (H) of paragraph (2), or paragraph (3), of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)).

(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to expand or limit any other waiver authority applicable under the immigration laws to an individual who is otherwise eligible for adjustment of status.

(D) TIMELINE.—Not later than 180 days after the date described in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall, to the greatest extent practicable, remove conditions as to all individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under this section who are eligible for removal of conditions.

(3) TREATMENT OF CONDITIONAL BASIS OF STATUS PERIOD FOR PURPOSES OF NATURALIZATION.—An individual in conditional permanent resident status under this section shall be considered—

(A) to have been admitted to the United States as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; and

(B) to be present in the United States as an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, provided that, no alien granted conditional permanent resident status shall be naturalized unless the alien's conditions have been removed under this section.

(d) TERMINATION OF CONDITIONAL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS.—Conditional permanent resident status shall terminate on, as applicable—

(1) the date on which the Secretary removes the conditions pursuant to subsection (c)(2), on which date the alien shall be lawfully admitted for permanent residence without conditions;

(2) the date on which the Secretary determines that the alien was not an eligible individual under subsection (a)(2) as of the date that such conditional permanent resident status was granted, on which date of the Secretary's determination the alien shall no longer be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or

(3) the date on which the Secretary determines pursuant to subsection (c)(2) that the alien is not eligible for removal of conditions, on which date the alien shall no longer be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary at any time to place in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) any alien who has conditional permanent resident status under this section, if the alien is deportable under section 237 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1227) under a ground of deportability applicable to an alien who has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(f) PAROLE EXPIRATION TOLLED.—The expiration date of a period of parole shall not apply to an individual under consideration for conditional permanent resident status under this section, until such time as the Secretary has determined whether to issue conditional permanent resident status.

(g) PERIODIC NONADVERSARIAL MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which an individual is conferred conditional permanent resident status under this section, and periodically thereafter, the Office of Refugee Resettlement shall make available opportunities for the individual to participate in a nonadversarial meeting, during which an official of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (or an agency funded by the Office) shall—

(A) on request by the individual, assist the individual in a referral or application for applicable benefits administered by the Department of Health and Human Services and completing any applicable paperwork; and

(B) answer any questions regarding eligibility for other benefits administered by the United States Government.

(2) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 7 days before the date on which a meeting under paragraph (1) is scheduled to occur, the Secretary of Health and Human

Services shall provide notice to the individual that includes the date of the scheduled meeting and a description of the process for rescheduling the meeting.

(3) CONDUCT OF MEETING.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall implement practices to ensure that—

(A) meetings under paragraph (1) are conducted in a nonadversarial manner; and

(B) interpretation and translation services are provided to individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under this section who have limited English proficiency.

(4) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed—

(A) to prevent an individual from electing to have counsel present during a meeting under paragraph (1); or

(B) in the event that an individual declines to participate in such a meeting, to affect the individual's conditional permanent resident status under this section or eligibility to have conditions removed in accordance with this section.

(h) CONSIDERATION.—Except with respect to an application for naturalization and the benefits described in subsection (p), an individual in conditional permanent resident status under this section shall be considered to be an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence for purposes of the adjudication of an application or petition for a benefit or the receipt of a benefit.

(i) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the status of an individual is adjusted to that of conditional permanent resident status under this section, the Secretary shall provide notice to such individual with respect to the provisions of this section, including subsection (c)(1) (relating to the conduct of assessments) and subsection (g) (relating to periodic nonadversarial meetings).

(j) APPLICATION FOR NATURALIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures whereby an individual who would otherwise be eligible to apply for naturalization but for having conditional permanent resident status, may be considered for naturalization coincident with removal of conditions under subsection (c)(2).

(k) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien described in paragraph (2) shall be regarded as lawfully admitted for permanent residence as of the date the alien was initially inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States, or July 30, 2021, whichever is later.

(2) ALIEN DESCRIBED.—An alien described in this paragraph is an alien who—

(A) is described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of subsection (a)(2), and whose status was adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on or after July 30, 2021, but on or before the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(B) is an eligible individual whose status is then adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence after the date of the enactment of this Act under any provision of the immigration laws other than this section.

(l) PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN.—A parent or legal guardian of an eligible individual shall be eligible to obtain status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis if—

(1) the eligible individual—

(A) was under 18 years of age on the date on which the eligible individual was granted conditional permanent resident status under this section; and

(B) was not accompanied by at least one parent or guardian on the date the eligible individual was admitted or paroled into the United States; and

(2) such parent or legal guardian was admitted or paroled into the United States after the date referred to in paragraph (1)(B).

(m) GUIDANCE.—

(1) INTERIM GUIDANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance implementing this section.

(B) PUBLICATION.—Notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code, guidance issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)—

(i) may be published on the internet website of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(ii) shall be effective on an interim basis immediately upon such publication but may be subject to change and revision after notice and an opportunity for public comment.

(2) FINAL GUIDANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of issuance of guidance under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall finalize the guidance implementing this section.

(B) EXEMPTION FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT.—Chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Administrative Procedures Act''), or any other law relating to rulemaking or information collection, shall not apply to the guidance issued under this paragraph.

(n) ASYLUM CLAIMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the adjudication of an application for asylum submitted by an eligible individual, section 2502(c) of the Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 117–43) shall not apply.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit an eligible individual from seeking or receiving asylum under section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158).

(o) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary may not charge a fee to any eligible individual in connection with the initial issuance under this section of—

(1) a document evidencing status as an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence or conditional permanent resident status; or

(2) an employment authorization document.

(p) ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(A) an individual described in subsection (a) of section 2502 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 117–43) shall retain his or her eligibility for the benefits and services described in subsection (b) of such section if the individual is under consideration for, or is granted, adjustment of status under this section; and

(B) such benefits and services shall remain available to the individual to the same extent and for the same periods of time as such benefits and services are otherwise available to refugees who acquire such status.

(2) EXCEPTION FROM 5-YEAR LIMITED ELIGIBILITY FOR MEANS-TESTED PUBLIC BENEFITS.—Section 403(b)(1) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) An alien whose status is adjusted under section 403 of the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence or to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis.''.

(q) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preclude an eligible individual from applying for or receiving any immigration benefit to which the individual is otherwise entitled.

(r) EXEMPTION FROM NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Aliens granted conditional permanent resident status or lawful permanent resident status under this section shall not be subject to the numerical limitations under sections 201, 202, and 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1153).

(2) SPOUSE AND CHILDREN BENEFICIARIES.—A spouse or child who is the beneficiary of an immigrant petition under section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) filed by an alien who has been granted conditional permanent resident status or lawful permanent resident status under this section, seeking classification of the spouse or child under section 203(a)(2)(A) of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)(2)(A)) shall not be subject to the numerical limitations under sections 201, 202, and 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151, 1152, and 1153).

(s) EFFECT ON OTHER APPLICATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the interest of efficiency, the Secretary may pause consideration of any application or request for an immigration benefit pending adjudication so as to prioritize consideration of adjustment of status to an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence on a conditional basis under this section.

(t) AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary, and the Secretary of State such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 404. REFUGEE PROCESSES FOR CERTAIN AT-RISK AFGHAN ALLIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF AFGHAN ALLY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ''Afghan ally'' means an alien who is a citizen or national of Afghanistan, or in the case of an alien having no nationality, an alien who last habitually resided in Afghanistan, who—

(A) was—

(i) a member of—

(I) the special operations forces of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces;

(II) the Afghanistan National Army Special Operations Command;

(III) the Afghan Air Force; or

(IV) the Special Mission Wing of Afghanistan;

(ii) a female member of any other entity of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces, including—

(I) a cadet or instructor at the Afghanistan National Defense University; and

(II) a civilian employee of the Ministry of Defense or the Ministry of Interior Affairs;

(iii) an individual associated with former Afghan military and police human intelligence activities, including operators and Department of Defense sources;

(iv) an individual associated with former Afghan military counterintelligence, counterterrorism, or counternarcotics;

(v) an individual associated with the former Afghan Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior Affairs, or court system, and who was involved in the investigation, prosecution or detention of combatants or members of the Taliban or criminal networks affiliated with the Taliban;

(vi) an individual employed in the former justice sector in Afghanistan as a judge, prosecutor, or investigator who was engaged in rule of law activities for which the United States provided funding or training; or

(vii) a senior military officer, senior enlisted personnel, or civilian official who served on the staff of the former Ministry of Defense or the former Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan; or

(B) provided service to an entity or organization described in subparagraph (A) for not less than 1 year during the period beginning on December 22, 2001, and ending on September 1, 2021, and did so in support of the United States mission in Afghanistan.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of this section, the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces includes members of the security forces under the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, including the Afghanistan National Army, the Afghan Air Force, the Afghanistan National Police, and any other entity designated by the Secretary of Defense as part of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces during the relevant period of service of the applicant concerned.

(b) REFUGEE STATUS FOR AFGHAN ALLIES.—

(1) DESIGNATION AS REFUGEES OF SPECIAL HUMANITARIAN CONCERN.—Afghan allies shall be considered refugees of special humanitarian concern under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), until the later of 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act or upon determination by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary, that such designation is no longer in the interest of the United States.

(2) THIRD COUNTRY PRESENCE NOT REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding section 101(a)(42) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(42)), the Secretary of State and the Secretary shall, to the greatest extent possible, conduct remote refugee processing for an Afghan ally located in Afghanistan.

(c) AFGHAN ALLIES REFERRAL PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish a process by which an individual may apply to the Secretary of Defense for classification as an Afghan ally and request a referral to the United States Refugee Admissions Program; and

(B) the head of any appropriate department or agency that conducted operations in Afghanistan during the period beginning on December 22, 2001, and ending on September 1, 2021, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may establish a process by which an individual may apply to the head of the appropriate department or agency for classification as an Afghan ally and request a referral to the United States Refugee Admissions Program.

(2) APPLICATION SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The process established under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) include the development and maintenance of a secure online portal through which applicants may provide information verifying their status as Afghan allies and upload supporting documentation; and

(ii) allow—

(I) an applicant to submit his or her own application;

(II) a designee of an applicant to submit an application on behalf of the applicant; and

(III) in the case of an applicant who is outside the United States, the submission of an application regardless of where the applicant is located.

(B) USE BY OTHER AGENCIES.—The Secretary of Defense—

(i) may enter into arrangements with the head of any other appropriate department or agency so as to allow the application system established under subparagraph (A) to be used by such department or agency; and

(ii) shall notify the Secretary of State of any such arrangement.

(3) REVIEW PROCESS.—As soon as practicable after receiving a request for classification and referral described in paragraph (1), the head of the appropriate department or agency shall—

(A) review—

(i) the service record of the applicant, if available;

(ii) if the applicant provides a service record or other supporting documentation, any information that helps verify the service record concerned, including information or an attestation provided by any current or former official of the department or agency who has personal knowledge of the eligibility of the applicant for such classification and referral; and

(iii) the data holdings of the department or agency and other cooperating interagency partners, including as applicable biographic and biometric records, iris scans, fingerprints, voice biometric information, hand geometry biometrics, other identifiable information, and any other information related to the applicant, including relevant derogatory information; and

(B)(i) in a case in which the head of the department or agency determines that the applicant is an Afghan ally without significant derogatory information, refer the Afghan ally to the United States Refugee Admissions Program as a refugee; and

(ii) include with such referral—

(I) any service record concerned, if available;

(II) if the applicant provides a service record, any information that helps verify the service record concerned; and

(III) any biometrics for the applicant.

(4) REVIEW PROCESS FOR DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR REFERRAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an applicant with respect to whom the head of the appropriate department or agency denies a request for classification and referral based on a determination that the applicant is not an Afghan ally or based on derogatory information—

(i) the head of the department or agency shall provide the applicant with a written notice of the denial that provides, to the maximum extent practicable, a description of the basis for the denial, including the facts and inferences, or evidentiary gaps, underlying the individual determination; and

(ii) the applicant shall be provided an opportunity to submit not more than 1 written appeal to the head of the department or agency for each such denial.

(B) DEADLINE FOR APPEAL.—An appeal under clause (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be submitted—

(i) not more than 120 days after the date on which the applicant concerned receives notice under clause (i) of that subparagraph; or

(ii) on any date thereafter, at the discretion of the head of the appropriate department or agency.

(C) REQUEST TO REOPEN.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—An applicant who receives a denial under subparagraph (A) may submit a request to reopen a request for classification and referral under the process established under paragraph (1) so that the applicant may provide additional information, clarify existing information, or explain any unfavorable information.

(ii) LIMITATION.—After considering 1 such request to reopen from an applicant, the head of the appropriate department or agency may deny subsequent requests to reopen submitted by the same applicant.

(5) FORM AND CONTENT OF REFERRAL.—To the extent practicable, the head of the appropriate department or agency shall ensure that referrals made under this subsection—

(A) conform to requirements established by the Secretary of State for form and content; and

(B) are complete and include sufficient contact information, supporting documentation, and any other material the Secretary of State or the Secretary consider necessary or helpful in determining whether an applicant is entitled to refugee status.

(6) TERMINATION.—The application process and referral system under this subsection shall terminate upon the later of 1 year before the termination of the designation under subsection (b)(1) or on the date of a joint determination by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary, that such termination is in the national interest of the United States.

(d) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, or the head of any appropriate department or agency referring Afghan allies under this section may not charge any fee in connection with a request for a classification and referral as a refugee under this section.

(2) DEFENSE PERSONNEL.—Any limitation in law with respect to the number of personnel within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, or a Defense Agency (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) shall not apply to personnel employed for the primary purpose of carrying out this section.

(3) REPRESENTATION.—An alien applying for admission to the United States under this section may be represented during the application process, including at relevant interviews and examinations, by an attorney or other accredited representative. Such representation shall not be at the expense of the United States Government.

(4) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, shall make a reasonable effort to provide an alien who has been classified as an Afghan ally and has been referred as a refugee under this section protection or to immediately remove such alien from Afghanistan, if possible.

(5) OTHER ELIGIBILITY FOR IMMIGRANT STATUS.—No alien shall be denied the opportunity to apply for admission under this section solely because the alien qualifies as an immediate relative or is eligible for any other immigrant classification.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2034 to carry out this section.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to inhibit the Secretary of State from accepting refugee referrals from any entity.

SEC. 405. IMPROVING EFFICIENCY AND OVERSIGHT OF REFUGEE AND SPECIAL IMMIGRANT PROCESSING.

(a) ACCEPTANCE OF FINGERPRINT CARDS AND SUBMISSIONS OF BIOMETRICS.—In addition to the methods authorized under the heading relating to the Immigration and Naturalization Service under title I of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–119, 111 Stat. 2448; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note), and other applicable law, and subject to such safeguards as the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate, shall prescribe to ensure the integrity of the biometric collection (which shall include verification of identity by comparison of such fingerprints with fingerprints taken by or under the direct supervision of the Secretary prior to or at the time of the individual's application for admission to the United States), the Secretary may, in the case of any application for any benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), accept fingerprint cards or any other submission of biometrics—

(1) prepared by international or nongovernmental organizations under an appropriate

agreement with the Secretary or the Secretary of State;

(2) prepared by employees or contractors of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of State; or

(3) provided by an agency (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code).

(b) STAFFING.—

(1) VETTING.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, and any other agency authorized to carry out the vetting process under this title, shall each ensure sufficient staffing, and request the resources necessary, to efficiently and adequately carry out the vetting of applicants for—

(A) referral to the United States Refugee Admissions Program, consistent with the determinations established under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157); and

(B) special immigrant status.

(2) REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure sufficient staffing to efficiently provide assistance under chapter 2 of title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.) to refugees resettled in the United States.

(c) REMOTE PROCESSING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of State and the Secretary shall employ remote processing capabilities for refugee processing under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157), including secure digital file transfers, videoconferencing and teleconferencing capabilities, remote review of applications, remote interviews, remote collection of signatures, waiver of the applicant's appearance or signature (other than a final appearance and verification by the oath of the applicant prior to or at the time of the individual's application for admission to the United States), waiver of signature for individuals under 5 years old, and any other capability the Secretary of State and the Secretary consider appropriate, secure, and likely to reduce processing wait times at particular facilities.

(d) MONTHLY ARRIVAL REPORTS.—With respect to monthly reports issued by the Secretary of State relating to United States Refugee Admissions Program arrivals, the Secretary of State shall report—

(1) the number of monthly admissions of refugees, disaggregated by priorities; and

(2) the number of Afghan allies admitted as refugees.

(e) INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON AFGHAN ALLY STRATEGY.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall establish an Interagency Task Force on Afghan Ally Strategy (referred to in this section as the ''Task Force'')—

(A) to develop and oversee the implementation of the strategy and contingency plan described in subparagraph (A)(i) of paragraph (4); and

(B) to submit the report, and provide a briefing on the report, as described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (4).

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall include—

(i) 1 or more representatives from each relevant Federal agency, as designated by the head of the applicable relevant Federal agency; and

(ii) any other Federal Government official designated by the President.

(B) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''relevant Federal agency'' means—

(i) the Department of State;

(ii) the Department Homeland Security;

(iii) the Department of Defense;

(iv) the Department of Health and Human Services;

(v) the Department of Justice; and

(vi) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

(3) CHAIR.—The Task Force shall be chaired by the Secretary of State.

(4) DUTIES.—

(A) REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Task Force is established, the Task Force, acting through the chair of the Task Force, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes—

(I) a strategy for facilitating the resettlement of nationals of Afghanistan outside the United States who, during the period beginning on October 1, 2001, and ending on September 1, 2021, directly and personally supported the United States mission in Afghanistan, as determined by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Secretary of Defense; and

(II) a contingency plan for future emergency operations in foreign countries involving foreign nationals who have worked directly with the United States Government, including the Armed Forces of the United States and United States intelligence agencies.

(ii) ELEMENTS.—The report required under clause (i) shall include—

(I) the total number of nationals of Afghanistan who have pending specified applications, disaggregated by—

(aa) such nationals in Afghanistan and such nationals in a third country;

(bb) type of specified application; and

(cc) applications that are documentarily complete and applications that are not documentarily complete;

(II) an estimate of the number of nationals of Afghanistan who may be eligible for special immigrant status or classification as an Afghan ally;

(III) with respect to the strategy required under subparagraph (A)(i)(I)—

(aa) the estimated number of nationals of Afghanistan described in such subparagraph;

(bb) a description of the process for safely resettling such nationals of Afghanistan;

(cc) a plan for processing such nationals of Afghanistan for admission to the United States that—

(AA) discusses the feasibility of remote processing for such nationals of Afghanistan residing in Afghanistan;

(BB) includes any strategy for facilitating refugee and consular processing for such nationals of Afghanistan in third countries, and the timelines for such processing;

(CC) includes a plan for conducting rigorous and efficient vetting of all such nationals of Afghanistan for processing;

(DD) discusses the availability and capacity of sites in third countries to process applications and conduct any required vetting for such nationals of Afghanistan, including the potential to establish additional sites; and

(EE) includes a plan for providing updates and necessary information to affected individuals and relevant nongovernmental organizations;

(dd) a description of considerations, including resource constraints, security concerns, missing or inaccurate information, and diplomatic considerations, that limit the ability of the Secretary of State or the Secretary to increase the number of such nationals of Afghanistan who can be safely processed or resettled;

(ee) an identification of any resource or additional authority necessary to increase the number of such nationals of Afghanistan who can be processed or resettled;

(ff) an estimate of the cost to fully implement the strategy; and

(gg) any other matter the Task Force considers relevant to the implementation of the strategy;

(IV) with respect to the contingency plan required by clause (i)(II)—

(aa) a description of the standard practices for screening and vetting foreign nationals considered to be eligible for resettlement in the United States, including a strategy for vetting, and maintaining the records of, such foreign nationals who are unable to provide identification documents or biographic details due to emergency circumstances;

(bb) a strategy for facilitating refugee or consular processing for such foreign nationals in third countries;

(cc) clear guidance with respect to which Federal agency has the authority and responsibility to coordinate Federal resettlement efforts;

(dd) a description of any resource or additional authority necessary to coordinate Federal resettlement efforts, including the need for a contingency fund;

(ee) any other matter the Task Force considers relevant to the implementation of the contingency plan; and

(V) a strategy for the efficient processing of all Afghan special immigrant visa applications and appeals, including—

(aa) a review of current staffing levels and needs across all interagency offices and officials engaged in the special immigrant visa process;

(bb) an analysis of the expected Chief of Mission approvals and denials of applications in the pipeline in order to project the expected number of visas necessary to provide special immigrant status to all approved applicants under this title during the several years after the date of the enactment of this Act;

(cc) an assessment as to whether adequate guidelines exist for reconsidering or reopening applications for special immigrant visas in appropriate circumstances and consistent with applicable laws; and

(dd) an assessment of the procedures throughout the special immigrant visa application process, including at the Portsmouth Consular Center, and the effectiveness of communication between the Portsmouth Consular Center and applicants, including an identification of any area in which improvements to the efficiency of such procedures and communication may be made.

(iii) FORM.—The report required under clause (i) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(B) BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after submitting the report required by clause (i), the Task Force shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on the contents of the report.

(5) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall remain in effect until the later of—

(A) the date on which the strategy required under paragraph (4)(A)(i)(I) has been fully implemented;

(B) the date of a determination by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary, that a task force is no longer necessary for the implementation of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1); or

(C) the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) IMPROVING CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS.—Section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4)(A) In the determination made under this subsection for each fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 1992), the President shall enumerate, with the respective number

of refugees so determined, the number of aliens who were granted asylum in the previous year.

''(B) In making a determination under paragraph (1), the President shall consider the information in the most recently published projected global resettlement needs report published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.'';

(2) in subsection (e), by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) A description of the number and allocation of the refugees to be admitted, including the expected allocation by region, and an analysis of the conditions within the countries from which they came.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following—

''(g) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON ADMISSIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the last day of each quarter beginning the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024, the President shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes the following:

''(1) REFUGEES ADMITTED.—

''(A) The number of refugees admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter.

''(B) The cumulative number of refugees admitted to the United States during the applicable fiscal year, as of the last day of the preceding quarter.

''(C) The number of refugees expected to be admitted to the United States during the remainder of the applicable fiscal year.

''(D) The number of refugees from each region admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter.

''(2) REFUGEE APPLICANTS WITH PENDING SECURITY CHECKS.—

''(A) The number of aliens, by nationality, security check, and responsible vetting agency, for whom a National Vetting Center or other security check has been requested during the preceding quarter, and the number of aliens, by nationality, for whom the check was pending beyond 30 days.

''(B) The number of aliens, by nationality, security check, and responsible vetting agency, for whom a National Vetting Center or other security check has been pending for more than 180 days.

''(3) CIRCUIT RIDES.—

''(A) For the preceding quarter—

''(i) the number of Refugee Corps officers deployed on circuit rides and the overall number of Refugee Corps officers;

''(ii) the number of individuals interviewed—

''(I) on each circuit ride; and

''(II) at each circuit ride location;

''(iii) the number of circuit rides; and

''(iv) for each circuit ride, the duration of the circuit ride.

''(B) For the subsequent 2 quarters—

''(i) the number of circuit rides planned; and

''(ii) the number of individuals planned to be interviewed.

''(4) PROCESSING.—

''(A) For refugees admitted to the United States during the preceding quarter, the average number of days between—

''(i) the date on which an individual referred to the United States Government as a refugee applicant is interviewed by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

''(ii) the date on which such individual is admitted to the United States.

''(B) For refugee applicants interviewed by the Secretary of Homeland Security in the preceding quarter, the approval, denial, recommended approval, recommended denial, and hold rates for the applications for admission of such individuals, disaggregated by nationality.''.

SEC. 406. SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN VULNERABLE AFGHANS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR CERTAIN RELATIVES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (L)(iii), by adding a semicolon at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (M), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(N) a citizen or national of Afghanistan who is the parent or brother or sister of—

''(i) a member of the armed forces (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code); or

''(ii) a veteran (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).''.

(2) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the total number of principal aliens who may be provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by paragraph (1), may not exceed 2,500 each fiscal year.

(B) CARRYOVER.—If the numerical limitation specified in subparagraph (A) is not reached during a given fiscal year, the numerical limitation specified in such subparagraph for the following fiscal year shall be increased by a number equal to the difference between—

(i) the numerical limitation specified in subparagraph (A) for the given fiscal year; and

(ii) the number of principal aliens provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) during the given fiscal year.

(C) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISAS.—The total number of aliens who may be provided special immigrant visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) shall not exceed 10,000.

(D) DURATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority to issue visas under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) shall—

(i) commence on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) terminate on the date on which all such visas are exhausted.

(b) CERTAIN AFGHANS INJURED OR KILLED IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT.—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii)(I) was or is employed in Afghanistan on or after October 7, 2001, for not less than 1 year—

''(aa) by, or on behalf of, the United States Government; or

''(bb) by the International Security Assistance Force (or any successor name for such Force) in a capacity that required the alien—

''(AA) while traveling off-base with United States military personnel stationed at the International Security Assistance Force (or any successor name for such Force), to serve as an interpreter or translator for such United States military personnel; or

''(BB) to perform activities for the United States military personnel stationed at International Security Assistance Force (or any successor name for such Force); or

''(II) in the case of an alien who was wounded or seriously injured in connection with employment described in subclause (I), was employed for any period until the date on which such wound or injury occurred, if the wound or injury prevented the alien from continuing such employment;''; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking ''clause (ii)'' and inserting ''clause (ii)(I)'';

(2) in paragraph (13)(A)(i), by striking ''subclause (I) or (II)(bb) of paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''item (aa) or (bb)(BB) of paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I)'';

(3) in paragraph (14)(C), by striking ''paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I)''; and

(4) in paragraph (15), by striking ''paragraph (2)(A)(ii)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(I)''.

(c) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM UNDER AFGHAN ALLIES PROTECTION ACT OF 2009.—Section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(F)—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking ''FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2022'' and inserting ''FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2029''; and

(B) in clause (i), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2029''; and

(C) in clause (ii), by striking ''December 31, 2024'' and inserting ''December 31, 2029''; and

(2) in paragraph (13), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''January 31, 2024'' and inserting ''January 31, 2030''.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS.—Section 602(b)(4) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8;) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS.—Notwithstanding section 222(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(e)), an application for an immigrant visa under this section may be signed by the applicant through a virtual video meeting before a consular officer and verified by the oath of the applicant administered by the consular officer during a virtual video meeting.''.

(e) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Paragraph (12) of section 602(b) of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8) is amended is amended to read as follows:

''(12) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

''(A) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 and every 90 days thereafter, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes the following:

''(i) For the preceding quarter—

''(I) a description of improvements made to the processing of special immigrant visas and refugee processing for citizens and nationals of Afghanistan;

''(II) the number of new Afghan referrals to the United States Refugee Admissions Program, disaggregated by referring entity;

''(III) the number of interviews of Afghans conducted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, disaggregated by the country in which such interviews took place;

''(IV) the number of approvals and the number of denials of refugee status requests for Afghans;

''(V) the number of total admissions to the United States of Afghan refugees;

''(VI) number of such admissions, disaggregated by whether the refugees come from within, or outside of, Afghanistan;

''(VII) the average processing time for citizens and nationals of Afghanistan who are applicants;

''(VIII) the number of such cases processed within such average processing time; and

''(IX) the number of denials issued with respect to applications by citizens and nationals of Afghanistan.

''(ii) The number of applications by citizens and nationals of Afghanistan for refugee referrals pending as of the date of submission of the report.

''(iii) A description of the efficiency improvements made in the process by which applications for special immigrant visas under this subsection are processed, including information described in clauses (iii) through (viii) of paragraph (11)(B).

''(B) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

''(C) PUBLIC POSTING.—The Secretary of State shall publish on the website of the Department of State the unclassified portion of each report submitted under subparagraph (A).''.

(f) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON FEES.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, or the Secretary of State may not charge any fee in connection with an application for, or issuance of, a special immigrant visa or special immigrant status under—

(A) section 602 of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 111–8);

(B) section 1059 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note; Public Law 109–163); or

(C) subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by subsection (a)(1).

(2) DEFENSE PERSONNEL.—Any limitation in law with respect to the number of personnel within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the military departments, or a Defense Agency (as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code) shall not apply to personnel employed for the primary purpose of carrying out this section.

(3) PROTECTION OF ALIENS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the head of any other appropriate Federal agency, shall make a reasonable effort to provide an alien who is seeking status as a special immigrant under subparagraph (N) of section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)), as added by subsection (a)(1), protection or to immediately remove such alien from Afghanistan, if possible.

(4) RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT.—A citizen or national of Afghanistan who is admitted to the United States under this section or an amendment made by this section shall be eligible for resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) to the same extent, and for the same periods of time, as such refugees.

SEC. 407. SUPPORT FOR ALLIES SEEKING RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date that is 10 years thereafter, the Secretary and the Secretary of State may waive any fee or surcharge or exempt individuals from the payment of any fee or surcharge collected by the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State, respectively, in connection with a petition or application for, or issuance of, an immigrant visa to a national of Afghanistan under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) or 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i) and 1153(a)), respectively.

SEC. 408. REPORTING.

(a) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Beginning on January 1, 2028, not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that includes, for the preceding quarter—

(1) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 403, disaggregated by the number of such individuals for whom conditions have been removed;

(2) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 403 who have been determined to be ineligible for removal of conditions (and the reasons for such determination); and

(3) the number of individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 403 for whom no such determination has been made (and the reasons for the lack of such determination).

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes for the preceding year, with respect to individuals granted conditional permanent resident status under section 403—

(1) the number of such individuals who are placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) charged with a ground of deportability under subsection (a)(2) of section 237 of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1227), disaggregated by each applicable ground under that subsection;

(2) the number of such individuals who are placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a) charged with a ground of deportability under subsection (a)(3) of section 237 of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1227), disaggregated by each applicable ground under that subsection;

(3) the number of final orders of removal issued pursuant to proceedings described in paragraphs (1) and (2), disaggregated by each applicable ground of deportability;

(4) the number of such individuals for whom such proceedings are pending, disaggregated by each applicable ground of deportability; and

(5) a review of the available options for removal from the United States, including any changes in the feasibility of such options during the preceding year.

SEC. 409. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Except as expressly described in this title or an amendment made by this title, nothing in this title or an amendment made by this title may be construed to modify, expand, or limit any law or authority to process or admit refugees under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) or applicants for an immigrant visa under the immigration laws.

SA 3089. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. RIGHT OF ACTION AGAINST FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FOR VIOLATIONS OF RIGHTS SECURED BY THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''Federal employee'' means an individual, other than the President or the Vice President, who occupies a position in any agency or instrumentality in the executive branch of the Federal Government, including in any independent agency in that branch.

(b) LIABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal employee who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of the United States, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or any person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Under paragraph (1), a Federal employee may not bring suit against the agency or instrumentality employing the Federal employee, or against the Federal Government, for conduct that is within the scope of the employment relationship.

(c) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—In any action or proceeding to enforce this section, the court, in the discretion of the court, may allow the prevailing party, other than the United States, a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the costs.

(d) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, or the application of a provision of this section to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this section, and the application of the provisions of this section to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected by that holding.

SA 3090. Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. FOCUS ON LEARNING ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Focus on Learning Act''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ESEA TERMS.—The terms ''child with a disability'', ''elementary school'', ''English learner'', ''local educational agency'', and ''secondary school'' have the meaning given those terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) MOBILE DEVICE.—The term ''mobile device'' means any personal mobile telephone or other portable electronic communication device with which a user engages in a call or writes or sends a message or any device in which the user plays a game or watches a video, except that such term does not include school-issued devices.

(3) SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FREE OF MOBILE DEVICES.—The term ''school environment free of mobile devices'' means an elementary school or secondary school in which mobile devices of students are kept in a secure container that is controlled by a school administrator.

(4) SCHOOL HOURS.—The term ''school hours'' means regular school hours for instruction, including lunch periods, free periods on school grounds, and time between classroom instruction.

(c) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Education, in consultation

with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall complete a study regarding the use of mobile devices in elementary schools and secondary schools nationwide, including—

(A) the impact of such use on—

(i) student learning and academic achievement;

(ii) student educational outcomes and engagement;

(iii) student mental health;

(iv) classroom instruction; and

(v) school climate and student behavior; and

(B) an analysis of data collected from participating schools in the pilot program under subsection (d).

(2) REPORT.—The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall submit a report to Congress containing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1), and shall make such report publicly available.

(d) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary of Education shall establish a pilot program, through which the Secretary of Education shall award grants to local educational agencies to enable participating schools served by such agencies (referred to in this section as ''participating schools'') to purchase secure containers and install lockers in order to create a school environment free of mobile devices.

(2) APPLICATION.—A local educational agency desiring to participate in the program under this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may reasonably require, including—

(A) an assurance that such local educational agency will identify and select participating schools in a manner that engages the students, parents, educators, principal, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, of such schools;

(B) an assurance that each participating school will have a communication system (which may be mobile devices) allowing teachers, administrators, and staff to communicate with each other and with local emergency responders;

(C) an assurance that each participating school will have a clear process for students to be able to contact their parents;

(D) the policy of each participating school on mobile device use during school hours as of the date of the application; and

(E) a description of what each participating school's new policy on mobile device use during school hours will be upon beginning participation in the pilot program under this subsection.

(3) SELECTION.—The Secretary of Education shall select local educational agency applicants for participation in the pilot program based on the Secretary of Education's determination that the applicant's participation will likely yield helpful information relevant to testing a school environment free of mobile devices.

(4) EXEMPTIONS.—Participating schools may, while maintaining a school environment free of mobile devices, allow exemptions such that mobile devices may be used during school hours—

(A) to monitor or treat health conditions;

(B) by students who are children with disabilities; and

(C) by students who are English learners for translation purposes.

(5) PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—Each local educational agency that applies for participation in the pilot program under this subsection shall—

(A) notify parents of students enrolled in elementary schools and secondary schools that are served by the agency and that may become participating schools—

(i) not less than 30 days before submitting an application under this section; and

(ii) upon receipt of a grant award under this section; and

(B) solicit feedback from such parents before applying for the grant about the local educational agency's desire to implement a school environment free of mobile devices.

(6) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Secretary of Education may use not more than 2 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this subsection for administrative expenses, data collection, and carrying out the study required under subsection (c).

(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection, $5,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

SA 3091. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION B—KNOW YOUR APP ACT

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Know Your App Act''.

SEC. 1002. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Minors engaging with internet-linked applications face heightened susceptibility to privacy risks and potential exploitation through those applications. It is crucial for parents and guardians to possess comprehensive knowledge about the applications being accessed so that they can make informed decisions to protect their children.

(2) Many users are unaware of the country of origin of the applications they download and use, as well as the data handling practices of the developers behind those applications. This lack of transparency can lead to potential risks for users, including exposure to foreign government surveillance, data breaches, and privacy violations. Users have a right to know baseline information on the country of origin so that they can personally make decisions to mitigate the threat to their personal and biometric information.

(3) The potential for foreign governments to access user data through internet-linked applications presents national security risks. These risks may include the collection of sensitive information, espionage, and potential influence over critical infrastructure.

(4) Increasing transparency and providing users with the necessary information to make informed decisions about the applications they download can help protect consumer privacy and security.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that covered companies and developers already posses the information necessary to provide adequate transparency to consumers.

SEC. 1003. PUBLIC LISTING OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF APPLICATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPLICATION.—The term ''application'' means a software application or electronic service that may be run or directed by a user on a computer, a mobile device, or any other general purpose computing device.

(2) APPLICATION STORE.—The term ''application store'' means a publicly available website, software application, electronic service, or platform provided by a device manufacturer that—

(A) distributes applications from third-party developers to users of a computer, a mobile device, or any other general purpose computing device; and

(B) has more than 20,000,000 users in the United States.

(3) APPLICATION STORE PAGE.—The term ''application store page'' means the individual, dedicated listing page within an application store that serves as the primary source of information on a specific application and provides detailed information about the application, including the name of the application, the developer, a description, user ratings and reviews, screenshots or previews, pricing, and system requirements.

(4) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term ''Assistant Secretary'' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(5) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—The term ''beneficial owner'' —

(A) means, with respect to a developer of an application, an individual who, directly or indirectly, through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship, or otherwise—

(i) exercises substantial control over the developer; or

(ii) owns or controls not less than 25 percent of the ownership interests of the developer; and

(B) does not include—

(i) a minor child, as defined in the State in which the entity is formed, if the information of the parent or guardian of the minor child is reported in accordance with this section;

(ii) an individual acting as a nominee, intermediary, custodian, or agent on behalf of another individual;

(iii) an individual acting solely as an employee of a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity and whose control over or economic benefits from such entity is derived solely from the employment status of the individual;

(iv) an individual whose only interest in a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity is through a right of inheritance; or

(v) a creditor of a corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity, unless the creditor meets the requirements of subparagraph (A).

(6) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term ''country of concern'' means a country that is on the list described in section 1004.

(7) COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—The term ''country of origin''—

(A) with respect to the developer of an application, means the country in which the developer is headquartered or principally operates; and

(B) with respect to the beneficial owner of the developer of an application—

(i) except as provided in clause (ii), means the country from which the beneficial owner principally exercises control over the developer; and

(ii) if the beneficial owner exercises any control over the developer from a country of concern, means that country.

(8) COVERED COMPANY.—The term ''covered company'' means any person, entity, or organization that owns, controls, or operates an application store that serves customers in the United States.

(9) DEVELOPER.—The term ''developer'' means a person that creates, owns, or controls an application and is responsible for the design, development, maintenance, and distribution of the application to end users through an application store.

(10) PRIMARY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN.—The term ''primary country of origin'', with respect to an application—

(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), means the country of origin of the developer of the application; and

(B) if the country of origin of the beneficial owner of the developer of the application is a country of concern, means that country.

(11) PROMINENT DISPLAY.—The term ''prominent display'', with respect to an application store page, means a banner that is immediately and clearly visible when the application store page is accessed.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) PUBLIC LISTING.—The Assistant Secretary shall require a covered company to publicly list, in a prominent display on the application store page, the primary country of origin of each application distributed through an application store owned, controlled, or operated by the covered company.

(2) PROTECTIONS REGARDING CERTAIN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—

(A) FILTER FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—The Assistant Secretary shall require a covered company to provide users of the covered company's application store with the option to filter out applications whose primary country of origin is a country of concern.

(B) DISCLAIMER FOR CERTAIN APPLICATIONS.—The Assistant Secretary shall require that if the primary country of origin of an application is a country of concern, a covered company that distributes the application through an application store shall provide a disclaimer, in a prominent display on the application store page, that data from the application could be accessed by a foreign government.

(3) UPDATE OF INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall require a developer to notify a covered company whose application store distributes the developer's application of any change in—

(i) the country of origin of the developer;

(ii) the beneficial owner of the developer; or

(iii) the country of origin of the beneficial owner of the developer.

(B) DEVELOPER CERTIFICATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall require a developer to certify to each covered company that owns, controls, or operates an application store through which the developer's application is distributed, not less frequently than annually, that the information displayed on the application store page with respect to the application, including primary country of origin and beneficial ownership, is up-to-date.

(ii) VIOLATIONS.—If a developer violates clause (i)—

(I) the covered company shall issue the developer a series of not fewer than 3 warnings over a period of not more than 90 days; and

(II) if the developer does not correct the violation by the date that is 90 days after the date on which the first warning is issued under subclause (I), the covered company shall remove the application of the developer from the application store.

(4) REPORTING MECHANISM.—The Assistant Secretary shall require a covered company to establish a mechanism that—

(A) allows a user of the covered company's application store, an employee of a developer whose application is distributed through the covered company's application store, or an associated third party to report a potential violation of this subsection by a developer, including incorrect information displayed on the application store page; and

(B) allows a report under subparagraph (A) to be made anonymously.

(5) WRITTEN POLICY FOR APPEALS OF REMOVALS.—The Assistant Secretary shall require a covered company to establish, for any application store owned, controlled, or operated by the covered company, a clear written policy for how a developer can appeal the removal of an application from the application store and have the application be reinstated.

SEC. 1004. LIST OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES WITH NATIONAL LAWS RESULTING IN GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly develop and submit to Congress a list of each foreign country that has in effect a national law that may subject a developer or application to control by the government of the country over content moderation, algorithm design, or user data transfers.

(b) PUBLICATION.—With respect to the list developed under subsection (a)—

(1) the Secretary of the Treasury shall make the list publicly available on the website of the Department of the Treasury; and

(2) the Secretary of Commerce shall make the list publicly available on the website of the Department of Commerce.

SEC. 1005. LIMITATION OF ENFORCEMENT AND REGULATION.

The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information may not exercise any enforcement authority or regulatory authority over a covered company or developer that is not provided under this division, including through rulemaking.

SEC. 1006. ENFORCEMENT.

The Attorney General may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court of the United States against any covered company that violates this division.

SA 3092. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end title XV, add the following:

Subtitle E—Licensing Aerospace Units to New Commercial Heights Act of 2024

SEC. 1549. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Licensing Aerospace Units to New Commercial Heights Act of 2024'' or the ''LAUNCH Act''.

SEC. 1550. STREAMLINING REGULATIONS RELATING TO COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH AND REENTRY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PART 450.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this subtitle as the ''Secretary'') shall evaluate the implementation of part 450 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (in this section referred to as ''part 450'') and the impacts of part 450 on the commercial spaceflight industry.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The evaluation required by paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of—

(A) whether increased uncertainty in the commercial spaceflight industry has resulted from the implementation of part 450;

(B) whether part 450 has resulted in operational delays to emerging launch programs; and

(C) whether timelines for reviews have changed, including an assessment of the impact of the incremental review process on those timelines and the root cause for multiple reviews, if applicable.

(3) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after completing the review required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) the findings of the review;

(B) recommendations for reducing delays and inefficiencies resulting from part 450 that do not rely solely on additional personnel or funding; and

(C) an estimate for a timeline and funding for implementing the recommendations described in subparagraph (B).

(b) RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consider establishing a Space Transportation Rulemaking Committee, comprised of established and emerging United States commercial space launch and reentry services providers (including providers that hold, and providers that have applied for but not yet received, licenses issued under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code)—

(A) to facilitate industry participation in developing recommendations for amendments to part 450 to address the challenges identified in conducting the review required by subsection (a) or under paragraph (2) of section 50905(d) of title 51, United States Code (as added by subsection (d)(3)); and

(B) to provide a long-term forum for the United States commercial spaceflight industry to share perspectives relating to regulations affecting the industry.

(2) PREVENTION OF DUPLICATIVE EFFORTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that a Space Transportation Rulemaking Committee established under this subsection does not provide services or make efforts that are duplicative of the services provided and efforts made by the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee.

(c) ENCOURAGEMENT OF INNOVATION.—The Secretary shall, on an ongoing basis, determine whether any requirements for a license issued under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code, can be modified or eliminated to encourage innovative new technologies and operations.

(d) MODIFICATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS.—

(1) CONSIDERATION OF SAFETY RATIONALES OF LICENSE APPLICANTS.—Section 50905(a)(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''Secretary may'' inserting the following: ''Secretary—

''(A) may'';

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) shall accept a reasonable safety rationale proposed by an applicant for a license under this chapter, including new approaches, consistent with paragraph (1).''.

(2) FACILITATION OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS.—Section 50905(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall assign a licensing team lead to each applicant for a license under this chapter to assist the applicant in streamlining the process for reviewing and approving the license application.''.

(3) STREAMLINING OF REVIEW PROCESSES.—Section 50905(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the end period and inserting the following: '', including by—

''(1) adjudicating determinations with respect to such applications and revisions to

such determinations in a timely manner as part of the incremental review process under section 450.33 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation); and

''(2) eliminating and streamlining duplicative review processes with other agencies, particularly relating to the use of Federal ranges or requirements to use the assets of Federal ranges.''.

SEC. 1551. DIRECT HIRE FOR OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall use direct hire authorities ⟦(as such authorities existed on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act)⟧ ⟦*SLC Note: Could you let me know what your intent is with this phrase? Are such authorities being amended by some provision of the NDAA such that you are intending to create a savings provision? Or is this language from some other source that does that, and I should delete the bracketed phrase?*⟧ to hire individuals on a noncompetitive basis for positions related to space launch and reentry licensing and permit activities.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives an annual report on the use of direct hiring authorities to fill such positions within the Federal Aviation Administration related to commercial space launch and reentry ⟦licensing and permit activities⟧.

SEC. 1552. FLIGHT SAFETY ANALYSIS WORKFORCE.

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

(1) flight safety analysis is critical to maintaining a high level of public safety for commercial space launches from, and reentries to, Federal ranges;

(2) significant expertise in flight safety analysis exists within the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(3) the increasing pace of commercial launch and reentries requires greater cooperation among the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support commercial launch and reentry activities at Federal ranges.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that identifies roles, responsibilities, expertise, and knowledge that exists within the executive branch of the Federal Government relating to analysis of flight safety systems for space launch and reentry activities.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Upon completion of the report required by subsection (b), the Secretary may enter into memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to allow Federal range personnel to support flight safety analysis required for the licensing of commercial space launch and reentry activities.

SEC. 1553. STREAMLINING LICENSING OF PRIVATE REMOTE SENSING SPACE SYSTEMS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF REMOTE SENSING REGULATORY AUTHORITY OVER CERTAIN IMAGING SYSTEMS.—Section 60121(a)(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Instruments determined by the Secretary in writing to be used primarily for mission assurance or other technical purposes shall not be considered to be conducting remote sensing. Instruments used primarily for mission assurance or other technical purposes are instruments used to support the health of the launch vehicle or the operator's spacecraft or the safety of the operator's space operations, including instruments used to support on-board self-monitoring for technical assurance, flight reliability, spaceflight safety, navigation, attitude control, separation events, payload deployments, or instruments collecting self-images.''.

(b) FACILITATION OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 60121 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

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

''(d) ASSIGNMENT OF DEDICATED LICENSING OFFICER.—The Secretary shall assign a licensing officer to oversee the application of the applicant for a license under subsection (a). The licensing officer shall assist the applicant by facilitating the application process, minimizing license conditions, and expediting the review and approval of the application, to the extent authorized by law.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60122(b)(3) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 60121(e)'' and inserting ''section 60121(f)''.

(c) TRANSPARENCY AND EXPEDITIOUS REVIEW OF LICENSES.—In carrying out the authorities under subchapter III of chapter 601 of title 51, United States Code, the Secretary shall—

(1) provide transparency to and engagement with applicants throughout the licensing process, including by stating with specificity to the applicant or licensee what basis caused the tiering determination of the license;

(2) minimize the timelines for review of commercial remote sensing licensing applications; and

(3) not less frequently than annually, reevaluate the criteria for the tiering of satellite systems, with a goal of expeditiously recategorizing Tier 3 systems to a lower tier without temporary license conditions.

SEC. 1554. GAO REPORT.

(a) 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 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the policies, regulations, and practices of the Department of Commerce (referred to in this section as the ''Department'') with respect to the private remote sensing space industry.

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

(1) An assessment of the extent to which such licensing policies, regulations, and practices of the Department promote or inhibit a robust domestic private remote sensing industry, including any restrictions that impede innovative remote sensing capabilities.

(2) Recommendations on changes to policies, regulations, and practices for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce to promote United States industry leadership in private remote sensing capabilities, including recommendations for—

(A) determining whether the costs to industry outweigh the benefits of conducting on-site ground station visits, and possible alternatives to ensuring compliance;

(B) assessing the information in a license application that should be treated as a material fact and the justification for such treatment;

(C) incorporating industry feedback into Department policies, regulations, and practices; and

(D) increasing Department transparency by—

(i) ensuring the wide dissemination of Department guidance;

(ii) providing clear application instructions; and

(iii) establishing written precedent of Department actions.

SA 3093. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IX, add the following:

Subtitle C—Expansion of Authorities of Office of Strategic Capital

SEC. 931. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Investing in Our Defense Act of 2024''.

SEC. 932. AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE EQUITY INVESTMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 913, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection (e):

''(e) EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent and in such amounts as are specifically provided in advance in appropriations Acts for the purposes described in this subsection, the Office may, as a minority investor, support eligible investments with funds or use other mechanisms for the purpose of purchasing, and may make and fund commitments to purchase, invest in, make pledges in respect of, or otherwise acquire, equity or quasi-equity securities or shares or financial interests of any entity, upon such terms and conditions as the Director may determine.

''(2) LIMITATIONS ON EQUITY INVESTMENTS.—

''(A) PER PROJECT LIMIT.—The aggregate amount of support provided under this subsection with respect to any eligible investment shall not exceed 20 percent of the aggregate amount of all equity investment made to the project at the time that the Office approves support for the eligible investment.

''(B) TOTAL LIMIT.—Support provided under this subsection shall be limited to not more than 35 percent of the aggregate exposure of the Office on the date on which the support is provided.

''(3) SALES AND LIQUIDATION OF SUPPORT.—The Office shall seek to sell and liquidate any support for an eligible investment provided under this subsection as soon as commercially feasible, commensurate with other similar investors in the project and taking into consideration the national security interests of the United States.

''(4) TIMETABLE.—The Office shall create an eligible investment-specific timetable for support provided under paragraph (1).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (f)(1) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a), is further amended by inserting

'', equity investment'' after ''loan guarantee''.

SEC. 933. AUTHORIZATION TO COLLECT FEES FOR PROVIDING CAPITAL INVESTMENTS.

Section 149 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 932, is further amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection (f):

''(f) FEE AUTHORITY.—The Director may charge and collect fees for providing capital assistance in amounts to be determined by the Director. Such fees, once collected, may be used only for the purposes and to the extent provided in advance by appropriations Acts.''.

SA 3094. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. PROHIBITION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATION RELATING TO DISCLOSURE OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL RISK.

None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be used to finalize, promulgate, or implement the rule proposed by the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration relating to ''Federal Acquisition Regulation: Disclosure of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate-Related Financial Risk'' (87 Fed. Reg. 68312; published November 14, 2022), or to propose, promulgate, or implement any substantially similar rule or policy.

SA 3095. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. MODIFICATION OF INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SECURITY ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS FROM UNDUE INFLUENCE AND OTHER SECURITY THREATS.

Section 1286(c)(9)(A) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 4001 note) is amended, in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''and research'' after ''academic''.

SA 3096. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. PLAIN WRITING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLICITATION OF SUBCONTRACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in subparagraph (H)(ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (I)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(J) a representation that—

''(i) the offeror or bidder will communicate all solicitations of subcontracts in plain writing (as defined in section 3 of the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–274; 124 Stat. 2861)) so that the solicitation is easily understood by small business concerns seeking to obtain a subcontracting opportunity from the offeror or bidder; and

''(ii) the offeror or bidder will include the plain writing requirement described in clause (i) in all subcontracts that offer subcontracting opportunities.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(18) COMPLIANCE WITH PLAIN WRITING REQUIREMENT.—If the Administrator determines that a prime contractor failed to communicate any solicitation of a subcontract in plain writing in accordance with paragraph (6)(J), the prime contractor shall communicate a new solicitation of the subcontract in plain writing not later than 30 days after the date on which the Administrator made that determination.''.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall promulgate regulations to carry out paragraphs (6)(J) and (18) of section 8(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)), as added by subsection (a).

SA 3097. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 10____. DEFINITION OF CUSTOMS WATERS.

(a) TARIFF ACT OF 1930.—Section 401(j) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1401(j)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''means, in the case'' and inserting the following: ''means—

''(1) in the case'';

(2) by striking ''of the coast of the United States'' the first place it appears and inserting ''from the baselines of the United States, determined in accordance with international law,'';

(3) by striking ''and, in the case'' and inserting the following: ''; and

''(2) in the case''; and

(4) by striking ''the waters within four leagues of the coast of the United States.'' and inserting the following: ''the waters within—

''(A) the territorial sea of the United States, to the limits permitted by international law in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 5928 of December 27, 1988; and

''(B) the contiguous zone of the United States, to the limits permitted by international law in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7219 of September 2, 1999.''.

(b) ANTI-SMUGGLING ACT.—Section 401(c) of the Anti-Smuggling Act (19 U.S.C. 1709(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''means, in the case'' and inserting the following: ''means—

''(1) in the case'';

(2) by striking ''of the coast of the United States'' the first place it appears and inserting ''from the baselines of the United States, determined in accordance with international law,'';

(3) by striking ''and, in the case'' and inserting the following: ''; and

''(2) in the case''; and

(4) by striking ''the waters within four leagues of the coast of the United States.'' and inserting the following: ''the waters within—

''(A) the territorial sea of the United States, to the limits permitted by international law in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 5928 of December 27, 1988; and

''(B) the contiguous zone of the United States, to the limits permitted by international law in accordance with Presidential Proclamation 7219 of September 2, 1999.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 3098. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. COUNTERING CCP DRONES.

(a) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS MANUFACTURERS ARE CHINESE MILITARY COMPANIES.—Pursuant to the annual review required under section 1260H(a) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 10 U.S.C. 113 note), the Secretary of Defense shall determine if any entity that manufactures or assembles unmanned aircraft systems (as defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code), or any subsidiary, parent, affiliate, or successor of such an entity, should be identified under such section 1260H(a) as a Chinese military company operating directly or indirectly in the United States.

(b) ADDITION OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES OF DJI TECHNOLOGIES AND AUTEL ROBOTICS TO COVERED COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES LIST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) The communications equipment or service being—

''(A) communications or video surveillance equipment produced or provided by—

''(i) Shenzhen Da-Jiang Innovations Sciences and Technologies Company Limited (commonly known as 'DJI Technologies');

''(ii) Autel Robotics; or

''(iii) with respect to an entity described in clause (i) or (ii) (referred to in this clause as a 'named entity')—

''(I) any subsidiary, affiliate, or partner of the named entity;

''(II) any entity in a joint venture with the named entity; or

''(III) any entity to which the named entity has issued a license to produce or provide that telecommunications or video surveillance equipment; or

''(B) telecommunications or video surveillance services, including software, provided by an entity described in subparagraph (A) or using equipment described in that subparagraph.

''(6)(A) The communications equipment or service being any communications equipment or service produced or provided by an entity—

''(i) that is a subsidiary, affiliate, or partner of an entity that produces or provides any communications equipment or service described in any of paragraphs (1) through (5) (referred to in this subparagraph as a 'covered entity');

''(ii) that is in a joint venture with a covered entity; or

''(iii) to which a covered entity has issued a license to produce or provide that communications equipment or service.

''(B) An executive branch interagency body described in paragraph (1) may submit to the Commission a petition to have an entity recognized as an entity to which subparagraph (A) applies.''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) INAPPLICABILITY TO AUTHORIZED INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the terms 'intelligence' and 'intelligence community' have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

''(2) INAPPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an action by the Commission under subsection (b)(1) based on a determination made under paragraph (5) or (6) of subsection (c) shall not apply with respect to any—

''(A) activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.);

''(B) activity of an element of the intelligence community relating to intelligence; or

''(C) activity of, or procurement by, an element of the intelligence community in support of an activity relating to intelligence.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601) is amended by striking ''paragraphs (1) through (4)'' each place that term appears and inserting ''paragraphs (1) through (6)''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection, and the amendments made by this subsection, shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FIRST RESPONDER SECURE DRONE PROGRAM.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ''eligible entity'' means an agency of an entity described in clause (ii) that has as a primary responsibility the maintenance of public safety.

(ii) ENTITY DESCRIBED.—An entity described in this clause is any of the following:

(I) Each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

(II) A political subdivision, including a unit of local government, of an entity described in subclause (I).

(III) A Tribal Government.

(B) ELIGIBLE SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ''eligible small unmanned aircraft system'' means a small unmanned aircraft system, as defined in part 107 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), that—

(i) was not designed, manufactured, or assembled, in whole or in part, by a foreign entity of concern; or

(ii) does not include software or 1 or more critical components from a foreign entity of concern.

(C) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term ''foreign entity of concern'' has the meaning given the term in section 9901 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651).

(D) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Transportation.

(E) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ''unmanned aircraft system'' has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

(2) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program, in coordination with the Attorney General, to be known as the First Responder Secure Drone Program, to provide grants to eligible entities to facilitate the use of eligible small unmanned aircraft systems.

(3) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—An eligible entity may use a grant provided under this subsection to—

(A) purchase or lease eligible small unmanned aircraft systems;

(B) purchase or lease software, training, and other services reasonably associated with the purchase or lease of eligible small unmanned aircraft systems; and

(C) dispose of unmanned aircraft systems owned by the eligible entity.

(4) RESTRICTIONS ON GRANT USES.—In administering grants under this program, the Secretary, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall ensure funds are used in a manner that safeguards civil liberties and mitigates cybersecurity risks concerning the operation and use of the eligible small unmanned aircraft system.

(5) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including an assurance that the eligible entity or any contractor of the eligible entity, will comply with relevant Federal regulations.

(6) FEDERAL SHARE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Federal share of the allowable costs of a project carried out using a grant provided under this subsection shall not exceed 50 percent of the total allowable project costs.

(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may increase the Federal share under subparagraph (A) to up to 75 percent if an eligible entity—

(i) submits a written application to the Secretary requesting an increase in the Federal share; and

(ii) demonstrates that the additional assistance is necessary to facilitate the acceptance and full use of a grant under this subsection, due to circumstances such as alleviating economic hardship, meeting additional workforce needs, or any other uses that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(7) SUNSET OF PROGRAM.—The program established under this subsection shall end on the date that is the earlier of—

(A) the date on which all appropriations authorized under paragraph (7) are expended; and

(B) the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 3099. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C in title III, add the following:

SEC. 324. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR ASSESSING PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES IN WATER SOURCES AND PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE REMEDIATION SOLUTIONS.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to dedicate resources to advancing, and expanding access to, perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and remediation science, research, and technologies through the establishment of Centers of Excellence for Assessing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Water Sources and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Remediation Solutions.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

(A) select from among the applications submitted under paragraph (2)(A) an eligible research university, an eligible rural university, and a National Laboratory applying jointly for the establishment of centers, to be known as the ''Centers of Excellence for Assessing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Water Sources and Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Remediation Solutions'', which shall be a tri-institutional collaboration between the eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory co-applicants (in this section referred to as the ''Centers''); and

(B) guide the eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory in the establishment of the Centers.

(2) APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible research university, eligible rural university, and National Laboratory desiring to establish the Centers shall jointly submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(B) CRITERIA.—In evaluating applications submitted under subparagraph (A), the Administrator shall only consider applications that—

(i) include evidence of an existing partnership between not fewer than two of the co-applicants that is dedicated to supporting and expanding shared scientific goals with a clear pathway to collaborating on furthering science and research relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(ii) demonstrate a history of collaboration between not fewer than two of the co-applicants on the advancement of shared research capabilities, including instrumentation and research infrastructure relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(iii) indicate that the co-applicants have the capacity to expand education and research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to prepare a generation of experts in sciences relating to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances;

(iv) demonstrate that the National Laboratory co-applicant is equipped to scale up

newly discovered materials and methods for perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance removal processes for low-risk, cost-effective, and validated commercialization; and

(v) identify one or more staff members of each co-applicant who—

(I) have expertise in sciences relevant to perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance detection and remediation; and

(II) have been jointly selected, and will be jointly appointed, by the co-applicants to lead and carry out the purposes of the Centers.

(3) TIMING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Centers shall be established not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) DELAY.—If the Administrator determines that a delay in the establishment of the Centers is necessary, the Administrator—

(i) not later than the date specified in subparagraph (A), shall submit a notification to the appropriate committees of Congress explaining the necessity of the delay; and

(ii) shall ensure that the Centers are established not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) COORDINATION.—The Administrator shall carry out paragraph (1) in coordination with other relevant officials of the Federal Government as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(c) DUTIES AND CAPABILITIES OF THE CENTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Centers shall develop and maintain—

(A) capabilities for measuring perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination in drinking water, ground water, and any other relevant environmental, municipal, industrial, or residential water samples using methods certified by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(B) capabilities for—

(i) evaluating emerging perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance removal and destruction technologies and methods; and

(ii) benchmarking those technologies and methods relative to existing technologies and methods.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Centers shall, at a minimum—

(i) develop instruments and personnel capable of analyzing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination in water using—

(I) the method described by the Environmental Protection Agency in the document entitled ''Method 533: Determination of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Drinking Water by Isotope Dilution Anion Exchange Solid Phase Extraction and Liquid Chromatography/Tandem mass Spectrometry'' (commonly known as ''EPA Method 533'');

(II) the method described by the Environmental Protection Agency in the document entitled ''Method 537.1: Determination of Selected Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances in Drinking Water by Solid Phase Extraction and Liquid Chromatography/Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC/MS/MS)'' (commonly known as ''EPA Method 537.1'');

(III) any updated or future method developed by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

(IV) any other method the Administrator considers relevant;

(ii) develop and maintain capabilities for evaluating the removal of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances from water using newly developed adsorbents or membranes;

(iii) develop and maintain capabilities to evaluate the degradation of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in water or other media;

(iv) make the capabilities and instruments developed under clauses (i) through (iii) available to researchers throughout the regions in which the Centers are located; and

(v) make reliable perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance measurement capabilities and instruments available to municipalities and individuals in the regions in which the Centers are located at reasonable cost.

(B) OPEN-ACCESS RESEARCH.—The Centers shall provide open access to the research findings of the Centers.

(d) COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The Administrator may, as the Administrator determines to be necessary, use staff and other resources from other Federal agencies in carrying out this section.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—Not later than one year after the date of the establishment of the Centers under subsection (b), the Administrator, in coordination with the Centers, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing—

(A) the establishment of the Centers; and

(B) the activities of the Centers since the date on which the Centers were established.

(2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year after the date on which the report under paragraph (1) is submitted, and annually thereafter until the date on which the Centers are terminated under subsection (f), the Administrator, in coordination with the Centers, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing—

(A) the activities of the Centers during the year covered by the report; and

(B) any policy, research, or funding recommendations relating to the purposes or activities of the Centers.

(f) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Centers shall terminate on October 1, 2034.

(2) EXTENSION.—If the Administrator, in consultation with the Centers, determines that the continued operation of the Centers beyond the date described in paragraph (1) is necessary to advance science and technologies to address perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination—

(A) the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(i) a notification of that determination; and

(ii) a description of the funding necessary for the Centers to continue in operation and fulfill their purpose; and

(B) subject to the availability of funds, may extend the duration of the Centers for such time as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

(g) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2025 for the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program of the Department of Defense, $25,000,000 shall be made available to the Administrator to carry out this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) shall remain available to the Administrator for the purposes specified in that paragraph until September 30, 2033.

(3) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than four percent of the amounts made available to the Administrator under paragraph (1) shall be used for the administrative costs of carrying out this section.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term the ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(3) ELIGIBLE RESEARCH UNIVERSITY.—The term ''eligible research university'' means an institution of higher education that—

(A) has annual research expenditures of not less than $750,000,000; and

(B) is located near a population center of not fewer than 5,000,000 individuals.

(4) ELIGIBLE RURAL UNIVERSITY.—The term ''eligible rural university'' means an institution of higher education that is—

(A) located in one of the five States with the lowest population density as determined by data from the most recent census;

(B) a member of the National Security Innovation Network in the Rocky Mountain Region; and

(C) in proximity to the geographic center of the United States, as determined by the Administrator.

(5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(6) NATIONAL LABORATORY.—The term ''National Laboratory'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801).

SA 3100. Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 865. SBIC MAXIMUM LEVERAGE EXCLUSION.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Investing in All of America Act of 2024''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 103(9) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662(9)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(iii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''established prior to October 1, 1987'';

(B) in subclause (II)—

(i) by striking ''or'' and inserting '', a''; and

(ii) by inserting '', or a foundation, endowment, or trust of a college or university'' after ''pension plan''; and

(C) in subclause (III), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) for the purpose of approval by the Administrator of any request for leverage, does not include any funds obtained directly or indirectly from any Federal, State or local government or any government agency or instrumentality, except for funds described in subclause (I), (II), or (III) of subparagraph (B)(iii).''.

(c) MAXIMUM LEVERAGE.—Section 303(b)(2) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''300'' and inserting ''200'';

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in the heading—

(i) by inserting ''OR RURAL'' after ''LOW-INCOME''; and

(ii) by inserting ''OR CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AREAS'' after ''GEOGRAPHIC AREAS'';

(B) in clause (i)—

(i) by striking ''(i) In calculating'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (iii), in calculating'';

(ii) by inserting ''or companies'' after ''of a company'';

(iii) by striking ''subparagraph (A)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (A) and (B)'';

(iv) by striking ''equity'';

(v) by striking ''the company in a smaller enterprise'' and all that follows and inserting the following: ''the company or companies in—

''(I) a smaller enterprise located in a low-income geographic area (as defined in section 351) or in a rural area; or''; and

(vi) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

''(II) a small business concern in an area of critical technology (as defined in section 4801 of title 10, United States Code) vital to maintaining the national security of the United States.'';

(C) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) LIMITATION.—While maintaining the limitation of subparagraph (A)(i) and consistent with a leverage determination ratio issued pursuant to section 301(c), the aggregate amount excluded for a company or companies under clause (i) from the calculation of the outstanding leverage of such company or companies for the purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B) may not exceed the lesser of 50 percent of the private capital of such company or companies or $125,000,000.''; and

(D) by amending clause (iii) to read as follows:

''(iii) PROSPECTIVE APPLICABILITY.—An investment by a licensee is eligible for exclusion from the calculation of outstanding leverage under clause (i) only if such investment is made by such licensee after the date of enactment of the Investing in All of America Act of 2024.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(E) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.—The Administrator shall adjust the dollar amounts described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)—

''(i) on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, by a percentage equal to the percentage (if any) by which the Consumer Price Index (all items; United States city average), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, increased during the period—

''(I) beginning on December 18, 2015, and ending on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, for subparagraph (B); and

''(II) beginning on June 21, 2018, and ending on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, for subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and annually thereafter, by a percentage equal to the percentage (if any) by which the Consumer Price Index (all items; United States city average), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, increased during the one-year period preceding the date of the adjustment under this clause.''.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than June 30 of the first year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the exclusion under subparagraph (C) of section 303(b)(2) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(b)(2)), as amended by subsection (c), including the economic activity generated and jobs directly and indirectly created by the exclusion.

SA 3101. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KELLY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—United States Foundation for International Conservation

SEC. 1291. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''United States Foundation for International Conservation Act of 2024''.

SEC. 1292. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

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

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) BOARD.—The term ''Board'' means the Board of Directors established pursuant to section 1294(a).

(3) ELIGIBLE COUNTRY.—The term ''eligible country'' means any country described in section 1297(b).

(4) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term ''eligible project'' means any project described in section 1297(a)(2).

(5) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The term ''Executive Director'' means the Executive Director of the Foundation hired pursuant to section 1294(b).

(6) FOUNDATION.—The term ''Foundation'' means the United States Foundation for International Conservation established pursuant to section 1293(a).

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

SEC. 1293. UNITED STATES FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation, which shall be operated as a charitable, nonprofit corporation.

(2) INDEPENDENCE.—The Foundation is not an agency or instrumentality of the United States Government.

(3) TAX-EXEMPT STATUS.—The Board shall take all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure that the Foundation is an organization described in subsection (c) of section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which exempt the organization from taxation under subsection (a) of such section.

(4) TERMINATION OF OPERATIONS.—The Foundation shall terminate operations on the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Foundation becomes operational, in accordance with—

(A) a plan for winding down the activities of the Foundation that the Board shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 180 days before such termination date; and

(B) the bylaws established pursuant to section 1294(b)(13).

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Foundation are—

(1) to provide grants for the responsible management of designated priority primarily protected and conserved areas in eligible countries that have a high degree of biodiversity or species and ecosystems of significant ecological value;

(2) to promote responsible, long-term management of primarily protected and conserved areas and their contiguous buffer zones;

(3) to incentivize, leverage, accept, and effectively administer governmental and nongovernmental funds, including donations from the private sector, to increase the availability and predictability of financing for responsible, long-term management of primarily protected and conserved areas in eligible countries;

(4) to help close critical gaps in public international conservation efforts in eligible countries by—

(A) increasing private sector investment, including investments from philanthropic entities; and

(B) collaborating with partners providing bilateral and multilateral financing to support enhanced coordination, including public and private funders, partner governments, local protected areas authorities, and private and nongovernmental organization partners;

(5) to identify and financially support viable projects that—

(A) promote responsible, long-term management of primarily protected and conserved areas and their contiguous buffer zones in eligible countries, including support for the management of terrestrial, coastal, freshwater, and marine protected areas, parks, community conservancies, Indigenous reserves, conservation easements, and biological reserves; and

(B) provide effective area-based conservation measures, consistent with best practices and standards for environmental and social safeguards; and

(6) to coordinate with, consult, and otherwise support and assist, governments, private sector entities, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and other stakeholders in eligible countries in undertaking biodiversity conservation activities—

(A) to achieve measurable and enduring biodiversity conservation outcomes; and

(B) to improve local security, governance, food security, and economic opportunities.

(c) PLAN OF ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the establishment of the Foundation, the Executive Director shall submit for approval from the Board an initial 3-year Plan of Action to implement the purposes of this subtitle, including—

(A) a description of the priority actions to be undertaken by the Foundation over the proceeding 3-year period, including a timeline for implementation of such priority actions;

(B) descriptions of the processes and criteria by which—

(i) eligible countries, in which eligible projects may be selected to receive assistance under this subtitle, will be identified;

(ii) grant proposals for Foundation activities in eligible countries will be developed, evaluated, and selected; and

(iii) grant implementation will be monitored and evaluated;

(C) the projected staffing and budgetary requirements of the Foundation during the proceeding 3-year period.

(D) a plan to maximize commitments from private sector entities to fund the Foundation.

(2) SUBMISSION.—The Executive Director shall submit the initial Plan of Action to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 5 days after the Plan of Action is approved by the Board.

(3) UPDATES.—The Executive Director shall annually update the Plan of Action and submit each such updated plan to the appropriate congressional committees not later that 5 days after the update plan is approved by the Board.

SEC. 1294. GOVERNANCE OF THE FOUNDATION.

(a) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—There shall be in the Foundation an Executive Director, who shall—

(1) manage the Foundation; and

(2) report to, and be under the direct authority, of the Board.

(b) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) GOVERNANCE.—The Foundation shall be governed by a Board of Directors, which—

(A) shall perform the functions specified to be carried out by the Board under this subtitle; and

(B) may prescribe, amend, and repeal bylaws, rules, regulations, and procedures governing the manner in which the business of the Foundation may be conducted and in which the powers granted to it by law may be exercised.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Board shall be composed of—

(A) the Secretary, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Secretary of the Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, and the head of one other relevant Federal department or agency, as determined by the Secretary, or the Senate-confirmed designees of such officials; and

(B) 8 other individuals, who shall be appointed by the Secretary, in consultation with the members of the Board described in subparagraph (A), the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore and Minority Leader of the Senate, of whom—

(i) 4 members shall be private-sector donors making financial contributions to the Foundation; and

(ii) 4 members shall be independent experts who, in addition to meeting the qualification requirements described in paragraph (3), represent diverse points of view and diverse geographies, to the maximum extent practicable.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each member of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) shall be knowledgeable and experienced in matters relating to—

(A) international development;

(B) protected area management and the conservation of global biodiversity, fish and wildlife, ecosystem restoration, adaptation, and resilience; and

(C) grantmaking in support of international conservation.

(4) POLITICAL AFFILIATION.—Not more than 5 of the members appointed to the Board pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) may be affiliated with the same political party.

(5) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—Any individual with business interests, financial holdings, or controlling interests in any entity that has sought support, or is receiving support, from the Foundation may not be appointed to the Board during the 5-year period immediately preceding such appointment.

(6) CHAIRPERSON.—The Board shall elect, from among its members, a Chairperson, who shall serve for a 2-year term.

(7) TERMS; VACANCIES.—

(A) TERMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The term of service of each member of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) shall be not more than 5 years.

(ii) INITIAL APPOINTED DIRECTORS.—Of the initial members of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)—

(I) 4 members, including at least 2 private-sector donors making financial contributions to the Foundation, shall serve for 4 years; and

(II) 4 members shall serve for 5 years, as determined by the Chairperson of the Board.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Board—

(i) shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made; and

(ii) shall not affect the power of the remaining appointed members of the Board to execute the duties of the Board.

(8) QUORUM.—A majority of the current membership of the Board, including the Secretary or the Secretary's designee, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Foundation business.

(9) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet not less frequently than annually at the call of the Chairperson. Such meetings may be in person, virtual, or hybrid.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days after the Board is established pursuant to section 1293(a), the Secretary of State shall convene a meeting of the ex-officio members of the Board and the appointed members of the Board to incorporate the Foundation.

(C) REMOVAL.—Any member of the Board appointed pursuant to paragraph (2)(B) who misses 3 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings may be removed by a majority vote of the Board.

(10) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Members of the Board shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for the actual and necessary traveling and subsistence expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the Foundation.

(B) LIMITATION.—Expenses incurred outside the United States may be reimbursed under this paragraph if at least 2 members of the Board concurrently incurred such expenses. Such reimbursements—

(i) shall be available exclusively for actual costs incurred by members of the Board up to the published daily per diem rate for lodging, meals, and incidentals; and

(ii) shall not include first-class, business-class, or travel in any class other than economy class or coach class.

(C) OTHER EXPENSES.—All other expenses, including salaries for officers and staff of the Foundation, shall be established by a majority vote of the Board, as proposed by the Executive Director on no less than an annual basis.

(11) NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—Appointment as a member of the Board and employment by the Foundation does not constitute employment by, or the holding of an office of, the United States for purposes of any Federal law.

(12) DUTIES.—The Board shall—

(A) establish bylaws for the Foundation in accordance with paragraph (13);

(B) provide overall direction for the activities of the Foundation and establish priority activities;

(C) carry out any other necessary activities of the Foundation;

(D) evaluate the performance of the Executive Director;

(E) take steps to limit the administrative expenses of the Foundation; and

(F) not less frequently than annually, consult and coordinate with stakeholders qualified to provide advice, assistance, and information regarding effective protected and conserved area management.

(13) BYLAWS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The bylaws required to be established under paragraph (12)(A) shall include—

(i) the specific duties of the Executive Director;

(ii) policies and procedures for the selection of members of the Board and officers, employees, agents, and contractors of the Foundation;

(iii) policies, including ethical standards, for—

(I) the acceptance, solicitation, and disposition of donations and grants to the Foundation; and

(II) the disposition of assets of the Foundation upon the dissolution of the Foundation;

(iv) policies that subject all implementing partners, employees, fellows, trainees, and other agents of the Foundation (including ex-officio members of the Board and appointed members of the Board) to stringent ethical and conflict of interest standards;

(v) removal and exclusion procedures for implementing partners, employees, fellows, trainees, and other agents of the Foundation (including ex-officio members of the Board and appointed members of the Board) who fail to uphold the ethical and conflict of interest standards established pursuant to clause (iii);

(vi) policies for winding down the activities of the Foundation upon its dissolution, including a plan—

(I) to return unspent appropriations to the Treasury of the United States; and

(II) to donate unspent private and philanthropic contributions to projects that align with the goals and requirements described in section 1297;

(vii) policies for vetting implementing partners and grantees to ensure the Foundation does not provide grants to for profit entities whose primary objective is activities other than conservation activities; and

(viii) clawback policies and procedures to be incorporated into grant agreements to ensure compliance with the policies referred to in clause (vii).

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board shall ensure that the bylaws of the Foundation and the activities carried out under such bylaws do not—

(i) reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Foundation to carry out activities in a fair and objective manner; or

(ii) compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of any governmental agency or program, or any officer or employee employed by, or involved in, a governmental agency or program.

(c) FOUNDATION STAFF.—Officers and employees of the Foundation—

(1) may not be employees of, or hold any office in, the United States Government;

(2) may not serve in the employ of any nongovernmental organization, project, or person related to or affiliated with any grantee of the Foundation while employed by the Foundation;

(3) may not receive compensation from any other source for work performed in carrying out the duties of the Foundation while employed by the Foundation; and

(4) should not receive a salary at a rate that is greater than the maximum rate of basic pay authorized for positions at level I of the Executive Schedule under section 5312 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) LIMITATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS.—

(1) POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.—The Foundation may not—

(A) lobby for political or policy issues; or

(B) participate or intervene in any political campaign in any country.

(2) FINANCIAL INTERESTS.—As determined by the Board and set forth in the bylaws established pursuant to subsection (b)(13), and consistent with best practices, any member of the Board or officer or employee of the Foundation shall be prohibited from participating, directly or indirectly, in the consideration or determination of any question before the Foundation affecting—

(A) the financial interests of such member of the Board, or officer or employee of the Foundation, not including such member's Foundation expenses and compensation; and

(B) the interests of any corporation, partnership, entity, or organization in which such member of the Board, officer, or employee has any fiduciary obligation or direct or indirect financial interest.

(3) RECUSALS.—Any member of the Board that has a business, financial, or familial interest in an organization or community seeking support from the Foundation shall recuse himself or herself from all deliberations, meetings, and decisions concerning the consideration and decision relating to such support.

(4) PROJECT INELIGIBILITY.—The Foundation may not provide support to individuals or entities with business, financial, or familial ties to—

(A) a current member of the Board; or

(B) a former member of the Board during the 5-year period immediately following the last day of the former member's term on the Board.

SEC. 1295. CORPORATE POWERS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE FOUNDATION.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation—

(A) may conduct business in foreign countries;

(B) shall have its principal offices in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area; and

(C) shall continuously maintain a designated agent in Washington, D.C. who is authorized to accept notice or service of process on behalf of the Foundation.

(2) NOTICE AND SERVICE OF PROCESS.—The serving of notice to, or service of process upon, the agent referred to in paragraph (1)(C), or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed as service upon, or notice to, the Foundation.

(3) AUDITS.—The Foundation shall be subject to the general audit authority of the Comptroller General of the United States under section 3523 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—In addition to powers explicitly authorized under this subtitle, the Foundation, in order to carry out the purposes described in section 1293(b), shall have the usual powers of a corporation headquartered in Washington, D.C., including the authority—

(1) to accept, receive, solicit, hold, administer, and use any gift, devise, or bequest, either absolutely or in trust, or real or personal property or any income derived from such gift or property, or other interest in such gift or property located in the United States;

(2) to acquire by donation, gift, devise, purchase, or exchange any real or personal property or interest in such property located in the United States;

(3) unless otherwise required by the instrument of transfer, to sell, donate, lease, invest, reinvest, retain, or otherwise dispose of any property or income derived from such property located in the United States;

(4) to complain and defend itself in any court of competent jurisdiction (except that the members of the Board shall not be personally liable, except for gross negligence);

(5) to enter into contracts or other arrangements with public agencies, private organizations, and persons and to make such payments as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of such contracts or arrangements; and

(6) to award grants for eligible projects, in accordance with section 1297.

(c) LIMITATION OF PUBLIC LIABILITY.—The United States shall not be liable for any debts, defaults, acts, or omissions of the Foundation. The Federal Government shall be held harmless from any damages or awards ordered by a court against the Foundation.

SEC. 1296. SAFEGUARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

(a) SAFEGUARDS.—The Foundation shall develop, and incorporate into any agreement for support provided by the Foundation, appropriate safeguards, policies, and guidelines, consistent with United States law and best practices and standards for environmental and social safeguards.

(b) INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall establish a transparent and independent accountability mechanism, consistent with best practices, which shall provide—

(A) a compliance review function that assesses whether Foundation-supported projects adhere to the requirements developed pursuant to subsection (a);

(B) a dispute resolution function for resolving and remedying concerns between complainants and project implementers regarding the impacts of specific Foundation-supported projects with respect to such standards; and

(C) an advisory function that reports to the Board on projects, policies, and practices.

(2) DUTIES.—The accountability mechanism shall—

(A) report annually to the Board and the appropriate congressional committees regarding the Foundation's compliance with best practices and standards in accordance with paragraph (1)(A) and the nature and resolution of any complaint;

(B)(i) have permanent staff, led by an independent accountability official, to conduct compliance reviews and dispute resolutions and perform advisory functions; and

(ii) maintain a roster of experts to serve such roles, to the extent needed; and

(C) hold a public comment period lasting not fewer than 60 days regarding the initial design of the accountability mechanism.

(c) INTERNAL ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Foundation shall establish an ombudsman position at a senior level of executive staff as a confidential, neutral source of information and assistance to anyone affected by the activities of the Foundation.

(d) ANNUAL REVIEW.—The Secretary shall, periodically, but not less frequent than annually, review assistance provided by the Foundation for the purpose of implementing section 1293(b) to ensure consistency with the provisions under section 620M of Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d).

SEC. 1297. PROJECTS AND GRANTS.

(a) PROJECT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall—

(A) provide grants to support eligible projects described in paragraph (3) that advance its mission to enable effective management of primarily protected and conserved areas and their contiguous buffer zones in eligible countries;

(B) advance effective landscape or seascape approaches to conservation that include buffer zones, wildlife dispersal and corridor areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures; and

(C) not purchase, own, or lease land, including conservation easements, in eligible countries.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Eligible entities shall include—

(A) not-for-profit organizations with demonstrated expertise in protected and conserved area management and economic development;

(B) governments of eligible partner countries, as determined by subsection (b), with the exception of governments and government entities that are prohibited from receiving grants from the Foundation pursuant to section 1298; and

(C) Indigenous and local communities in such eligible countries.

(3) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—Eligible projects shall include projects that—

(A) focus on supporting—

(i) transparent and effective long-term management of primarily protected or conserved areas and their contiguous buffer zones in countries described in subsection (b), including terrestrial, coastal, and marine protected or conserved areas, parks, community conservancies, Indigenous reserves, conservation easements, and biological reserves; and

(ii) other effective area-based conservation measures;

(B) are cost-matched at a ratio of not less than $2 from sources other than the United States for every $1 made available under this subtitle;

(C) are subject to long-term binding memoranda of understanding with the governments of eligible countries and local communities—

(i) to ensure that local populations have access, resource management responsibilities, and the ability to pursue permissible, sustainable economic activity on affected lands; and

(ii) that may be signed by governments in such eligible countries to ensure free, prior, and informed consent of affected communities;

(D) incorporate a set of key performance and impact indicators;

(E) demonstrate robust local community engagement, with the completion of appropriate environmental and social due diligence, including—

(i) free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and relevant local communities;

(ii) inclusive governance structures; and

(iii) effective grievance mechanisms;

(F) create economic opportunities for local communities, including through—

(i) equity and profit-sharing;

(ii) cooperative management of natural resources;

(iii) employment activities; and

(iv) other related economic growth activities;

(G) leverage stable baseline funding for the effective management of the primarily protected or conserved area project; and

(H) to the extent possible—

(i) are viable and prepared for implementation; and

(ii) demonstrate a plan to strengthen the capacity of, and transfer skills to, local institutions to manage the primarily protected or conserved area before or after grant funding is exhausted.

(b) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the Plan of Action required under section 1293(c), and before awarding any grants or entering into any project agreements for any fiscal year, the Board shall conduct a review to identify eligible countries in which the Foundation

may fund projects. Such review shall consider countries that—

(A) are low-income, lower middle-income, or upper-middle-income economies (as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association);

(B) have—

(i) a high degree of threatened or at-risk biological diversity; or

(ii) species or ecosystems of significant importance, including threatened or endangered species or ecosystems at risk of degradation or destruction;

(C) have demonstrated a commitment to conservation through verifiable actions, such as protecting lands and waters through the gazettement of national parks, community conservancies, marine reserves and protected areas, forest reserves, or other legally recognized forms of place-based conservation; and

(D) are not ineligible to receive United States foreign assistance pursuant to any other provision of law, including laws identified in section 1298.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—Not later than 5 days after the date on which the Board determines which countries are eligible to receive assistance under this subtitle for a fiscal year, the Executive Director shall—

(A) submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(i) a list of all such eligible countries, as determined through the review process described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) a detailed justification for each such eligibility determination, including—

(I) an analysis of why the eligible country would be suitable for partnership;

(II) an evaluation of the eligible partner country's interest in and ability to participate meaningfully in proposed Foundation activities, including an evaluation of such eligible country's prospects to substantially benefit from Foundation assistance;

(III) an estimation of each such eligible partner country's commitment to conservation; and

(IV) an assessment of the capacity and willingness of the eligible country to enact or implement reforms that might be necessary to maximize the impact and effectiveness of Foundation support; and

(B) publish the information contained in the report described in subparagraph (A) in the Federal Register.

(c) GRANTMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to maximize program effectiveness, the Foundation shall—

(A) coordinate with other international public and private donors to the greatest extent practicable and appropriate;

(B) seek additional financial and nonfinancial contributions and commitments for its projects from governments in eligible countries;

(C) strive to generate a partnership mentality among all participants, including public and private funders, host governments, local protected areas authorities, and private and nongovernmental organization partners;

(D) prioritize investments in communities with low levels of economic development to the greatest extent practicable and appropriate; and

(E) consider the eligible partner country's planned and dedicated resources to the proposed project and the eligible entity's ability to successfully implement the project.

(2) GRANT CRITERIA.—Foundation grants—

(A) shall fund eligible projects that enhance the management of well-defined primarily protected or conserved areas and the systems of such conservation areas in eligible countries;

(B) should support adequate baseline funding for eligible projects in eligible countries to be sustained for not less than 10 years;

(C) should, during the grant period, demonstrate progress in achieving clearly defined key performance indicators (as defined in the grant agreement), which may include—

(i) the protection of biological diversity;

(ii) the protection of native flora and habitats, such as trees, forests, wetlands, grasslands, mangroves, coral reefs, and sea grass;

(iii) community-based economic growth indicators, such as improved land tenure, increases in beneficiaries participating in related economic growth activities, and sufficient income from conservation activities being directed to communities in project areas;

(iv) improved management of the primarily protected or conserved area covered by the project, as documented through the submission of strategic plans or annual reports to the Foundation; and

(v) the identification of additional revenue sources or sustainable financing mechanisms to meet the recurring costs of management of the primarily protected or conserved areas; and

(D) shall be terminated if the Board determines that the project is not—

(i) meeting applicable requirements under this subtitle; or

(ii) making progress in achieving the key performance indicators defined in the grant agreement.

SEC. 1298. PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT FOR CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation may not provide support for any government, or any entity owned or controlled by a government, if the Secretary has determined that such government—

(1) has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism, as determined under—

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

(B) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(D) any other relevant provision of law;

(2) has been identified pursuant to section 116(a) or 502B(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(a) and 2304(a)(2)) or any other relevant provision of law; or

(3) has failed the ''control of corruption'' indicator, as determined by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, within any of the preceding 3 years of the intended grant;

(b) PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT FOR SANCTIONED PERSONS.—The Foundation may not engage in any dealing prohibited under United States sanctions laws or regulations, including dealings with persons on the list of specially designated persons and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, except to the extent otherwise authorized by the Secretary or by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(c) PROHIBITION OF SUPPORT FOR ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS.—The Foundation shall require any person receiving support to certify that such person, and any entity owned or controlled by such person, is in compliance with all United States sanctions laws and regulations.

SEC. 1299. ANNUAL REPORT.

Not later than 360 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter while the Foundation continues to operate, the Executive Director of the Foundation shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes—

(1) the goals of the Foundation;

(2) the programs, projects, and activities supported by the Foundation;

(3) private and governmental contributions to the Foundation; and

(4) the standardized criteria utilized to determine the programs and activities supported by the Foundation, including baselines, targets, desired outcomes, measurable goals, and extent to which those goals are being achieved for each project.

SEC. 1299A. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated to carry out international conservation and biodiversity programs under part I and chapter 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and subject to the limitations set forth in subsections (b) and (c), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Foundation to carry out the purposes of this subtitle—

(1) $1,000,000 for fiscal year 2025; and

(2) not more than $100,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

(b) COST MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) may only be made available to grantees to the extent the Foundation or such grantees secure funding for an eligible project from sources other than the United States Government in an amount that is not less than twice the amount received in grants for such project pursuant to section 1297.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The administrative costs of the Foundation shall come from sources other than the United States Government.

(d) PROHIBITION ON USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS FOR LOBBYING EXPENSES.—Amounts provided as a grant by the Foundation pursuant to section 1297 may not be used for any activity intended to influence legislation pending before the Congress of the United States.

SA 3102. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1549. CLASSIFICATION REFORM FOR TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2024.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Classification Reform for Transparency Act of 2024''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLASSIFICATION.—The term ''classification'' means the act or process by which information is determined to be classified information.

(2) CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.—The term ''classification system'' means the system of the Federal Government for classification and declassification.

(3) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The term ''classified information'' has the meaning given the term ''classified information of the United States'' in section 1924(c) of title 18, United States Code.

(4) DECLASSIFICATION.—The term ''declassification'' means the authorized change in the status of information from classified information to unclassified information.

(5) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ''Executive agency'' has the meaning given such term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) INFORMATION.—The term ''information'' means any knowledge that can be communicated or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is owned by, is produced by or for, or is under the control of the Federal Government.

(c) AUTOMATIC EXPIRATION OF CLASSIFICATION STATUS.—

(1) AUTOMATIC EXPIRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the classification marking on any information that is more than 50 years old shall be considered expired, and the information shall be considered unclassified.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subparagraph (A) shall take effect on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) AUTHORITY TO EXEMPT.—The President may, as the President considers appropriate, exempt specific information from the requirement of paragraph (1)(A) pursuant to a request received by the President pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTIONS.—In extraordinary cases, the head of an Executive agency may request from the President an exemption to the requirement of paragraph (1)(A) for specific information that reveals—

(A) the identity of a human source or human intelligence source in a case in which the source or a relative of the source is alive and disclosure would present a clear danger to the safety of the source or relative;

(B) a key design concept of a weapon of mass destruction; or

(C) information that would result in critical harm to ongoing or future operations.

(4) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this paragraph, the term ''appropriate committee of Congress'' means—

(i) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(B) IN GENERAL.—If an exemption is requested pursuant to paragraph (3), the President shall, not later than 30 days after the date on which the President approves or rejects the requested exemption, submit to Congress, including the appropriate committees of Congress, notice of such approval or rejection.

(C) CONTENTS.—Each notice submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B) for an approval or rejection shall include a justification for the approval or rejection.

(D) FORM.—To the degree practicable, each notice submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

(d) REFORMS OF THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.—

(1) DECLASSIFICATION UPON REQUEST OF CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the head of an Executive agency receives a request from a chair, vice-chair, or ranking member of an appropriate committee of Congress for declassification of specific information in the possession of the Executive agency, the head of the Executive agency shall—

(i) review the information for declassification; and

(ii) provide the member of Congress—

(I) the declassified information or document; or

(II) notice that, pursuant to review under clause (i), the information is not being declassified, along with a justification for not declassifying the information.

(B) COMPLEX OR LENGTHY REQUESTS.—In a case in which the head of an Executive agency receives a request as described in subparagraph (A) and the head determines that such request is particularly complex or lengthy, such paragraph shall be applied by substituting ''180 days'' for ''90 days''.

(2) MANDATORY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW FOR MATTERS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.—The President shall require that the mandatory declassification review process established pursuant to Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, include—

(A) a process by which members of the public may request declassification of information in cases in which—

(i) the information meets the standards for classification; and

(ii) the public interest in disclosure would outweigh the national security harm that could reasonably be expected to result from disclosure of the information; and

(B) an expedited process for consideration of declassification of information in cases in which there is urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity.

(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HARM TO NATIONAL SECURITY.—At the time of original classification, in addition to the identifications and markings required by section 1.6 of Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, the original classification authority shall identify in writing the specific harm to national security that could reasonably be expected to result from disclosure.

(4) CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY TO RELEASE INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall be deemed in conflict with, or to otherwise impede the authority of, Congress under clause 3 of section 5 of article I of the Constitution of the United States to release information in its possession, and such information so released shall be deemed declassified or otherwise released in full.

SA 3103. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024''.

TITLE LI—PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 5101. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

Section 2 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

''(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

''(1) there continue to be areas of the United States—

''(A) experiencing chronic high unemployment, underemployment, outmigration, and low per capita incomes; and

''(B) facing sudden and severe economic dislocations because of structural economic changes, changing trade patterns, certain Federal actions (including environmental requirements that result in the removal of economic activities from a locality), impacts from natural disasters, and transitioning industries, including energy generation, steel production, and mining;

''(2) economic growth in the States, cities, and rural areas of the United States is produced by expanding economic opportunities, expanding free enterprise through trade, promoting resilience in public infrastructure, creating conditions for job creation, job retention, and business development, and by capturing the opportunities to lead the industries of the future, including advanced technologies, clean energy production, and advanced manufacturing technologies;

''(3) the goal of Federal economic development programs is to raise the standard of living for all citizens and increase the wealth and overall rate of growth of the economy by encouraging communities to develop a more competitive and diversified economic base by—

''(A) creating an environment that promotes economic activity by improving and expanding modern public infrastructure;

''(B) promoting job creation, retention, and workforce readiness through increased innovation, productivity, and entrepreneurship; and

''(C) empowering local and regional communities experiencing chronic high unemployment, underemployment, low labor force participation, and low per capita income to develop private sector business and attract increased private sector capital investment;

''(4) while economic development is an inherently local process, the Federal Government should work in partnership with public and private State, regional, Tribal, and local organizations to maximize the impact of existing resources and enable regions, communities, and citizens to participate more fully in the American dream and national prosperity;

''(5) in order to avoid duplication of effort and achieve meaningful, long-lasting results, Federal, State, Tribal, and local economic development activities should have a clear focus, improved coordination, a comprehensive approach, and simplified and consistent requirements;

''(6) Federal economic development efforts will be more effective if the efforts are coordinated with, and build on, the trade, workforce investment, scientific research, environmental protection, transportation, and technology programs of the United States, including through the consolidation and alignment of plans and strategies to promote effective economic development;

''(7) rural communities face unique challenges in addressing infrastructure needs, sometimes lacking the necessary tax base for required upgrades, and often encounter limited financing options and capacity, which can impede new development and long-term economic growth; and

''(8) assisting communities and regions in becoming more resilient to the effects of extreme weather threats and events will promote economic development and job creation.

''(b) DECLARATIONS.—In order to promote a strong, growing, resilient, competitive, and secure economy throughout the United States, the opportunity to pursue, and be employed in, high-quality jobs with family-sustaining wages, and to live in communities that enable business creation and wealth, Congress declares that—

''(1) assistance under this Act should be made available to both rural- and urban-distressed communities;

''(2) local communities should work in partnership with neighboring communities, States, Indian tribes, and the Federal Government to increase the capacity of the local

communities to develop and implement comprehensive economic development strategies to alleviate economic distress and enhance competitiveness in the global economy;

''(3) whether suffering from long-term distress or a sudden dislocation, distressed communities should be encouraged to support entrepreneurship to take advantage of the development opportunities afforded by technological innovation and expanding newly opened global markets; and

''(4) assistance under this Act should be made available to modernize and promote recycling, promote the productive reuse of abandoned industrial facilities and the redevelopment of brownfields, and invest in public assets that support travel and tourism and outdoor recreation.''.

SEC. 5102. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (12) as paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (12), (13), (14), (16), and (17), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(1) BLUE ECONOMY.—The term 'blue economy' means the sustainable use of marine, lake, or other aquatic resources in support of economic development objectives.

''(2) CAPACITY BUILDING.—The term 'capacity building' includes all activities associated with early stage community-based project formation and conceptualization, prior to project predevelopment activity, including grants to local community organizations for planning participation, community outreach and engagement activities, research, and mentorship support to move projects from formation and conceptualization to project predevelopment.'';

(3) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated), in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''to the extent appropriate'' and inserting ''to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary'';

(4) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in clause (v), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in clause (vi), by striking the period at end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) an economic development organization; or

''(viii) a public-private partnership for public infrastructure.'';

(5) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(10) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term 'outdoor recreation' means all recreational activities, and the economic drivers of those activities, that occur in nature-based environments outdoors.

''(11) PROJECT PREDEVELOPMENT.—The term 'project predevelopment' means a measure required to be completed before the initiation of a project, including—

''(A) planning and community asset mapping;

''(B) training;

''(C) technical assistance and organizational development;

''(D) feasibility and market studies;

''(E) demonstration projects; and

''(F) other predevelopment activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.'';

(6) by striking paragraph (12) (as so redesignated) and inserting the following:

''(12) REGIONAL COMMISSION.—The term 'Regional Commission' means any of the following:

''(A) The Appalachian Regional Commission established by section 14301(a) of title 40, United States Code.

''(B) The Delta Regional Authority established by section 382B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(a)(1)).

''(C) The Denali Commission established by section 303(a) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277).

''(D) The Great Lakes Authority established by section 15301(a)(4) of title 40, United States Code.

''(E) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(5) of title 40, United States Code.

''(F) The Northern Border Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

''(G) The Northern Great Plains Regional Authority established by section 383B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–1(a)(1)).

''(H) The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(1) of title 40, United States Code.

''(I) The Southern New England Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(6) of title 40, United States Code.

''(J) The Southwest Border Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(2) of title 40, United States Code.'';

(7) by inserting after paragraph (14) (as so redesignated) the following:

''(15) TRAVEL AND TOURISM.—The term 'travel and tourism' means any economic activity that primarily serves to encourage recreational or business travel in or to the United States.''; and

(8) in paragraph (17) (as so redesignated), by striking ''established as a University Center for Economic Development under section 207(a)(2)(D)'' and inserting ''established under section 207(c)(1)''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 207(a)(3) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147(a)(3)) is amended by striking ''section 3(4)(A)(vi)'' and inserting ''section 3(6)(A)(vi)''.

SEC. 5103. INCREASED COORDINATION.

Section 103 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3133) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) MEETINGS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out subsection (a), or for any other purpose relating to economic development activities, the Secretary may convene meetings with Federal agencies, State and local governments, economic development districts, Indian tribes, and other appropriate planning and development organizations.

''(2) REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to meetings described in paragraph (1), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024, and not less frequently than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall convene a meeting with the Regional Commissions in furtherance of subsection (a).

''(B) ATTENDEES.—The attendees for a meeting convened under this paragraph shall consist of—

''(i) the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, serving as Chair;

''(ii) the Federal Cochairpersons of the Regional Commissions, or their designees; and

''(iii) the State Cochairpersons of the Regional Commissions, or their designees.

''(C) PURPOSE.—The purposes of a meeting convened under this paragraph shall include—

''(i) to enhance coordination between the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions in carrying out economic development programs;

''(ii) to reduce duplication of efforts by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions in carrying out economic development programs;

''(iii) to develop best practices and strategies for fostering regional economic development; and

''(iv) any other purposes as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(D) REPORT.—Where applicable and pursuant to subparagraph (C), not later than 1 year after a meeting under this paragraph, the Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available a report detailing, at a minimum—

''(i) the planned actions by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions to enhance coordination or reduce duplication of efforts and a timeline for implementing those actions; and

''(ii) any best practices and strategies developed.''.

SEC. 5104. GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''or for the improvement of waste management and recycling systems'' after ''development facility''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''increasing the resilience'' after ''expansion,'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''successful establishment or expansion'' and inserting ''successful establishment, expansion, or retention,''; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''and underemployed'' after ''unemployed'';

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

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

''(c) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a) and subject to the criteria in subsection (b), the Secretary may also consider the extent to which a project would—

''(1) lead to economic diversification in the area, or a part of the area, in which the project is or will be located;

''(2) address and mitigate impacts from extreme weather events, including development of resilient infrastructure, products, and processes;

''(3) benefit highly rural communities without adequate tax revenues to invest in long-term or costly infrastructure;

''(4) increase access to high-speed broadband;

''(5) support outdoor recreation to spur economic development, with a focus on rural communities;

''(6) promote job creation or retention relative to the population of the impacted region with outsized significance;

''(7) promote travel and tourism; or

''(8) promote blue economy activities.''.

SEC. 5105. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Section 203 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e);

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

''(d) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Administrative expenses that may be paid with a grant under this section include—

''(1) expenses related to carrying out the planning process described in subsection (b);

''(2) expenses related to project predevelopment;

''(3) expenses related to updating economic development plans to align with other applicable State, regional, or local planning efforts; and

''(4) expenses related to hiring professional staff to assist communities in—

''(A) project predevelopment and implementing projects and priorities included in—

''(i) a comprehensive economic development strategy; or

''(ii) an economic development planning grant;

''(B) identifying and using other Federal, State, and Tribal economic development programs;

''(C) leveraging private and philanthropic investment;

''(D) preparing disaster coordination and preparation plans; and

''(E) carrying out economic development and predevelopment activities in accordance with professional economic development best practices.''; and

(3) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated), in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''; and'' and inserting ''(including broadband);''; (B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) address and mitigate impacts of extreme weather; and''.

SEC. 5106. COST SHARING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''50'' and inserting ''60'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking ''In determining'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In determining''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) REGIONAL COMMISSION FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds contributed by a Regional Commission for a project under this title may be considered to be part of the non-Federal share of the costs of the project.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''or can otherwise document that no local matching funds are reasonably obtainable'' after ''or political subdivision'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking ''section 207'' and inserting ''section 203 or 207''; and

(ii) by striking ''project if'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''project.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a grant provided under section 209 for a project for economic recovery in response to a major disaster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Secretary may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project.

''(5) SMALL COMMUNITIES.—In the case of a grant to a political subdivision of a State (as described in section 3(6)(A)(iv)) that has a population of fewer than 10,000 residents and meets 1 or more of the eligibility criteria described in section 301(a), the Secretary may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3233) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (b); and

(2) by striking the section designation and heading and all that follows through ''In addition'' in subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.

''In addition''.

SEC. 5107. REGULATIONS ON RELATIVE NEEDS AND ALLOCATIONS.

Section 206 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3146) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) the per capita income levels, the labor force participation rate, and the extent of underemployment in eligible areas; and''; and

(2) in paragraph (4), by inserting ''and retention'' after ''creation''.

SEC. 5108. RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; UNIVERSITY CENTERS.

Section 207 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3147) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A), by inserting '', project predevelopment,'' after ''planning''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) UNIVERSITY CENTERS.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In accordance with subsection (a)(2)(D), the Secretary may make grants to institutions of higher education to serve as university centers.

''(2) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.—The Secretary shall ensure that the network of university centers established under this subsection provides services in each State.

''(3) DUTIES.—To the maximum extent practicable, a university center established under this subsection shall—

''(A) collaborate with other university centers;

''(B) collaborate with economic development districts and other relevant Federal economic development technical assistance and service providers to provide expertise and technical assistance to develop, implement, and support comprehensive economic development strategies and other economic development planning at the local, regional, and State levels, with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and regional economic development;

''(C) provide technical assistance, business development, and technology transfer services to businesses in the area served by the university center;

''(D) establish partnerships with 1 or more commercialization intermediaries that are public or nonprofit technology transfer organizations eligible to receive a grant under section 602 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–9);

''(E) promote local and regional capacity building; and

''(F) provide to communities and regions assistance relating to data collection and analysis and other research relating to economic conditions and vulnerabilities that can inform economic development and adjustment strategies.

''(4) CONSIDERATION.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the significant role of regional public universities in supporting economic development in distressed communities through the planning and the implementation of economic development projects and initiatives.''.

SEC. 5109. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 is amended by inserting after section 207 (42 U.S.C. 3147) the following:

''SEC. 208. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), for a project to be eligible for assistance under this title, the project shall be consistent with 1 or more of the following investment priorities:

''(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.

''(2) WORKFORCE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

''(A) support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or

''(B) otherwise promote labor force participation.

''(3) INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

''(A) support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;

''(B) promote business development and lending; or

''(C) foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

''(4) ECONOMIC RECOVERY RESILIENCE.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or impacts from natural disasters.

''(5) MANUFACTURING.—Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

''(b) CONDITIONS.—If the Secretary plans to use an investment priority that is not described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written notification that explains the basis for using that investment priority.

''(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section waives any other requirement of this Act.''.

SEC. 5110. GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.

Section 209 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3149) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting '', travel and tourism, natural resource-based, blue economy, or agricultural'' after ''manufacturing''; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) economic dislocation in the steel industry due to the closure of a steel plant, primary steel economy contraction events (including temporary layoffs and shifts to part-time work), or job losses in the steel industry or associated with the departure or contraction of the steel industry, for help in economic restructuring of the communities.'';

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

(3) by inserting after section (c) the following:

''(d) ASSISTANCE TO COAL COMMUNITIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COAL ECONOMY.—The term 'coal economy' means the complete supply chain of coal-reliant industries, including—

''(i) coal mining;

''(ii) coal-fired power plants;

''(iii) transportation or logistics; and

''(iv) manufacturing.

''(B) CONTRACTION EVENT.—The term 'contraction event' means the closure of a facility or a reduction in activity relating to a coal-reliant industry, including an industry described in any of clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants for projects in areas adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall determine the eligibility of an area based on whether the eligible recipient can reasonably demonstrate that the area—

''(i) has been adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy within the previous 25 years; or

''(ii) will be adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy.

''(B) PROHIBITION.—No regulation or other policy of the Secretary may limit the eligibility of an eligible recipient for a grant under this subsection based on the date of a contraction event except as provided in subparagraph (A)(i).

''(C) DEMONSTRATING ADVERSE IMPACT.—For the purposes of this paragraph, an eligible recipient may demonstrate an adverse impact by demonstrating—

''(i) a loss in employment;

''(ii) a reduction in tax revenue; or

''(iii) any other factor, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

''(e) ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COMMISSION.—The term 'Commission' means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

''(B) COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD.—The term 'community advisory board' means a community committee or other advisory organization that aims to foster communication and information exchange between a licensee planning for and involved in decommissioning activities and members of the community that decommissioning activities may affect.

''(C) DECOMMISSION.—The term 'decommission' has the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(D) LICENSEE.—The term 'licensee' has the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

''(E) NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITY.—The term 'nuclear host community' means an eligible recipient that has been impacted, or reasonably demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that it will be impacted, by a nuclear power plant licensed by the Commission that—

''(i) is not co-located with an operating nuclear power plant;

''(ii) is at a site with spent nuclear fuel; and

''(iii) as of the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024—

''(I) has ceased operations; or

''(II) has provided a written notification to the Commission that it will cease operations.

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants—

''(A) to assist with economic development in nuclear host communities; and

''(B) to fund community advisory boards in nuclear host communities.

''(3) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out this subsection, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall implement the recommendations described in the report submitted to Congress under section 108 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (Public Law 115–439; 132 Stat. 5577) entitled 'Best Practices for Establishment and Operation of Local Community Advisory Boards Associated with Decommissioning Activities at Nuclear Power Plants'.

''(4) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall establish a methodology to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, geographic diversity among grant recipients under this subsection.''.

SEC. 5111. RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM.

Section 218 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3154d) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**BRIGHTFIELDS DEMONSTRATION**'' and inserting ''**RENEWABLE ENERGY**'';

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SITE.—In this section, the term 'renewable energy site' means a brownfield site that is redeveloped through the incorporation of 1 or more renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, geothermal, ocean, and emerging, but proven, renewable energy technologies.'';

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM'' and inserting ''ESTABLISHMENT'';

(B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''brightfield'' and inserting ''renewable energy''; and

(C) in paragraph (1), by striking ''solar energy technologies'' and inserting ''renewable energy technologies described in subsection (a),''; and

(4) by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 5112. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.

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

''SEC. 219. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants to support the development and expansion of innovative workforce training programs through sectoral partnerships leading to quality jobs and the acquisition of equipment or construction of facilities to support workforce development activities.

''(b) ELIGIBLE USES.—Funds from a grant under this section may be used for—

''(1) acquisition or development of land and improvements to house workforce training activities;

''(2) acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of such a facility, including related equipment and machinery;

''(3) acquisition of machinery or equipment to support workforce training activities;

''(4) planning, technical assistance, and training;

''(5) sector partnerships development, program design, and program implementation; and

''(6) in the case of an eligible recipient that is a State, subject to subsection (c), a State program to award career scholarships to train individuals for employment in critical industries with high demand and vacancies necessary for further economic development of the applicable State that—

''(A) requires significant post-secondary training; but

''(B) does not require a post-secondary degree.

''(c) CAREER SCHOLARSHIPS STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to States for the purpose described in subsection (b)(6).

''(2) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the Chief Executive of a State shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

''(A) A method for identifying critical industry sectors driving in-State economic growth that face staffing challenges for in-demand jobs and careers.

''(B) A governance structure for the implementation of the program established by the State, including defined roles for the consortia of agencies of such State, at a minimum, to include the State departments of economic development, labor, and education, or the State departments or agencies with jurisdiction over those matters.

''(C) A strategy for recruiting participants from at least 1 community that meets 1 or more of the criteria described in section 301(a).

''(D) A plan for how the State will develop a tracking system for eligible programs, participant enrollment, participant outcomes, and an application portal for individual participants.

''(3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall award not more than 1 grant under this subsection to any State.

''(4) ELIGIBLE USES.—A grant under this subsection may be used for—

''(A) necessary costs to carry out the matters described in this subsection, including tuition and stipends for individuals that receive a career scholarship grant, subject to the requirements described in paragraph (6); and

''(B) program implementation, planning, technical assistance, or training.

''(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding section 204, the Federal share of the cost of any award carried out with a grant made under this subsection shall not exceed 70 percent.

''(6) PARTICIPANT AMOUNTS.—A State shall ensure that grant funds provided under this subsection to each individual that receives a career scholarship grant under the program established by the applicable State is the lesser of the following amounts:

''(A) In a case in which the individual is also eligible for a Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) for enrollment at the applicable training program for any award year of the training program, $11,000 minus the amount of the awarded Federal Pell Grant.

''(B) For an individual not described in paragraph (1), the lesser of—

''(i) $11,000; and

''(ii) the total cost of the training program in which the individual is enrolled, including tuition, fees, career navigation services, textbook costs, expenses related to assessments and exams for certification or licensure, equipment costs, and wage stipends (in the case of a training program that is an earn-and-learn program).

''(d) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the development of new workforce development models with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education.''.

SEC. 5113. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended by section 5112) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 220. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a project described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives notice, in accordance with subsection (c), of the award of a grant for the project not less than 3 business days before notifying an eligible recipient of their selection for that award.

''(b) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—A project referred to in subsection (a) is a project that the Secretary has selected to receive a grant administered by the Economic Development Administration in an amount not less than $100,000.

''(c) REQUIREMENTS.—A notification under subsection (a) shall include—

''(1) the name of the project;

''(2) the name of the applicant;

''(3) the region in which the project is to be carried out;

''(4) the State in which the project is to be carried out;

''(5) the amount of the grant awarded;

''(6) a description of the project; and

''(7) any additional information, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

''(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make a notification under subsection (a) publicly available not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary provides the notice.''.

SEC. 5114. SPECIFIC FLEXIBILITIES RELATED TO DEPLOYMENT OF HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended by section 5113) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 221. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

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

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

''(2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible recipient' includes—

''(A) a public-private partnership; and

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

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

''(b) BROADBAND PROJECTS.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

''(5) PROCUREMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person or entity shall be disqualified from competing to provide goods or services related to a broadband project on the basis that the person or entity participated in the development of the broadband project or in the drafting of specifications, requirements, statements of work, or similar documents related to the goods or services to be provided.

''(6) BROADBAND PROJECT PROPERTY.—

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

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

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

SEC. 5115. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) (as amended by section 5114) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 222. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants under the 'Critical Supply Chain Site Development grant program' (referred to in this section as the 'grant program') to carry out site development or expansion projects for the purpose of making the site ready for manufacturing projects.

''(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In providing a grant to an eligible recipient under the grant program, the Secretary may consider whether—

''(1) the proposed improvements to the site will improve economic conditions for rural areas, Tribal communities, or areas that meet 1 or more of the criteria described in section 301(a);

''(2) the project is consistent with regional economic development plans, which may include a comprehensive economic development strategy;

''(3) the eligible recipient has initiatives to prioritize job training and workforce development; and

''(4) the project supports industries determined by the Secretary to be of strategic importance to the national or economic security of the United States.

''(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants to eligible recipients under the grant program, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible recipients that propose to carry out a project that—

''(1) has State, local, private, or nonprofit funds being contributed to assist with site development efforts; and

''(2) if the site development or expansion project is carried out, will result in a demonstrated interest in the site by commercial entities or other entities.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant provided under the grant program may be used for the following activities relating to the development or expansion of a site:

''(1) Investments in site utility readiness, including—

''(A) construction of on-site utility infrastructure;

''(B) construction of last-mile infrastructure, including road infrastructure, water infrastructure, power infrastructure, broadband infrastructure, and other physical last-mile infrastructure;

''(C) site grading; and

''(D) other activities to extend public utilities or services to a site, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(2) Investments in site readiness, including—

''(A) land assembly;

''(B) environmental reviews;

''(C) zoning;

''(D) design;

''(E) engineering; and

''(F) permitting.

''(3) Investments in workforce development and sustainability programs, including job training and retraining programs.

''(4) Investments to ensure that disadvantaged communities have access to on-site jobs.

''(e) PROHIBITION.—In awarding grants under the grant program, the Secretary shall not require an eligible recipient to demonstrate that a private company or investment has selected the site for development or expansion.''.

SEC. 5116. UPDATED DISTRESS CRITERIA AND GRANT RATES.

Section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) UNEMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, OR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS.—The area is an area that the Secretary determines has experienced or is about to experience a special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment, underemployment, or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.

''(4) LOW MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME.—The area has a median household income of 80 percent or less of the national average.

''(5) WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION.—The area has—

''(A) a labor force participation rate of 90 percent or less of the national average; or

''(B) a prime-age employment gap of 5 percent or more.

''(6) EXPECTED ECONOMIC DISLOCATION AND DISTRESS FROM ENERGY INDUSTRY TRANSITIONS.—The area is an area that is expected to experience actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions from energy industries that are experiencing accelerated contraction.''.

SEC. 5117. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

Section 302 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3162) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A), by inserting ''including to mitigate and adapt to extreme weather,'' after ''enhances and protects the environment,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to grants awarded under section 207 or grants awarded under section 209(c)(2) that are regional in scope.''.

SEC. 5118. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 508. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Economic Development Administration an Office of Tribal Economic Development (referred to in this section as the 'Office').

''(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall be—

''(1) to coordinate all Tribal economic development activities carried out by the Secretary;

''(2) to help Tribal communities access economic development assistance programs, including the assistance provided under this Act;

''(3) to coordinate Tribal economic development strategies and efforts with other Federal agencies; and

''(4) to be a participant in any negotiated rulemakings or consultations relating to, or having an impact on, projects, programs, or funding that benefit Tribal communities.

''(c) TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Office shall initiate a Tribal consultation process to develop, and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, update, a strategic plan for Tribal economic development for the Economic Development Administration.

''(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, the Office shall submit to Congress the strategic plan for Tribal economic development developed under paragraph (1).

''(d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall establish a publicly facing website to help provide a comprehensive, single source of information for Indian tribes, Tribal leaders, Tribal businesses, and citizens in Tribal communities to better understand and access programs that support economic development in Tribal communities, including the economic development programs administered by Federal agencies or departments other than the Department.

''(e) DEDICATED STAFF.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Office has sufficient staff to carry out all outreach activities under this section.''.

SEC. 5119. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE.

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) (as amended by section 5118) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 509. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience—

''(1) to direct and implement the post-disaster economic recovery responsibilities of the Economic Development Administration pursuant to subsections (c)(2) and (e) of section 209 and section 703;

''(2) to direct and implement economic recovery and enhanced resilience support function activities as directed under the National Disaster Recovery Framework; and

''(3) support long-term economic recovery in communities in which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), or otherwise impacted by an event of national significance, as determined by the Secretary, through—

''(A) convening and deploying an economic development assessment team;

''(B) hosting or attending convenings related to identification of additional Federal, State, local, and philanthropic entities and resources;

''(C) exploring potential flexibilities related to existing awards;

''(D) provision of technical assistance through staff or contractual resources; and

''(E) other activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

''(b) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION AUTHORITIES.—

''(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary is authorized to appoint such temporary personnel as may be necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service and compensation of personnel.

''(2) CONVERSION OF EMPLOYEES.—Notwithstanding chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law relating to the examination, certification, and appointment of individuals in the competitive service, the Secretary is authorized to convert a temporary employee appointed under this subsection to a permanent appointment in the competitive service in the Economic Development Administration under merit promotion procedures if—

''(A) the employee has served continuously for at least 2 years under 1 or more appointments under this subsection; and

''(B) the employee's performance has been at an acceptable level of performance throughout the period or periods referred to in subparagraph (A).

''(3) COMPENSATION.—An individual converted under this subsection shall become a career-conditional employee, unless the employee has already completed the service requirements for career tenure.

''(c) DISASTER TEAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a disaster team (referred to in this section as the 'disaster team') for the deployment of individuals to carry out responsibilities of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience after a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and the Department has been activated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

''(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

''(A) DESIGNATION OF STAFF.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate to serve on the disaster team—

''(i) employees of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience;

''(ii) employees of the Department who are not employees of the Economic Development Administration; and

''(iii) in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, employees of those agencies, as appropriate.

''(B) CAPABILITIES.—In designating individuals under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the disaster team includes a sufficient quantity of—

''(i) individuals who are capable of deploying rapidly and efficiently to respond to major disasters and emergencies; and

''(ii) highly trained full-time employees who will lead and manage the disaster team.

''(3) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate and ongoing training is provided to members of the disaster team to ensure that the members are adequately trained regarding the programs and policies of the Economic Development Administration relating to post-disaster economic recovery efforts.

''(4) EXPENSES.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may—

''(A) use, with or without reimbursement, any service, equipment, personnel, or facility of any Federal agency with the explicit support of that agency, to the extent such use does not impair or conflict with the authority of the President or the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to direct Federal agencies in any major disaster or emergency declared under that Act; and

''(B) provide members of the disaster team with travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of services for, or relating to, the disaster team.''.

SEC. 5120. ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.

Title V of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et seq.) (as amended by section 5119) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 510. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Director of a regional office of the Economic Development Administration may designate a staff member to act as a 'Technical Assistance Liaison' for any State served by the regional office.

''(b) ROLE.—A Technical Assistance Liaison shall—

''(1) work in coordination with an Economic Development Representative to provide technical assistance, in addition to technical assistance under section 207, to eligible recipients that are underresourced communities, as determined by the Technical Assistance Liaison, that submit applications for assistance under title II; and

''(2) at the request of an eligible recipient that submitted an application for assistance under title II, provide technical feedback on unsuccessful grant applications.

''(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an eligible recipient for the purpose of providing technical assistance to eligible recipients that are underresourced communities that have submitted or may submit an application for assistance under this Act.''.

SEC. 5121. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Section 603(b) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3213(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''areas'' after ''rural''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4)(A) include a list of all of the grants provided by the Economic Development Administration for projects located in, or that primarily benefit, rural areas;

''(B) an explanation of the process used to determine how each project referred to in subparagraph (A) would benefit a rural area; and

''(C) a certification that each project referred to in subparagraph (A)—

''(i) is located in a rural area; or

''(ii) will primarily benefit a rural area.''.

SEC. 5122. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Economic Development Administration should continue to promote access to economic development assistance programs of that agency through the use of Economic Development Representatives in underresourced communities, particularly coal communities.

(b) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary of Commerce shall maintain, or restore, as necessary, State-level Economic Development Representative positions occupied as of October 1, 2023.

(2) CONTINUATION.—For each State in which there is an Economic Development Representative position as of October 1, 2023, the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that—

(A) that State continues to have that coverage from an Economic Development Representative who is located within that State; and

(B) the Economic Development Representative position located within that State is dedicated solely to addressing the economic needs of that State.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that describes the implementation of this section by the Economic Development Administration.

SEC. 5123. MODERNIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the Secretary to facilitate efficient, timely, and predictable environmental reviews of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.), including through expanded use of categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, or programmatic environmental impact statements.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In completing the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) describe the actions the Secretary will take to implement the amendments to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) made by section 321 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118–5; 137 Stat. 38);

(2) describe the existing categorical exclusions most frequently used by the Secretary to streamline the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

(3) consider—

(A) the adoption of additional categorical exclusions, including those used by other Federal agencies, that would facilitate the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.);

(B) the adoption of new programmatic environmental impact statements that would facilitate the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

(C) agreements with other Federal agencies that would facilitate a more efficient process for the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall promulgate a final rule implementing, to the maximum extent practicable, measures considered by the Secretary under subsection (b) that are necessary to streamline the environmental review of projects funded by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.).

SEC. 5124. GAO REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term ''Comptroller General'' means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) REGIONAL COMMISSION.—The term ''Regional Commission'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122).

(b) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2026, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates economic development programs administered by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions.

(c) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) evaluate the impact of programs described in that subsection on economic outcomes, including job creation and retention, the rate of unemployment and underemployment, labor force participation, and private investment leveraged;

(2) describe efforts by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions to document the impact of programs described in that subsection on economic outcomes described in paragraph (1);

(3) describe efforts by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions to carry out coordination activities described in section 103 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3133);

(4) consider other factors, as determined to be appropriate by the Comptroller General of the United States, to assess the effectiveness of programs described in subsection (b); and

(5) make legislative recommendations for improvements to programs described in subsection (b) as applicable.

SEC. 5125. GAO REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND POLICIES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term ''Comptroller General'' means the Comptroller General of the United States.

(2) SMALL COMMUNITY.—The term ''small community'' means a community of less than 10,000 year-round residents.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates economic development regulations and policies administered by the Economic Development Administration that have hindered the ability of communities to apply for and administer Economic Development Administration grants.

(c) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the report under subsection (b), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) review regulations and grant application processes promulgated by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development;

(2) evaluate the technical capacity of eligible recipients (as defined in section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122)) to apply for Economic Development Administration grants;

(3) provide recommendations for improving the administration and timely disbursement of grants awarded by the Economic Development Administration, including for improving the communication with grantees regarding timelines for disbursement of funds;

(4) identify barriers to small communities applying for Economic Development Administration grants, in consultation with—

(A) State economic development representatives;

(B) secretaries of State departments of economic development;

(C) representatives for small communities that have received Economic Development Administration grants; and

(D) representatives for small communities that have never applied for Economic Development Administration grants; and

(5) provide recommendations for simplifying and easing the ability for grant applicants to navigate the Economic Development Administration grant application process, including through a review of regulations, including environmental regulations, not in the jurisdiction of the Economic Development Administration to identify possible grant application process improvements.

SEC. 5126. GAO STUDY ON RURAL COMMUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States (referred to in this section as the ''Comptroller General'') shall conduct a study to evaluate the impacts of funding provided by the Economic Development Administration to distressed communities (as described in section 301(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3161(a))) located in rural areas.

(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) identify not less than 5 geographically diverse distressed communities in rural areas; and

(2) for each distressed community identified under paragraph (1), examine the impacts of funding provided by the Economic Development Administration on—

(A) the local jobs and unemployment of the community; and

(B) the availability of affordable housing in the community.

(c) REPORT.—On completion of the study under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the study and any recommendations that result from the study.

SEC. 5127. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 701 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3231) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (k); and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 201, to remain available until expended—

''(1) $170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(2) $195,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(3) $220,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(4) $245,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(5) $270,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

''(b) GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 203, to remain available until expended—

''(1) $90,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(2) $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(3) $110,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(4) $120,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(5) $130,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

''(c) GRANTS FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 207, to remain available until expended—

''(1) $25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(2) $30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(3) $35,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(4) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(5) $45,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

''(d) GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209 (other than subsections (d) and (e)), to remain available until expended—

''(1) $65,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

''(2) $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

''(3) $85,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

''(4) $95,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

''(5) $105,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

''(e) ASSISTANCE TO COAL COMMUNITIES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(d) $75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

''(f) ASSISTANCE TO NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(e), to remain available until expended—

''(1) to carry out paragraph (2)(A), $35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029; and

''(2) to carry out paragraph (2)(B), $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027.

''(g) RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 218 $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

''(h) WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 219 $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended, of which $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 shall be used to carry out subsection (c) of that section.

''(i) CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 222 $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

''(j) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 510 $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Title VII of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3231 et seq.) is amended by striking section 704.

SEC. 5128. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 1 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 89–136) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

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

''Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
''Sec. 2. Findings and declarations.
''Sec. 3. Definitions.
''TITLE I—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS COOPERATION AND COORDINATION
''Sec. 101. Establishment of economic development partnerships.
''Sec. 102. Cooperation of Federal agencies.
''Sec. 103. Coordination.
''TITLE II—GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
''Sec. 201. Grants for public works and economic development.
''Sec. 202. Base closings and realignments.
''Sec. 203. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses.
''Sec. 204. Cost sharing.
''Sec. 205. Supplementary grants.
''Sec. 206. Regulations on relative needs and allocations.
''Sec. 207. Research and technical assistance; university centers.
''Sec. 208. Investment priorities.
''Sec. 209. Grants for economic adjustment.
''Sec. 210. Changed project circumstances.
''Sec. 211. Use of funds in projects constructed under projected cost.
''Sec. 212. Reports by recipients.
''Sec. 213. Prohibition on use of funds for attorney's and consultant's fees.
''Sec. 214. Special impact areas.
''Sec. 215. Performance awards.
''Sec. 216. Planning performance awards.
''Sec. 217. Direct expenditure or redistribution by recipient.
''Sec. 218. Renewable energy program.
''Sec. 219. Workforce training grants.
''Sec. 220. Congressional notification requirements.
''Sec. 221. High-Speed Broadband Deployment Initiative.
''Sec. 222. Critical supply chain site development grant program.
''TITLE III—ELIGIBILITY; COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES
''Sec. 301. Eligibility of areas.
''Sec. 302. Comprehensive economic development strategies.
''TITLE IV—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS
''Sec. 401. Designation of economic development districts.
''Sec. 402. Termination or modification of economic development districts.
''Sec. 404. Provision of comprehensive economic development strategies to Regional Commissions.
''Sec. 405. Assistance to parts of economic development districts not in eligible areas.
''TITLE V—ADMINISTRATION
''Sec. 501. Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.
''Sec. 502. Economic development information clearinghouse.
''Sec. 503. Consultation with other persons and agencies.
''Sec. 504. Administration, operation, and maintenance.
''Sec. 506. Performance evaluations of grant recipients.
''Sec. 507. Notification of reorganization.
''Sec. 508. Office of Tribal Economic Development.
''Sec. 509. Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.
''Sec. 510. Technical Assistance Liaisons.
''TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS
''Sec. 601. Powers of Secretary.
''Sec. 602. Maintenance of standards.
''Sec. 603. Annual report to Congress.
''Sec. 604. Delegation of functions and transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
''Sec. 605. Penalties.
''Sec. 606. Employment of expediters and administrative employees.
''Sec. 607. Maintenance and public inspection of list of approved applications for financial assistance.
''Sec. 608. Records and audits.
''Sec. 609. Relationship to assistance under other law.
''Sec. 610. Acceptance of certifications by applicants.
''Sec. 611. Brownfields redevelopment reports.
''Sec. 612. Savings clause.
''TITLE VII—FUNDING
''Sec. 701. General authorization of appropriations.
''Sec. 702. Authorization of appropriations for defense conversation activities.
''Sec. 703. Authorization of appropriations for disaster economic recovery activities.''.

TITLE LII—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 5201. REGIONAL COMMISSION AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 15751 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to each Commission to carry out this subtitle $40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.''.

SEC. 5202. REGIONAL COMMISSION MODIFICATIONS.

(a) MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15301 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(C)—

(A) by striking ''An alternate member'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—An alternate member''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) STATE ALTERNATES.—If the alternate State member is unable to vote in accordance with clause (i), the alternate State member may delegate voting authority to a designee, subject to the condition that the executive director shall be notified, in writing, of the designation not less than 1 week before the applicable vote is to take place.''; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking ''a Federal employee'' and inserting ''an employee''.

(b) DECISIONS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15302 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting ''or alternate State members, including designees'' after ''State members''; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) QUORUMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a Commission shall determine what constitutes a quorum for meetings of the Commission.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any quorum for meetings of a Commission shall include—

''(A) the Federal Cochairperson or the alternate Federal Cochairperson; and

''(B) a majority of State members or alternate State members, including designees (exclusive of members representing States delinquent under section 15304(c)(3)(C)).''.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND EXPENSES OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15304(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by inserting '', which may be done without a requirement for the Commission to reimburse the agency or local government'' after ''status'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8) collect fees for services provided and retain and expend such fees;'';

(4) in paragraph (9) (as so redesignated), by inserting ''leases (including the lease of office space for any term),'' after ''cooperative agreements,''; and

(5) in paragraph (10) (as so redesignated), by striking ''maintain a government relations office in the District of Columbia and''.

(d) MEETINGS OF COMMISSIONS.—Section 15305(b) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking ''with the Federal Cochairperson'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: ''with—

''(1) the Federal Cochairperson; and

''(2) at least a majority of the State members or alternate State members (including designees) present in-person or via electronic means.''.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 15308(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking ''90'' and inserting ''180''.

SEC. 5203. TRANSFER OF FUNDS AMONG FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 153 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 15308 as section 15309; and

(2) by inserting after section 15307 the following:

''§ 15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), for purposes of this subtitle, each Commission may transfer funds to and accept transfers of funds from other Federal agencies.

''(b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Funds made available to a Commission may be transferred to other Federal agencies if the funds are used consistently with the purposes for which the funds were specifically authorized and appropriated.

''(c) TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Funds may be transferred to any Commission under this section if—

''(1) the statutory authority for the funds provided by the Federal agency does not expressly prohibit use of funds for authorities being carried out by a Commission; and

''(2) the Federal agency that provides the funds determines that the activities for which the funds are to be used are otherwise eligible for funding under such a statutory authority.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 153 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 15308 and inserting the following:

''15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies.

''15309. Annual reports.''.

SEC. 5204. ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

Section 15501 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (9) as paragraphs (6) through (11), respectively; and

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

''(4) in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, to design, build, implement, or update infrastructure to support resilience to extreme weather events;

''(5) to promote the production of housing to meet economic development and workforce needs;''; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''(7)'' and inserting ''(9)''.

SEC. 5205. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs

''Amounts made available to carry out this subtitle shall be available for the payment of the non-Federal share for any project carried out under another Federal grant program—

''(1) for which a Commission is not the sole or primary funding source; and

''(2) that is consistent with the authorities of the applicable Commission.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs.''.

SEC. 5206. NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION AREA.

Section 15733 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''Lincoln,'' after ''Knox,'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''Merrimack,'' after ''Grafton,''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''Wyoming,'' after ''Wayne,''.

SEC. 5207. SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION AREA.

Section 15732 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by inserting ''Bernalillo,'' before ''Catron,'';

(B) by inserting ''Cibola, Curry, De Baca,'' after ''Chaves,'';

(C) by inserting ''Guadalupe,'' after ''Grant,'';

(D) by inserting ''Lea,'' after ''Hidalgo,'';

(E) by inserting ''Roosevelt,'' after ''Otero,''; and

(F) by striking ''and Socorro'' and inserting ''Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia''; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by inserting ''Guadalupe,'' after ''Glasscock,''; and

(B) by striking ''Tom Green Upton,'' and inserting ''Tom Green, Upton,''.

SEC. 5208. GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY AREA.

Section 15734 of title 40, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''the counties which contain, in part or in whole, the'' after ''consist of''.

SEC. 5209. ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS.

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

''CHAPTER 159—ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS

''Sec.

''15901. State capacity building grant program.

''15902. Demonstration health projects.

''§ 15901. State capacity building grant program

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COMMISSION STATE.—The term 'Commission State' means a State that contains 1 or more eligible counties.

''(2) ELIGIBLE COUNTY.—The term 'eligible county' means a county described in subchapter II of chapter 157.

''(3) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means a State capacity building grant program established by a Commission under subsection (b).

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each Commission shall establish a State capacity building grant program to provide grants to Commission States in the area served by the Commission for the purposes described in subsection (c).

''(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of a program are to support the efforts of the Commission—

''(1) to better support business retention and expansion in eligible counties;

''(2) to create programs to encourage job creation and workforce development in eligible counties, including projects and activities, in coordination with other relevant Federal agencies, to strengthen the water sector workforce and facilitate the sharing of best practices;

''(3) to partner with universities in distressed counties (as designated under section 15702(a)(1))—

''(A) to strengthen the capacity to train new professionals in fields for which there is a shortage of workers;

''(B) to increase local capacity for project management, project execution, and financial management; and

''(C) to leverage funding sources;

''(4) to prepare economic and infrastructure plans for eligible counties;

''(5) to expand access to high-speed broadband in eligible counties;

''(6) to provide technical assistance that results in Commission investments in transportation, water, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure;

''(7) to promote workforce development to support resilient infrastructure projects;

''(8) to develop initiatives to increase the effectiveness of local development districts in eligible counties;

''(9) to implement new or innovative economic development practices that will better position eligible counties to compete in the global economy; and

''(10) to identify and address important regional impediments to prosperity and to leverage unique regional advantages to create economic opportunities for the region served by the Commission.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds from a grant under a program may be used to support a project, program, or related expense of the Commission State in an eligible county.

''(2) LIMITATION.—Funds from a grant under a program shall not be used for—

''(A) the purchase of furniture, fixtures, or equipment;

''(B) the compensation of—

''(i) any State member of the Commission (as described in section 15301(b)(1)(B)); or

''(ii) any State alternate member of the Commission (as described in section 15301(b)(2)(B)); or

''(C) the cost of supplanting existing State programs.

''(e) ANNUAL WORK PLAN.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, before providing a grant under a program, each Commission State shall provide to the Commission an annual work plan that includes the proposed use of the grant.

''(2) APPROVAL.—No grant under a program shall be provided to a Commission State unless the Commission has approved the annual work plan of the State.

''(f) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant provided to a Commission State under a program for a fiscal year shall be based on the proportion that—

''(A) the amount paid by the Commission State (including any amounts paid on behalf of the Commission State by a nonprofit organization) for administrative expenses for the applicable fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(c)); bears to

''(B) the amount paid by all Commission States served by the Commission (including any amounts paid on behalf of a Commission State by a nonprofit organization) for administrative expenses for that fiscal year (as determined under that section).

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—To be eligible to receive a grant under a program for a fiscal year, a Commission State (or a nonprofit organization on behalf of the Commission State) shall pay the amount of administrative expenses of the Commission State for the applicable fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(c)).

''(3) APPROVAL.—For each fiscal year, a grant provided under a program shall be approved and made available as part of the approval of the annual budget of the Commission.

''(g) GRANT AVAILABILITY.—Funds from a grant under a program shall be available only during the fiscal year for which the grant is provided.

''(h) REPORT.—Each fiscal year, each Commission State shall submit to the relevant Commission and make publicly available a report that describes the use of the grant funds and the impact of the program in the Commission State.

''(i) CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM AUTHORITY FOR NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION.—With respect to the Northern Border Regional Commission, the program shall be a continuation of the program under section 6304(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (40 U.S.C. 15501 note; Public Law 115–334) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this section).

''§ 15902. Demonstration health projects

''(a) PURPOSE.—To demonstrate the value of adequate health facilities and services to the economic development of the region, a Commission may make grants for the planning, construction, equipment, and operation of demonstration health, nutrition, and child care projects (referred to in this section as a 'demonstration health project'), including hospitals, regional health diagnostic and treatment centers, and other facilities and services necessary for the purposes of this section.

''(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to receive a grant under this section is—

''(1) an entity described in section 15501(a);

''(2) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)));

''(3) a hospital (as defined in section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x)); or

''(4) a critical access hospital (as defined in that section).

''(c) PLANNING GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A Commission may make grants for planning expenses necessary for the development and operation of demonstration health projects for the region served by the Commission.

''(2) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

''(3) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs.

''(4) FEDERAL SHARE FOR GRANTS UNDER OTHER FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in other Federal grant programs, amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase the Federal share of another Federal grant up to the maximum contribution described in paragraph (2).

''(d) CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section for construction or equipment of a demonstration health project may be used for—

''(A) costs of construction;

''(B) the acquisition of privately owned facilities—

''(i) not operated for profit; or

''(ii) previously operated for profit if the Commission finds that health services would not otherwise be provided in the area served by the facility if the acquisition is not made; and

''(C) the acquisition of initial equipment.

''(2) STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.—A grant under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall be approved in accordance with section 15503; and

''(B) shall not be incompatible with the applicable provisions of title VI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 291 et seq.), the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.), and other laws authorizing grants for the construction of health-related facilities, without regard to any provisions in those laws relating to appropriation authorization ceilings or to allotments among the States.

''(3) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

''(4) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs.

''(5) CONTRIBUTION TO INCREASED FEDERAL SHARE FOR OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in another Federal grant program for the construction or equipment of a demonstration health project, amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase Federal grants for component facilities of a demonstration health project to a maximum of 90 percent of the cost of the facilities.

''(e) OPERATION GRANTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section for the operation of a demonstration health project may be used for—

''(A) the costs of operation of the facility; and

''(B) initial operating costs, including the costs of attracting, training, and retaining qualified personnel.

''(2) STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.—A grant for the operation of a demonstration health project shall not be made unless the facility funded by the grant is—

''(A) publicly owned;

''(B) owned by a public or private nonprofit organization;

''(C) a private hospital described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

''(D) a private hospital that provides a certain amount of uncompensated care, as determined by the Commission, and applies for the grant in partnership with a State, local government, or Indian Tribe.

''(3) MAXIMUM COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION.—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

''(4) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs for the operation of health-related facilities or the provision of health and child development services, including parts A and B of title IV and title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., 621 et seq., 1397 et seq.).

''(5) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in the other Federal programs described in paragraph (4), amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase the Federal share of a grant under those programs up to the maximum contribution described in paragraph (3).

''(f) PRIORITY HEALTH PROGRAMS.—If a Commission elects to make grants under this section, the Commission shall establish specific regional health priorities for such grants that address—

''(1) addiction treatment and access to resources helping individuals in recovery;

''(2) workforce shortages in the healthcare industry; or

''(3) access to services for screening and diagnosing chronic health issues.''.

(b) REPEAL.—Section 6304(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (40 U.S.C. 15501 note; Public Law 115–334) is repealed.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 157 the following:

''159. Additional Regional Commission Programs ..... 15901''.

SEC. 5210. TRIBAL AND COLONIA PARTICIPATION IN SOUTHWEST BORDER REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5205(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in Southwest Border Regional Commission programs

''(a) DEFINITION OF COLONIA.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term 'colonia' means a community—

''(A) that is located—

''(i) in the State of Arizona, California, New Mexico, or Texas;

''(ii) not more than 150 miles from the border between the United States and Mexico; and

''(iii) outside a standard metropolitan statistical area that has a population exceeding 1,000,000;

''(B) that—

''(i) lacks a potable water supply;

''(ii) lacks an adequate sewage system; or

''(iii) lacks decent, safe, and sanitary housing; and

''(C) that has been treated or designated as a colonia by a Federal or State program.

''(b) WAIVER.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of assistance provided to a colonia or an Indian tribe under this subtitle by the Southwest Border Regional Commission, the Federal share of the cost of the project carried out with that assistance may be up to 100 percent, as determined by the selection official, the State Cochairperson (or an alternate), and the Federal Cochairperson (or an alternate).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 155 of subtitle V of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5205(b)), is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 15507 the following:

''15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in Southwest Border Regional Commission programs.''.

SEC. 5211. ESTABLISHMENT OF MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.''.

(b) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.

''The region of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

''(1) DELAWARE.—Each county in the State of Delaware.

''(2) MARYLAND.—Each county in the State of Maryland that is not already served by the Appalachian Regional Commission.

''(3) PENNSYLVANIA.—Each county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that is not already served by the Appalachian Regional Commission.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.''.

(c) APPLICATION.—Section 15702(c) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

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

''(3) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (2) shall not apply to a county described in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 15735.''.

SEC. 5212. ESTABLISHMENT OF SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 15301(a) of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5211(a)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) The Southern New England Regional Commission.''.

(b) DESIGNATION OF REGION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5211(b)(1)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 15736. Southern New England Regional Commission

''The region of the Southern New England Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

''(1) RHODE ISLAND.—Each county in the State of Rhode Island.

''(2) CONNECTICUT.—The counties of Hartford, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham in the State of Connecticut.

''(3) MASSACHUSETTS.—Each county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for subchapter II of chapter 157 of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5211(b)(2)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''15736. Southern New England Regional Commission.''.

(c) APPLICATION.—Section 15702(c)(3) of title 40, United States Code (as amended by section 5211(c)), is amended—

(1) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''';

(2) by striking ''to a county'' and inserting the following: ''to—

''(A) a county''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) the Southern New England Regional Commission.''.

SEC. 5213. DENALI COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 312(a) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended by striking ''$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021'' and inserting ''$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029''.

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—Section 305 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by inserting ''enter into leases (including the lease of office space for any term),'' after ''award grants,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) USE OF FUNDS TOWARD NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF CERTAIN PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, the Commission may use amounts made available to the Commission for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.''.

(c) SPECIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION.—Section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as subsections (a) through (d), respectively; and

(3) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by inserting '', including interagency transfers,'' after ''payments''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 309(c)(1) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 4321 note; Public Law 105–277) is amended by inserting ''of Transportation'' after ''Secretary''.

SEC. 5214. DENALI HOUSING FUND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a nonprofit organization;

(B) a limited dividend organization;

(C) a cooperative organization;

(D) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

(E) a public entity, such as a municipality, county, district, authority, or other political subdivision of a State.

(2) FEDERAL COCHAIR.—The term ''Federal Cochair'' means the Federal Cochairperson of the Denali Commission.

(3) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Denali Housing Fund established under subsection (b)(1).

(4) LOW-INCOME.—The term ''low-income'', with respect to a household means that the household income is less than 150 percent of the Federal poverty level for the State of Alaska.

(5) MODERATE-INCOME.—The term ''moderate-income'', with respect to a household, means that the household income is less than 250 percent of the Federal poverty level for the State of Alaska.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) DENALI HOUSING FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established in the Treasury of the United States the Denali Housing Fund, to be administered by the Federal Cochair.

(2) SOURCE AND USE OF AMOUNTS IN FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts allocated to the Federal Cochair for the purpose of carrying out this section shall be deposited in the Fund.

(B) USES.—The Federal Cochair shall use the Fund as a revolving fund to carry out the purposes of this section.

(C) INVESTMENT.—The Federal Cochair may invest amounts in the Fund that are not necessary for operational expenses in bonds or other obligations, the principal and interest of which are guaranteed by the Federal Government.

(D) GENERAL EXPENSES.—The Federal Cochair may charge the general expenses of carrying out this section to the Fund.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

(c) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to encourage and facilitate the construction or rehabilitation of housing to meet the needs of low-income households and moderate-income households; and

(2) to provide housing for public employees.

(d) LOANS AND GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair may provide grants and loans from the Fund to eligible entities under such terms and conditions the Federal Cochair may prescribe.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of a grant or loan under paragraph (1) shall be for planning and obtaining federally insured mortgage financing or other financial assistance for housing construction or rehabilitation projects for low-income and moderate-income households in rural Alaska villages.

(e) PROVIDING AMOUNTS TO STATES FOR GRANTS AND LOANS.—The Federal Cochair may provide amounts to the State of Alaska, or political subdivisions thereof, for making the grants and loans described in subsection (d).

(f) LOANS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—A loan under subsection (d) for the cost of planning and obtaining financing (including the cost of preliminary surveys and analyses of market needs, preliminary site engineering and architectural fees, site options, application and mortgage commitment fees, legal fees, and construction loan fees and discounts) of a project described in that subsection may be for not more than 90 percent of that cost.

(2) INTEREST.—A loan under subsection (d) shall be made without interest, except that a loan made to an eligible entity established for profit shall bear interest at the prevailing market rate authorized for an insured or guaranteed loan for that type of project.

(3) PAYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair shall require payment of a loan made under this section under terms and conditions the Secretary may require by not later than the date of completion of the project.

(B) CANCELLATION.—For a loan other than a loan to an eligible entity established for profit, the Secretary may cancel any part of the debt with respect to a loan made under subsection (d) if the Secretary determines that a permanent loan to finance the project cannot be obtained in an amount adequate for repayment of a loan made under subsection (d).

(g) GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section for expenses incidental to planning and obtaining financing for a project described in this section that the Federal Cochair considers unrecoverable from the proceeds of a permanent loan made to finance the project—

(A) may not be made to an eligible entity established for profit; and

(B) may not exceed 90 percent of those expenses.

(2) SITE DEVELOPMENT COSTS AND OFFSITE IMPROVEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Cochair may make grants and commitments for grants

under terms and conditions the Federal Cochair may require to eligible entities for reasonable site development costs and necessary offsite improvements, such as sewer and water line extensions, if the grant or commitment—

(i) is essential to ensuring that housing is constructed on the site in the future; and

(ii) otherwise meets the requirements for assistance under this section.

(B) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—The amount of a grant under this paragraph may not—

(i) with respect to the construction of housing, exceed 40 percent of the cost of the construction; and

(ii) with respect to the rehabilitation of housing, exceed 10 percent of the reasonable value of the rehabilitation, as determined by the Federal Cochair.

(h) INFORMATION, ADVICE, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Federal Cochair may provide, or contract with public or private organizations to provide, information, advice, and technical assistance with respect to the construction, rehabilitation, and operation by nonprofit organizations of housing for low-income or moderate-income households, or for public employees, in rural Alaska villages under this section.

SEC. 5215. DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 382M(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–12(a)) is amended by striking ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023'' and inserting ''$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029''.

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 382N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–13) is repealed.

(c) FEES.—Section 382B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)(C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(11) collect fees for the Delta Doctors program of the Authority and retain and expend those fees.''.

(d) SUCCESSION.—Section 382B(h)(5)(B) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(h)(5)(B)) is amended—

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

(2) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) assuming the duties of the Federal cochairperson and the alternate Federal cochairperson for purposes of continuation of normal operations in the event that both positions are vacant; and''.

(e) INDIAN TRIBES.—Section 382C(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–2(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting '', Indian Tribes,'' after ''States''; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting '', Tribal,'' after ''State''.

SEC. 5216. NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL AUTHORITY REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 383N(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–12(a)) is amended by striking ''$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2018'' and inserting ''$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029''.

(b) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Section 383O of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–13) is repealed.

SA 3104. Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1549. CLASSIFICATION REFORM FOR TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2024.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Classification Reform for Transparency Act of 2024''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLASSIFICATION.—The term ''classification'' means the act or process by which information is determined to be classified information.

(2) CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.—The term ''classification system'' means the system of the Federal Government for classification and declassification.

(3) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The term ''classified information'' has the meaning given the term ''classified information of the United States'' in section 1924(c) of title 18, United States Code.

(4) DECLASSIFICATION.—The term ''declassification'' means the authorized change in the status of information from classified information to unclassified information.

(5) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ''Executive agency'' has the meaning given such term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(6) INFORMATION.—The term ''information'' means any knowledge that can be communicated or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is owned by, is produced by or for, or is under the control of the Federal Government.

(c) AUTOMATIC EXPIRATION OF CLASSIFICATION STATUS.—

(1) AUTOMATIC EXPIRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the classification marking on any information that is more than 50 years old shall be considered expired, and the information shall be considered unclassified.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subparagraph (A) shall take effect on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) AUTHORITY TO EXEMPT.—The President may, as the President considers appropriate, exempt specific information from the requirement of paragraph (1)(A) pursuant to a request received by the President pursuant to paragraph (3).

(3) REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTIONS.—In extraordinary cases, the head of an Executive agency may request from the President an exemption to the requirement of paragraph (1)(A) for specific information that reveals—

(A) the identity of a human source or human intelligence source in a case in which the source or a relative of the source is alive and disclosure would present a clear danger to the safety of the source or relative;

(B) a key design concept of a weapon of mass destruction; or

(C) information that would result in critical harm to ongoing or future operations.

(4) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this paragraph, the term ''appropriate committee of Congress'' means—

(i) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(B) IN GENERAL.—If an exemption is requested pursuant to paragraph (3), the President shall, not later than 30 days after the date on which the President approves or rejects the requested exemption, submit to Congress, including the appropriate committees of Congress, notice of such approval or rejection.

(C) CONTENTS.—Each notice submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B) for an approval or rejection shall include a justification for the approval or rejection.

(D) FORM.—To the degree practicable, each notice submitted pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

(d) REFORMS OF THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.—

(1) DECLASSIFICATION UPON REQUEST OF CONGRESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the head of an Executive agency receives a request from a chair, vice-chair, or ranking member of an appropriate committee of Congress for declassification of specific information in the possession of the Executive agency, the head of the Executive agency shall—

(i) review the information for declassification; and

(ii) provide the member of Congress—

(I) the declassified information or document; or

(II) notice that, pursuant to review under clause (i), the information is not being declassified, along with a justification for not declassifying the information.

(B) COMPLEX OR LENGTHY REQUESTS.—In a case in which the head of an Executive agency receives a request as described in subparagraph (A) and the head determines that such request is particularly complex or lengthy, such paragraph shall be applied by substituting ''180 days'' for ''90 days''.

(2) MANDATORY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW FOR MATTERS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.—The President shall require that the mandatory declassification review process established pursuant to Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, include—

(A) a process by which members of the public may request declassification of information in cases in which—

(i) the information meets the standards for classification; and

(ii) the public interest in disclosure would outweigh the national security harm that could reasonably be expected to result from disclosure of the information; and

(B) an expedited process for consideration of declassification of information in cases in which there is urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity.

(3) IDENTIFICATION OF HARM TO NATIONAL SECURITY.—At the time of original classification, in addition to the identifications and markings required by section 1.6 of Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, the original classification authority shall identify in writing the specific harm to national security that could reasonably be expected to result from disclosure.

(4) CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY TO RELEASE INFORMATION.—Nothing in this section shall be deemed in conflict with, or to otherwise impede the authority of, Congress under

clause 3 of section 5 of article I of the Constitution of the United States to release information in its possession, and such information so released shall be deemed declassified or otherwise released in full.

SA 3105. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1439. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—United States sanctions provided for in the Executive orders specified in subsection (b), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain in effect except as provided in subsection (c).

(b) EXECUTIVE ORDERS SPECIFIED.—Executive orders specified in this section are—

(1) Executive Order 13849 (22 U.S.C. 9521 note; relating to authorizing the implementation of certain sanctions set forth in the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9401 et seq.));

(2) Executive Order 13883 (22 U.S.C. 5605 note; relating to administration of proliferation sanctions and amendment of Executive Order 12851 (22 U.S.C. 2797 note; relating to the administration of proliferation sanctions, Middle East arms control, and related congressional reporting responsibilities));

(3) Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation);

(4) Executive Order 14039 (22 U.S.C. 9526 note; relating to blocking property with respect to certain Russian energy export pipelines);

(5) Executive Order 14065 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to continued Russian efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine);

(6) Executive Order 14066 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports and new investments with respect to continued Russian Federation efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine);

(7) Executive Order 14068 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports, exports, and new investment with respect to continued Russian Federation aggression);

(8) Executive Order 14071 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting new investment in and certain services to the Russian Federation in response to continued Russian Federation aggression); and

(9) Executive Order 14114 (88 Fed. Reg. 89271; relating to taking additional steps with respect to the Russian Federation's harmful activities).

(c) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may terminate the application of sanctions under subsection (a) with respect to a person if the President certifies to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that—

(1) such person—

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

(B) has taken significant, verifiable steps toward stopping the activity that was the basis for such sanctions; and

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

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ''agricultural commodity'' has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

(B) GOOD.—The term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(C) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term ''medical device'' has the meaning given the term ''device'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(D) MEDICINE.—The term ''medicine'' has the meaning given the term ''drug'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—A requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property referred to in subsection (b) shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions specified in subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions specified in subsection (b) shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(5) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions specified in subsection (b) shall not apply to—

(A) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(B) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in subparagraph (A).

SA 3106. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1440. SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION BY AMPLIFYING THEIR VOICES AND ADVANCING THEIR ANTI-WAR AGENDA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section and in section 1440A:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) BELARUSIAN INDIVIDUAL IN EXILE.—The term ''Belarusian individual in exile'' means a Belarusian individual who has been unable to return to Belarus because of a credible threat of persecution.

(3) CREDIBLE THREAT OF PERSECUTION.—The term ''credible threat of persecution'' means a threat that causes an individual to have a reasonable fear of persecution as a result of the pro-democracy activity of that individual.

(4) PRO-DEMOCRACY.—

(A) PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVIST.—The term ''pro-democracy activist'' means an individual who advocates for democratic reform.

(B) PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVITY.—The term ''pro-democracy activity'' means activity taken to promote democracy.

(5) RUSSIAN INDIVIDUAL IN EXILE.—The term ''Russian individual in exile'' means a Russian individual who has been unable to return to the Russian Federation since February 24, 2022, because of a credible threat of persecution.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of State.

(b) FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) The United States has sought to support democracy in the Russian Federation and with Russian individuals since 1991, including through programming by the United States Agency for International Development (referred to in this subsection as ''USAID'') valued at $3,000,000,000 between 1992 and 2012 to support democracy, economic growth, health, women, and youth in the Russian regions.

(B) In May 1997, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this section as ''NATO'') and the Russian Federation signed the NATO-Russia Founding Act, which established a NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council to build trust and communication between the two parties.

(C) Numerous nongovernmental organizations in the United States, including the National Endowment for Democracy, the American Councils, and the Institute of International Education have worked to support Russian individuals and build ties between the people of the United States and the Russian Federation.

(D) In 2012, the Russian Federation expelled the USAID, rejecting assistance meant to support Russian individuals and harming the United States-Russian Federation bilateral relationship.

(E) In May 2015, the Russian Federation enacted a law that permits Russian authorities to extrajudicially shut down foreign and international organizations operating in Russia by declaring them to be ''undesirable''. Russian authorities have since labeled as undesirable numerous nongovernmental organizations that have worked to strengthen the relationship between the United States and the Russian Federation, including the National Endowment for Democracy, the American Councils, and the Institute of International Education.

(F) The Russian Federation launched an illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in 2014 and a brutal, full-scale invasion of

Ukraine in 2022, which caused NATO to suspend cooperation with the Russian Federation.

(G) Russian opposition leader, pro-democracy activist, and anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny died in a Russian prison on February 16, 2024, the day after he appeared in court in a healthy condition.

(H) Pulitzer Prize-winning human rights advocate, historian, and opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza is suffering from declining health while serving an illegal 25-year jail term that was imposed in retaliation for his support for democracy in the Russian Federation and his criticism of the Kremlin's war against Ukraine.

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

(A) the efforts of the Russian Federation to isolate its people from the world, commit horrific war crimes in Ukraine, and violently crack down on dissent at home should be universally condemned; and

(B) Congress will continue its efforts to engage with and support Russian individuals, many of whom are opposed to the unjust war by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and believe in a democratic future for their country.

(c) RUSSIANS IN EXILE AFFAIRS UNIT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Administrator of USAID, in coordination with the heads of other relevant agencies and departments, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees containing a plan for establishing a ''Russians in Exile Affairs Unit'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Unit'').

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall contain—

(A) a plan for establishing and staffing the Unit;

(B) a description of how the Department of State and USAID will carry out the responsibilities described in paragraph (3);

(C) the estimated annual appropriations required to carry out such responsibilities;

(D) 3 potential locations in Europe at which the headquarters of the Unit could be located;

(E) the advantages and disadvantages of establishing the Unit;

(F) an estimate of the number of Russian individuals in exile; and

(G) an assessment of Russian individuals in exile, including—

(i) the reasons such individuals left the Russian Federation, particularly in relation to—

(I) the invasion of Ukraine in 2022; and

(II) increased political repression in the Russian Federation;

(ii) how such individuals have been engaged since leaving the Russian Federation; and

(iii) how United States officials and intermediaries have communicated with such individuals since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

(3) DUTIES.—The Unit shall—

(A) facilitate communication and engagement with pro-democracy activists who are Russian individuals in exile;

(B) report on human rights issues that impact Russian individuals in exile;

(C) coordinate interagency and international efforts to combat Russian Federation-sponsored transnational repression;

(D) support Russian individuals in exile who remain outside the Russian Federation because of fear for their safety;

(E) lead engagement with European and Eurasian governments and private sector companies to resolve issues impacting Russian individuals in exile;

(F) assess challenges and develop solutions to problems faced by Russian individuals in exile, including—

(i) access to bank accounts, credit cards, and online payment platforms;

(ii) issuance of travel documents, visas, and work permits; and

(iii) the ability to use technology platforms owned by companies in the United States and Europe to communicate with Russian individuals;

(G) evaluate the feasibility of developing a ''whitelist''—

(i) to which a Russian pro-democracy activist can apply to be recognized by the Department of State as a credible Russian nonstate actor; and

(ii) that the Secretary shall provide to social media companies, technology companies, financial institutions, academic institutions, and other stakeholders in the United States to encourage institutional engagement with the Russian pro-democracy activist community, including by—

(I) facilitating financial transactions;

(II) monetizing media content produced by pro-democratic activists in the Russian Federation; and

(III) purchasing political advertisements for distribution inside the Russian Federation;

(H) collect, facilitate, and assess evidence, presented by members of the Russian pro-democracy activist community, regarding significant human rights violations and corruption perpetrated by individuals connected to Vladimir Putin, including individuals who are responsible for implementing war by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and undermining democracy in the Russian Federation; and

(I) develop a data-driven approach to efficiently use resources to engage with Russian individuals in exile in the countries where they reside.

(d) SUPPORTING OPERATIONS OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY.—

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

(A) state-sponsored Russian-language propaganda and disinformation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia sows discord and instrumentalizes Russian-speaking individuals to further disseminate propaganda and disinformation;

(B) professional independent journalism informed by local voices can provide Russian-speaking individuals with reliable, accurate information that will mitigate the harmful influence of Kremlin-aligned propaganda and disinformation; and

(C) because there is no clear dividing line between Russian individuals residing inside the Russian Federation and Russian individuals in exile because they are part of the same community of pro-democracy activists, assistance in the interest of benefitting future democracy in the Russian Federation may be channeled through Russian pro-democracy activists in exile, including support for the development and expansion of pro-democracy grassroots initiatives and a civic infrastructure that is no longer possible within the Russian Federation.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $40,000,000, for each of the fiscal years 2024 through 2027 to USAID and the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State to support independent media and civil society in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia that are providing reliable and fact-based news to Russian-speaking populations and furthering the development of pro-democracy activity within the country.

(e) PREVENTING WRONGFUL DETENTIONS.—

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

(A) the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, which was established by section 303 of the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741a), conducts crucially important work to bring home United States citizens who are wrongfully detained, including successfully securing the release from the Russian Federation of United States citizens Trevor Reed and Brittney Griner;

(B) United States citizens should not travel to the Russian Federation or other countries with a history of wrongfully detaining United States citizens in an attempt to gain leverage over the United States;

(C) the Russian Federation should immediately release the United States citizens and nationals who have been wrongfully detained in Russia, including Alsu Kurmasheva, Evan Gershkovich, Paul Whelan, and Vladimir Kara-Murza, and the United States Government should continuously pursue their release;

(D) Vladimir Kara-Murza and Alsu Kurmasheva meet the criteria for ''wrongful detention'' under the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) and the United States should designate them accordingly; and

(E) the Russian Federation should meet the basic needs and respect the human rights of all United States citizens in its custody.

(2) DISCLOSURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK BY AIR TRANSPORTATION PASSENGERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 44907 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) DISCLOSURE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK OF RUSSIAN FEDERATION WRONGFUL DETENTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and without regard to whether the Secretary of Transportation conducts an assessment under subsection (a), takes other action under this section, or provides other notice under this section, each air carrier and foreign air carrier that provides passenger air transportation between the United States and the Russian Federation, and any online marketplace selling such passenger air transportation, shall, when issuing a ticket to a passenger for any travel itinerary that begins in the United States and concludes in, has a connecting flight within, or passes through the Russian Federation—

''(1) provide a warning about the history of the Russian Federation wrongfully detaining United States citizens and citizens of other countries; and

''(2) obtain an acknowledgment from each such passenger that the passenger understands the risk of possible wrongful detention for any travel itinerary that concludes in, has a connecting flight within, or passes through the Russian Federation.''.

(B) REPORT.—Section 44938(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in paragraph (9), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

''(10) an assessment of the activities carried out under section 44907(g) of this title; and''.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(f) STATUS OF EXILED RUSSIAN INDIVIDUALS IN EUROPE.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should urge the European Commission of the European Union and

other relevant European government agencies to provide legal documentation to appropriately vetted Russian individuals in exile who face a credible threat of persecution in the Russian Federation.

(g) DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS FOR CONSULAR SERVICES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall designate at least 3 additional diplomatic missions to provide consular services for citizens of the Russian Federation in countries—

(1) that have direct flights from the Russian Federation or in which land borders with the Russian Federation remain passable; or

(2) in which large numbers of citizens of the Russian Federation who left the Russian Federation on or after February 24, 2022 reside.

(h) RECOGNITION OF EXPIRED RUSSIAN FEDERATION PASSPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States shall implement a process for recognizing expired Russian Federation passports until the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees and to the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection that it is safe for a Russian individual in exile to return to the Russian Federation or a diplomatic facility of the Russian Federation for document renewal.

SEC. 1440A. SUPPORTING BELARUSIAN DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN EXILE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya was the apparent winner of the 2020 Belarusian presidential election, in which the people of Belarus voted in record numbers, in an impressive display of their commitment to democracy.

(2) Alyaksandr Lukashenka brutally cracked down upon the thousands of peaceful protestors that turned out in protest of election fraud by the Lukashenka regime, arbitrarily detaining more than 35,000 individuals and subjecting many of these individuals to torture.

(3) The Lukashenka regime continues to unjustly imprison more than 1,500 people, including opposition leaders Viktar Babaryka, Siarhei Tsikhanouski, Maria Kalesnikava, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty journalists Andrey Kuznechyk and Ihar Losik, and Ihar Losik's wife Darya Losik.

(4) The Lukashenka regime has facilitated the Russian Federation's illegal war against Ukraine, including by allowing the Russian Federation to fire ballistic missiles and launch offensive strikes against Ukraine from the territory of Belarus for the purpose of invading Ukraine.

(5) The Lukashenka regime has a policy of forcing Belarusian pro-democracy activists to return to Minsk for renewal of documents vital to maintaining their residency status in a safe third country, placing these Belarusians at risk of detention and torture.

(b) STATUS OF EXILED BELARUSIAN INDIVIDUALS IN EUROPE.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should urge the European Commission of the European Union and other relevant European government agencies to provide legal documentation to appropriately vetted Belarusian individuals in exile who face a credible threat of persecution in Belarus.

(c) HELPING BELARUSIAN INDIVIDUALS FLEEING AUTHORITARIANISM.—

(1) STATELESSNESS DESIGNATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall designate citizens of Belarus as stateless persons for the purpose of processing visas for Belarusian citizens until the Secretary certifies to appropriate congressional committees that the United States has consular representation in Minsk.

(2) EXTENDED DOCUMENTATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop a process for recognizing expired Belarusian passports until the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees and to the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection that it is safe for a Belarusian individual in exile to return to Belarus for document renewal.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit a report outlining whether Belarus meets the criteria for a designation of temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration Act of 1990 (8 U.S.C. 1254a), and if so, whether the Secretary of Homeland Security intends to make such a designation.

SEC. 1440B. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—United States sanctions provided for in the Executive orders specified in subsection (b), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act shall remain in effect except as provided in subsection (c).

(b) EXECUTIVE ORDERS SPECIFIED.—Executive orders specified in this section are—

(1) Executive Order 13849 (22 U.S.C. 9521 note; relating to authorizing the implementation of certain sanctions set forth in the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9401 et seq.));

(2) Executive Order 13883 (22 U.S.C. 5605 note; relating to administration of proliferation sanctions and amendment of Executive Order 12851 (22 U.S.C. 2797 note; relating to the administration of proliferation sanctions, Middle East arms control, and related congressional reporting responsibilities));

(3) Executive Order 14024 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation);

(4) Executive Order 14039 (22 U.S.C. 9526 note; relating to blocking property with respect to certain Russian energy export pipelines);

(5) Executive Order 14065 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to continued Russian efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine);

(6) Executive Order 14066 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports and new investments with respect to continued Russian Federation efforts to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine);

(7) Executive Order 14068 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting certain imports, exports, and new investment with respect to continued Russian Federation aggression);

(8) Executive Order 14071 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to prohibiting new investment in and certain services to the Russian Federation in response to continued Russian Federation aggression); and

(9) Executive Order 14114 (88 Fed. Reg. 89271; relating to taking additional steps with respect to the Russian Federation's harmful activities).

(c) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may terminate the application of sanctions under subsection (a) with respect to a person if the President certifies to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives that—

(1) such person—

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

(B) has taken significant, verifiable steps toward stopping the activity that was the basis for such sanctions; and

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

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ''agricultural commodity'' has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

(B) GOOD.—The term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(C) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term ''medical device'' has the meaning given the term ''device'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(D) MEDICINE.—The term ''medicine'' has the meaning given the term ''drug'' in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

(2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—A requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property referred to in subsection (b) shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions specified in subsection (b) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist authorized law enforcement activity in the United States.

(4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions specified in subsection (b) shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(5) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions specified in subsection (b) shall not apply to—

(A) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction for the provision of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, medical devices, humanitarian assistance, or for humanitarian purposes; or

(B) transactions that are necessary for, or related to, the activities described in subparagraph (A).

SA 3107. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYSTEMATIC RAPE, COERCIVE ABORTION, FORCED STERILIZATION, OR INVOLUNTARY CONTRACEPTIVE IMPLANTATION IN THE XINJIANG UYGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(a)(1) of the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–145; 22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph:

''(F) Systematic rape, coercive abortion, forced sterilization, or involuntary contraceptive implantation policies and practices.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a)—

(1) takes effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) applies with respect to each report required by section 6(a)(1) of the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 submitted after such date of enactment.

SA 3108. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSACTION AND ASSISTANCE NETWORK.

(a) AUTHORITY.—There is established an initiative, to be known as the ''Infrastructure Transaction and Assistance Network'', under which the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall carry out programs to advance the development of sustainable, transparent, and quality infrastructure globally in countries that are eligible for foreign assistance, by—

(1) strengthening the capacities of United States allies and partners to improve infrastructure project evaluation processes, regulatory and procurement environments, and infrastructure project preparation;

(2) providing transaction advisory services and project preparation assistance to support sustainable infrastructure; and

(3) coordinating the provision of United States assistance for the development of infrastructure, including infrastructure that utilizes United States-manufactured goods and services, and catalyzing investment led by the private sector.

(b) TRANSACTION ADVISORY FUND.—As part of the Infrastructure Transaction and Assistance Network described under subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and in consultation, as appropriate, with other Federal departments and agencies, shall provide support, including through the Transaction Advisory Fund, for advisory services to help boost the capacity of partner countries globally to evaluate contracts in line with international standards, including through providing services such as—

(1) legal services, including with the objectives of—

(A) minimizing opportunities for corrupt practices; and

(B) ensuring agreements are transparent, clear, and enforceable;

(2) project preparation and feasibility studies;

(3) debt sustainability analyses;

(4) bid or proposal evaluation; and

(5) other services relevant to advancing the development of sustainable, transparent, and quality infrastructure.

(c) INDO-PACIFIC STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the ''Infrastructure Transaction and Assistance Network'' described under subsection (a), the Secretary of State is authorized to provide support, including through the Indo-Pacific Strategic Infrastructure Fund, for technical assistance, project preparation, development, and execution, and other infrastructure project support in the countries of the Indo-Pacific region.

(2) JOINT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—Funds authorized for the Indo-Pacific Strategic Infrastructure Fund should be used in coordination with the Department of Defense, the International Development Finance Corporation, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the United States Trade and Development Agency, like-minded donor partners, and multilateral banks, as appropriate, to support joint infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific region.

(3) STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—Funds authorized for the Indo-Pacific Strategic Infrastructure Fund should be used to support strategic infrastructure projects.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, $50,000,000 for the Transaction Advisory Fund and $100,000,000 for the Indo-Pacific Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

(e) STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''strategic infrastructure'' means infrastructure where a primary driver of United States national interest in such infrastructure is—

(1) to advance United States national security or economic security interest or those of the country in which the infrastructure is located; or

(2) to deny the People's Republic of China of ownership or control over such infrastructure.

SA 3109. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. GLOBAL STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND.

(a) STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the ''Global Strategic Infrastructure Fund'' (in this section referred to as the ''Fund'') for the Secretary of State to provide for assistance, including through contributions for strategic infrastructure projects globally as authorized under this section.

(2) APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes, there is appropriated to the Fund established in subsection (a)(1), out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $400,000,000, to remain available until expended;

(B) for fiscal year 2026, $400,000,000, to remain available until expended;

(C) for fiscal year 2027, $400,000,000, to remain available until expended;

(D) for fiscal year 2028, $400,000,000, to remain available until expended; and

(E) for fiscal year 2029, $400,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(3) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—Amounts in the Fund shall be transferred and merged with accounts within the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the United States Trade and Development Agency, as appropriate, to be used for such purposes.

(4) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of State shall consult with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development on the allocations of the Fund.

(5) LOANS AND LOAN GUARANTEES.—Amounts transferred from the Fund to the Export-Import Bank and the United States International Development Finance Corporation, among other purposes, may be made available for the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such loans and loan guarantees, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a).

(b) PRIORITIZATION.—In evaluating proposals for strategic infrastructure projects funded pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall prioritize—

(1) projects that have the highest strategic value to the United States; and

(2) projects related to—

(A) strategic transport infrastructure, including ports, airports, railroads, and highways;

(B) energy infrastructure, technology, and supply chains, critical minerals, and related areas that align with the officially conveyed energy needs of partner countries and with the objective of maximizing such countries' energy access, energy security, energy transition, and resilience needs.

(C) secure information and communications technology networks and infrastructure to strengthen the potential for economic growth and to promote an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet; and

(D) global health security, including through infrastructure projects that increase the availability, accessibility, and affordability of health care in partner countries.

(c) STANDARDS.—In evaluating proposals for strategic infrastructure projects funded pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall adhere to standards for sustainable, transparent, and quality infrastructure investment and ensure projects include opportunities to advance economic growth priorities in the partner country and support good governance and the rule of law.

(d) PROJECTS IN HIGH INCOME COUNTRIES.—Support provided under the Fund shall not be provided in countries with high-income economies (as those terms are defined by the World Bank) unless the President certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that such support—

(1) is necessary to preempt or counter efforts by a strategic competitor of the United States to secure significant political or economic leverage or acquire national security-sensitive technologies or infrastructure in a country that is an ally or partner of the United States; and

(2) includes cost-sharing arrangements with partner countries to ensure effective burden-sharing and long-term sustainability.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

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

(2) STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''strategic infrastructure'' means infrastructure where a primary driver of United States national interest in such infrastructure is—

(A) to advance United States national security or economic security interest or those of the country in which the infrastructure is located; or

(B) to deny the People's Republic of China of ownership or control over such infrastructure.

SA 3110. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. AUTHORIZATION OF PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be an office at the Department of State to support the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, or a successor entity (hereafter, ''the Office''). The Office shall be led by a ''Coordinator for Global Infrastructure and Investment'' (hereafter, ''the Coordinator'') who shall be an official serving in a position to which the individual was appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the United States Senate.

(b) AUTHORITY.—The Coordinator shall have the authority to convene the interagency on matters relating to its policy remit. The Office is authorized to deploy United States public and private sector capital and expertise for the purpose of mobilizing foreign public and private sector capital and expertise—

(1) to help identify and meet the strategic infrastructure needs of countries that are allies and partners of the United States; and

(2) to provide allies and partners of the United States with mutually beneficial strategic infrastructure investment solutions that are alternatives to exploitative, coercive, or harmful foreign infrastructure investments.

(c) PRIORITIZATION.—In evaluating proposals for strategic infrastructure projects funded through the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment, the Secretary of State, in consultation with other departments and agencies as appropriate, should prioritize—

(1) projects that have the highest strategic value to the United States; and

(2) projects related to—

(A) strategic transport infrastructure, including ports, airports, intermodal transfer facilities, railroads, and highways;

(B) energy infrastructure, technology, and supply chains, critical minerals, and related areas that align with the energy needs of partner countries and with the objective of maximizing such countries' energy access, energy security, energy transition and modernization, and resilience needs.

(C) secure information and communications technology systems, networks, and infrastructure to strengthen the potential for economic growth and promote an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet; and

(D) global health security, including through infrastructure projects that increase the availability, accessibility, and affordability of health care in partner countries.

(d) STANDARDS.—In carrying out the purposes described in subsection (b), the Secretary of State shall adhere to standards for sustainable, transparent, and quality infrastructure investment and ensure interventions include opportunities to advance economic growth priorities in relevant sectors in the partner country and support good governance and the rule of law.

(e) PROJECTS IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.—Support provided by the United States under the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment shall not be provided in countries with high-income economies (as those terms are defined by the World Bank) unless the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such support—

(1) is necessary to attempt to preempt or counter efforts by a strategic competitor of the United States to secure significant political or economic leverage or acquire national security-sensitive technologies or infrastructure in a country that is an ally or partner of the United States; and

(2) includes cost-sharing arrangements with partner countries to ensure effective burden-sharing and long-term sustainability, including through the involvement of private sector investments.

(f) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period of two years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that—

(A) identifies all current infrastructure projects supported by the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment;

(B) describes how the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment supported each project;

(C) explains the rationale of the United States and partner country interests served by the United States providing support to such projects, including as it relates to the priorities described in subsection (c);

(D) describes how the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment cooperates with other entities in the United States Government that support infrastructure, including de-confliction of efforts; and

(E) to the extent possible, describes the estimated timeline for completion of the projects supported by the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment.

(2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

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

(2) STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''strategic infrastructure'' means infrastructure where a primary driver of United States national interest in such infrastructure is—

(A) to advance United States national security or economic security interest or those of the country in which the infrastructure is located; or

(B) to deny the People's Republic of China of ownership or control over such infrastructure.

SA 3111. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC REPORTING ON CORRUPTION.

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

(1) the PRC and its representatives are engaged in corruption across the globe, targeting public sector officials with the goal of inducing them to make official decisions that suit the interests of the PRC in exchange for personal financial gain;

(2) people across the globe do not want leaders who make deals to enrich themselves and their families in exchange for their country's natural resources or agreeing to take on onerous national debts and loans, which the nation will be forced to pay back; and

(3) uncovering and bringing to light evidence of this sort of corruption serves the objective of empowering people everywhere to bring such practices to end.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR PUBLIC REPORTING ON CORRUPTION AND CORRUPT PRACTICES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall support and strengthen media and civil society initiatives to uncover and report on evidence of corruption, with a goal of bringing to light the corrupt practices of the PRC and its representatives in every region, and the local leaders who are accepting these payments.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated an additional $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Secretary of State to carry out this section.

SA 3112. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. INCLUSION OF SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY ABUSE IN HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under subsection (d) shall to the extent feasible include a description of the use of foreign commercial spyware by the government of each country in which there are systematic acts of political repression, to conduct surveillance, including passive or active monitoring, against activists, journalists, opposition politicians, or other individuals

for the purposes of suppressing dissent or intimidating critics.

''(2) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term 'foreign commercial spyware' means the term referred to in section 6318 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263).''; and

(2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

(A) by redesignating the second subsection designated subsection (i) as subsection (j); and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The report required under subsection (b) shall to the extent feasible include a description of the use of foreign commercial spyware by the government of each country in which there are systematic acts of political repression, to conduct surveillance, including passive or active monitoring, against activists, journalists, opposition politicians, or other individuals for the purposes of suppressing dissent or intimidating critics.

''(2) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term 'foreign commercial spyware' means the term referred to in section 6318 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263).''.

SA 3113. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER MULTILATERAL BODIES.

The Secretary of State and the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations shall use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the United Nations and other multilateral bodies—

(1) to oppose efforts by the PRC and other authoritarian actors to prevent the full participation of civil society actors, including human rights defenders, and block the accreditation of non-governmental organizations at the United Nations and other multilateral bodies;

(2) to ensure that the United Nations bolsters the protection and safe participation of civil society actors who are subject to transnational repression, state-sponsored harassment, and reprisals by the PRC and other governments;

(3) to increase monitoring and reporting to identify and track reprisals against human rights defenders, who engage with the United Nations and other multilateral bodies;

(4) to oppose efforts by the PRC and other authoritarian actors to sponsor the participation of government-organized nongovernmental organizations in the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of United Nations Economic and Social Council, which organizations are used as instruments of the state, including to repress participation and debate by legitimate civil society actors;

(5) to support the use of targeted sanctions, censure of member states, and all diplomatic tools, including working with other foreign governments, available to hold accountable persons that engage in reprisals against human rights defenders; and

(6) to oppose efforts by the PRC to reduce funding for human rights monitoring and civilian protection posts within Security Council approved United Nations peacekeeping missions.

SA 3114. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. ASSISTANCE TO ADVANCE FOREIGN INVESTMENT SCREENING OF UNITED STATES ALLIES AND PARTNERS TO PROTECT NATIONAL INTERESTS.

(a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN PARTNERS.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and, as appropriate, the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as the President determines appropriate, shall offer to provide technical assistance to the governments of countries that are allies and partners of the United States in establishing or improving legislative and regulatory frameworks to screen foreign investment for national security risks that are, to the extent possible, similar to the frameworks set forth in section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565).

(b) ENGAGEMENT WITH FOREIGN PARTNERS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and, as appropriate, the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, shall actively encourage the government of each country that is an ally or partner of the United States—

(1) to establish transparent protocols for screening foreign investment that protect the national security interests of such country; and

(2) to make decisions on the basis of the potential national security risk of such investments.

(c) DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT.—In providing the technical assistance described in subsection (b), the Secretary of State shall—

(1) consult closely with the intended recipient of such assistance to reach a mutual understanding regarding the scope and nature of the country's particular national security needs with respect to investment screening and the appropriate response to meet those needs, and take all reasonable care to ensure any screening process is transparent and national security-focused;

(2) encourage governments of countries receiving technical assistance to establish or improve the regulatory and legislative frameworks to screen foreign investment as described in subsection (b) to meet the security identified pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(3) prioritize the conduct of diplomatic engagement with government officials, including legislators, from countries whose cooperation in foreign investment screening is deemed by the Secretary to be critical to the interests of the United States.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State for fiscal year 2025 $10,000,000 to carry out this section, which may be administered either by the Department of State or the United States Agency for International Development.

SA 3115. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. STRATEGIC PORTS INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Chief Executive Officer of United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Trade and Development Agency, and other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall carry out a program entitled the ''Strategic Ports Initiative'' for the following purposes:

(1) To provide training and technical assistance to partner country officials and institutions, and others, as appropriate, responsible for building, managing, and securing seaports, airports, and related infrastructure abroad.

(2) To identify ports and airports vulnerable to ownership or other forms of control by strategic competitors, including the PRC, and make recommendations for United States Government action.

(3) To contribute to United States Government diplomatic engagements and other efforts with partner countries and economies, and relevant and trusted private sector entities with respect to ownership or control of seaports and airports by strategic competitors, including the PRC.

(4) To generate priority countries and projects for United States assistance and investment, including through coordination with the Infrastructure Coordination Task Force established pursuant to section 161.

(5) To ensure that all Department of State initiatives, activities, and funding related to seaports and airports align with the national security interests of the United States and account for the vulnerabilities, technical constraints, and other national security implications of seaport and airport infrastructure to construction, ownership, operation, or other forms of direct and indirect control by strategic competitors, including the PRC.

(6) To ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that projects supported by the United States use local labor and professional capacities, in contrast to infrastructure projects carried out by the PRC.

(7) To assist in identifying and promoting alternatives for port logistics data management systems currently offered by strategic competitors, including the PRC.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, $6,000,000 to carry out the purposes of the Strategic Ports Initiative.

SA 3116. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. FINDINGS RELATED TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) State-owned enterprises of the PRC are subject to the direction of both the state and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), and the CCP strives to increase their influence over the global economy by pursuing predatory and exploitative trade, economic, and industrial practices designed to out-compete the United States and other market economies.

(2) The PRC's control of key components of critical global supply chains, including critical minerals, semiconductors, batteries, solar panels, and pharmaceuticals, as outlined in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's February 2023 ''Annual Threat Assessment'', represents a direct threat to United States national security and harms global economic competition.

(3) The CCP's industrial strategy, as articulated in the Made in China 2025 plan, aims to dominate global manufacturing in crucial energy technologies, including advanced materials, batteries, and power equipment.

(4) The PRC, by far the world's largest polluter, accounts for approximately ⅓ of global carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions according to the International Energy Administration and subsidizes its industries, manufacturers, and exports by neither implementing nor enforcing adequate environmental or labor protection standards.

(5) The PRC's industrial sectors like agriculture, mining, automotive production, and computer and electronics manufacturing emit 3 times more carbon dioxide as compared to the United States' same industrial sectors, and nearly 2 times more carbon dioxide than the global average of the production of comparable goods in other foreign countries, according to industry tracking data from the International Energy Agency.

(6) The CCP seeks to utilize the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI) to increase the dependence of low-income and lower-middle income countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas on the PRC at the expense of trapping such countries in long-term, high-polluting, debt-ridden, low-quality infrastructure projects that undermine developing countries' efforts to sustainably grow and industrialize their economies to maximize benefits and participation for their citizenry, while increasing global pollution.

(7) The United States—

(A) has adopted many environmental protections, including the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), and more than 15 other major environmental protection laws that—

(i) add costs to the production of goods in order to secure the benefits of environmental protection and conservation efforts; and

(ii) serve to meaningfully decrease greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and other fluorinated greenhouse gases;

(B) is the world's largest consumer market and its economy is highly integrated into the world; and

(C) bears responsibility to ensure that the United States market does not incentivize forum shopping for the production of goods to jurisdictions with low environmental standards to obtain a competitive cost advantage while undermining efforts to address transnational environmental and resource challenges as well as global public health.

(8) Any realistic pathway to substantially reduce global carbon emissions will require the PRC to be held accountable for its role as the world's largest polluter.

SA 3117. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. ENHANCING RESILIENT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

(a) PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall develop and implement a strategy for the expansion, improvement, and protection of resilient critical infrastructure in the Pacific Islands.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy and related programming under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) consider the—

(i) current and forecasted gaps in functionality of, and threats to, critical infrastructure in the Pacific Islands, including—

(I) for disaster preparedness and response, transport connectivity, operability of health systems, information and communications technology, food security, coastal zone management, marine and water resource management, and energy security and access to electricity; and

(II) to the extent practicable, the rates, severity and drivers of deterioration, structural deficiencies, and most pressing threats to public safety from aging, at-risk, and failing infrastructure;

(ii) United States national security risks posed by weak, outdated, at-risk, and failing critical infrastructure in the Pacific Islands, with particular consideration for the interconnectedness of supply chains, interconnected transportation networks, technology, communications, and financial systems; and

(iii) the policy-enabling environment for public and private sector investment in critical infrastructure in the Pacific Islands, including through local resource mobilization, early stage project preparation, development finance, and foreign direct investment;

(B) seek to enhance the ability of Pacific Islanders, including governments at the national and local levels, civil society leaders, and private sector partners, to attract and effectively manage public and private investment in critical infrastructure while resisting predatory lending and resource extraction deals by malign actors;

(C) identify priorities for critical infrastructure improvement, reinforcement, reengineering, or replacement based on the significance of such infrastructure to ensuring public health, safety, and economic growth;

(D) support investment and improvement in natural resource management and conservation;

(E) include recommendations for policy and governance reforms in the Pacific Islands, as necessary and appropriate, to strengthen critical infrastructure resilience; and

(F) support trainings and information sharing, technology exchanges, reverse trade missions, and pilot projects that provide Pacific Islanders with access to proven, cost-effective solutions for mitigating the risks associated with critical infrastructure vulnerabilities and related interdependencies.

(b) COORDINATION.—The program developed under this section should be coordinated with like-minded allies, partners, and regional and international organizations to encourage alignment of efforts and to avoid duplicative investments and programming.

(c) DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in consultation with the relevant Federal departments and agencies with technical and practical expertise, shall work with Pacific Island countries to—

(1) provide technical assistance, education, and training, including through grants and cooperative agreements for qualified United States and local nongovernmental organizations, to enhance early warning systems, emergency management and preparedness procedures, and post-disaster relief and recovery; and

(2) enhance coordination of existing disaster mitigation and response plans in the Pacific Islands region, including by United States allies and partners in the region.

(d) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall direct the representatives of the United States to the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, and the Asian Development Bank to use the voice and vote of the United States to support sustainable, resilient, and high quality infrastructure projects in the Pacific Islands.

SA 3118. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. DEPARTMENT OF STATE INFRASTRUCTURE COORDINATION TASK FORCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established at the Department of State a task force, to be known as the ''Infrastructure Coordination Task Force'', which shall be led by an appropriate Senate-confirmed official at the Department of State. If the leader of the Task Force is not the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment, then the leader of the task force shall coordinate with such Under Secretary on matters related to the task force.

(b) DUTIES.—The Infrastructure Coordination Task Force shall—

(1) coordinate international infrastructure policies and projects supported by the United States Government, with participation by the relevant Federal departments and agencies;

(2) engage international partners such as the Group of Seven (G7), multilateral development banks, international financial institutions, the United States private sector, multinational corporations and banks, nongovernmental organizations, and other partners in industrialized countries;

(3) advance United States objectives through initiatives such as the Blue Dot Network, Infrastructure Transaction Assistance Network, the Transaction Advisory Fund, and the Strategic Ports Initiative; and

(4) produce strategic guidance that identifies international infrastructure projects.

SA 3119. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. NEXT-GENERATION SHIPPING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is authorized to carry out the following activities to support the development of next-generation shipping corridors or green shipping corridors:

(1) Conduct analysis to determine United States priorities for cooperation with partner countries on next-generation shipping corridors or green shipping corridors.

(2) Support research and development initiatives and technical assistance, as appropriate, in the following areas:

(A) Next-generation port design, engineering, and architecture.

(B) Hydrogen fuel production and hydrogen fuel storage and utilization capacities at ports.

(C) Commercial-scale high-speed electric vehicle trucking fleet charging infrastructure.

(D) Logistics and shipping corridor planning.

(E) Hydrogen pipelines.

(F) Liquid hydrogen power vessels, and other next-generation marine propulsion systems, design and manufacturing, including both new vessels and retrofit and refurbishment of existing vessels.

(3) Support private sector investment in next-generation shipping infrastructure in partner countries with strong or emerging commercial ties with the United States that—

(A) are strategically or centrally located markets in international commerce; or

(B) face growing or concerning financial entanglements with malign foreign governments.

(b) PARAMETERS.—In carrying out activities authorized under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall ensure that all activities align with the national security interests of the United States and the purposes of the Strategic Ports Initiative authorized pursuant to section 164.

(c) INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION.—The United States shall use its voice, vote, and influence in the International Maritime Organization to–

(1) counter any attempts by the PRC or other strategic competitors to advance or advocate for policies, regulations, or technical standards that unfairly benefit particular countries and their domestic industries and products to the detriment of free and fair markets;

(2) advocate for the adoption of next-generation shipping industry technologies and infrastructure standards, policies, regulations and cooperation initiatives that advance United States national and economic security interests;

(3) participate in the International Maritime Organization's global technical cooperation projects to support growing the capacity of parties to develop and modernize global shipping industries technologies and infrastructure; and

(4) represent the interests of United States stakeholders impacted by International Maritime Organization initiatives.

(d) LIMITATION.—Prior to providing funding for activities to support the establishment and development of next-generation shipping corridors or green shipping corridors, the Department of State shall obtain commitments from participating countries in the following areas:

(1) Prohibiting exclusivity or preferences for specific international shipping routes, including exclusive access for specific vessels, fleets, or maritime shipping companies of the PRC.

(2) Preventing the sale, lease, or operational control of port operations, or any subsidiary operations, including security, communications and information technology, or energy suppliers to entities owned or controlled by the PRC.

(3) Prohibiting the use of, or contracts with communications, survey, and logistics management providers owned or controlled by the PRC.

(4) Maintaining transparent and accountable security operations that are not contracted to entities owned or controlled by the PRC.

(5) Ensuring that ports do not serve as ports of call for PRC military or research vessels.

(6) Ensuring that ports are operated in a transparent and accountable manner, consistent with domestic and applicable international law.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $120,000,000 over the next three fiscal years to carry out activities under this section.

SA 3120. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE ON MULTILATERAL STRATEGY AND PERSONNEL.

There is established within the Bureau of International Organizations of the Department of State an Office on Multilateral Strategy and Personnel (MSP) with the following responsibilities:

(1) Developing, coordinating, and maintaining a whole-of-government strategy to strengthen United States engagement and leadership with multilateral institutions and international organizations, to include managing efforts to counter third-countries seeking to undermine the integrity of the United Nations.

(2) Coordinating whole-of-government efforts related to the United Nations Junior Professional Officer (JPO) program, including—

(A) recruiting qualified individuals who represent the rich diversity of the United States to apply for United States-sponsored JPO positions;

(B) collecting and collating information about United States-sponsored JPOs from across the United States Government;

(C) establishing and providing orientation and other training materials with United States agencies sponsoring JPOs;

(D) maintaining regular contact with current and former United States-sponsored JPOs, including providing career and professional advice to United States-sponsored JPOs;

(E) making, informing, and advising on strategic decisions, including about the location and duration of United States-sponsored JPO positions to strengthen United States national security interests and the competitive advantage of United States-sponsored JPOs for future employment; and

(F) sponsoring events, including representational events as appropriate, to support United States-sponsored JPOs.

(3) Coordinating and overseeing a whole-of-government United States strategy and efforts in relation to promoting qualified United States candidates for elected or appointed senior positions at multilateral institutions and international organizations, including—

(A) creating a whole-of-government strategy that identifies and prioritizes upcoming openings of leadership positions at multilateral institutions and international organizations;

(B) developing and executing processes to identify and recruit qualified candidates to apply or run for these offices;

(C) consulting across the Department and interagency as they implement selection processes; and

(D) creating and implementing a strategy to obtain the support necessary for United States candidates for priority leadership positions including—

(i) liaising and coordinating with international partners to promote United States candidates; and

(ii) working with embassies to engage officials and other entities needed to support relevant United States candidates.

(4) Promoting detail and transfer opportunities for qualified United States personnel to multilateral organizations including by—

(A) liaising with multilateral institutions to promote and identify detail and transfer opportunities;

(B) developing and maintaining a database of detail and transfer opportunities to multilateral organizations;

(C) promoting these detail and transfer opportunities within the United States Government and making the database available to those eligible for details and transfers; and

(D) facilitating any relevant orientation, trainings, or materials for detailees and transferees, including debriefing detailees and transferees upon their return to the United States Government.

(5) Promoting internship and volunteer opportunities at multilateral institutions and international organizations and coordinating orientation and career development opportunities, as relevant.

(6) Promoting and entering into partnership arrangements with multilateral institutions and international organizations to encourage United States nationals participation in such organizations.

SA 3121. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. ESTABLISHING A SENIOR OFFICIAL FOR THE COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall designate a senior official at the Department of State responsible for administering the Compacts of Free Association at

the Department of State (in this section referred to as the ''Senior Official''). The Senior Official shall report to the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

(b) DUTIES.—The Senior Official shall—

(1) be responsible for the conduct of United States foreign policy with respect to the countries affiliated with the United States Government under the Compacts of Free Association (in this section referred to as the ''Compacts''), namely the freely associated states of—

(A) the Republic of Palau;

(B) the Marshall Islands; and

(C) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(2) assist the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs in providing overall direction, coordination, and supervision of interdepartmental activities of the United States Government in these countries, including ensuring the timely transfer of assistance and provision of benefits through the United States Department of the Interior, as laid out in the Compacts;

(3) oversee and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of United States policy with respect to these countries as well as of the plans, programs, resources, and performance for implementing that policy, including programs and other activities implemented by the Department of the Interior;

(4) directly supervise the policy and operations of the Compacts and provide guidance to relevant United States missions within the Indo-Pacific region;

(5) ensure the provision of an adequate, regular flow of information to posts abroad on United States Government policies, policy deliberations, and diplomatic exchanges in Washington, D.C.; and

(6) ensure the continuity of implementation of commitments and Compact obligations and benefits, consistent with United States national interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $250,000 to support the Senior Official in the conduct and discharge of the duties described in subsection (b).

SA 3122. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COUNTERING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA INFLUENCE FUND.

(a) COUNTERING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA INFLUENCE FUND.—There is authorized to be appropriated $600,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Countering the People's Republic of China Influence Fund to counter PRC malign influence. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this authorization are authorized to remain available until expended and shall be in addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated to counter such influence.

(b) POLICY GUIDANCE, COORDINATION, AND APPROVAL.—

(1) COORDINATOR.—The Secretary of State shall designate an existing senior official as the Coordinator for the Countering the People's Republic of China Influence Fund (in this section referred to as ''Coordinator'') to provide policy guidance, coordination within the Department and the interagency as appropriate, and recommendations for the obligation of funds authorized pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) DUTIES.—The Coordinator designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be responsible for—

(A) on an annual basis, the identification of specific strategic priorities for using the funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), such as geographic areas of focus or functional categories of programming that funds are to be concentrated within, consistent with the national interests of the United States and the purposes of this section;

(B) the coordination and approval of all programming conducted using the funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), based on an assessment that such programming directly counters PRC malign influence, including specific activities or policies advanced by such influence, pursuant to the strategic objectives of the United States;

(C) ensuring that all programming approved bears a sufficiently direct nexus to countering PRC malign influence and adheres to the requirements outlined in subsection (d);

(D) conducting oversight, monitoring, and evaluation of the effectiveness of all programming conducted using the funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a) to ensure that it advances United States interests and degrades the ability of the Government of the PRC, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), or entities acting on their behalf, to advance the activities described in subsection (c); and

(E) ensuring, to the maximum extent practicable, that all approved programming under subsection (a) is carried out in coordination with other Federal activities to counter the malign influence and activities of the Government of the PRC, the CCP, or entities acting on their behalf.

(3) ASSISTANT COORDINATOR.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall designate an official with direct responsibility for policy with respect to the PRC to assist the Coordinator designated pursuant to paragraph (1), particularly with respect to such assistance handled by the United States Agency for International Development.

(c) PRC MALIGN INFLUENCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''PRC malign influence'' means influence of the Government of the PRC and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) or entities acting on their behalf globally that—

(1) undermines a free and open international order;

(2) advances an alternative, repressive international order that bolsters the PRC or the Chinese Communist Party's hegemonic ambitions and is characterized by coercion and dependency;

(3) undermines the national security, territorial integrity, or sovereignty of the United States or other countries; or

(4) undermines the political and economic security of the United States or other countries, including by promoting corruption or elite capture, and advancing coercive economic practices.

(d) ACTIVITIES TO COUNTER PRC MALIGN INFLUENCE.—In this section, countering malign influence through the use of funds authorized to be appropriated by subsection (a) include efforts—

(1) to promote transparency and accountability, and reduce corruption, including in governance structures targeted by the malign influence of the Government of the PRC or the CCP;

(2) to support civil society and independent media to raise awareness of and increase transparency regarding the negative impact of activities and initiatives of the Government of the PRC and the CCP, or entities acting on their behalf, including the Belt and Road Initiative and other initiatives that lack transparency, fail to meet international standards, and are associated with coercive economic practices;

(3) to counter transnational criminal networks that benefit, or benefit from, the malign influence of the Government of the PRC, the CCP, or entities acting on their behalf;

(4) to encourage economic development structures that help protect against predatory lending schemes, including support for market-based alternatives in key economic sectors, such as digital economy, energy, and infrastructure;

(5) to counter activities that provide undue influence to the security forces of the PRC;

(6) to expose foreign influence operations and propaganda of the Government of the PRC, the CCP, or entities acting on their behalf;

(7) to counter efforts by the Government of the PRC, the CCP, or entities acting on their behalf to legitimize or promote authoritarian ideology and governance models, including its model of a state-dominated cyber and digital ecosystem;

(8) to counter efforts by the Government of the PRC, the CCP, or entities acting on their behalf, to silence, intimidate, or exact reprisal against individuals outside of their sovereign borders, including members of diaspora populations such as political opponents, repressed religious or spiritual practitioners, marginalized ethnic community members, civil society activists, human rights defenders, researchers, and journalists;

(9) to provide alternatives to problematic PRC technology offerings, which could provide the Government of the PRC undue access to or influence over global data flows or sensitive information, and compete with problematic PRC efforts to leverage or make gains in the development of advanced and emerging technologies;

(10) to counter PRC activities that directly enable critical supply chain monopolization or other monopolistic practices;

(11) to counter aggressive PRC efforts to make inroads into the nuclear energy sectors of countries to the detriment of United States national security, strategic, and nonproliferation interests; and

(12) to counter efforts by the Government of the PRC, the CCP, or entities acting on their behalf, to undermine the democratic processes and institutions of United States allies and partners.

SA 3123. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development, in coordination with other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall develop and implement a digital connectivity initiative specific to Pacific Island countries.

(b) ELEMENTS AND CONDUCT OF PACIFIC ISLANDS DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE.—The initiative developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

(1) include an assessment of opportunities to coordinate with regional allies, including through the United States-Japan Global Digital Connectivity Partnership and the United States-Japan-Australia Trilateral Infrastructure Partnership;

(2) identify and address country-driven digital transformation priorities;

(3) conduct an assessment of the digital ecosystem of Pacific Island countries, such as through the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Digital Ecosystem Country Assessments, to identify opportunities and risks;

(4) seek to develop human and institutional capacity and infrastructure to catalyze private sector investments in Pacific Island countries' digital ecosystem;

(5) assist in the development of digital policy and regulatory schemes in Pacific Island countries, including information and communications technology (ICT) regulations and procurement best practices and relevant reforms;

(6) advance digital platforms and solutions for the delivery of public services and enhance digital skills and literacy;

(7) seek to expand access to open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet for Pacific Island communities;

(8) identify roles that digital technologies can play in addressing important challenges for Pacific Island countries, including the environment, sustainable fishing, readiness, including in response to tsunami warnings;

(9) identify ways to support women-owned enterprises in the digital ecosystem of Pacific Island countries;

(10) seek to expand the availability of and access to secure and reliable subsea cable systems;

(11) regularly assess opportunities for which United States businesses, or those of other like-minded partners, would be competitive;

(12) promote exports of United States ICT goods and services to advance a secure ICT supply chain and increase United States company market share in Pacific Island digital markets;

(13) support the development and expand availability of telehealth services for Pacific Island country communities; and

(14) build digital connectivity among educational institutions within the region as well as with educational institutions in the United States.

(c) PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Pacific Island countries'' means the Cook Islands, the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Nauru, Niue, the Republic of Palau, the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, the Independent State of Samoa, the Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Vanuatu.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $3,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section.

SA 3124. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT MEDIA AND COUNTERING FOREIGN INFORMATION OPERATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that the PRC is increasing its spending on public diplomacy, including influence campaigns, advertising, and investments into state-sponsored media publications outside of the PRC. This includes, for example, more than $10,000,000,000 in foreign direct investment in communications infrastructure, platforms, and properties, as well as bringing journalists to the PRC for training programs.

(b) THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.—The United States Agency for Global Media (USAGM) and affiliate Federal and non-Federal entities shall, consistent with the other executive branch undertakings in this Act led by the President or the Secretary of State, undertake the following actions to support independent journalism, counter foreign malign influence, and combat surveillance in countries where the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and other malign actors are promoting foreign information operations, propaganda, and manipulated media markets:

(1) Radio Free Asia (RFA) shall expand coverage and digital programming in China for all China services and other affiliate language broadcasting services.

(2) RFA and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) shall seek to increase funding for Mandarin, Tibetan, Uyghur, Cantonese, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen, and Uzbek language services.

(3) Voice of America shall continue the bilingual Asia Fact Check Lab, established in 2022, and expand on the Jiehuang Pindao initiative to continue identifying and exposing PRC information operations.

(4) USAGM shall expand existing training and partnership programs that promote journalistic standards, investigative reporting, cybersecurity, and digital analytics to help expose and counter false CCP narratives.

(5) The Open Technology Fund shall continue its work to support tools and technology to circumvent censorship and surveillance by the CCP, both inside the PRC as well as abroad where the PRC has exported censorship technology, and increase secure peer-to-peer connectivity and privacy tools.

(6) Voice of America shall continue its mission of providing accurate, objective, and comprehensive news as well as presenting the policies of the United States clearly and effectively.

(7) RFE/RL shall establish an investigative unit dedicated to working across Central Asia to develop multimedia responses to local information operation efforts by the CCP and other malign actors.

(8) The networks and grantees of the United States Agency for Global Media shall continue their mission of providing credible and timely news coverage, including on the PRC's malign behavior and activities across the world.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated, for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the United States Agency for Global Media, $180,000,000 for ongoing and new programs to support local media, build independent media, combat PRC information operations inside and outside of China, invest in technology to subvert censorship, and monitor and evaluate these programs, of which funds shall be directed to—

(1) RFA to expand—

(A) its China language services (including Mandarin, Cantonese, Uyghur, and Tibetan);

(B) its coverage in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands to counter the Chinese Communist Party's propaganda; and

(C) its Global Mandarin digital brand WHYNOT/Wainao, which engages Chinese-speaking populations both inside China and around the world;

(2) RFE/RL to increase Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen, and Uzbek language services; and

(3) the Open Technology Fund for digital media services—

(A) to counter propaganda targeting non-Chinese populations in foreign countries; and

(B) to counter propaganda targeting Chinese-speaking populations in China through ''Global Mandarin'' programming.

(d) AUTHORIZATION.—The United States Agency for Global Media is authorized to provide for the establishment of, and grants to, two non-profit organizations constituted on the model of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Radio Free Asia that shall be named ''Radio Free Africa'' and ''Radio Free Americas'' for the purposes of providing accurate, uncensored, and reliable local news and information to the regions of Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively.

(e) SUPPORT FOR LOCAL MEDIA.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall support civil society and foreign media organizations in the implementation of programs to train foreign media personnel on investigative techniques, provide journalist protection, improve media literacy among the school-aged and general populations, boost access to accurate and reliable news and information generally, as well as other media-related activities in order to ensure public accountability related to the Belt and Road Initiative and the Global Development Initiative, the PRC's use of and export of surveillance and other technologies, and other influence operations abroad direct or directly supported by the Chinese Communist Party or the Government of the PRC.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State, for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, $100,000,000 for ongoing and new programs in support of press freedom, training, media literacy, and protection of journalists.

SA 3125. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. ENHANCING STRATEGIC COMPETITION AT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to pursue a strategy of strategic competition with the PRC in the political, diplomatic, economic, development, military, informational, and technological realms that maximizes the United States' strengths and increases the costs for the PRC of harming United States interests and the values of United States allies and partners;

(2) to lead a free, open, and secure international system characterized by freedom from coercion, rule of law, open markets and the free flow of commerce, and a shared commitment to security and peaceful resolution of disputes, human rights, and good and transparent governance;

(3) to strengthen and deepen United States alliances and partnerships, prioritizing the Indo-Pacific and Europe, by pursuing greater bilateral and multilateral cooperative initiatives that advance shared interests and values and bolster the confidence of partner countries that the United States is and will remain a strong, committed, and constant partner;

(4) to encourage and collaborate with United States allies and partners in boosting their own capabilities and resiliency to pursue, defend, and protect shared interests and values, free from coercion and external pressure;

(5) to pursue fair, reciprocal treatment and healthy competition in United States-China economic relations by—

(A) advancing policies that harden the United States economy against unfair and illegal commercial or trading practices and the coercion of United States businesses; and

(B) tightening United States laws and regulations as necessary to prevent the PRC's attempts to harm United States economic competitiveness;

(6) to demonstrate the value of private sector-led growth in emerging markets around the world, including through the use of United States Government tools that—

(A) support greater private sector investment and advance capacity-building initiatives that are grounded in the rule of law;

(B) promote open markets;

(C) establish clear policy and regulatory frameworks;

(D) improve the management of key economic sectors;

(E) combat corruption; and

(F) foster and support greater collaboration with and among partner countries and the United States private sector to develop secure and sustainable infrastructure;

(7) to lead in the advancement of international rules and norms that foster free and reciprocal trade and open and integrated markets;

(8) to conduct vigorous commercial diplomacy in support of United States companies and businesses in partner countries that seek fair competition;

(9) to ensure that the United States leads in the innovation of critical and emerging technologies, such as next-generation telecommunications, artificial intelligence, quantum information science, semiconductors, and biotechnology, by—

(A) providing necessary investment and concrete incentives for the private sector and the United States Government to accelerate development of such technologies;

(B) modernizing export controls and investment screening regimes and associated policies and regulations;

(C) enhancing United States leadership in technical standards-setting bodies and avenues for developing norms regarding the use of emerging critical technologies;

(D) reducing United States barriers and increasing incentives for collaboration with allies and partners on the research and co-development of critical technologies;

(E) collaborating with allies and partners to protect critical technologies by—

(i) crafting multilateral export control measures;

(ii) building capacity for defense technology security;

(iii) safeguarding chokepoints in supply chains; and

(iv) ensuring diversification; and

(F) designing major defense capabilities for export to allies and partners;

(10) to collaborate with advanced democracies and other willing partners to promote ideals and principles that—

(A) advance a free and open international order;

(B) strengthen democratic institutions;

(C) protect and promote human rights; and

(D) uphold a free press and fact-based reporting;

(11) to develop comprehensive and holistic strategies and policies to counter PRC disinformation campaigns;

(12) to demonstrate effective leadership at the United Nations, its associated agencies, and other multilateral organizations and defend the integrity of these organizations against co-optation by illiberal and authoritarian nations;

(13) to prioritize the defense of fundamental freedoms and human rights in the United States relationship with the PRC;

(14) to cooperate with allies, partners, and multilateral organizations, leveraging their significant and growing capabilities to build a network of like-minded states that sustains and strengthens a free and open order and addresses regional and global challenges to hold the Government of the PRC accountable for—

(A) violations and abuses of human rights;

(B) restrictions on religious practices; and

(C) undermining and abrogating treaties, other international agreements, and other international norms related to human rights;

(15) to expose the PRC's use of corruption, repression, and other malign behavior to attain unfair economic advantages and to pressure other nations to defer to its political and strategic objectives;

(16) to maintain United States access to the Western Pacific, including by—

(A) increasing United States forward-deployed forces in the Indo-Pacific region;

(B) modernizing the United States military through investments in existing and new platforms, emerging technologies, critical in-theater force structure and enabling capabilities, joint operational concepts, and a diverse, operationally resilient and politically sustainable posture; and

(C) operating and conducting exercises with allies and partners—

(i) to mitigate the Peoples Liberation Army's ability to project power and establish contested zones within the First and Second Island Chains;

(ii) to diminish the ability of the People's Liberation Army to coerce its neighbors;

(iii) to maintain open sea and air lanes, particularly in the Taiwan Strait, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea; and

(iv) to project power from the United States and its allies and partners to demonstrate the ability to conduct contested logistics;

(17) to deter the PRC from—

(A) coercing Indo-Pacific nations, including by developing more combat-credible forces that are integrated with allies and partners in contact, blunt, and surge layers and able to defeat any PRC theory of victory in the First or Second Island Chains of the Western Pacific and beyond, as called for in the 2018 National Defense Strategy;

(B) using grey-zone tactics below the level of armed conflict; or

(C) initiating armed conflict;

(18) to strengthen United States-PRC military-to-military communication and improve de-escalation procedures to de-conflict operations and reduce the risk of unwanted conflict, including through high-level visits and recurrent exchanges between civilian and military officials and other measures, in alignment with United States interests; and

(19) to cooperate with the PRC if interests align, including through bilateral or multilateral means and at the United Nations, as appropriate.

(b) ESTABLISHING AND EXPANDING THE REGIONAL CHINA OFFICER PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be established at the Department of State a Regional China Officer (RCO) program to support regional posts and officers with reporting, information, and policy tools, and to enhance expertise related to strategic competition with the PRC.

(2) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to the Department of State to expand the RCO program, including for—

(A) the placement of Regional China Officers at United States missions to the United Nations and United Nations affiliated organizations;

(B) the placement of additional Regional China Officers in Africa;

(C) the hiring of locally employed staff to support Regional China Officers serving abroad; and

(D) the establishment of full-time equivalent positions to assist in managing and facilitating the RCO program.

(3) PROGRAM FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $50,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for each Regional China Officer to support programs and public diplomacy activities of the Regional China Officer.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DATA-DRIVEN POLICY MAKING.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Office for China Coordination should employ at least one full-time equivalent Data Officer, who shall not be dual-hatted, focused on strategic competition with the PRC; and

(2) the Department should, to the extent possible within existing authorities, prioritize access for the Office for China Coordination to databases, commercial software, and other data to support policy-making related to strategic competition with the PRC.

SA 3126. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO SECURE CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY ON CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to collaborate with allies and partners of the United States to build secure and resilient critical minerals supply chains, including in the mining, processing, and valuation of critical minerals, as well as with respect to advanced manufacturing that includes critical minerals;

(2) to prioritize the development and production of critical minerals domestically, both to supply domestic needs and for export to allies and partners that participate in secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals;

(3) to reduce or eliminate reliance and dependence on critical mineral supply chains

controlled by the PRC, the Russian Federation, Iran, or any other adversary of the United States;

(4) to work with allies and partners on enhancing evaluation capability and technology in trusted countries that produce critical minerals to avoid the export of mined and processed critical minerals to adversaries of the United States;

(5) to identify and implement market-based incentives for the purposes of facilitating the creation and maintenance of secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains in collaboration with allies and partners;

(6) to prioritize securing critical mineral supply chains in United States foreign policy, including through the use of economic tools to invest responsibly in projects in partner countries in a manner that both benefits local populations and bolsters the supply of critical minerals to the United States and allies and partners of the United States; and

(7) that collaboration with allies and partners to build secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains shall not replace United States efforts to increase domestic development and production of critical minerals.

(b) INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS RELATING TO PROTECTING CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to negotiate an agreement with international partners for the purposes of establishing a coalition—

(A) to facilitate—

(i) the mining, processing, and supply of critical minerals; and

(ii) advanced manufacturing that includes critical minerals; and

(B) to secure an adequate supply of critical minerals and relevant products, manufacturing inputs, and components that are heavily dependent on critical mineral resources for the United States and other members of the coalition (in this subsection referred to as ''member countries'').

(2) NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.—The overall objectives for negotiating an agreement described in paragraph (1) should be—

(A) to establish mechanisms for member countries to build secure and resilient supply chains for critical minerals, including in—

(i) the mining, refinement, processing, and valuation of critical minerals; and

(ii) advanced manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(B) to improve economies of scale and joint cooperation with international partners in securing access and means of production throughout the supply chains of critical minerals and manufacturing processes dependent on critical minerals;

(C) to establish mechanisms, with appropriate market-based disciplines, that provide and maintain opportunities among member countries for creating industry economies of scale to attract joint investment among those countries, including—

(i) cooperation on joint projects, including cost-sharing on building appropriate infrastructure to access deposits of critical minerals; and

(ii) creation or enhancement of national and international programs to support the development of robust industries by providing appropriate sector-specific incentives, such as political risk and other insurance opportunities, financing, and other support, for—

(I) mining and processing critical minerals;

(II) manufacturing of products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals and are essential to consumer technology products or have important national security implications; and

(III) associated transportation needs that are tailored to the handling, movement, and logistics management of critical minerals and products, components, and materials that are dependent on critical minerals;

(D) to establish market-based rules for member countries regarding adoption of qualifying tax and other incentives to stimulate investment, as balanced by market-based disciplines to ensure a fair playing field among those countries;

(E) to establish recommended best practices to protect—

(i) labor rights;

(ii) the natural environment and ecosystems near critical mineral industrial sites; and

(iii) safety of communities near critical mineral industrial activities;

(F) to advance economic growth in developing countries with critical mineral reserves, including for the benefit of the citizens of those countries;

(G) to establish rules allowing for the establishment of a consortium that is resourced and empowered to bid and compete in acquiring and securing potential deposits of critical minerals in countries that are not members of the coalition described in paragraph (1) (in this subsection referred to as ''nonmember countries'');

(H) to establish a mechanism for joint resource mapping with procedures for equitable sharing of information on potential deposits of critical minerals not less frequently than annually;

(I) to establish appropriate mechanisms for the recognition and enforcement by a member country of judgments relating to environmental and related harms caused by mining operations within such member country in contravention of that country's laws; and

(J) to improve supply chain security among member countries by providing for national treatment investment protections among those countries that are equal to, or better than, the standards in the United States model bilateral investment treaty.

(c) MINERALS SECURITY PARTNERSHIP AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, is authorized to lead United States participation in the ''Minerals Security Partnership'', for the following purposes:

(A) To identify and support investment and advocate for commercial critical mineral mining, processing, and refining projects that enable robust and secure critical mineral supply chains, in consultation with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(B) To coordinate with relevant regional bureaus to develop regional diplomatic engagement strategies related to critical minerals projects and to identify projects that are priorities.

(C) To coordinate with United States missions abroad on projects, programs, and investments that enable robust and secure critical mineral supply chains.

(D) To coordinate with current and prospective members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(E) To establish a mechanism for information-sharing with members of the Minerals Security Partnership.

(F) To establish policies and procedures, and if necessary, to provide funding to facilitate cooperation on joint projects with members of the Minerals Security Partnership and the Mineral Security Forum, including those related to cost-sharing agreements, political risk insurance, financing, equity investments, and other support, in coordination with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

(G) If an agreement described in subsection (b) is entered into, to support the establishment of the coalition described in that subsection.

(2) DATABASE.—As part of the Minerals Security Partnership, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary, is authorized to establish and maintain a database of critical mineral projects for the purpose of providing high quality and up-to-date information to the private sector in order to spur greater investment, increase the resilience of global critical minerals supply chains, and boost United States supply.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS FOR PERSONNEL.—With respect to staffing personnel to carry out the Minerals Security Partnership, the Secretary shall prioritize individuals with the following qualifications:

(A) Substantive knowledge and experience in issues related to critical minerals supply chain and their application to strategic industries, including in the defense, energy, and technology sectors.

(B) Substantive knowledge and experience in large-scale multi-donor project financing and related technical and diplomatic arrangements, international coalition-building, and project management.

(C) Substantive knowledge and experience in trade and foreign policy, defense-industrial base policy, or national security-sensitive supply chain issues.

(4) PRIVATE SECTOR COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State shall ensure close coordination between the Department of State, the private sector, and relevant civil society groups on the implementation of this subsection.

(5) PROJECT SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States, through its participation in the Minerals Security Partnership, shall prioritize projects that advance the national and economic security interests of the United States and allies and partners of the United States.

(B) CRITERIA REQUIREMENTS.—The United States should advocate for the Minerals Security Partnership to use environmental, social, or governance standards, including as criteria for project selection, that are consistent with United States law or international agreements approved by Congress.

(d) UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL NICKEL STUDY GROUP.—

(1) UNITED STATES MEMBERSHIP.—The President is authorized to accept the Terms of Reference of and maintain membership of the United States in the International Nickel Study Group (INSG).

(2) PAYMENTS OF ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS.—For fiscal year 2024 and thereafter, the United States assessed contributions to the INSG may be paid from funds appropriated for ''Contributions to International Organizations''.

(e) CRITICAL MINERAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''critical mineral''—

(1) has the meaning given the term in section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606); and

(2) includes any other mineral or mineral material determined by the Secretary of State—

(A) to be essential to the economic or national security of the United States; and

(B) to have a supply chain vulnerable to disruption.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State $75,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 to enhance critical mineral supply chain security, including to implement this section.

SA 3127. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established at the Department of State an Office of the Chief Economist.

(b) DUTIES.—The Office will be led by the Chief Economist of the Department of State, at the Senior Executive Service or equivalent level, and shall be responsible for—

(1) conducting economic research, collecting and analyzing data, and preparing reports and assessments and policy recommendations to senior Department leadership on international economic trends, opportunities, and challenges and unanticipated global developments with economic impacts; and

(2) providing economic analysis to inform policy making, including related to—

(A) international trade and trade policy;

(B) international macroeconomics and finance;

(C) economic development;

(D) competition and industrial strategy;

(E) economic sanctions development and implementation, and sanctions evasion; and

(F) capacity building;

(3) coordinating with allies and partners, other relevant agencies, departments, and stakeholders on international economic matters;

(4) identifying countries vulnerable to PRC economic coercion, and analyzing commodities, products, services, and other economic linkages of each such country that may be vulnerable targets for PRC economic coercion, including examining risk factors such as—

(A) perishability;

(B) strategic or political value, or to regional or global supply chains;

(C) proportion of the total export value for the exporting country of the product being exported to a country engaged in economic coercion;

(D) potential exposure of the product to arbitrary or excessive regulatory, phytosanitary, or other safety or inspection requirements; and

(E) reliance of a country on the import of such commodities, product, or services; and

(5) analyzing and monitoring economic linkages to identify goods and commodities with respect to which United States allies and partners may be vulnerable to economic coercion that is informed by—

(A) current market data;

(B) information, including United States intelligence, on economic coercion strategies;

(C) relevant data from before, during and after past instances of economic coercion; and

(D) any other relevant information needed to support economic analysis and policy recommendations, including access to information technology systems which integrate and synthesize economic and related data.

(c) PERSONNEL.—In addition to a qualified professional Chief Economist, the Secretary of State is authorized to employ sufficient full-time equivalent individuals to fully execute the Office of the Chief Economist, including—

(1) a Deputy Chief Economist, who must be a qualified professional economist;

(2) at least four qualified professional economists at the GS–15 level;

(3) a Chief Data Officer;

(4) a Chief of Staff;

(5) research economists;

(6) career members of the foreign service, including program support staff; and

(7) temporary staff, including fellows.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Office for personnel costs, project and data services, and limited travel funds.

SA 3128. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CIVILIAN SECURITY IN HONG KONG.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 for the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State to promote democracy, human rights, and civilian security in Hong Kong.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of State shall designate an office within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor to administer and coordinate the provision of the funds described in subsection (a) within the Department of State and across the United States Government.

SA 3129. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF INTERNET FREEDOM AND CIRCUMVENTION TOOLS FOR THE PEOPLE OF HONG KONG.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The PRC has repeatedly violated its obligations under the Joint Declaration by suppressing the basic rights and freedoms of Hong Kongers.

(2) On June 30, 2020, the National People's Congress passed a ''National Security Law'' that further erodes Hong Kong's autonomy and enables authorities to suppress dissent.

(3) The PRC continues to utilize the National Security Law to undermine the fundamental rights of the people of Hong Kong through suppression of the freedom of speech, assembly, religion, and the press.

(4) Article 9 of the National Security Law authorizes unprecedented regulation and supervision of internet activity in Hong Kong, including expanded police powers to force internet service providers to censor content, hand over user information, and block access to platforms.

(5) On January 13, 2021, the Hong Kong Broadband Network blocked public access to HK Chronicles, a website promoting pro-democracy viewpoints, under the authorities of the National Security Law.

(6) On February 12, 2021, internet service providers blocked Hong Kong users' access to the Taiwan Transitional Justice Commission website in Hong Kong.

(7) Major tech companies, including Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and Google have stopped reviewing requests for user data from Hong Kong authorities.

(8) On February 28, 2021, 47 pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong were arrested and charged under the National Security Law on the charge of ''conspiracy to commit subversion''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) support the ability of the people of Hong Kong to maintain their freedom to access information online; and

(2) focus on investments in technologies that facilitate the unhindered exchange of information in Hong Kong in advance of any future efforts by the Chinese Communist Party—

(A) to suppress internet access;

(B) to increase online censorship; or

(C) to inhibit online communication and content-sharing by the people of Hong Kong.

(c) HONG KONG INTERNET FREEDOM PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall establish a Hong Kong Internet Freedom Program in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State which shall include a working group dedicated to developing a strategy to bolster internet resiliency and online access in Hong Kong (in this subsection, the ''Program''). The working group shall consist of—

(A) the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights;

(B) the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs;

(C) the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media;

(D) the President of the Open Technology Fund;

(E) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; and

(F) the Ambassador-at-large for Cyberspace and Digital Policy;

(2) INDEPENDENCE.—During the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2027, the Program shall be carried out independent from internet freedom programs focused on the rest of the PRC.

(3) CONSOLIDATION OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROGRAM.—Beginning on October 1, 2026, the Secretary of State may—

(A) consolidate the Program with the mainland China initiatives in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; or

(B) continue to carry out the Program in accordance with paragraph (2).

(d) SUPPORT FOR INTERNET FREEDOM TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—

(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of State, working with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the President of the Open Technology fund as appropriate, are authorized to award grants and contracts to private organizations to support and develop programs in Hong Kong that promote or expand—

(A) open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet; and

(B) the online exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms of individual citizens,

activists, human rights defenders, independent journalists, civil society organizations, and marginalized populations in Hong Kong.

(2) GOALS.—The goals of the programs developed with grants authorized under paragraph (1) should be—

(A) to support unrestricted access to the internet in Hong Kong;

(B) to increase the availability of internet freedom tools in Hong Kong;

(C) to scale up the distribution of such technologies and tools throughout Hong Kong;

(D) to prioritize the development of tools, components, code, and technologies that are fully open-source, to the extent practicable;

(E) to conduct research on repressive tactics that undermine internet freedom in Hong Kong;

(F) to ensure information on digital safety is available to human rights defenders, independent journalists, civil society organizations, and marginalized populations in Hong Kong; and

(G) to engage private industry, including e-commerce firms and social networking companies, on the importance of preserving unrestricted internet access in Hong Kong.

(3) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Grants authorized under this subsection shall be distributed to multiple vendors and suppliers through an open, fair, competitive, and evidence-based decision process—

(A) to diversify the technical base; and

(B) to reduce the risk of misuse by bad actors.

(4) SECURITY AUDITS.—New technologies developed using grants authorized under this subsection shall undergo comprehensive security audits to ensure that such technologies are secure and have not been compromised in a manner detrimental to the interests of the United States or to individuals or organizations benefitting from programs supported by these funds.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) OPEN TECHNOLOGY FUND.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Open Technology Fund $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section. This funding is in addition to the funds authorized for the Open Technology Fund pursuant to section 309A of United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6208a).

(2) BUREAU OF DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR.—In addition to the funds authorized to be made available pursuant to paragraph (1), there is authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Internet Freedom Programs in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section.

SA 3130. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE UYGHUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ACT.

Section 6(h) of the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–145; 22 U.S.C. 6901 note) is amended by striking ''5 years after'' and inserting ''10 years after''.

SA 3131. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1095. PRESERVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE GENERICS AND BIOSIMILARS ACT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Preserve Access to Affordable Generics and Biosimilars Act''.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) In 1984, the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act (Public Law 98–417) (referred to in this Act as the ''1984 Act''), was enacted with the intent of facilitating the early entry of generic drugs while preserving incentives for innovation.

(B) Prescription drugs make up approximately 10 percent of the national health care spending.

(C) Initially, the 1984 Act was successful in facilitating generic competition to the benefit of consumers and health care payers, although 88 percent of all prescriptions dispensed in the United States are generic drugs, they account for only 28 percent of all expenditures.

(D) Generic drugs cost substantially less than brand name drugs, with discounts off the brand price averaging 80 to 85 percent.

(E) Federal dollars currently account for over 40 percent of the $325,000,000,000 spent on retail prescription drugs, and this share is expected to rise to 47 percent by 2025.

(F)(i) In recent years, the intent of the 1984 Act has been subverted by certain settlement agreements in which brand name companies transfer value to their potential generic competitors to settle claims that the generic company is infringing the branded company's patents.

(ii) These ''reverse payment'' settlement agreements—

(I) allow a branded company to share its monopoly profits with the generic company as a way to protect the branded company's monopoly; and

(II) have unduly delayed the marketing of low-cost generic drugs contrary to free competition, the interests of consumers, and the principles underlying antitrust law.

(iii) Because of the price disparity between brand name and generic drugs, such agreements are more profitable for both the brand and generic manufacturers than competition and will become increasingly common unless prohibited.

(iv) These agreements result in consumers losing the benefits that the 1984 Act was intended to provide.

(G) In 2010, the Biologics Price Competition and Innovation Act (Public Law 111–148) (referred to in this Act as the ''BPCIA''), was enacted with the intent of facilitating the early entry of biosimilar and interchangeable follow-on versions of branded biological products while preserving incentives for innovation.

(H) Biological drugs play an important role in treating many serious illnesses, from cancers to genetic disorders. They are also expensive, representing more than 40 percent of all prescription drug spending.

(I) Competition from biosimilar and interchangeable biological products promises to lower drug costs and increase patient access to biological medicines. But ''reverse payment'' settlement agreements also threaten to delay the entry of biosimilar and interchangeable biological products, which would undermine the goals of BPCIA.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(A) to enhance competition in the pharmaceutical market by stopping anticompetitive agreements between brand name and generic drug and biosimilar biological product manufacturers that limit, delay, or otherwise prevent competition from generic drugs and biosimilar biological products; and

(B) to support the purpose and intent of antitrust law by prohibiting anticompetitive practices in the pharmaceutical industry that harm consumers.

(c) UNLAWFUL COMPENSATION FOR DELAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 26 (15 U.S.C. 57c–2) the following:

''SEC. 27. PRESERVING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE GENERICS AND BIOSIMILARS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDING.—The Commission may initiate a proceeding to enforce the provisions of this section against the parties to any agreement resolving or settling, on a final or interim basis, a patent claim, in connection with the sale of a drug product or biological product.

''(2) PRESUMPTION AND VIOLATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), in such a proceeding, an agreement shall be presumed to have anticompetitive effects and shall be a violation of this section if—

''(i) an ANDA filer or a biosimilar biological product application filer receives anything of value, including an exclusive license; and

''(ii) the ANDA filer or biosimilar biological product application filer agrees to limit or forgo research, development, manufacturing, marketing, or sales of the ANDA product or biosimilar biological product, as applicable, for any period of time.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply if the parties to such agreement demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that—

''(i) the value described in subparagraph (A)(i) is compensation solely for other goods or services that the ANDA filer or biosimilar biological product application filer has promised to provide; or

''(ii) the procompetitive benefits of the agreement outweigh the anticompetitive effects of the agreement.

''(b) EXCLUSIONS.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a resolution or settlement of a patent infringement claim in which the consideration that the ANDA filer or biosimilar biological product application filer, respectively, receives as part of the resolution or settlement includes only one or more of the following:

''(1) The right to market and secure final approval in the United States for the ANDA product or biosimilar biological product at a date, whether certain or contingent, prior to the expiration of—

''(A) any patent that is the basis for the patent infringement claim; or

''(B) any patent right or other statutory exclusivity that would prevent the marketing of such ANDA product or biosimilar biological product.

''(2) A payment for reasonable litigation expenses not to exceed—

''(A) for calendar year 2024, $7,500,000; or

''(B) for calendar year 2025 and each subsequent calendar year, the amount determined for the preceding calendar year adjusted to reflect the percentage increase (if any) in the

Producer Price Index for Legal Services published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor for the most recent calendar year.

''(3) A covenant not to sue on any claim that the ANDA product or biosimilar biological product infringes a United States patent.

''(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) ENFORCEMENT.—A violation of this section shall be treated as an unfair method of competition under section 5(a)(1).

''(2) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any party that is subject to a final order of the Commission, issued in an administrative adjudicative proceeding under the authority of subsection (a)(1), may, within 30 days of the issuance of such order, petition for review of such order in—

''(i) the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit;

''(ii) the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the ultimate parent entity, as defined in section 801.1(a)(3) of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, of the NDA holder or biological product license holder is incorporated as of the date that the NDA or biological product license application, as applicable, is filed with the Secretary of Health and Human Services; or

''(iii) the United States Court of Appeals for the circuit in which the ultimate parent entity of the ANDA filer or biosimilar biological product application filer is incorporated as of the date that the ANDA or biosimilar biological product application is filed with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

''(B) TREATMENT OF FINDINGS.—In a proceeding for judicial review of a final order of the Commission, the findings of the Commission as to the facts, if supported by evidence, shall be conclusive.

''(d) ANTITRUST LAWS.—Nothing in this section shall modify, impair, limit, or supersede the applicability of the antitrust laws as defined in subsection (a) of the first section of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. 12(a)), and of section 5 of this Act to the extent that section 5 applies to unfair methods of competition. Nothing in this section shall modify, impair, limit, or supersede the right of an ANDA filer or biosimilar biological product application filer to assert claims or counterclaims against any person, under the antitrust laws or other laws relating to unfair competition.

''(e) PENALTIES.—

''(1) FORFEITURE.—Each party that violates or assists in the violation of this section shall forfeit and pay to the United States a civil penalty sufficient to deter violations of this section, but in no event greater than 3 times the value received by the party that is reasonably attributable to the violation of this section. If no such value has been received by the NDA holder, the biological product license holder, the ANDA filer, or the biosimilar biological product application filer, the penalty to the NDA holder, the biological product license holder, the ANDA filer, or the biosimilar biological product application filer shall be sufficient to deter violations, but in no event shall be greater than 3 times the value given to an ANDA filer or biosimilar biological product application filer reasonably attributable to the violation of this section. Such penalty shall accrue to the United States and may be recovered in a civil action brought by the Commission, in its own name by any of its attorneys designated by it for such purpose, in a district court of the United States against any party that violates this section. In such actions, the United States district courts are empowered to grant mandatory injunctions and such other and further equitable relief as they deem appropriate.

''(2) CEASE AND DESIST.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Commission has issued a cease and desist order with respect to a party in an administrative adjudicative proceeding under the authority of subsection (a)(1), an action brought pursuant to paragraph (1) may be commenced against such party at any time before the expiration of 1 year after such order becomes final pursuant to section 5(g).

''(B) EXCEPTION.—In an action under subparagraph (A), the findings of the Commission as to the material facts in the administrative adjudicative proceeding with respect to the violation of this section by a party shall be conclusive unless—

''(i) the terms of such cease and desist order expressly provide that the Commission's findings shall not be conclusive; or

''(ii) the order became final by reason of section 5(g)(1), in which case such finding shall be conclusive if supported by evidence.

''(3) CIVIL PENALTY.—In determining the amount of the civil penalty described in this section, the court shall take into account—

''(A) the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation;

''(B) with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, any history of violations, the ability to pay, any effect on the ability to continue doing business, profits earned by the NDA holder, the biological product license holder, the ANDA filer, or the biosimilar biological product application filer, compensation received by the ANDA filer or biosimilar biological product application filer, and the amount of commerce affected; and

''(C) other matters that justice requires.

''(4) REMEDIES IN ADDITION.—Remedies provided in this subsection are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedy provided by Federal law. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit any authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) AGREEMENT.—The term 'agreement' means anything that would constitute an agreement under section 1 of the Sherman Act (15 U.S.C. 1) or section 5 of this Act.

''(2) AGREEMENT RESOLVING OR SETTLING A PATENT INFRINGEMENT CLAIM.—The term 'agreement resolving or settling a patent infringement claim' includes any agreement that is entered into within 30 days of the resolution or the settlement of the claim, or any other agreement that is contingent upon, provides a contingent condition for, or is otherwise related to the resolution or settlement of the claim.

''(3) ANDA.—The term 'ANDA' means an abbreviated new drug application filed under section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)) or a new drug application submitted pursuant to section 505(b)(2) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)(2)).

''(4) ANDA FILER.—The term 'ANDA filer' means a party that owns or controls an ANDA filed with the Secretary of Health and Human Services or has the exclusive rights under such ANDA to distribute the ANDA product.

''(5) ANDA PRODUCT.—The term 'ANDA product' means the product to be manufactured under the ANDA that is the subject of the patent infringement claim.

''(6) BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT.—The term 'biological product' has the meaning given such term in section 351(i)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(i)(1)).

''(7) BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT LICENSE APPLICATION.—The term 'biological product license application' means an application under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)).

''(8) BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT LICENSE HOLDER.—The term 'biological product license holder' means—

''(A) the holder of an approved biological product license application for a biological product;

''(B) a person owning or controlling enforcement of any patents that claim the biological product that is the subject of such approved application; or

''(C) the predecessors, subsidiaries, divisions, groups, and affiliates controlled by, controlling, or under common control with any of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) (such control to be presumed by direct or indirect share ownership of 50 percent or greater), as well as the licensees, licensors, successors, and assigns of each of the entities.

''(9) BIOSIMILAR BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT.—The term 'biosimilar biological product' means the product to be manufactured under the biosimilar biological product application that is the subject of the patent infringement claim.

''(10) BIOSIMILAR BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT APPLICATION.—The term 'biosimilar biological product application' means an application under section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(k)) for licensure of a biological product as biosimilar to, or interchangeable with, a reference product.

''(11) BIOSIMILAR BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT APPLICATION FILER.—The term 'biosimilar biological product application filer' means a party that owns or controls a biosimilar biological product application filed with the Secretary of Health and Human Services or has the exclusive rights under such application to distribute the biosimilar biological product.

''(12) DRUG PRODUCT.—The term 'drug product' has the meaning given such term in section 314.3(b) of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

''(13) MARKET.—The term 'market' means the promotion, offering for sale, selling, or distribution of a drug product.

''(14) NDA.—The term 'NDA' means a new drug application filed under section 505(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(b)).

''(15) NDA HOLDER.—The term 'NDA holder' means—

''(A) the holder of an approved NDA application for a drug product;

''(B) a person owning or controlling enforcement of the patent listed in the Approved Drug Products With Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations (commonly known as the 'FDA Orange Book') in connection with the NDA; or

''(C) the predecessors, subsidiaries, divisions, groups, and affiliates controlled by, controlling, or under common control with any of the entities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) (such control to be presumed by direct or indirect share ownership of 50 percent or greater), as well as the licensees, licensors, successors, and assigns of each of the entities.

''(16) PARTY.—The term 'party' means any person, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity.

''(17) PATENT INFRINGEMENT.—The term 'patent infringement' means infringement of any patent or of any filed patent application, including any extension, reissue, renewal, division, continuation, continuation in part, reexamination, patent term restoration, patents of addition, and extensions thereof.

''(18) PATENT INFRINGEMENT CLAIM.—The term 'patent infringement claim' means any allegation made to an ANDA filer or biosimilar biological product application filer, whether or not included in a complaint filed with a court of law, that its ANDA or ANDA

product, or biosimilar biological product application or biosimilar biological product, may infringe any patent held by, or exclusively licensed to, the NDA holder or biological product license holder of the drug product or biological product, as applicable.

''(19) STATUTORY EXCLUSIVITY.—The term 'statutory exclusivity' means those prohibitions on the submission or the approval of drug applications under clauses (ii) through (iv) of section 505(c)(3)(E), clauses (ii) through (iv) of section 505(j)(5)(F), section 527, section 505A, or section 505E of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(c)(3)(E), 360cc, 355a, 355f), or on the submission or licensing of biological product applications under section 351(k)(7) or paragraph (2) or (3) of section 351(m) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) or under section 527 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360cc).''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 27 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as added by this section, shall apply to all agreements described in section 27(a)(1) of that Act entered into on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) CERTIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS.—

(1) NOTICE OF ALL AGREEMENTS.—Section 1111(7) of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (21 U.S.C. 355 note) is amended by inserting '', or the owner of a patent for which a claim of infringement could reasonably be asserted against any person for making, using, offering to sell, selling, or importing into the United States a biological product that is the subject of a biosimilar biological product application'' before the period at the end.

(2) CERTIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS.—Section 1112 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (21 U.S.C. 355 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) CERTIFICATION.—The Chief Executive Officer or the company official responsible for negotiating any agreement under subsection (a) or (b) that is required to be filed under subsection (c), within 30 days after such filing, shall execute and file with the Assistant Attorney General and the Commission a certification as follows: 'I declare that the following is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge: The materials filed with the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice under section 1112 of subtitle B of title XI of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, with respect to the agreement referenced in this certification—

''(1) represent the complete, final, and exclusive agreement between the parties;

''(2) include any ancillary agreements that are contingent upon, provide a contingent condition for, or are otherwise related to, the referenced agreement; and

''(3) include written descriptions of any oral agreements, representations, commitments, or promises between the parties that are responsive to subsection (a) or (b) of such section 1112 and have not been reduced to writing.' ''.

(e) NOTIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS.—Section 1112 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 (21 U.S.C. 355 note), as amended by subsection (d)(2), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An agreement that is required under subsection (a) or (b) shall include agreements resolving any outstanding disputes, including agreements resolving or settling a Patent Trial and Appeal Board proceeding.

''(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'Patent Trial and Appeal Board proceeding' means a proceeding conducted by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, including an inter partes review instituted under chapter 31 of title 35, United States Code, a post-grant review instituted under chapter 32 of that title (including a proceeding instituted pursuant to the transitional program for covered business method patents, as described in section 18 of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 321 note)), and a derivation proceeding instituted under section 135 of that title.''.

(f) FORFEITURE OF 180-DAY EXCLUSIVITY PERIOD.—Section 505(j)(5)(D)(i)(V) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(5)(D)(i)(V)) is amended by inserting ''section 27 of the Federal Trade Commission Act or'' after ''that the agreement has violated''.

(g) COMMISSION LITIGATION AUTHORITY.—Section 16(a)(2) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 56(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subparagraph (E)—

(A) by moving the margin 2 ems to the left; and

(B) by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon; and

(3) inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) under section 27,''.

(h) REPORT ON ADDITIONAL EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a recommendation, and the Commission's basis for such recommendation, regarding a potential amendment to include in section 27(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (as added by subsection (c)) an additional exclusion for consideration granted by an NDA holder to a ANDA filer or by a biological product license holder to a biosimilar biological product application filer as part of the resolution or settlement, a release, waiver, or limitation of a claim for damages or other monetary relief.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ''ANDA filer'', ''biological product license holder'', ''biosimilar biological product application filer'', and ''NDA holder'' have the meanings given such terms in section 27(f) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (as added by subsection (c)).

(i) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—The Federal Trade Commission shall commence any enforcement proceeding described in section 27 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as added by subsection (c), except for an action described in section 27(e)(2) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, not later than 6 years after the date on which the parties to the agreement file the certification under section 1112(d) of the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (21 U.S.C. 355 note).

(j) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, an amendment made by this section, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this section, the amendments made by this section, and the application of the provisions of such section or amendments to any person or circumstance shall not be affected.

SA 3132. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. COTTON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 318. EXTENSION OF PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSURE BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTORS OF INFORMATION RELATING TO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

Section 318(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (Public Law 118–31; 10 U.S.C. 4651 note prec.) is amended by striking ''one-year'' and inserting ''two-year''.

SA 3133. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XV, add the following:

Subtitle E—SAFE Orbit Act

SEC. 1549. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Situational Awareness of Flying Elements in Orbit Act'' or the ''SAFE Orbit Act''.

SEC. 1550. SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall facilitate safe operations in space and encourage the development of commercial space capabilities by acquiring and disseminating unclassified data, analytics, information, and services on space activities.

(b) IMMUNITY.—The United States, any agencies and instrumentalities thereof, and any individuals, firms, corporations, and other persons acting for the United States, including nongovernmental entities, shall be immune from any suit in any court for any cause of action arising from the provision or receipt of space situational awareness services or information, whether or not provided in accordance with this section, or any related action or omission.

(c) ACQUISITION OF DATA.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce (established under section 50702(b) of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 1551) is authorized to acquire—

(1) data, analytics, information, and services, including with respect to—

(A) location tracking data;

(B) positional and orbit determination information; and

(C) conjunction data messages; and

(2) such other data, analytics, information, and services as the Secretary of Commerce determines necessary to avoid collisions of space objects.

(d) DATABASE ON SATELLITE LOCATION AND BEHAVIOR.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall provide access for the public, at no charge, a fully updated, unclassified database of information concerning space objects and behavior that includes—

(1) the data and information acquired under subsection (c), except to the extent that such data or information is classified or a trade secret (as defined in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code); and

(2) the provision of basic space situational awareness services and space traffic coordination based on the data referred to in paragraph (1), including basic analytics, tracking calculations, and conjunction data messages.

(e) BASIC SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SERVICES.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce—

(1) shall provide to satellite operators, at no charge, basic space situational awareness services, including the data, analytics, information, and services described in subsection (c);

(2) in carrying out paragraph (1), may not compete with private sector space situational awareness products, to the maximum extent practicable; and

(3) not less frequently than every 3 years, shall review the basic space situational awareness services described in paragraph (1) to ensure that such services provided by the Federal Government do not compete with space situational awareness services offered by the private sector.

(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ACQUISITION AND DISSEMINATION.—In acquiring data, analytics, information, and services under subsection (c) and disseminating data, analytics, information, and services under subsections (d) and (e), the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall—

(1) leverage commercial capabilities to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) prioritize the acquisition of data, analytics, information, and services from commercial industry located in or licensed in the United States to supplement data collected by United States Government agencies, including the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(3) appropriately protect proprietary data, information, and systems of firms located in the United States, including by using appropriate infrastructure and cybersecurity measures, including measures set forth in the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework, or successor document, maintained by the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(4) facilitate the development of standardization and consistency in data reporting, in collaboration with satellite owners and operators, commercial space situational awareness data and service providers, the academic community, nonprofit organizations, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(5) encourage foreign governments to participate in unclassified data sharing arrangements for space situational awareness and space traffic coordination.

(g) OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the activities required by this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary.

SEC. 1551. OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 50701 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 50701. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

''(2) BUREAU.—The term 'Bureau' means the Bureau of Space Commerce established under section 50702.

''(3) ORBITAL DEBRIS.—The term 'orbital debris'—

''(A) means—

''(i) any human-made space object orbiting Earth that—

''(I) no longer serves an intended purpose;

''(II) has reached the end of its mission; or

''(III) is incapable of safe maneuver or operation; and

''(ii) a rocket body and other hardware left in orbit as a result of normal launch and operational activities; and

''(B) includes fragmentation debris produced by failure or collision of human-made space objects.

''(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce.

''(5) SPACE OBJECT.—The term 'space object' means any object launched into space or created in space robotically or by humans, including the component parts of such an object.

''(6) SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term 'space situational awareness' means—

''(A) the identification, characterization, tracking, and the predicted movement and behavior of space objects and orbital debris; and

''(B) the understanding of the space operational environment.

''(7) SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.—The term 'space traffic coordination' means the planning, assessment, and coordination of activities to enhance the safety, stability, and sustainability of operations in the space environment.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 50701 and inserting the following:

''50701. Definitions.''.

(b) TRANSITION OF OFFICE TO BUREAU.—Subsection (a) of section 50702 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', which, not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be elevated by the Secretary of Commerce from an office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting directly to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce''.

(c) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF BUREAU.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) to perform space situational awareness and space traffic management duties pursuant to the SAFE Orbit Act.''.

(d) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR SPACE COMMERCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Bureau shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce, who shall—

''(1) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

''(2) report directly to the Secretary of Commerce; and

''(3) have a rate of pay that is equal to the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 50702(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DIRECTOR'' and inserting ''ASSISTANT SECRETARY''; and

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary''.

(B) Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (11)'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (12)''.

(3) REFERENCES.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, any reference in any law or regulation to the Director of the Office of Space Commerce shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

(e) TRANSITION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sets forth transition and continuity of operations plans for the functional and administrative transfer of the Office of Space Commerce from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) GOAL.—The goal of transition and continuity of operations planning shall be to minimize the cost and administrative burden of establishing the Bureau of Space Commerce while maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the functions and responsibilities of the Bureau of Space Commerce, in accordance with this section and the amendments made by this section.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 3134. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end title XV, add the following:

Subtitle E—Licensing Aerospace Units to New Commercial Heights Act of 2024

SEC. 1549. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Licensing Aerospace Units to New Commercial Heights Act of 2024'' or the ''LAUNCH Act''.

SEC. 1550. STREAMLINING REGULATIONS RELATING TO COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH AND REENTRY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PART 450.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this subtitle as the ''Secretary'') shall evaluate the implementation of part 450 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (in this section referred to as ''part 450'') and the impacts of part 450 on the commercial spaceflight industry.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The evaluation required by paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of—

(A) whether increased uncertainty in the commercial spaceflight industry has resulted from the implementation of part 450;

(B) whether part 450 has resulted in operational delays to emerging launch programs; and

(C) whether timelines for reviews have changed, including an assessment of the impact of the incremental review process on those timelines and the root cause for multiple reviews, if applicable.

(3) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after completing the review required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and

Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(A) the findings of the review;

(B) recommendations for reducing delays and inefficiencies resulting from part 450 that do not rely solely on additional personnel or funding; and

(C) an estimate for a timeline and funding for implementing the recommendations described in subparagraph (B).

(b) RULEMAKING COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall consider establishing a Space Transportation Rulemaking Committee, comprised of established and emerging United States commercial space launch and reentry services providers (including providers that hold, and providers that have applied for but not yet received, licenses issued under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code)—

(A) to facilitate industry participation in developing recommendations for amendments to part 450 to address the challenges identified in conducting the review required by subsection (a) or under paragraph (2) of section 50905(d) of title 51, United States Code (as added by subsection (d)(3)); and

(B) to provide a long-term forum for the United States commercial spaceflight industry to share perspectives relating to regulations affecting the industry.

(2) PREVENTION OF DUPLICATIVE EFFORTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that a Space Transportation Rulemaking Committee established under this subsection does not provide services or make efforts that are duplicative of the services provided and efforts made by the Commercial Space Transportation Advisory Committee.

(c) ENCOURAGEMENT OF INNOVATION.—The Secretary shall, on an ongoing basis, determine whether any requirements for a license issued under chapter 509 of title 51, United States Code, can be modified or eliminated to encourage innovative new technologies and operations.

(d) MODIFICATIONS TO REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS.—

(1) CONSIDERATION OF SAFETY RATIONALES OF LICENSE APPLICANTS.—Section 50905(a)(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking ''Secretary may'' inserting the following: ''Secretary—

''(A) may'';

(B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) shall accept a reasonable safety rationale proposed by an applicant for a license under this chapter, including new approaches, consistent with paragraph (1).''.

(2) FACILITATION OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS.—Section 50905(a) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall assign a licensing team lead to each applicant for a license under this chapter to assist the applicant in streamlining the process for reviewing and approving the license application.''.

(3) STREAMLINING OF REVIEW PROCESSES.—Section 50905(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the end period and inserting the following: '', including by—

''(1) adjudicating determinations with respect to such applications and revisions to such determinations in a timely manner as part of the incremental review process under section 450.33 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation); and

''(2) eliminating and streamlining duplicative review processes with other agencies, particularly relating to the use of Federal ranges or requirements to use the assets of Federal ranges.''.

SEC. 1551. DIRECT HIRE FOR OFFICE OF COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall use direct hire authorities (as such authorities existed on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act) to hire individuals on a noncompetitive basis for positions related to space launch and reentry licensing and permit activities.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives an annual report on the use of direct hiring authorities to fill such positions within the Federal Aviation Administration related to commercial space launch and reentry licensing and permit activities.

SEC. 1552. FLIGHT SAFETY ANALYSIS WORKFORCE.

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

(1) flight safety analysis is critical to maintaining a high level of public safety for commercial space launches from, and reentries to, Federal ranges;

(2) significant expertise in flight safety analysis exists within the Department of Defense, the Department of Transportation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(3) the increasing pace of commercial launch and reentries requires greater cooperation among the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to support commercial launch and reentry activities at Federal ranges.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that identifies roles, responsibilities, expertise, and knowledge that exists within the executive branch of the Federal Government relating to analysis of flight safety systems for space launch and reentry activities.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—Upon completion of the report required by subsection (b), the Secretary may enter into memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to allow Federal range personnel to support flight safety analysis required for the licensing of commercial space launch and reentry activities.

SEC. 1553. STREAMLINING LICENSING OF PRIVATE REMOTE SENSING SPACE SYSTEMS.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF REMOTE SENSING REGULATORY AUTHORITY OVER CERTAIN IMAGING SYSTEMS.—Section 60121(a)(2) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Instruments determined by the Secretary in writing to be used primarily for mission assurance or other technical purposes shall not be considered to be conducting remote sensing. Instruments used primarily for mission assurance or other technical purposes are instruments used to support the health of the launch vehicle or the operator's spacecraft or the safety of the operator's space operations, including instruments used to support on-board self-monitoring for technical assurance, flight reliability, spaceflight safety, navigation, attitude control, separation events, payload deployments, or instruments collecting self-images.''.

(b) FACILITATION OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 60121 of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

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

''(d) ASSIGNMENT OF DEDICATED LICENSING OFFICER.—The Secretary shall assign a licensing officer to oversee the application of the applicant for a license under subsection (a). The licensing officer shall assist the applicant by facilitating the application process, minimizing license conditions, and expediting the review and approval of the application, to the extent authorized by law.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60122(b)(3) of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking ''section 60121(e)'' and inserting ''section 60121(f)''.

(c) TRANSPARENCY AND EXPEDITIOUS REVIEW OF LICENSES.—In carrying out the authorities under subchapter III of chapter 601 of title 51, United States Code, the Secretary shall—

(1) provide transparency to and engagement with applicants throughout the licensing process, including by stating with specificity to the applicant or licensee what basis caused the tiering determination of the license;

(2) minimize the timelines for review of commercial remote sensing licensing applications; and

(3) not less frequently than annually, reevaluate the criteria for the tiering of satellite systems, with a goal of expeditiously recategorizing Tier 3 systems to a lower tier without temporary license conditions.

SEC. 1554. GAO REPORT.

(a) 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 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the policies, regulations, and practices of the Department of Commerce (referred to in this section as the ''Department'') with respect to the private remote sensing space industry.

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

(1) An assessment of the extent to which such licensing policies, regulations, and practices of the Department promote or inhibit a robust domestic private remote sensing industry, including any restrictions that impede innovative remote sensing capabilities.

(2) Recommendations on changes to policies, regulations, and practices for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce to promote United States industry leadership in private remote sensing capabilities, including recommendations for—

(A) determining whether the costs to industry outweigh the benefits of conducting on-site ground station visits, and possible alternatives to ensuring compliance;

(B) assessing the information in a license application that should be treated as a material fact and the justification for such treatment;

(C) incorporating industry feedback into Department policies, regulations, and practices; and

(D) increasing Department transparency by—

(i) ensuring the wide dissemination of Department guidance;

(ii) providing clear application instructions; and

(iii) establishing written precedent of Department actions.

SA 3135. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted an

amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—EXPANDING PUBLIC LANDS OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCES

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act'' or the ''EXPLORE Act''.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) the Secretary; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture.

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

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

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

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

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

TITLE I—OUTDOOR RECREATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Subtitle A—Outdoor Recreation Policy

SEC. 5111. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF POLICY.

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

SEC. 5112. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION.

(a) INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENTS.—

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

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

(B) provide opportunity for public comment during the development of the inventory and assessment of recreation resources under subparagraph (A); and

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

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

(A) recognize—

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

(ii) areas of concentrated recreational use;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) by striking subsection (d); and

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

SEC. 5113. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON OUTDOOR RECREATION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

''§ 200104. Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation

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

''(b) COMPOSITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be composed of representatives of each Federal land and water management agency, to be appointed by the head of the respective agency.

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

''(A) The Council on Environmental Quality.

''(B) The Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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

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

''(E) The Environmental Protection Agency.

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

''(G) The Tennessee Valley Authority.

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

''(i) the Bureau of Economic Analysis;

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

''(iii) the Economic Development Administration.

''(I) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

''(6) dissemination to the public of outdoor recreation-related information, in a manner

that ensures the recreation-related information is easily accessible with modern communication devices;

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

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

''(A) to promote outdoor recreation;

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

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

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

''(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects the authorities, regulations, or policies of a Federal land and water management agency or any Federal agency described in subsection (b)(2).''.

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

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

SEC. 5114. RECREATION BUDGET CROSSCUT.

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

Subtitle B—Public Recreation on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters

SEC. 5121. BIKING ON LONG-DISTANCE TRAILS.

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

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

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

(b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall—

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

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

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

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

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

(3) partner with interested organizations to promote trails identified in the report published under subsection (d).

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

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

(1) minimizes conflict with—

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

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

(2) would not conflict with—

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

(B) a wilderness area established under the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

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

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

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

(B) primarily makes use of dirt or natural surface trails, including crushed stone or gravel;

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

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

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

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

SEC. 5122. ROCK CLIMBING.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 5123. RANGE ACCESS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET SHOOTING RANGE LOCATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

(3) ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW TARGET SHOOTING RANGES.—

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

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

(ii) enter into an agreement with an entity described in subsection (d)(1), under which

the entity shall establish or maintain a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (B).

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

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

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

(III) may accommodate archery;

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

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

(II) a designated firing line; and

(iii) may include—

(I) shade structures;

(II) trash containers;

(III) restrooms;

(IV) benches; and

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

(C) RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Secretary concerned may consider a target shooting range that is located on land transferred or leased pursuant to the Act of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the ''Recreation and Public Purposes Act'') (44 Stat. 741, chapter 578; 43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), as a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in subparagraph (B).

(c) RESTRICTIONS.—

(1) MANAGEMENT.—The management of a target shooting range shall be subject to such conditions as the Secretary concerned determines are necessary for the safe, responsible use of—

(A) the target shooting range; and

(B) the adjacent land and resources.

(2) CLOSURES.—Except in emergency situations, the Secretary concerned shall seek to ensure that a target shooting range that meets the requirements described in subsection (b)(3)(B), or an equivalent shooting range adjacent to a National Forest or Bureau of Land Management district, is available to the public prior to closing Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Secretary concerned to recreational shooting, in accordance with section 4103 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 7913).

(d) COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretaries shall coordinate with—

(A) State, Tribal, and local governments;

(B) nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations, including organizations that are signatories to the memorandum of understanding entitled ''Federal Lands Hunting, Fishing, and Shooting Sports Roundtable Memorandum of Understanding'' and signed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management on August 17, 2006;

(C) shooting clubs;

(D) Federal advisory councils relating to hunting and shooting sports;

(E) individuals or entities with authorized leases or permits in an area under consideration for a target shooting range; and

(F) private landowners adjacent to a target shooting range.

(2) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretaries may—

(A) coordinate with an entity described in paragraph (1) to assist with the construction, modification, operation, or maintenance of a target shooting range; and

(B) explore opportunities to leverage funding to maximize non-Federal investment in the construction, modification, operation, or maintenance of a target shooting range.

(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title and annually thereafter through fiscal year 2033, the Secretaries shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the progress made with respect to the implementation of this section.

(f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section affects the authority of the Secretary concerned to administer a target shooting range that is in addition to the target shooting ranges that meet the requirements described in subsection (b)(3)(B) on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Secretary concerned.

SEC. 5124. RESTORATION OF OVERNIGHT CAMPSITES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) RECREATION AREA.—The term ''Recreation Area'' means the recreation area and grounds associated with the recreation area on the map entitled ''Ouachita National Forest Camping Restoration'' and dated November 30, 2023, on file with the Forest Service.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(1) not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this title, identify 54 areas within the Recreation Area that may be suitable for overnight camping; and

(2) not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title—

(A) review each area identified under paragraph (1); and

(B) from the areas so identified, select and establish at least 27 campsites and related facilities within the Recreation Area for public use.

(c) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO CAMPSITES AND RELATED FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall—

(1) ensure that at least 27 campsites are available under subsection (b), of which not less than 8 shall have electric and water hookups; and

(2) ensure that each campsite and related facility identified or established under subsection (b) is located outside of the 1 percent annual exceedance probability flood elevation.

(d) REOPENING OF CERTAIN SITES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall open each campsite within the Recreation Area that—

(1) exists on the date of the enactment of this title;

(2) is located outside of the 1 percent annual exceedance probability flood elevation;

(3) was in operation on June 1, 2010; and

(4) would not interfere with any current (as of the date of the enactment of this title) day use areas.

(e) DAY USE AREAS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall take such actions as are necessary to rehabilitate and make publicly accessible the areas in the Recreation Area identified for year-round day use, including the following:

(1) Loop A.

(2) Loop B.

(3) The covered, large-group picnic pavilion in Loop D.

(4) The parking lot in Loop D.

SEC. 5125. FEDERAL INTERIOR LAND MEDIA.

(a) FILMING IN NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM UNITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1009 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking section 100905 and inserting the following:

''§ 100905. Filming and still photography in System units

''(a) FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY.—

''(1) PERMITS FOR FILMING OR STILL PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may, for a filming or still photography activity or similar project in a System unit (referred to in this section as a 'filming or still photography activity')—

''(i) except as provided in subparagraph (B), require an authorization or permit; and

''(ii) if an authorization or permit is issued, assess a reasonable fee, as described in subsection (b)(1).

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary shall not require an authorization or a permit or assess a fee for a filming or still photography activity that—

''(i) does not substantially impede or intrude on the experience of other visitors to the applicable System unit;

''(ii) does not, except as otherwise authorized, materially disturb or negatively impact—

''(I) a natural resource, as that term is defined in section 300.5 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the EXPLORE Act);

''(II) a cultural resource; or

''(III) an environmental, scientific, historic, or scenic value;

''(iii) occurs at a location in which the public is allowed;

''(iv) does not require the exclusive use of a site or area;

''(v) does not involve a set or staging or lighting equipment unless the equipment is carriable by hand (such as a tripod, monopod, or handheld lighting equipment);

''(vi) is conducted in a manner consistent with visitor use policies, practices, and regulations applicable to the applicable System unit;

''(vii) does not result in additional administrative costs incurred by the Secretary for providing on-site management and oversight to protect agency resources or minimize visitor use conflicts;

''(viii) is conducted in a manner that is consistent with other applicable Federal, State (as defined in section 5002 of the EXPLORE Act), and local laws (including regulations), including laws relating to the use of unmanned aerial equipment; and

''(ix) does not impede the management and staff operations in the applicable System unit.

''(C) NO FILMING OR PHOTOGRAPHY AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall not issue an authorization or permit for a filming or still photography activity if the Secretary determines that the filming or still photography activity—

''(i) would cause resource damage in the applicable System unit;

''(ii) would cause an unreasonable disruption of the use and enjoyment by the public of the applicable System unit;

''(iii) would pose a health or safety risk to the public; or

''(iv) would cause unreasonable disruption of the use of, operations on, or access to the applicable System unit by Federal land management agencies, volunteers, contractors, partners, or land use authorization holders.

''(2) APPLICATION.—

''(A) PERMITS REQUESTED THOUGH NOT REQUIRED.—On the request of a person intending to carry out a filming or still photography activity, the Secretary may issue an authorization or permit for the filming or still photography activity, even if an authorization or permit is not required under this section.

''(B) FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY AT AUTHORIZED EVENTS.—A filming or still photography activity at an activity or event that is authorized under a special event permit and conducted by the permittee or a person affiliated with the permittee, including a wedding, engagement party, family reunion, photography-club outing, or celebration of a graduate, shall not require a separate filming or still photography authorization or permit under this section.

''(C) MONETARY COMPENSATION.—The Secretary shall not consider whether a person conducting a filming or still photography activity would receive monetary compensation for the filming or still photography activity in determining whether the filming or still photography activity is authorized or requires an authorization or permit under this section.

''(D) NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of determining whether a filming or still photography activity conforms with the criteria described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), the number of individuals participating in the activity shall not be the sole consideration of the Secretary.

''(E) APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS.—The Secretary shall ensure that a filming or still photography activity and any necessary authorizing or permitting for a filming or still photography activity are carried out in a manner consistent with the management plan of the applicable System unit and the laws and policies applicable to the Service.

''(3) PROCESSING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a process to ensure that the Secretary responds in a timely manner to an application required under paragraph (1), including a process to respond rapidly to requests related to breaking news events.

''(B) COORDINATION.—If one or more authorizations or permits are required under this section for 2 or more Federal agencies or Federal land management units and System units, the Secretary and the head of any other applicable Federal agency, as applicable, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate authorization and permit processing procedures, including through the use of identifying a lead agency or lead Federal land management unit or System unit—

''(i) to review the application for the authorization or permits;

''(ii) to issue the authorization or permits; and

''(iii) to collect any required fees and recovery costs under subsection (b).

''(b) FEES AND RECOVERY COSTS.—

''(1) FEES.—The reasonable fees referred to in paragraphs (1)(A) and (3)(B) of subsection (a) shall be assessed based on—

''(A) the number of days required for the filming or still photography activity within the System unit;

''(B) the size of the film or still photography crew present in the System unit;

''(C) the quantity and type of film or still photography equipment present in the System unit; and

''(D) any other factors that the Secretary determines to be necessary to provide a fair return to the United States.

''(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—For any authorization or permit issued under subsection (a), and in addition to any fee assessed in accordance with paragraph (1), the Secretary shall collect from the applicant for the applicable authorization or permit any costs incurred by the Secretary for the permit, including—

''(A) the costs of the review or issuance of the authorization or permit; and

''(B) related administrative and personnel costs.

''(3) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

''(A) FEES.—All fees collected under this section shall—

''(i) be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation; and

''(ii) remain available until expended.

''(B) COSTS.—All costs recovered under paragraph (2)(A) shall—

''(i) be available for expenditure by the Secretary, without further appropriation, at the System unit at which the costs are collected; and

''(ii) remain available until expended.

''(c) CIVIL PENALTY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the EXPLORE Act the Secretary shall issue guidance that establishes a civil penalty for failing to obtain an authorization or permit as required under subsection (a)(1).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1009 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 100905 and inserting the following:

''100905. Filming and still photography in System units.''.

(b) FILMING ON OTHER FEDERAL LAND.—Public Law 106–206 (16 U.S.C. 4601–6d) is amended by striking section 1 and inserting the following:

''SECTION 1. FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY.

''(a) FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY.—

''(1) PERMITS FOR FILMING OR STILL PHOTOGRAPHY ACTIVITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may, for a filming or still photography activity or similar project in a Federal land management unit under the jurisdiction of the Secretary concerned (referred to in this section as a 'filming or still photography activity')—

''(i) except as provided in subparagraph (B), require an authorization or permit; and

''(ii) if an authorization or permit is issued, assess a reasonable fee, as described in subsection (b)(1).

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall not require an authorization or a permit or assess a fee for a filming or still photography activity that—

''(i) does not substantially impede or intrude on the experience of other visitors to the applicable Federal land management unit;

''(ii) does not, except as otherwise authorized, materially disturb or negatively impact—

''(I) a natural resource, as that term is defined in section 300.5 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of the EXPLORE Act);

''(II) a cultural resource; or

''(III) an environmental, scientific, historic, or scenic value;

''(iii) occurs at a location in which the public is allowed;

''(iv) does not require the exclusive use of a site or area;

''(v) does not involve a set or staging or lighting equipment unless the equipment is carriable by hand (such as a tripod, monopod, or handheld lighting equipment);

''(vi) is conducted in a manner consistent with visitor use policies, practices, and regulations applicable to the applicable Federal land management unit;

''(vii) does not result in additional administrative costs incurred by the Secretary concerned for providing on-site management and oversight to protect agency resources or minimize visitor use conflicts;

''(viii) is conducted in a manner that is consistent with other applicable Federal, State, and local laws (including regulations), including laws relating to the use of unmanned aerial equipment; and

''(ix) does not impede the management and staff operations in the applicable Federal land management unit.

''(C) NO FILMING OR PHOTOGRAPHY AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary concerned shall not issue an authorization or permit for a filming or still photography activity if the Secretary concerned determines that the filming or still photography activity—

''(i) would cause resource damage in the applicable Federal land management unit;

''(ii) would cause an unreasonable disruption of the use and enjoyment by the public of the applicable Federal land management unit;

''(iii) would pose a health or safety risk to the public; or

''(iv) would cause unreasonable disruption of the use of, operations on, or access to the applicable Federal land management unit by Federal land management agencies, volunteers, contractors, partners, or permit holders.

''(2) APPLICATION.—

''(A) PERMITS REQUESTED THOUGH NOT REQUIRED.—On the request of a person intending to carry out a filming or still photography activity, the Secretary concerned may issue an authorization or permit for the filming or still photography activity, even if an authorization or permit is not required under this section.

''(B) FILMING AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHY AT AUTHORIZED EVENTS.—A filming or still photography activity at an activity or event that is authorized under a special event permit and conducted by the permittee or a person affiliated with the permittee, including a wedding, engagement party, family reunion, photography-club outing, or celebration of a graduate, shall not require a separate filming or still photography authorization or permit under this section.

''(C) MONETARY COMPENSATION.—The Secretary concerned shall not consider whether a person conducting a filming or still photography activity would receive monetary compensation for the filming or still photography activity in determining whether the filming or still photography activity is authorized or requires a permit under this section.

''(D) NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of determining whether a filming or still photography activity conforms with the criteria described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), the number of individuals participating in the activity shall not be the sole consideration of the Secretary concerned.

''(E) APPLICATION OF OTHER LAWS.—The Secretary concerned shall ensure that a filming or still photography activity and any necessary authorizing or permitting for a filming or still photography activity are carried out in a manner consistent with the applicable land use plan and the laws and policies applicable to the Federal land management agency.

''(3) PROCESSING OF PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall establish a process to ensure that the Secretary concerned responds in a timely manner to an application required under paragraph (1), including a process to respond rapidly to requests related to breaking news events.

''(B) COORDINATION.—If one or more authorizations or permits are required under this section for 2 or more Federal agencies or Federal land management units, the Secretary concerned and the head of any other applicable Federal agency, as applicable, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate authorization and permit processing procedures, including through the use of identifying a lead agency or lead Federal land management unit—

''(i) to review the application for the authorizations or permits;

''(ii) to issue the authorizations or permits; and

''(iii) to collect any required fees and recover costs under subsection (b).

''(b) FEES AND RECOVERY COSTS.—

''(1) FEES.—The reasonable fees referred to in paragraphs (1)(A) and (3)(B) of subsection (a) shall be assessed based on—

''(A) the number of days required for the filming or still photography activity within the Federal land management unit;

''(B) the size of the film or still photography crew present in the Federal land management unit;

''(C) the quantity and type of film or still photography equipment present in the Federal land management unit; and

''(D) any other factors that the Secretary concerned determines to be necessary to provide a fair return to the United States.

''(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—For any authorization or permit issued under subsection (a) and in addition to any fee assessed in accordance with paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall collect from the applicant for the applicable authorization or permit any costs incurred by the Secretary concerned for the authorization or permit, including—

''(A) the costs of the review or issuance of the authorization or permit; and

''(B) related administrative and personnel costs.

''(3) USE OF PROCEEDS.—

''(A) FEES.—All fees collected under this section shall—

''(i) be available for expenditure by the Secretary concerned, without further appropriation; and

''(ii) remain available until expended.

''(B) COSTS.—All costs recovered under paragraph (2)(A) shall—

''(i) be available for expenditure by the Secretary concerned, without further appropriation, at the Federal land management unit at which the costs are collected; and

''(ii) remain available until expended.

''(c) CIVIL PENALTY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the EXPLORE Act, the Secretary concerned shall issue guidance that establishes a civil penalty for failing to obtain an authorization or permit as required under subsection (a)(1).

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT UNIT.—The term 'Federal land management unit' means—

''(A) Federal land (other than National Park System land) under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; and

''(B) National Forest System land.

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

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

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

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

''(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(A); and

''(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(B).

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

SEC. 5126. CAPE AND ANTLER PRESERVATION ENHANCEMENT.

Section 104909(c) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking ''meat from'' and inserting ''meat and any other part of an animal removed pursuant to''.

SEC. 5127. MOTORIZED AND NONMOTORIZED ACCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall seek to have, not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this title, in a printed and publicly available format that is compliant with the format for geographic information systems—

(1) for each district administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, a map of ground transportation linear features authorized for public use or administrative use; and

(2) for each unit of the National Forest System, a motor vehicle use map, in accordance with existing law.

(b) OVER-SNOW VEHICLE-USE MAPS.—The Secretary concerned shall seek to have, not later than 10 years after the date of the enactment of this title, in a printed and publicly available format that is compliant with the format for geographic information systems, an over-snow vehicle-use map for each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Secretary of Agriculture or Director of the Bureau of Land Management on which over-snow vehicle-use occurs, in accordance with existing law.

(c) OUT-OF-DATE MAPS.—Not later than 20 years after the date on which the Secretary concerned adopted or reviewed a map described in subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary concerned shall review and update, as necessary and with public comment, the applicable map.

(d) MOTORIZED AND NONMOTORIZED ACCESS.—The Secretaries shall seek to create additional opportunities, as appropriate, and in accordance with existing law, for motorized and nonmotorized access and opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(e) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section prohibits a lawful use, including authorized motorized or nonmotorized uses, on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Secretary concerned, if the Secretary concerned fails to meet a timeline established under this section.

SEC. 5128. AQUATIC RESOURCE ACTIVITIES ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1003 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4702) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (11) through (19) as paragraphs (12) through (20); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

''(11) 'non-Federal entity' means any private entity or individual, nonprofit organization, institution, non-Federal government agency or department, or State, or local government (including a political subdivision, department, or component thereof).''.

(b) AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES PROGRAM.—Section 1202 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4722) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION.—To minimize the risk of introduction and dispersal of aquatic nuisance species to waters of the United States, each Federal member of the Task Force may, as appropriate and in coordination with States and Indian tribes—

''(A) conduct inspections and decontamination of recreational vessels entering or leaving Federal lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the respective member of the Task Force;

''(B) if necessary for decontamination purposes, prevent entry of a recreational vessel until such decontamination is complete;

''(C) enter into a partnership with a non-Federal entity or Indian Tribe to—

''(i) conduct inspections and decontaminations of recreational vessels under this paragraph; or

''(ii) establish an inspection and decontamination station for recreational vessels; and

''(D) at the sole discretion of the applicable Federal member of the Task Force, accept inspections and decontaminations conducted under subparagraph (C)(i) for the purposes of allowing entry by recreational vessels to water regulated by such member of the Task Force.

''(4) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—Each member of the Task Force shall, in conducting inspections or decontaminations of recreational vessels under paragraph (3), or partnering with a non-Federal entity or Indian tribe to conduct inspections and decontaminations under paragraph (3), minimize disruption to public access for boating and recreation in noncontaminated recreational vessels to the maximum extent practicable.

''(5) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) AUTHORITIES.—Nothing in paragraph (3) shall be construed to—

''(i) limit the authority of the Commandant of the Coast Guard to regulate vessels provided under any other provision of law;

''(ii) limit the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibilities of a State to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the laws and regulations of the State;

''(iii) limit the authority, jurisdiction, or responsibilities of an Indian Tribe to manage, control, or regulate fish and wildlife under the treaties, laws, and regulations of the Indian Tribe;

''(iv) authorize members of the Task Force to control or regulate within a State the fishing or hunting of fish and wildlife; or

''(v) authorize members of the Task Force to prohibit access of recreational vessels to waters of the United States due solely to the absence of a vessel inspection and decontamination program or station.

''(B) LOCATIONS.—Authorities granted in paragraph (3) shall not apply at locations where—

''(i) inspection or decontamination activities would duplicate efforts by the Coast Guard; or

''(ii) the Coast Guard is exercising its authority to direct vessel traffic pursuant to section 70002 or section 70021 of title 46, United States Code;

''(6) DATA SHARING.—Each Federal member of the Task Force shall make available to a State any relevant data gathered related to inspections or decontaminations carried out under this subsection in such State, consistent with other laws and regulations.''; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by inserting '', economy, infrastructure,'' after ''environment''; and

(ii) in the second sentence, by inserting ''(including through the use of recreational vessel inspection and decontamination stations)'' after ''aquatic nuisance species''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), in the second sentence, by inserting ''infrastructure, and the'' after ''ecosystems,''.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM FOR RECREATIONAL VESSEL INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION STATIONS IN RECLAMATION STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall establish a competitive grant program to provide financial assistance to prohibit introduction and dispersal of aquatic invasive species into, within, and out of reclamation projects, including financial assistance to purchase, establish, operate, or maintain a recreational vessel inspection and decontamination station within a reclamation State.

(2) COST SHARE.—For any grant provided under paragraph (1), the Federal share of the cost of purchasing, establishing, operating,

and maintaining a recreational vessel inspection and decontamination station, including personnel costs, shall not exceed 75 percent of the total costs.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to obtain assistance under this subsection, an entity shall—

(A) be party to a partnership agreement under section 1202(c)(3)(C) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4722(c)(3)(C)), as amended by this section;

(B) receive no Federal funds under such partnership agreement; and

(C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(4) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall coordinate with—

(A) reclamation States;

(B) affected Indian Tribes; and

(C) the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) RECLAMATION PROJECT.—The term ''reclamation project'' has the meaning given the term in section 2803 of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 4601–32).

(B) RECLAMATION STATE.—The term ''reclamation *S*tate'' has the meaning given the term in section 4014 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (43 U.S.C. 390b note).

Subtitle C—Supporting Gateway Communities and Addressing Park Overcrowding

SEC. 5131. GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.

(a) ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND NEEDS IN GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.—The Secretaries—

(1) shall collaborate with State and local governments, Indian Tribes, housing authorities, applicable trade associations, nonprofit organizations, private entities, and other relevant stakeholders to identify needs and economic impacts in gateway communities, including—

(A) housing shortages, including for employees of Federal land management agencies;

(B) demands on and required improvement of existing municipal infrastructure;

(C) accommodation and management of sustainable visitation; and

(D) the improvement and diversification of visitor experiences by bolstering the visitation at—

(i) existing developed locations that are underutilized on nearby Federal recreational lands and waters that are suitable for developing, expanding, or enhancing recreation use, as identified by the Secretaries; or

(ii) existing developed and suitable lesser-known recreation sites, as identified under section 5132(b)(1)(B), on nearby land managed by a State agency or a local agency; and

(2) may address a need identified under paragraph (1) by—

(A) providing financial or technical assistance to a gateway community under an existing program;

(B) entering into an agreement, right-of-way, or easement, in accordance with applicable laws; or

(C) issuing an entity referred to in paragraph (1) a special use permit (other than a special recreation permit (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801)), in accordance with applicable laws.

(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESSES.—The Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of other applicable Federal agencies, shall provide to outdoor recreation and supporting businesses in gateway communities information on applicable Federal resources and programs available to provide financing, technical assistance, or other services to such businesses to establish, operate, or expand infrastructure to accommodate and manage sustainable visitation.

(c) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary concerned may, in accordance with applicable laws, enter into a public-private partnership, cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or similar agreement with a gateway community or a business in a gateway community.

SEC. 5132. IMPROVED RECREATION VISITATION DATA.

(a) CONSISTENT VISITATION DATA.—

(1) ANNUAL VISITATION DATA.—The Secretaries shall establish a single visitation data reporting system to report accurate annual visitation data, in a consistent manner, for—

(A) each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(B) land held in trust for an Indian Tribe, on request of the Indian Tribe.

(2) CATEGORIES OF USE.—Within the visitation data reporting system established under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall—

(A) establish multiple categories of different recreation activities that are reported consistently across agencies; and

(B) provide an estimate of the number of visitors for each applicable category established under subparagraph (A) for each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(3) LOW-USE RECREATION.—In reporting visitation under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall seek to model or capture low-use and dispersed recreation activities that may not be effectively measured by existing general and opportunistic survey and monitoring protocols.

(4) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the Secretaries shall publish on a website of the Secretaries a report that describes the annual visitation of each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters, including, to the maximum extent practicable, visitation categorized by recreational activity.

(b) REAL-TIME DATA PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this title, using existing funds available to the Secretaries, the Secretaries shall carry out a pilot program, to be known as the ''Real-Time Data Pilot Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Pilot Program''), to make available to the public, for each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters selected for participation in the Pilot Program under paragraph (2)—

(A) real-time or predictive data on visitation (which may include data and resources publicly available from existing nongovernmental platforms) at—

(i) the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters;

(ii) to the extent practicable, areas within the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(iii) to the extent practicable, recreation sites managed by any other Federal agency, a State agency, or a local agency that are located near the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(B) information about lesser-known recreation sites for which data is provided under subparagraph (A)(iii), in an effort to encourage visitation among recreational sites.

(2) LOCATIONS.—

(A) INITIAL NUMBER OF UNITS.—On establishment of the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall select for participation in the Pilot Program—

(i) 10 units of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Secretary; and

(ii) 5 units of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 6 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall submit a report to Congress regarding the implementation of the Pilot Program, including policy recommendations on the expansion of the Pilot Program to additional units managed by the Secretaries.

(C) FEEDBACK; SUPPORT OF GATEWAY COMMUNITIES.—The Secretaries shall—

(i) prior to selecting locations for the Pilot Program, solicit feedback regarding participation in the Pilot Program from communities adjacent to units of Federal recreational lands and waters and the public; and

(ii) in carrying out subparagraphs (A) and (B), select a unit of Federal recreation lands and waters to participate in the Pilot Program only if the community adjacent to the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters is supportive of the participation of the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters in the Pilot Program.

(3) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Secretaries may disseminate the information described in paragraph (1) directly or through an entity or organization referred to in subsection (c).

(4) INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program, the Secretaries may, to the extent practicable, rely on assessments completed or data gathered prior to the date of enactment of this title.

(c) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary concerned may—

(1) coordinate and partner with—

(A) communities adjacent to units of Federal recreational lands and waters;

(B) State and local governments, including outdoor recreation and tourism offices;

(C) Indian Tribes;

(D) trade associations;

(E) local outdoor recreation marketing organizations;

(F) recreation service providers; or

(G) other relevant stakeholders; and

(2) coordinate or enter into agreements, as appropriate, with private sector and nonprofit partners, including—

(A) technology companies;

(B) geospatial data companies;

(C) experts in data science, analytics, and operations research; or

(D) data companies.

(d) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The Secretaries may use existing programs or products of the Secretaries to carry out this section.

(e) PRIVACY CLAUSES.—Nothing in this section provides authority to the Secretaries—

(1) to monitor or record the movements of a visitor to a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters;

(2) to restrict, interfere with, or monitor a private communication of a visitor to a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; or

(3) to collect—

(A) information from owners of land adjacent to a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters; or

(B) information on non-Federal land.

Subtitle D—Broadband Connectivity on Federal Recreational Lands and Waters

SEC. 5141. BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTIVITY AT DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Chief of the Forest Service shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Commerce to foster the installation or construction of broadband internet infrastructure at developed recreation sites on Federal recreational lands and waters to establish broadband internet connectivity—

(1) subject to the availability of appropriations; and

(2) in accordance with applicable law.

(b) IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, and annually thereafter through fiscal year 2031, the Secretary and the Chief of the Forest Service, in coordination with States and local communities, shall make publicly available—

(1) a list of the highest priority developed recreation sites, as determined under subsection (c), on Federal recreational lands and waters that lack broadband internet;

(2) to the extent practicable, an estimate of—

(A) the cost to equip each of those sites with broadband internet infrastructure; and

(B) the annual cost to operate that infrastructure; and

(3) a list of potential—

(A) barriers to operating the infrastructure described in paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) methods to recover the costs of that operation.

(c) PRIORITIES.—In selecting developed recreation sites for the list described in subsection (b)(1), the Secretary and the Chief of the Forest Service shall give priority to developed recreation sites—

(1) at which broadband internet infrastructure has not been constructed due to—

(A) geographic challenges; or

(B) the location having an insufficient number of nearby permanent residents, despite high seasonal or daily visitation levels; or

(2) that are located in an economically distressed county that could benefit significantly from developing the outdoor recreation economy of the county.

SEC. 5142. PUBLIC LANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

(a) REPORT ON RENTAL FEE RETENTION AUTHORITY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary shall submit a comprehensive report to the appropriate committees of Congress evaluating the potential benefits of rental fee retention whereby any fee collected for the occupancy and use of Federal recreational lands and waters authorized by a communications use authorization would be deposited into a special account for each qualified Federal land management agency and used solely for activities related to communications sites on lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency, including—

(1) administering communications use authorizations;

(2) preparing needs assessments or other programmatic analyses necessary to establish communications sites and authorize communications uses on or adjacent to Federal recreational lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency;

(3) developing management plans for communications sites on or adjacent to Federal recreational lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency on a competitively neutral, technology neutral, nondiscriminatory basis;

(4) training for management of communications sites on or adjacent to Federal recreational lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency;

(5) obtaining, improving access to, or establishing communications sites on or adjacent to Federal recreational lands and waters managed by a Federal land management agency; and

(6) any combination of purposes described in subparagraphs (1) through (5).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMUNICATIONS SITE.—The term ''communications site'' means an area of Federal recreational lands and waters designated or approved for communications use.

(2) COMMUNICATIONS USE.—The term ''communications use''—

(A) means the placement, operation, or both, of infrastructure for wireline or wireless telecommunications, including cable television, television, and radio communications, regardless of whether such placement or operation is pursuant to a license issued by the Federal Communications Commission or on an unlicensed basis in accordance with the regulations of the Commission; and

(B) includes ancillary activities, uses, or facilities directly related to such placement or operation.

(3) COMMUNICATIONS USE AUTHORIZATION.—The term ''communications use authorization'' means a right-of-way, permit, or lease granted, issued, or executed by a Federal land management agency for the primary purpose of authorizing the occupancy and use of Federal recreational lands and waters for communications use.

(4) RENTAL FEE.—The term ''rental fee'' means a fee collected by a Federal land management agency for the occupancy and use authorized by a communications use authorization pursuant to and consistent with authorizing law.

Subtitle E—Public–private Parks Partnerships

SEC. 5151. AUTHORIZATION FOR LEASE OF FOREST SERVICE ADMINISTRATIVE SITES.

Section 8623 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (16 U.S.C. 580d note; Public Law 115–334) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(D), by striking ''dwelling;'' and inserting ''dwelling or multiunit dwelling;'';

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii)—

(i) in subclause (I), by inserting ''such as housing,'' after ''improvements,'';

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(iii) in subclause (III), by striking ''or'' at the end and inserting ''and''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(IV) services occurring off the administrative site that—

''(aa) occur at another administrative site in the same unit in which the administrative site is located or a different unit of the National Forest System;

''(bb) benefit the National Forest System; and

''(cc) support activities occurring within the unit of the National Forest System in which the administrative site is located; or''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) LEASE TERM.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term of a lease of an administrative site under this section shall be not more than 100 years.

''(B) REAUTHORIZATION OF USE.—A lease of an administrative site under this section shall include a provision for reauthorization of the use if the—

''(i) use of the administrative site, at the time of reauthorization, is still being used for the purposes authorized;

''(ii) use to be authorized under the new lease is consistent with the applicable land management plan; and

''(iii) lessee is in compliance with all the terms of the existing lease.''

''(C) SAVINGS.—A reauthorization of use under subparagraph (B) may include new terms in the use, as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service.'';

(3) in subsection (g)—

(A) by striking ''to a leaseholder'' after ''payments''; and

(B) by inserting ''or constructed'' after ''improved''; and

(4) in subsection (i), by striking ''2023'' each place it appears and inserting ''2028''.

SEC. 5152. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS CREATING TANGIBLE SAVINGS.

Section 101703 of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 101703. Cooperative management agreements

''(a) COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in accordance with the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System and under such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate, may enter into a cooperative management agreement with a State, Indian Tribe, or local government with park land adjacent to a System unit, where such agreement will provide for more effective and efficient management of a System unit and the adjacent non-Federal park area.

''(2) NO TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary may not transfer administration responsibilities for any System unit.

''(b) PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide or acquire goods and services on a reimbursable basis as part of a cooperative management agreement under subsection (a).

''(2) RETENTION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may retain and expend any funds received under this section without further appropriation.

''(c) CO-LOCATION.—The Secretary and a State, Indian Tribe, or local government may co-locate in offices or facilities owned or leased by either party as part of a cooperative management agreement under subsection (a).

''(d) EMPLOYEES.—

''(1) ASSIGNMENT OF EMPLOYEE.—The Secretary may arrange an assignment under section 3372 of title 5 of a Federal employee or an employee of a State, Indian Tribe, or local government, as mutually agreed upon, for work on the Federal, State, local, or Tribal park land covered by the cooperative management agreement.

''(2) EXTENSION OF ASSIGNMENT.—An assignment under paragraph (1) may be extended if the Secretary and the State, Indian Tribe, or local government determine it to be mutually beneficial.

''(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'State' means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each territory of the United States.''.

SEC. 5153. PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS TO MODERNIZE FEDERALLY OWNED CAMPGROUNDS, RESORTS, CABINS, AND VISITOR CENTERS ON FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term ''covered activity'' means—

(A) a capital improvement, including the construction, reconstruction, and nonroutine maintenance of any structure, infrastructure, or improvement, relating to the operation of, or access to, a covered recreation facility; and

(B) any activity necessary to operate or maintain a covered recreation facility.

(2) COVERED RECREATION FACILITY.—The term ''covered recreation facility'' means a federally owned campground, resort, cabin, or visitor center that is—

(A) in existence on the date of the enactment of this title; and

(B) located on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by—

(i) the Chief of the Forest Service; or

(ii) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a unit of State, Tribal, or local government;

(B) a nonprofit organization; and

(C) a private entity.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretaries shall establish a pilot program under which the Secretary concerned may enter into an agreement with, or issue or amend a land use authorization to, an eligible entity to allow the eligible entity to carry out covered activities relating to a covered recreation facility, subject to the requirements of this section and the terms of any relevant land use authorization, regardless of whether the eligible entity holds, on the date of the enactment of this title, an authorization to be a concessionaire for the covered recreation facility.

(c) MINIMUM NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS OR LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall enter into at least 1 agreement or land use authorization under subsection (b) in—

(1) a unit of the National Forest System in each region of the National Forest System; and

(2) Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management in not fewer than 5 States in which the Bureau of Land Management administers Federal recreational lands and waters.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DEVELOPMENT PLANS.—Before entering into an agreement or issuing a land use authorization under subsection (b), an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary concerned a development plan that—

(A) describes investments in the covered recreation facility to be made by the eligible entity during the first 3 years of the agreement or land use authorization;

(B) describes annual maintenance spending to be made by the eligible entity for each year of the agreement or land use authorization; and

(C) includes any other terms and conditions determined to be necessary or appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

(2) AGREEMENTS AND LAND USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—An agreement or land use authorization under subsection (b) shall—

(A) be for a term of not more than 30 years, commensurate with the level of investment;

(B) require that, not later than 3 years after the date on which the Secretary concerned enters into the agreement or issues or amends the land use authorization, the applicable eligible entity shall expend, place in an escrow account for the eligible entity to expend, or deposit in a special account in the Treasury for expenditure by the Secretary concerned, without further appropriation, for covered activities relating to the applicable covered recreation facility, an amount or specified percentage, as determined by the Secretary concerned, which shall be equal to not less than $500,000, of the anticipated receipts for the term of the agreement or land use authorization;

(C) require the eligible entity to operate and maintain the covered recreation facility and any associated infrastructure designated by the Secretary concerned in a manner acceptable to the Secretary concerned and the eligible entity;

(D) include any terms and conditions that the Secretary concerned determines to be necessary for a special use permit issued under section 7 of the Act of April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the ''Granger-Thye Act'') (64 Stat. 84, chapter 97; 16 U.S.C. 580d), including the payment described in subparagraph (E) or the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), as applicable;

(E) provide for payment to the Federal Government of a fee or a sharing of revenue—

(i) consistent with—

(I) the land use fee for a special use permit authorized under section 7 of the Act of April 24, 1950 (commonly known as the ''Granger-Thye Act'') (64 Stat. 84, chapter 97; 16 U.S.C. 580d); or

(II) the value to the eligible entity of the rights provided by the agreement or land use authorization, taking into account the capital invested by, and obligations of, the eligible entity under the agreement or land use authorization; and

(ii) all or part of which may be offset by the work to be performed at the expense of the eligible entity that is separate from the routine costs of operating and maintaining the applicable covered recreation facility and any associated infrastructure designated by the Secretary concerned, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned;

(F) include provisions stating that—

(i) the eligible entity shall obtain no property interest in the covered recreation facility pursuant to the expenditures of the eligible entity, as required by the agreement or land use authorization;

(ii) all structures and other improvements constructed, reconstructed, or nonroutinely maintained by that entity under the agreement or land use authorization on land owned by the United States shall be the property of the United States; and

(iii) the eligible entity shall be solely responsible for any cost associated with the decommissioning or removal of a capital improvement, if needed, at the conclusion of the agreement or land use authorization; and

(G) be subject to any other terms and conditions determined to be necessary or appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

(e) LAND USE FEE RETENTION.—A land use fee paid or revenue shared with the Secretary concerned under an agreement or land use authorization under this section shall be available for expenditure by the Secretary concerned for recreation-related purposes on the unit or area of Federal recreational lands and waters at which the land use fee or revenue is collected, without further appropriation.

SEC. 5154. PARKING AND RESTROOM OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.

(a) PARKING OPPORTUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall seek to increase and improve parking opportunities for persons recreating on Federal recreational lands and waters—

(A) in accordance with existing laws and applicable land use plans;

(B) in a manner that minimizes any increase in maintenance obligations on Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(C) in a manner that does not impact wildlife habitat that is critical to the mission of a Federal agency responsible for managing Federal recreational lands and waters.

(2) AUTHORITY.—To supplement the quantity of parking spaces available at units of Federal recreational lands and waters on the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries may—

(A) enter into a public-private partnership for parking opportunities on non-Federal land;

(B) enter into contracts or agreements with State, Tribal, or local governments for parking opportunities using non-Federal lands and resources; or

(C) provide alternative transportation systems for a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(3) TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS.—The Secretaries shall evaluate the use of and incorporate, as the Secretary concerned determines appropriate, technologies to manage parking availability, access, and information at units of Federal recreational lands and waters, including—

(A) the installation and use of trailhead cameras and monitors to determine parking availability at trailheads, the information from which shall be made available online and, to the extent practicable, via mobile notifications; and

(B) the use of data collection technology to estimate visitation volumes for use in future planning for parking at units of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) RESTROOM OPPORTUNITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall seek to increase and improve the function, cleanliness, and availability of restroom facilities for persons recreating on Federal recreational lands and waters, including by entering into partnerships with non-Federal partners, including State, Tribal, and local governments and volunteer organizations.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit a report to Congress that identifies—

(A) challenges to maintaining or improving the function, cleanliness, and availability of restroom facilities on Federal recreational lands and waters;

(B) the current state of restroom facilities on Federal recreational lands and waters and the effect restroom facilities have on visitor experiences; and

(C) policy recommendations that suggest innovative new models or partnerships to increase or improve the function, cleanliness, and availability of restroom facilities for persons recreating on Federal recreational lands and waters.

SEC. 5155. PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR.—The term ''independent evaluator'' means an individual or entity, including an institution of higher education, that is selected by the pay-for-performance beneficiary and pay-for-performance investor, as applicable, or by the pay-for-performance project developer, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to make the determinations and prepare the reports required under subsection (e).

(2) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—The term ''National Forest System land'' means land in the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))).

(3) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT.—The term ''pay-for-performance agreement'' means a mutual benefit agreement (excluding a procurement contract, grant agreement, or cooperative agreement described in chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code) for a pay-for-performance project—

(A) with a term of—

(i) not less than 1 year; and

(ii) not more than 20 years; and

(B) that is executed, in accordance with applicable law, by—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(ii) a pay-for-performance beneficiary or pay-for-performance project developer.

(4) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE BENEFICIARY.—The term ''pay-for-performance beneficiary'' means a State or local government, an Indian Tribe, or a nonprofit or for-profit organization that—

(A) repays capital loaned upfront by a pay-for-performance investor, based on a project outcome specified in a pay-for-performance agreement; or

(B) provides capital directly for costs associated with a pay-for-performance project.

(5) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE INVESTOR.—The term ''pay-for-performance investor'' means a State or local government, an Indian Tribe, or a nonprofit or for-profit organization that provides upfront loaned capital for a pay-for-performance project with the expectation of a financial return dependent on a project outcome.

(6) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECT.—The term ''pay-for-performance project'' means a project that—

(A) would provide or enhance a recreational opportunity;

(B) is conducted on—

(i) National Forest System land; or

(ii) other land, if the activities would benefit National Forest System land (including a recreational use of National Forest System land); and

(C) would use an innovative funding or financing model that leverages—

(i) loaned capital from a pay-for-performance investor to cover upfront costs associated with a pay-for-performance project, with the loaned capital repaid by a pay-for-performance beneficiary at a rate of return dependent on a project outcome, as measured by an independent evaluator; or

(ii) capital directly from a pay-for-performance beneficiary to support costs associated with a pay-for-performance project in an amount based on an anticipated project outcome.

(7) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECT DEVELOPER.—The term ''pay-for-performance project developer'' means a nonprofit or for-profit organization that serves as an intermediary to assist in developing or implementing a pay-for-performance agreement or a pay-for-performance project.

(8) PROJECT OUTCOME.—The term ''project outcome'' means a measurable, beneficial result (whether economic, environmental, or social) that is attributable to a pay-for-performance project and described in a pay-for-performance agreement.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a pilot program in accordance with this section to carry out 1 or more pay-for-performance projects.

(c) PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available through a pay-for-performance agreement or appropriations, all or any portion of a pay-for-performance project may be implemented by—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture; or

(B) a pay-for-performance project developer or a third party, subject to the conditions that—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture shall approve the implementation by the pay-for-performance project developer or third party; and

(ii) the implementation is in accordance with applicable law.

(2) RELATION TO LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—A pay-for-performance project carried out under this section shall be consistent with any applicable land management plan developed under section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604).

(3) OWNERSHIP.—

(A) NEW IMPROVEMENTS.—The United States shall have title to any improvements installed on National Forest System land as part of a pay-for-performance project.

(B) EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS.—Investing in, conducting, or completing a pay-for-performance project on National Forest System land shall not affect the title of the United States to—

(i) any federally owned improvements involved in the pay-for-performance project; or

(ii) the underlying land.

(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The carrying out of any action for a pay-for-performance project does not provide any right to any party to a pay-for-performance agreement.

(5) POTENTIAL CONFLICTS.—Before approving a pay-for-performance project under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consider and seek to avoid potential conflicts (including economic competition) with any existing written authorized use.

(d) PROJECT AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Act of June 30, 1914 (38 Stat. 430, chapter 131; 16 U.S.C. 498), or subtitle C of title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397n et seq.), in carrying out the pilot program under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into a pay-for-performance agreement under which a pay-for-performance beneficiary, pay-for-performance investor, or pay-for-performance project developer agrees to pay for or finance all or part of a pay-for-performance project.

(2) SIZE LIMITATION.—The Secretary of Agriculture may not enter into a pay-for-performance agreement under the pilot program under this section for a pay-for-performance project valued at more than $15,000,000.

(3) FINANCING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A pay-for-performance agreement shall specify the amounts that a pay-for-performance beneficiary or a pay-for-performance project developer agrees to pay to a pay-for-performance investor or a pay-for-performance project developer, as appropriate, in the event of an independent evaluator determining pursuant to subsection (e) the degree to which a project outcome has been achieved.

(B) ELIGIBLE PAYMENTS.—An amount described in subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) based on—

(I) the respective contributions of the parties under the pay-for-performance agreement; and

(II) the economic, environmental, or social benefits derived from the project outcomes; and

(ii)(I) a percentage of the estimated value of a project outcome;

(II) a percentage of the estimated cost savings to the pay-for-performance beneficiary or the Secretary of Agriculture derived from a project outcome;

(III) a percentage of the enhanced revenue to the pay-for-performance beneficiary or the Secretary of Agriculture derived from a project outcome; or

(IV) a percentage of the cost of the pay-for-performance project.

(C) FOREST SERVICE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Agriculture may contribute funding for a pay-for-performance project only if—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture demonstrates that—

(I) the pay-for-performance project would provide a cost savings to the United States;

(II) the funding would accelerate the pace of implementation of an activity previously planned to be completed by the Secretary of Agriculture; or

(III) the funding would accelerate the scale of implementation of an activity previously planned to be completed by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(ii) the contribution of the Secretary of Agriculture has a value that is not more than 50 percent of the total cost of the pay-for-performance project.

(D) SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—Any funds received by the Secretary of Agriculture under subsection (c)(1)—

(i) shall be retained in a separate fund in the Treasury to be used solely for pay-for-performance projects; and

(ii) shall remain available until expended and without further appropriation.

(4) MAINTENANCE AND DECOMMISSIONING OF PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS.—A pay-for-performance agreement shall—

(A) include a plan for maintaining any capital improvement constructed as part of a pay-for-performance project after the date on which the pay-for-performance project is completed; and

(B) specify the party that will be responsible for decommissioning the improvements associated with the pay-for-performance project—

(i) at the end of the useful life of the improvements;

(ii) if the improvements no longer serve the purpose for which the improvements were developed; or

(iii) if the pay-for-performance project fails.

(5) TERMINATION OF PAY-FOR-PERFORMANCE PROJECT AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may unilaterally terminate a pay-for-performance agreement, in whole or in part, for any program year beginning after the program year during which the Secretary of Agriculture provides to each party to the pay-for-performance agreement a notice of the termination.

(e) INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS.—

(1) PROGRESS REPORTS.—An independent evaluator shall submit to the Secretary of Agriculture and each party to the applicable pay-for-performance agreement—

(A) by not later than 2 years after the date on which the pay-for-performance agreement is executed, and at least once every 2 years thereafter, a written report that summarizes the progress that has been made in achieving each project outcome; and

(B) before the first scheduled date for a payment described in subsection (d)(3)(A), and each subsequent date for payment, a written report that—

(i) summarizes the results of the evaluation conducted by the independent evaluator to determine whether a payment should be made pursuant to the pay-for-performance agreement; and

(ii) analyzes the reasons why a project outcome was achieved or was not achieved.

(2) FINAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a pay-for-performance project is completed, the independent evaluator shall submit to the Secretary of Agriculture and each party to the pay-for-performance agreement a written report that includes, with respect to the period covered by the report—

(A) an evaluation of the effects of the pay-for-performance project with respect to each project outcome;

(B) a determination of whether the pay-for-performance project has met each project outcome; and

(C) the amount of the payments made for the pay-for-performance project pursuant to subsection (d)(3)(A).

(f) ADDITIONAL FOREST SERVICE-PROVIDED ASSISTANCE.—

(1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture may provide technical assistance to facilitate pay-for-performance project development, such as planning, permitting, site preparation, and design work.

(2) CONSULTANTS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Agriculture may hire a contractor—

(A) to conduct a feasibility analysis of a proposed pay-for-performance project;

(B) to assist in the development, implementation, or evaluation of a proposed pay-for-performance project or a pay-for-performance agreement; or

(C) to assist with an environmental analysis of a proposed pay-for-performance project.

(g) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall approve a record of decision, decision notice, or decision memo for any activities to be carried out on National Forest System land as part of a pay-for-performance project before the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into a pay-for-performance agreement involving the applicable pay-for-performance project.

(h) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) SUNSET.—The authority to enter into a pay-for-performance agreement under this section terminates on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title.

(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in paragraph (1) affects any pay-for-performance project agreement entered into by the Secretary of Agriculture under this section before the date described in that paragraph.

SEC. 5156. OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means an entity or combination of entities that represents or otherwise serves a qualifying area.

(2) ENTITY.—The term ''entity'' means—

(A) a State;

(B) a political subdivision of a State, including—

(i) a city;

(ii) a county; or

(iii) a special purpose district that manages open space, including a park district; or

(C) an Indian Tribe.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe''—

(A) has the meaning given the term ''Indian tribe'' in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5130); and

(B) includes Indian Tribes included on the list published by the Secretary under section 104 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 5131).

(4) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term ''low-income community'' has the same meaning given that term in section 45D(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(5) QUALIFYING AREA.—The term ''qualifying area'' means—

(A) an urbanized area or urban cluster that has a population of 25,000 or more in the most recent census;

(B) 2 or more adjacent urban clusters with a combined population of 25,000 or more in the most recent census; or

(C) an area with an outdoor recreation project referenced in subsection (b) administered by an Indian Tribe.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) CODIFICATION OF PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, under which the Secretary may award grants to eligible entities for projects—

(i) to acquire land and water for parks and other outdoor recreation purposes in qualifying areas; and

(ii) to develop new or renovate existing outdoor recreation facilities that provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public in qualifying areas.

(B) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants to eligible entities under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to projects that—

(i) create or significantly enhance access to park and recreational opportunities in a qualifying area;

(ii) engage and empower low-income communities and youth;

(iii) provide employment or job training opportunities for youth or low-income communities;

(iv) establish or expand public-private partnerships, with a focus on leveraging resources; and

(v) take advantage of coordination among various levels of government.

(2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving a grant under paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall provide matching funds in the form of cash or an in-kind contribution in an amount equal to not less than 100 percent of the amounts made available under the grant.

(B) PARTIAL WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive part of the matching requirement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that—

(i) no reasonable means are available through which the eligible entity can meet the matching requirement; and

(ii) the probable benefit of the project outweighs the public interest in the full matching requirement.

(C) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 7 percent of funds provided to an eligible entity under a grant awarded under paragraph (1) may be used for administrative expenses.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants to eligible entities under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the extent to which a project would—

(A) provide recreation opportunities in low-income communities in which access to parks is not adequate to meet local needs;

(B) provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and public land volunteerism;

(C) support innovative or cost-effective ways to enhance parks and other recreation—

(i) opportunities; or

(ii) delivery of services;

(D) support park and recreation activities and programs provided by local governments, including cooperative agreements with community-based nonprofit organizations;

(E) develop Native American event sites and cultural gathering spaces;

(F) provide benefits such as community resilience, reduction of urban heat islands, enhanced water or air quality, or habitat for fish or wildlife; and

(G) facilitate any combination of purposes listed in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

(4) ELIGIBLE USES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an eligible entity may use a grant awarded under paragraph (1) for a project described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of that paragraph.

(B) LIMITATIONS ON USE.—An eligible entity may not use grant funds for—

(i) incidental costs related to land acquisition, including appraisal and titling;

(ii) operation and maintenance activities;

(iii) facilities that support semiprofessional or professional athletics;

(iv) indoor facilities, such as recreation centers or facilities that support primarily non-outdoor purposes; or

(v) acquisition of land or interests in land that restrict public access.

(C) CONVERSION TO OTHER THAN PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION USE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation use.

(ii) CONDITION FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall approve a conversion only if the Secretary finds it to be in accordance with the then-existing comprehensive Statewide outdoor recreation plan and only on such conditions as the Secretary considers necessary to ensure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.

(iii) WETLAND AREAS AND INTERESTS THEREIN.—Wetland areas and interests therein as identified in the wetlands provisions of the comprehensive plan and proposed to be acquired as suitable replacement property within the same State that is otherwise acceptable to the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall be deemed to be of reasonably equivalent usefulness with the property proposed for conversion.

(c) REVIEW AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) conduct an initial screening and technical review of applications received;

(2) evaluate and score all qualifying applications; and

(3) provide culturally and linguistically appropriate information to eligible entities (including low-income communities and eligible entities serving low-income communities) on—

(A) the opportunity to apply for grants under this section;

(B) the application procedures by which eligible entities may apply for grants under this section; and

(C) eligible uses for grants under this section.

(d) REPORTING.—

(1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the last day of each report period, each State-lead agency that receives a grant under this section shall annually submit to the Secretary performance and financial reports that—

(A) summarize project activities conducted during the report period; and

(B) provide the status of the project.

(2) FINAL REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the earlier of the date of expiration of a project period or the completion of a project, each State-lead agency that receives a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary a final report containing such information as the Secretary may require.

SEC. 5157. AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 308101 of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 308101. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) BATTLEFIELD REPORTS.—The term 'Battlefield Reports' means, collectively—

''(A) the document entitled 'Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields', prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993; and

''(B) the document entitled 'Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated September 2007.

''(2) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.''.

(b) PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 308102(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Federal'' and all that follows through ''organizations'' and inserting ''Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations''.

(c) BATTLEFIELD LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 308103 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) ELIGIBLE SITE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'eligible site'—

''(1) means a site that—

''(A) is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

''(B) is identified in the Battlefield Reports as a battlefield; and

''(2) excludes sites identified in the Battlefield Reports as associated historic sites.'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''State and local governments'' and inserting ''States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations'';

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''State or local government'' and inserting ''State, Tribe, or local government''; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking ''under this section'' and inserting ''under this section, including by States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations,''.

(d) BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANTS IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 308105 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a battlefield restoration grant program (referred to in this section as the 'program') under which the Secretary may provide grants to States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations for projects that restore day-of-battle conditions on—

''(1) land preserved and protected under the battlefield acquisition grant program established under section 308103(b); or

''(2) battlefield land that is—

''(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local government, or nonprofit organization; and

''(B) referred to in the Battlefield Reports.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) ELIGIBLE SITES.—The Secretary may make grants under this section for Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield sites—

''(1) eligible for assistance under the battlefield acquisition grant program established under section 308103(b); or

''(2) on battlefield land that is—

''(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local government, or nonprofit organization; and

''(B) referred to in battlefield reports.''.

(e) UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS.—Chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports

''Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 10 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battlefield Reports to reflect—

''(1) preservation activities carried out at the battlefields in the period since the publication of the most recent Battlefield Reports update;

''(2) changes in the condition, including core and study areas, of the battlefields during that period; and

''(3) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.''.

(f) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending the item relating to section 308101 to read as follows:

''308101. Definitions''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports''.

TITLE II—ACCESS AMERICA

SEC. 5201. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ACCESSIBLE TRAIL.—The term ''accessible trail'' means a trail that meets the requirements for a trail under the Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines.

(2) ARCHITECTURAL BARRIERS ACT ACCESSIBILITY GUIDELINES.—The term ''Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines'' means the accessibility guidelines set forth in appendices C and D to part 1191 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(3) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''assistive technology'' means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities, particularly with participating in outdoor recreation activities.

(4) GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER.—The term ''Gold Star Family member'' means an individual described in section 3.3 of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36.

(5) OUTDOOR CONSTRUCTED FEATURE.—The term ''outdoor constructed feature'' has the meaning given such term in appendix C to part 1191 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(6) VETERANS ORGANIZATION.—The term ''veterans organization'' means a service provider with outdoor recreation experience that serves members of the Armed Forces, veterans, or Gold Star Family members.

Subtitle A—Access for People With Disabilities

SEC. 5211. ACCESSIBLE RECREATION INVENTORY.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) carry out a comprehensive assessment of outdoor recreation facilities on Federal recreational lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary concerned to determine the accessibility of such outdoor recreation facilities, consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794), including—

(A) camp shelters, camping facilities, and camping units;

(B) boat launch ramps;

(C) hunting, fishing, shooting, or archery ranges or locations;

(D) outdoor constructed features;

(E) picnic facilities and picnic units; and

(F) any other outdoor recreation facilities, as determined by the Secretary concerned; and

(2) make information about such opportunities available (including through the use of prominently displayed links) on public websites of—

(A) each of the Federal land management agencies; and

(B) each relevant unit and subunit of the Federal land management agencies.

(b) INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.—As part of the comprehensive assessment required under subsection (a)(1), to the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned may rely on assessments completed or data gathered prior to the date of the enactment of this title.

(c) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall identify opportunities to create, update, or replace signage and other publicly available information, including web page information, related to accessibility and consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794) at outdoor recreation facilities covered by the assessment required under subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 5212. TRAIL INVENTORY.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 7 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) conduct a comprehensive assessment of high-priority trails, in accordance with subsection (b), on Federal recreational lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretary concerned, including measuring each trail's—

(A) average and minimum tread width;

(B) average and maximum running slope;

(C) average and maximum cross slope;

(D) tread type; and

(E) length; and

(2) make information about such high-priority trails available (including through the use of prominently displayed links) on public websites of—

(A) each of the Federal land management agencies; and

(B) each relevant unit and subunit of the Federal land management agencies.

(b) SELECTION.—The Secretary concerned shall select high-priority trails to be assessed under subsection (a)(1)—

(1) in consultation with stakeholders, including veterans organizations and organizations with expertise or experience providing outdoor recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities;

(2) in a geographically equitable manner; and

(3) in no fewer than 15 units or subunits managed by the Secretary concerned.

(c) INCLUSION OF CURRENT ASSESSMENTS.—As part of the assessment required under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary concerned may, to the extent practicable, rely on assessments completed or data gathered prior to the date of the enactment of this title.

(d) PUBLIC INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall identify opportunities to replace signage and other publicly available information, including web page information, related to such high-priority trails and consistent with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794) at high-priority trails covered by the assessment required under subsection (a)(1).

(2) TREAD OBSTACLES.—As part of the assessment required under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary may, to the extent practicable, include photographs or descriptions of tread obstacles and barriers.

(e) ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SPECIFICATION.—In publishing information about each trail under this subsection, the Secretary concerned shall make public information about trails that do not meet the Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines but could otherwise provide outdoor recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities through the use of certain assistive technology.

SEC. 5213. TRAIL ACCESSIBILITY PARTNERSHIPS.

The Secretary concerned may enter into partnerships, contracts, or agreements with other Federal, State, Tribal, local, or private entities to—

(1) measure high-priority trails as part of the assessment required under section 5212;

(2) develop accessible trails under section 5214; and

(3) make minor modifications to existing trails to enhance recreational experiences for individuals with disabilities using assistive technology—

(A) in compliance with all applicable laws and land use and management plans of the Federal recreational lands and waters on which the accessible trail is located; and

(B) in consultation with stakeholders, including veterans organizations and organizations with expertise or experience providing outdoor recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities.

SEC. 5214. ACCESSIBLE TRAILS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title,

the Secretary concerned shall select a location or locations to develop at least 3 new accessible trails—

(1) on National Forest System lands in each region of the Forest Service;

(2) on land managed by the National Park Service in each region of the National Park Service;

(3) on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in each region of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(4) on land managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in each region of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an accessible trail under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned—

(1) may—

(A) create a new accessible trail;

(B) modify an existing trail into an accessible trail; or

(C) create an accessible trail from a combination of new and existing trails; and

(2) shall—

(A) consult with stakeholders with respect to the feasibility and resources necessary for completing the accessible trail;

(B) ensure the accessible trail complies with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(C) to the extent practicable, ensure that outdoor constructed features supporting the accessible trail, including trail bridges, parking spaces, and restroom facilities, meet the requirements of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

(c) COMPLETION.—Not later than 5 years after the date that appropriations are made in advance for such purpose, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders described under subsection (b)(2), shall complete each accessible trail selected under subsection (a).

(d) MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.—For each accessible trail developed under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) publish and distribute maps and install signage, consistent with Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 accessibility guidelines and section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

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

(e) CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.—In developing each accessible trail under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall ensure that the accessible trail—

(1) minimizes conflict with—

(A) the uses, before the date of the enactment of this title, of any trail that is part of that accessible trail; or

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

(2) would not conflict with the purposes for which any trail is established under the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et seq.); and

(3) complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and land use and management plans of the Federal recreational lands and waters on which the accessible trail is located.

(f) REPORTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date that funds are made available to carry out this section, and every 3 years thereafter until each accessible trail selected under subsection (a) is completed, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders and other interested organizations, shall publish a report that lists the accessible trails developed under this section.

SEC. 5215. ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall select a location to develop new accessible recreation opportunities—

(1) on National Forest System lands in each region of the Forest Service;

(2) on land managed by the National Park Service in each region of the National Park Service;

(3) on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in each region of the Bureau of Land Management; and

(4) on land managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in each region of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(b) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing an accessible recreation opportunity under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned—

(1) may—

(A) create a new accessible recreation opportunity; or

(B) modify an existing recreation opportunity into an accessible recreation opportunity; and

(2) shall—

(A) consult with stakeholders with respect to the feasibility and resources necessary for completing the accessible recreation opportunity;

(B) ensure the accessible recreation opportunity complies with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794); and

(C) to the extent practicable, ensure that outdoor constructed features supporting the accessible recreation opportunity, including trail bridges, parking spaces and restroom facilities, meet the requirements of the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

(c) ACCESSIBLE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.—The accessible recreation opportunities developed under subsection (a) may include, where applicable, improving accessibility or access to—

(1) camp shelters, camping facilities, and camping units;

(2) hunting, fishing, shooting, or archery ranges or locations;

(3) snow activities, including skiing and snowboarding;

(4) water activities, including kayaking, paddling, canoeing, and boat launch ramps;

(5) rock climbing;

(6) biking;

(7) off-highway vehicle recreation;

(8) picnic facilities and picnic units;

(9) outdoor constructed features; and

(10) any other new or existing recreation opportunities identified in consultation with stakeholders under subsection (b)(2), consistent with the applicable laws and land use and management plans.

(d) COMPLETION.—Not later than 5 years after the date that appropriations are made in advance for such purpose, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders consulted with under subsection (b)(2), shall complete each accessible recreation opportunity selected under subsection (a).

(e) MAPS, SIGNAGE, AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS.—For each accessible recreation opportunity developed under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) publish and distribute maps and install signage, consistent with Architectural Barriers Act accessibility guidelines and section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d); and

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

(f) CONFLICT AVOIDANCE WITH OTHER USES.—In developing each accessible recreation opportunity under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall ensure that the accessible recreation opportunity—

(1) minimizes conflict with—

(A) the uses, before the date of the enactment of this title, of any Federal recreational lands and waters on which the accessible recreation opportunity is located; or

(B) multiple-use areas; and

(2) complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and land use and management plans.

(g) REPORTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date that funds are made available to carry out this section and every 3 years until each accessible recreation opportunity selected under subsection (a) is completed, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with stakeholders and other interested organizations, shall publish a report that lists the accessible recreation opportunities developed under this section.

SEC. 5216. ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

In carrying out this subtitle, the Secretary concerned may enter into partnerships, contracts, or agreements with other Federal, State, Tribal, local, or private entities, including existing outfitting and guiding services, to make assistive technology available on Federal recreational lands and waters.

SEC. 5217. SAVINGS CLAUSE.

Nothing in the subtitle shall be construed to create any conflicting standards with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4151 et seq.) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794).

Subtitle B—Military and Veterans in Parks

SEC. 5221. PROMOTION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION FOR MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop educational and public awareness materials to disseminate to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including through preseparation counseling of the Transition Assistance Program under chapter 1142 of title 10, United States Code, on—

(1) opportunities for members of the Armed Forces and veterans to access Federal recreational lands and waters free of charge under section 805 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804);

(2) the availability and location of accessible trails, including new accessible trails developed and completed under section 5214;

(3) the availability and location of accessible recreation opportunities, including new accessible recreation opportunities developed and completed under section 5215;

(4) access to, and assistance with, assistive technology;

(5) outdoor-related volunteer and wellness programs;

(6) the benefits of outdoor recreation for physical and mental health;

(7) resources to access guided outdoor trips and other outdoor programs connected to the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of the Interior, or the Department of Agriculture; and

(8) programs and jobs focused on continuing national service such as Public Land Corps, AmeriCorps, and conservation corps programs.

SEC. 5222. MILITARY VETERANS OUTDOOR RECREATION LIAISONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, and subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose, the Secretaries shall each establish within their

Departments the position of Military Veterans Outdoor Recreation Liaison.

(b) DUTIES.—The Military Veterans Outdoor Recreation Liaison shall—

(1) coordinate the implementation of this subtitle;

(2) implement recommendations identified by the Task Force on Outdoor Recreation for Veterans established under section 203 of the Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care, and Treatment Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–214), including recommendations related to—

(A) improving coordination between the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, and partner organizations regarding the use of Federal recreational lands and waters for facilitating health and wellness for veterans;

(B) addressing identified barriers, including augmenting the delivery of services of Federal programs, to providing veterans with greater opportunities to improve their health and wellness through outdoor recreation on Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(C) facilitating the use of Federal recreational lands and waters for promoting wellness and facilitating the delivery of health care and therapeutic interventions for veterans;

(3) coordinate with other Military Veterans Outdoor Recreation Liaisons established under this section and veterans organizations; and

(4) promote outdoor recreation experiences for veterans on Federal recreational lands and waters through new and innovative approaches.

SEC. 5223. PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE MILITARY AND VETERAN RECREATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may enter into partnerships or agreements with State, Tribal, local, or private entities with expertise in outdoor recreation, volunteer, accessibility, and health and wellness programs for members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

(b) PARTNERSHIPS.—As part of a partnership or agreement entered into under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may host events on Federal recreational lands and waters designed to promote outdoor recreation among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(c) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Under a partnership or agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary concerned may provide financial or technical assistance to the entity with which the respective Secretary concerned has entered into the partnership or agreement to assist with—

(1) the planning, development, and execution of events, activities, or programs designed to promote outdoor recreation for members of the Armed Forces or veterans; or

(2) the acquisition of assistive technology to facilitate improved outdoor recreation opportunities for members of the Armed Forces or veterans.

SEC. 5224. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN RECREATION.

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this title, the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation established under section 5113 shall develop and make public a strategy to increase visits to Federal recreational lands and waters by members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family members.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A strategy developed under subsection (a)—

(1) shall—

(A) provide for the implementation of recommendations to facilitate the use of public recreation lands by veterans developed by the Task Force on Outdoor Recreation for Veterans under section 203 of the Veterans COMPACT Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–214);

(B) establish objectives and quantifiable targets for increasing visits to Federal recreational lands and waters by members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family members;

(C) be developed in coordination with appropriate veterans organizations;

(D) emphasize increased recreation opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and Gold Star Family members; and

(E) provide the anticipated costs to achieve the objectives and meet the targets established under subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) shall not establish any preference between similar recreation facilitated by noncommercial or commercial entities.

(c) UPDATE TO STRATEGY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the publication of the strategy required under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for the following 3 years, the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation shall update the strategy and make public the update.

SEC. 5225. RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Section 804(d) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6803(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking ''11'' and inserting ''12'';

(2) in paragraph (5)(D)(i)—

(A) by striking ''Five'' and inserting ''Six''; and

(B) by inserting after subclause (V) the following:

''(VI) Veterans organizations, as such term is defined in section 5201 of the EXPLORE Act.''; and

(3) in paragraph (8), by striking ''Eight'' and inserting ''Seven''.

SEC. 5226. CAREER AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR VETERANS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall establish a pilot program to proactively inform veterans of available employment positions that relate to the conservation and resource management activities of the Department of the Interior.

(2) POSITIONS.—The Secretary shall—

(A) identify vacant positions in the Department of the Interior that are appropriate to fill using the pilot program;

(B) coordinate with the Military Veteran Outdoor Recreation Liaisons established under section 5222 to inform veterans of such vacant positions; and

(C) to the maximum extent practicable, provide assistance to veterans in selecting one or more vacant positions to apply to, for which that veteran may be best qualified.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the pilot program under paragraph (1) commences, the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly provide to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the pilot program.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the pilot program under paragraph (1) terminates under paragraph (4), the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the pilot program that includes the following:

(i) The number of veterans who applied to participate in the pilot program.

(ii) The number of such veterans employed under the pilot program.

(iii) The number of veterans identified in clause (ii) who transitioned to full-time positions with the Federal Government after participating in the pilot program.

(iv) Any other information the Secretary and the Secretary of Labor determine appropriate with respect to measuring the effectiveness of the pilot program.

(4) DURATION.—The authority to carry out the pilot program under this subsection shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date on which the pilot program commences.

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

(1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(c) OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM ATTENDANCE.—The Secretaries are encouraged to work with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure servicemembers and veterans have access to outdoor recreation and outdoor-related volunteer and wellness programs as part of the basic services provided to servicemembers and veterans.

Subtitle C—Youth Access

SEC. 5231. INCREASING YOUTH RECREATION VISITS TO FEDERAL LAND.

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries, acting jointly, shall develop and make public a strategy to increase the number of youth recreation visits to Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A strategy developed under subsection (a)—

(1) shall—

(A) emphasize increased recreation opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters for underserved youth;

(B) establish objectives and quantifiable targets for increasing youth recreation visits; and

(C) provide the anticipated costs to achieve the objectives and meet the targets established under subparagraph (B); and

(2) shall not establish any preference between similar recreation facilitated by noncommercial or commercial entities.

(c) UPDATE TO STRATEGY.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the publication of the strategy required under subsection (a), and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretaries shall update the strategy and make public the update.

(d) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretaries may enter into contracts or cost-share agreements (including contracts or agreements for the acquisition of vehicles) to carry out this section.

SEC. 5232. EVERY KID OUTDOORS ACT EXTENSION.

Section 9001(b) of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking ''during the period beginning on September 1 and ending on August 31 of the following year'' and inserting ''for a 12-month period that begins on a date determined by the Secretaries''; and

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking ''the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''September 30, 2031''.

TITLE III—SIMPLIFYING OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR RECREATION

SEC. 5301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATION.—The term ''commercial use authorization'' means

a commercial use authorization to provide services to visitors to units of the National Park System under subchapter II of chapter 1019 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TRIP.—The term ''multijurisdictional trip'' means a trip that—

(A) uses 2 or more units of Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(B) is under the jurisdiction of 2 or more Federal land management agencies.

(3) RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term ''recreation service provider'' has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by section 5311).

(4) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT.—The term ''special recreation permit'' has the meaning given the term in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by section 5311).

(5) VISITOR-USE DAY.—The term ''visitor-use day'' means a visitor-use day, user day, launch, or other metric used by the Secretary concerned for purposes of authorizing use under a special recreation permit.

Subtitle A—Modernizing Recreation Permitting

SEC. 5311. SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT AND FEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 802. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) ENTRANCE FEE.—The term 'entrance fee' means the recreation fee authorized to be charged to enter onto lands managed by the National Park Service or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

''(2) EXPANDED AMENITY RECREATION FEE.—The term 'expanded amenity recreation fee' means the recreation fee authorized by section 803(g).

''(3) FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term 'Federal land management agency' means the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, or the Forest Service.

''(4) FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS AND WATERS.—The term 'Federal recreational lands and waters' means lands or waters managed by a Federal land management agency.

''(5) NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASS.—The term 'National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass' means the interagency national pass authorized by section 805.

''(6) PASSHOLDER.—The term 'passholder' means the person who is issued a recreation pass.

''(7) RECREATION FEE.—The term 'recreation fee' means an entrance fee, standard amenity recreation fee, expanded amenity recreation fee, or special recreation permit fee.

''(8) RECREATION PASS.—The term 'recreation pass' means the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass or one of the other recreation passes available as authorized by section 805.

''(9) RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'recreation service provider' means a person that provides recreational services to the public under a special recreation permit under clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of paragraph (13)(A).

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

''(11) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means—

''(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to a Federal land management agency (other than the Forest Service); and

''(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to the Forest Service.

''(12) SPECIAL ACCOUNT.—The term 'special account' means the special account established in the Treasury under section 807 for a Federal land management agency.'';

''(13) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'special recreation permit' means a permit issued by a Federal land management agency for the use of Federal recreational lands and waters that the Secretary determines to be in one of the following categories:

''(i) For—

''(I) a recurring outfitting, guiding, or, at the discretion of the Secretary, other recreation service, the authorization for which is for a term of not more than 10 years; or

''(II) a recurring outfitting, guiding, or, at the discretion of the Secretary, other recreation service, that occurs under a temporary special recreation permit authorized under section 5316 of the EXPLORE Act.

''(ii) For a single competitive activity or event or a related series of competitive activities or events.

''(iii) For—

''(I) at the discretion of the Secretary, a single organized group recreation activity or event (including an activity or event in which motorized recreational vehicles are used or in which outfitting and guiding services are used) that—

''(aa) is a structured or scheduled event or activity;

''(bb) is not competitive and is for fewer than 75 participants;

''(cc) may charge an entry or participation fee;

''(dd) involves fewer than 200 visitor-use days; and

''(ee) is undertaken or provided by the recreation service provider at the same site not more frequently than 3 times a year; and

''(II) at the discretion of the Secretary, a recurring organized group recreation activity or event (including an outfitting and guiding activity or event) that—

''(aa) is a structured or scheduled event or activity;

''(bb) is not competitive;

''(cc) may charge a participation fee;

''(dd) occurs in a group size of fewer than 7 participants;

''(ee) involves fewer than 40 visitor-use days; and

''(ff) is undertaken or provided by the recreation service provider for a term of not more than 180 days.

''(iv) For a large-group activity or event that involves a number of participants equal to or greater than a number to be determined by the Secretary.

''(v) For a specialized recreational use not described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv), such as—

''(I) an organizational camp;

''(II) participation by the public in a recreation activity or recreation use of a specific area of Federal recreational lands and waters in which use by the public is allocated; and

''(III) any other type of recreational activity or event that requires an entry or participation fee that is not strictly a sharing of the expenses incurred by the participants during the activity or event.

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'special recreation permit' does not include—

''(i) a concession contract for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services;

''(ii) a commercial use authorization issued under section 101925 of title 54, United States Code; or

''(iii) any other type of permit, including a special use permit administered by the National Park Service.

''(14) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FEE.—The term 'special recreation permit fee' means the fee authorized by section 803(h)(2).

''(15) STANDARD AMENITY RECREATION FEE.—The term 'standard amenity recreation fee' means the recreation fee authorized by section 803(f).

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

(b) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS AND FEES.—Section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) is amended—

(1) by striking ''this Act'' each place it appears and inserting ''this title'';

(2) in subsection (b)(5), by striking ''section 4(d)'' and inserting ''section 804(d)''; and

(3) by striking subsection (h) and inserting the following:

''(h) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS AND FEES.—

''(1) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS.—

''(A) APPLICATIONS.—The Secretary—

''(i) may develop and make available to the public an application to obtain a special recreation permit described in clause (v) of section 802(13)(A); and

''(ii) shall develop and make available to the public an application to obtain a special recreation permit described in each of clauses (i) through (iv) of section 802(13)(A).

''(B) ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.—On review of a completed application developed under subparagraph (A), as applicable, and a determination by the Secretary that the applicant is eligible for the special recreation permit, the Secretary may issue to the applicant a special recreation permit, subject to any terms and conditions that are determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

''(C) INCIDENTAL SALES.—A special recreation permit issued under this paragraph may include an authorization for sales that are incidental in nature to the permitted use of the Federal recreational lands and waters, except where otherwise prohibited by law.

''(2) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FEES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may charge a special recreation permit fee for the issuance of a special recreation permit in accordance with this paragraph.

''(B) PREDETERMINED SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FEES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraphs (D) and (E) of this paragraph, the Secretary shall establish and may charge, and update as necessary, a predetermined fee, described in clause (ii) of this subparagraph, for a special recreation permit described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 802(13)(A) for a specific type of use on a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters, consistent with the criteria set forth in clause (iii) of this subparagraph.

''(ii) TYPE OF FEE.—A predetermined fee described in clause (i) shall be—

''(I) a fixed fee that is assessed per special recreation permit, including a fee with an associated size limitation or other criteria as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary; or

''(II) an amount assessed per visitor-use day.

''(iii) CRITERIA.—A predetermined fee under clause (i) shall—

''(I) have been established before the date of the enactment of the EXPLORE Act;

''(II) if established after the date of the enactment of the EXPLORE Act—

''(aa) be in accordance with subsection (b); and

''(bb) be comparable to an amount described in subparagraph (D)(ii) or (E)(ii), as applicable; or

''(III) beginning on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of the EXPLORE Act, be $6 per visitor-use day in instances in which the Secretary has not established a predetermined fee under subclause (I) or (II) until such time as the Secretary establishes a different fee under this paragraph.

''(C) CALCULATION OF FEES FOR SPECIALIZED RECREATIONAL USES AND LARGE-GROUP ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS.—The Secretary may, at the discretion of the Secretary, establish and charge a fee for a special recreation permit described in clause (iv) or (v) of section 802(13)(A).

''(D) CALCULATION OF FEES FOR SINGLE ORGANIZED GROUP RECREATION ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS, COMPETITIVE EVENTS, AND CERTAIN RECURRING ORGANIZED GROUP RECREATION ACTIVITIES.—If the Secretary elects to charge a fee for a special recreation permit described in clause (ii) or (iii) of section 802(13)(A), the Secretary shall charge the recreation service provider, based on the election of the recreation service provider—

''(i) the applicable predetermined fee established under subparagraph (B); or

''(ii) an amount equal to a percentage of, to be determined by the Secretary, but to not to exceed 5 percent of, adjusted gross receipts calculated under subparagraph (F).

''(E) CALCULATION OF FEES FOR TEMPORARY PERMITS AND LONG-TERM PERMITS.—Subject to subparagraph (G), if the Secretary elects to charge a fee for a special recreation permit described in section 802(13)(A)(i), the Secretary shall charge the recreation service provider, based on the election of the recreation service provider—

''(i) the applicable predetermined fee established under subparagraph (B); or

''(ii) an amount equal to a percentage of, to be determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed 3 percent of, adjusted gross receipts calculated under subparagraph (F).

''(F) ADJUSTED GROSS RECEIPTS.—For the purposes of subparagraphs (D)(ii) and (E)(ii), the Secretary shall calculate the adjusted gross receipts collected for each trip or event authorized under a special recreation permit, using either of the following calculations, based on the election of the recreation service provider:

''(i) The sum of—

''(I) the product obtained by multiplying—

''(aa) the general amount paid by participants of the trip or event to the recreation service provider for the applicable trip or event (excluding amounts related to goods, souvenirs, merchandise, gear, and additional food provided or sold by the recreation service provider); and

''(bb) the quotient obtained by dividing—

''(AA) the number of days of the trip or event that occurred on Federal recreational lands and waters covered by the special recreation permit, rounded to the nearest whole day; by

''(BB) the total number of days of the trip or event; and

''(II) the amount of any additional revenue received by the recreation service provider for an add-on activity or an optional excursion that occurred on the Federal recreational lands and waters covered by the special recreation permit.

''(ii) The difference between—

''(I) the total cost paid by the participants of the trip or event for the trip or event to the recreation service provider—

''(aa) including any additional revenue received by the recreation service provider for an add-on activity or an optional excursion; and

''(bb) excluding the amount of any revenues from goods, souvenirs, merchandise, gear, and additional food provided or sold by the recreation service provider to the participants of the applicable trip or event; and

''(II) the sum of—

''(aa) the amount of any costs or revenues from services and activities provided or sold by the recreation service provider to the participants of the trip or event that occurred in a location other than Federal recreational lands and waters (including costs for travel and lodging outside Federal recreational lands and waters); and

''(bb) the amount of any revenues from any service provided by a recreation service provider for an activity on Federal recreational lands and waters that is not covered by the special recreation permit.

''(G) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraphs (D) and (E), the Secretary may charge a recreation service provider a minimum annual fee for a special recreation permit described in clauses (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 802(13)(A).

''(H) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—

''(i) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph affects any fee for—

''(I) a concession contract administered by the National Park Service or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services; or

''(II) a commercial use authorization or special use permit for use of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the National Park Service.

''(ii) COST RECOVERY.—Nothing in this paragraph affects the ability of the Secretary to recover any administrative costs under section 5320 of the EXPLORE Act.

''(iii) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FEES AND OTHER RECREATION FEES.—The collection of a special recreation permit fee under this paragraph shall not affect the authority of the Secretary to collect an entrance fee, a standard amenity recreation fee, or an expanded amenity recreation fee authorized under subsections (e), (f), and (g).

''(iv) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this paragraph affects the ability of the Secretary to issue permits or collect fees under another provision of law, including the National Forest Organizational Camp Fee Improvement Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6231 et seq.).

''(i) DISCLOSURE OF RECREATION FEES AND USE OF RECREATION FEES.—

''(1) NOTICE OF ENTRANCE FEES, STANDARD AMENITY RECREATION FEES, EXPANDED AMENITY RECREATION FEES, AND AVAILABLE RECREATION PASSES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall post clear notice of any entrance fee, standard amenity recreation fee, expanded amenity recreation fee, and available recreation passes—

''(i) at appropriate locations in each unit or area of Federal recreational land and waters at which an entrance fee, standard amenity recreation fee, or expanded amenity recreation fee is charged; and

''(ii) on the appropriate website for such unit or area.

''(B) PUBLICATIONS.—The Secretary shall include in publications distributed at a unit or area or described in subparagraph (A) the notice described in that subparagraph.

''(2) NOTICE OF USES OF RECREATION FEES.—Beginning on January 1, 2026, the Secretary shall annually post, at the location at which a recreation fee described in paragraph (1)(A) is collected, clear notice of—

''(A) the total recreation fees collected during each of the 2 preceding fiscal years at the respective unit or area of the Federal land management agency; and

''(B) each use during the preceding fiscal year of the applicable recreation fee or recreation pass revenues collected under this section.

''(3) NOTICE OF RECREATION FEE PROJECTS.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall post clear notice at the location at which work is performed using recreation fee and recreation pass revenues collected under this section.

''(4) CENTRALIZED REPORTING ON AGENCY WEBSITES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2025, and not later than 60 days after the beginning of each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary shall post on the website of the applicable Federal land management agency a searchable list of each use during the preceding fiscal year of the recreation fee or recreation pass revenues collected under this section.

''(B) LIST COMPONENTS.—The list required under subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to each use described in that subparagraph—

''(i) a title and description of the overall project;

''(ii) a title and description for each component of the project;

''(iii) the location of the project; and

''(iv) the amount obligated for the project.

''(5) NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS.—A recreation service provider may inform a customer of the recreation service provider of any fee charged by the Secretary under this section.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 804 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6803) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(d) USE OF SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT REVENUE.—Section 808 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6807) is amended—

(1) by striking ''this Act'' each place it appears and inserting ''this title'';

(2) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''6(a) or a visitor reservation service.'' and inserting ''806(a) or a visitor reservation service;''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) the processing of special recreation permit applications and administration of special recreation permits; and

''(H) the improvement of the operation of the special recreation permit program under section 803(h).''; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''section 5(a)(7)'' and inserting ''section 805(a)(7)''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''section 5(d)'' and inserting ''section 805(d)''.

(e) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 810 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6809) is amended by striking ''2019'' and inserting ''2031''.

SEC. 5312. PERMITTING PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To simplify the process of the issuance and reissuance of special recreation permits and reduce the cost of administering special recreation permits under section 803(h) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)) (as amended by this title), the Secretaries shall each—

(1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) evaluate the process for issuing special recreation permits;

(B) based on the evaluation under subparagraph (A), identify opportunities to—

(i) eliminate duplicative processes with respect to issuing special recreation permits;

(ii) reduce costs for the issuance of special recreation permits;

(iii) decrease processing times for special recreation permits; and

(iv) issue simplified special recreation permits, including special recreation permits for an organized group recreation activity or event under subsection (e); and

(C) use or incorporate existing evaluations and analyses, as applicable, in carrying out this section; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretaries complete their respective evaluation and identification processes under paragraph (1), revise, as necessary, relevant agency regulations and guidance documents, including regulations and guidance documents relating to the environmental review process, for special recreation permits to implement the improvements identified under paragraph (1)(B).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall, to the maximum extent practicable, utilize available tools, including tiering to existing programmatic reviews, as appropriate, to facilitate an effective and efficient environmental review process for activities undertaken by the Secretary concerned relating to the issuance of special recreation permits.

(2) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) evaluate whether existing categorical exclusions available to the Secretary concerned on the date of the enactment of this title are consistent with the provisions of this title;

(B) evaluate whether a modification of an existing categorical exclusion or the establishment of 1 or more new categorical exclusions developed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) is necessary to undertake an activity described in paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the authorities and requirements in this title; and

(C) revise relevant agency regulations and policy statements and guidance documents, as necessary, to modify existing categorical exclusions or incorporate new categorical exclusions based on evaluations conducted under this paragraph.

(c) NEEDS ASSESSMENTS.—Except as required under subsection (c) or (d) of section 4 of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133), the Secretary concerned shall not conduct a needs assessment as a condition of issuing a special recreation permit under section 803(h) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)) (as amended by this title).

(d) ONLINE APPLICATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall make the application for a special recreation permit under section 803(h) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802(h)) (as amended by this title), including a reissuance of a special recreation permit under that section, available for completion and submission—

(1) online;

(2) by mail or electronic mail; and

(3) in person at the field office for the applicable Federal recreational lands and waters.

(e) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS FOR AN ORGANIZED GROUP RECREATION ACTIVITY OR EVENT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT FOR AN ORGANIZED GROUP RECREATION ACTIVITY OR EVENT.—The term ''special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event'' means a special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(iii) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title).

(B) YOUTH GROUP.—The term ''youth group'' means a recreation service provider that predominantly serves individuals not older than 25 years of age.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN ALLOCATIONS OF USE.—If the Secretary concerned allocates visitor-use days available for an area or activity on Federal recreational lands and waters among recreation service providers that hold a permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(i) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), the Secretary concerned may issue a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event for such Federal recreational lands and waters, subject to the requirements under paragraph (3), notwithstanding the availability or allocation of visitor-use days to holders of a permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(i) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title).

(3) ISSUANCE.—In accordance with paragraphs (5) and (6), if use by the general public is not subject to a limited entry permit system and if capacity is available for the times or days in which the proposed activity or event would be undertaken, on request of a recreation service provider (including a youth group) to conduct an organized group recreation activity or event, the Secretary concerned—

(A) shall make a nominal effects determination to determine whether the proposed activity or event would have more than nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(B)(i) shall not require a recreation service provider (including a youth group) to obtain a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event if the Secretary concerned determines—

(I) the proposed activity or event to be undertaken would have only nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(II) establishing additional terms and conditions for the proposed activity or event is not necessary to protect or avoid conflict on or with Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs;

(ii) in the case of an organized group recreation activity or event described in paragraph (13)(A)(iii)(I) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), may issue to a recreation service provider (including a youth group) a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event, subject to any terms and conditions as are determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned, if the Secretary concerned determines—

(I) the proposed activity or event to be undertaken would have only nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(II) establishing additional terms and conditions for the proposed activity or event is necessary to protect or avoid conflict on or with Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs;

(iii) in the case of an organized group recreation activity or event described in paragraph (13)(A)(iii)(II) of section 802 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), shall issue to a recreation service provider (including a youth group) a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event, subject to such terms and conditions determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned, if the Secretary concerned determines—

(I) the proposed activity or event to be undertaken would have only nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(II) establishing additional terms and conditions for the proposed activity or event is necessary to protect or avoid conflict on or with Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(iv) may issue to a recreation service provider (including a youth group) a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event, subject to any terms and conditions determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned, if the Secretary concerned determines—

(I) the proposed activity or event to be undertaken may have more than nominal effects on Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs; and

(II) establishing additional terms and conditions for the proposed activity or event would be necessary to protect or avoid conflict on or with Federal recreational lands and waters, resources, and programs.

(4) FEES.—The Secretary concerned may elect not to charge a fee to a recreation service provider (including a youth group) for a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event.

(5) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection prevents the Secretary concerned from limiting or abating the allowance of a proposed activity or event under paragraph (3)(B)(i) or the issuance of a special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event, based on resource conditions, administrative burdens, or safety issues.

(6) QUALIFICATIONS.—A special recreation permit for an organized group recreation activity or event issued under paragraph (3) shall be subject to the health and safety standards required by the Secretary concerned for a permit issued under paragraph (13)(A)(i) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title).

SEC. 5313. PERMIT FLEXIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall establish guidelines to allow a holder of a special recreation permit under subsection (h) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title), to engage in another recreational activity under the special recreation permit that is substantially similar to the specific activity authorized under the special recreation permit.

(b) CRITERIA.—For the purposes of this section, a recreational activity shall be considered to be a substantially similar recreational activity if the recreational activity—

(1) is comparable in type, nature, scope, and ecological setting to the specific activity authorized under the special recreation permit;

(2) does not result in a greater impact on natural and cultural resources than the impact of the authorized activity;

(3) does not adversely affect—

(A) any other holder of a special recreation permit or other permit; or

(B) any other authorized use of the Federal recreational lands and waters; and

(4) is consistent with—

(A) any applicable laws (including regulations); and

(B) the land management plan, resource management plan, or equivalent plan applicable to the Federal recreational lands and waters.

(c) SURRENDER OF UNUSED VISITOR-USE DAYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A recreation service provider holding a special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(i) of section 802

of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title) may—

(A) notify the Secretary concerned of an inability to use visitor-use days annually allocated to the recreation service provider under the special recreation permit; and

(B) surrender to the Secretary concerned the unused visitor-use days for the applicable year for temporary reassignment under section 5318(b).

(2) DETERMINATION.—To ensure a recreation service provider described in paragraph (1) is able to make an informed decision before surrendering any unused visitor-use day under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary concerned shall, on the request of the applicable recreation service provider, determine and notify the recreation service provider whether the unused visitor-use day meets the requirement described in section 5317(b)(3)(B) before the recreation service provider surrenders the unused visitor-use day.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section affects any authority of, regulation issued by, or decision of the Secretary concerned relating to the use of electric bicycles on Federal recreational lands and waters under any other Federal law.

SEC. 5314. PERMIT ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PERMIT AVAILABILITY.—

(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF PERMIT AVAILABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in an area of Federal recreational lands and waters in which use by recreation service providers is allocated, if the Secretary concerned determines that visitor-use days are available for allocation to recreation service providers or holders of a commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding, the Secretary concerned shall publish that information on the website of the agency that administers the applicable area of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(B) EFFECT.—Nothing in this paragraph—

(i) applies to—

(I) the reissuance of an existing special recreation permit or commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding; or

(II) the issuance of a new special recreation permit or new commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding issued to the purchaser of—

(aa) a recreation service provider that is the holder of an existing special recreation permit; or

(bb) a holder of an existing commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding; or

(ii) creates a prerequisite to the issuance of a special recreation permit or commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding or otherwise limits the authority of the Secretary concerned—

(I) to issue a new special recreation permit or new commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding; or

(II) to add a new or additional use to an existing special recreation permit or an existing commercial use authorization for outfitting and guiding.

(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary concerned shall ensure that information published on the website under this subsection is consistently updated to provide current and correct information to the public.

(3) ELECTRONIC MAIL NOTIFICATIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall establish a system by which potential applicants for special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations for outfitting and guiding may subscribe to receive notification by electronic mail of the availability of special recreation permits under section 803(h)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title) or commercial use authorizations for outfitting and guiding.

(b) PERMIT APPLICATION OR PROPOSAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary concerned receives a completed application or a complete proposal for a special recreation permit under section 803(h)(1) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title), the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) provide to the applicant notice acknowledging receipt of the application or proposal; and

(2)(A) issue a final decision with respect to the application or proposal; or

(B) provide to the applicant notice of a projected date for a final decision on the application or proposal.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section applies to a concession contract issued by the National Park Service for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services.

SEC. 5315. SERVICE FIRST INITIATIVE; PERMITS FOR MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TRIPS.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 330 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (43 U.S.C. 1703), is repealed.

(b) COOPERATIVE ACTION AND SHARING OF RESOURCES BY THE SECRETARIES OF THE INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2024, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretaries may carry out an initiative, to be known as the ''Service First Initiative'', under which the Secretaries, or Federal land management agencies within their departments, may—

(A) establish programs to conduct projects, planning, permitting, leasing, contracting, and other activities, either jointly or on behalf of one another;

(B) co-locate in Federal offices and facilities leased by an agency of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture; and

(C) issue rules to test the feasibility of issuing unified permits, applications, and leases, subject to the limitations in this section.

(2) DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretaries may make reciprocal delegations of the respective authorities, duties, and responsibilities of the Secretaries in support of the Service First Initiative agency-wide to promote customer service and efficiency.

(3) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section alters, expands, or limits the applicability of any law (including regulations) to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Forest Service or matters under the jurisdiction of any other bureaus or offices of the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, as applicable.

(4) TRANSFERS OF FUNDING.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and to facilitate the sharing of resources under the Service First Initiative, the Secretaries are authorized to mutually transfer funds between, or reimburse amounts expended from, appropriate accounts of either Department on an annual basis, including transfers and reimbursements for multiyear projects, except that this authority may not be used in a manner that circumvents requirements or limitations imposed on the use of any of the funds so transferred or reimbursed.

(5) REPORT.—The Secretaries shall submit an annual report to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate describing the activities undertaken as part of the Service First Initiative in the prior year.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS FOR MULTIJURISDICTIONAL TRIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall establish a pilot program to offer to a person seeking an authorization for a multijurisdictional trip a set of separate special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations that authorizes the use of each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters on which the multijurisdictional trip occurs, subject to the authorities that apply to the applicable unit of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(2) MINIMUM NUMBER OF PERMITS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall issue not fewer than 10 sets of separate special recreation permits described in paragraph (13)(A)(i) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title) or commercial use authorizations under the pilot program established under paragraph (1).

(3) LEAD AGENCIES.—In carrying out the pilot program established under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall—

(A) designate a lead agency for issuing and administering a set of separate special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations; and

(B) select not fewer than 4 offices at which a person shall be able to apply for a set of separate special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations, of which—

(i) not fewer than 2 offices are managed by the Secretary; and

(ii) not fewer than 2 offices are managed by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(4) RETENTION OF AUTHORITY BY THE APPLICABLE SECRETARY.—Each of the Secretaries shall retain the authority to enforce the terms, stipulations, conditions, and agreements in a set of separate special recreation permits or commercial use authorizations issued under the pilot program established under paragraph (1) that apply specifically to the use occurring on the Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the applicable Secretary, under the authorities that apply to the applicable Federal recreational lands and waters.

(5) OPTION TO APPLY FOR SEPARATE SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS OR COMMERCIAL USE AUTHORIZATIONS.—A person seeking the appropriate permits or authorizations for a multijurisdictional trip may apply for—

(A) a separate special recreation permit or commercial use authorization for the use of each unit of Federal recreational lands and waters on which the multijurisdictional trip occurs; or

(B) a set of separate special recreational permits or commercial use authorizations made available under the pilot program established under paragraph (1).

(6) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection applies to a concession contract issued by the National Park Service for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services.

SEC. 5316. FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TEMPORARY SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS FOR OUTFITTING AND GUIDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary concerned shall establish and implement a program to authorize the issuance of temporary special recreation permits for new or additional recreational uses of Federal recreational land and water managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) TERM OF TEMPORARY PERMITS.—A temporary special recreation permit issued

under subsection (a) shall be issued for a period of not more than 2 years.

(c) CONVERSION TO LONG-TERM PERMIT.—If the Secretary concerned determines that a permittee under subsection (a) has completed 2 years of satisfactory operation under a permit or permits issued by the Secretary concerned, the Secretary concerned may provide for the conversion of a temporary special recreation permit issued under subsection (a) to a long-term special recreation permit.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection alters or affects the authority of the Secretary to issue a special recreation permit under subsection (h)(1) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title).

SEC. 5317. REVIEWS FOR LONG-TERM PERMITS.

(a) MONITORING.—The Secretary concerned shall monitor each recreation service provider issued a special recreation permit for compliance with the terms of the permit—

(1) not less than annually or as frequently as needed (as determined by the Secretary concerned), in the case of a temporary special recreation permit for outfitting and guiding issued under section 5316; and

(2) not less than once every 2 years or as frequently as needed (as determined by the Secretary concerned), in the case of a special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(iv)(I) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title) that is issued for a term of not more than 10 years.

(b) USE-OF-ALLOCATION REVIEWS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary, as applicable, allocates visitor-use days among special recreation permits for outfitting and guiding, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, and the Secretary may, review the use by the recreation service provider of the visitor-use days allocated under a long-term special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(i)(I) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), once every 5 years.

(2) REQUIREMENTS OF THE REVIEW.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall determine—

(A) the number of visitor-use days that the recreation service provider used each year under the special recreation permit, in accordance with paragraph (3); and

(B) the year in which the recreation service provider used the most visitor-use days under the special recreation permit.

(3) CONSIDERATION OF SURRENDERED, UNUSED VISITOR-USE DAYS.—For the purposes of determining the number of visitor-use days a recreation service provider used in a specified year under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, and the Secretary, as applicable, shall consider an unused visitor-use day that has been surrendered under section 5313(c)(1)(B) as—

(A) ½ of a visitor-use day used; or

(B) 1 visitor-use day used, if the Secretary concerned determines the use of the allocated visitor-use day had been or will be prevented by a circumstance beyond the control of the recreation service provider.

SEC. 5318. ADJUSTMENT OF ALLOCATED VISITOR-USE DAYS.

(a) ADJUSTMENTS FOLLOWING USE OF ALLOCATION REVIEWS.—On the completion of a use-of-allocation review conducted under section 5317(b) for a special recreation permit described in paragraph (13)(A)(i)(I) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), the Secretary concerned shall adjust the number of visitor-use days allocated to a recreation service provider under the special recreation permit as follows:

(1) If the Secretary concerned determines that the performance of the recreation service provider was satisfactory during the most recent review conducted under subsection (a) of section 5317, the annual number of visitor-use days allocated for each remaining year of the permit shall be equal to 125 percent of the number of visitor-use days used, as determined under subsection (b)(2)(A) of that section, during the year identified under subsection (b)(2)(B) of that section, not to exceed the level allocated to the recreation service provider on the date on which the special recreation permit was issued.

(2) If the Secretary concerned determines the performance of the recreation service provider is less than satisfactory during the most recent performance review conducted under subsection (a) of section 5317, the annual number of visitor-use days allocated for each remaining year of the special recreation permit shall be equal to not more than 100 percent of the number of visitor-use days used, as determined under subsection (b)(2)(A) of that section during the year identified under subsection (b)(2)(B) of that section.

(b) TEMPORARY REASSIGNMENT OF UNUSED VISITOR-USE DAYS.—The Secretary concerned may temporarily assign unused visitor-use days, made available under section 5313(c)(1)(B), to—

(1) any other existing or potential recreation service provider, notwithstanding the number of visitor-use days allocated to the special recreation permit holder under the special recreation permit held or to be held by the recreation service provider; or

(2) any existing or potential holder of a special recreation permit described in clause (ii), (iii), or (v) of paragraph (13)(A) of section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801) (as amended by this title), including the public.

(c) ADDITIONAL CAPACITY.—If unallocated visitor-use days are available, the Secretary concerned may, at any time, amend a special recreation permit to allocate additional visitor-use days to a qualified recreation service provider.

SEC. 5319. LIABILITY.

(a) INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), as a condition of issuing a special recreation permit under subsection (h)(1)(B) of section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title) or a commercial use authorization, the Secretary concerned may require the holder of the special recreation permit or commercial use authorization to have a commercial general liability insurance policy that—

(A) is commensurate with the level of risk of the activities to be conducted under the special recreation permit or commercial use authorization; and

(B) includes the United States as an additional insured in an endorsement to the applicable policy.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary concerned shall not require a holder of a special recreation permit or commercial use authorization to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1), if that permit or authorization is for—

(A) participation by an unguided member of the public in a recreation activity in an area of Federal recreational lands and waters in which use by the unguided public is allocated; or

(B) low-risk activities, as determined by the Secretary concerned, including commemorative ceremonies.

(b) INDEMNIFICATION BY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES.—The Secretary concerned shall not require a State, State agency, State institution, or political subdivision of a State to indemnify the United States for tort liability as a condition for issuing a special recreation permit or commercial use authorization to the extent the State, State agency, State institution, or political subdivision of a State is precluded by State law from providing indemnification to the United States for tort liability, if the State, State agency, State institution, or political subdivision of the State maintains the minimum amount of liability insurance coverage required by the Federal land management agency for the activities conducted under the special recreation permit or commercial use authorization in the form of—

(1) a commercial general liability insurance policy, which includes the United States as an additional insured in an endorsement to the policy, if the State is authorized to obtain commercial general liability insurance by State law;

(2) self-insurance, which covers the United States as an additional insured, if authorized by State law; or

(3) a combination of the coverage described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) EXCULPATORY AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a Federal land management agency shall not implement, administer, or enforce any regulation, guidance, or policy prohibiting the use of an exculpatory agreement between a recreation service provider or a holder of a commercial use authorization and a customer relating to services provided under a special recreation permit or a commercial use authorization.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Any exculpatory agreement used by a recreation service provider or holder of a commercial use authorization for an activity authorized under a special recreation permit or commercial use authorization—

(A) shall shield the United States from any liability, if otherwise allowable under Federal law; and

(B) shall not waive any liability of the recreation service provider or holder of the commercial use authorization that may not be waived under the laws (including common law) of the applicable State or for gross negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct.

(3) CONSISTENCY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries shall—

(A) review the policies of the Secretaries pertaining to the use of exculpatory agreements by recreation service providers and holders of commercial use authorizations; and

(B) revise any policy described in subparagraph (A) as necessary to make the policies of the Secretaries pertaining to the use of exculpatory agreements by recreation service providers and holders of commercial use authorizations consistent with this subsection and across all Federal recreational lands and waters.

(d) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section applies to a concession contract issued by the National Park Service for the provision of accommodations, facilities, or services.

SEC. 5320. COST RECOVERY REFORM.

(a) COST RECOVERY FOR SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS.—In addition to a fee collected under section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) or any other authorized fee collected by the Secretary concerned, the Secretary concerned may assess and collect a reasonable fee from an applicant for, or holder of, a special recreation permit to recover administrative costs incurred by the Secretary concerned for—

(1) processing a proposal or application for the special recreation permit;

(2) issuing the special recreation permit; and

(3) monitoring the special recreation permit to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the special recreation permit.

(b) DE MINIMIS EXEMPTION FROM COST RECOVERY.—If the administrative costs described in subsection (a) are assessed on an hourly basis, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) establish an hourly de minimis threshold that exempts a specified number of hours from the assessment and collection of administrative costs described in subsection (a); and

(2) charge an applicant only for any hours that exceed the de minimis threshold.

(c) MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS.—If the Secretary concerned collectively processes multiple applications for special recreation permits for the same or similar services in the same unit of Federal recreational lands and waters, the Secretary concerned shall, to the extent practicable—

(1) assess from the applicants the fee described in subsection (a) on a prorated basis; and

(2) apply the exemption described in subsection (b) to each applicant on an individual basis.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary concerned shall not assess or collect administrative costs under this section for a programmatic environmental review.

(e) COST REDUCTION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the agency processing an application for a special recreation permit shall use existing studies and analysis to reduce the quantity of work and costs necessary to process the application.

SEC. 5321. AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RECREATION PASSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act is amended by inserting after section 805 (16 U.S.C. 6804) the following:

''SEC. 805A. AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RECREATION PASSES.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To improve the availability of Federal, State, and local outdoor recreation passes, the Secretaries are encouraged to coordinate with States and counties regarding the availability of Federal, State, and local recreation passes to allow a purchaser to buy a Federal recreation pass, State recreation pass, and local recreation pass in a single transaction.

''(2) INCLUDED PASSES.—Passes covered by the program established under paragraph (1) include—

''(A) an America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass under section 805; and

''(B) any pass covering any fees charged by participating States and counties for entrance and recreational use of parks and public land in the participating States.

''(b) AGREEMENTS WITH STATES AND COUNTIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries, after consultation with the States and counties, may enter into agreements with States and counties to coordinate the availability of passes as described in subsection (a).

''(2) REVENUE FROM PASS SALES.—Agreements between the Secretaries, States, and counties entered into pursuant to this section shall ensure that—

''(A) funds from the sale of State or local passes are transferred to the appropriate State agency or county government;

''(B) funds from the sale of Federal passes are transferred to the appropriate Federal agency; and

''(C) fund transfers are completed by the end of a fiscal year for all pass sales occurring during the fiscal year.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 805 the following:

''Sec. 805A. Availability of Federal, State, and local recreation passes.''.

SEC. 5322. ONLINE PURCHASES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A DIGITAL VERSION OF AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL—THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASSES.

(a) ONLINE PURCHASES OF AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL–THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASS.—Section 805(a)(6) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(a)(6)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall sell or otherwise make available the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass—

''(i) at all Federal recreational lands and waters at which—

''(I) an entrance fee or a standard amenity recreation fee is charged; and

''(II) such sales or distribution of the Pass is feasible;

''(ii) at such other locations as the Secretaries consider appropriate and feasible; and

''(iii) through a prominent link to a centralized pass sale system on the website of each of the Federal land management agencies and the websites of the relevant units and subunits of those agencies, which shall include information about where and when a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass may be used.''.

(b) DIGITAL VERSION OF THE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL—THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATION LANDS PASS.—Section 805(a) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) DIGITAL RECREATION PASSES.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretaries shall—

''(A) establish a digital version of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass that is able to be stored on a mobile device, including with respect to free and discounted passes; and

''(B) upon completion of a transaction for a National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, make immediately available to the passholder a digital version of the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass established under subparagraph (A).''.

(c) ENTRANCE PASS AND AMENITY FEES.—Section 803 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6802) (as amended by this title) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) ONLINE PAYMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to providing onsite payment methods, the Secretaries may collect payment online, where feasible, for—

''(A) entrance fees under subsection (e);

''(B) standard amenity recreation fees under subsection (f);

''(C) expanded amenity recreation fees under subsection (g); and

''(D) special recreation permit fees.

''(2) DISTRIBUTION OF ONLINE PAYMENTS.—An online payment collected under paragraph (1) that is associated with a specific unit or area of a Federal land management agency shall be distributed in accordance with section 805(c).

''(3) FEASIBILITY.—In determining feasibility of online payment collection under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall consider—

''(A) the unique characteristics of the unit or area applicable to such online payment collection;

''(B) the ability of the public to access an online payment method, including availability of and access to broadband; and

''(C) pursuant to the requirements of section 804, public concerns regarding the feasibility of using an online payment method to collect fees at such unit or area.''.

SEC. 5323. SAVINGS PROVISION.

Nothing in this subtitle, or in any amendment made by this subtitle, shall be construed as affecting the authority or responsibility of the Secretary of the Interior to award concessions contracts for the provision of accommodations, facilities, and services, or commercial use authorizations to provide services, to visitors to United States Fish and Wildlife Service refuges or units of the National Park System pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 1019 of title 54, United States Code (formerly known as the ''National Park Service Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998''), except that sections 5314(a), 5315, 5319(a), 5319(b), and 5319(c) of this subtitle shall also apply to commercial use authorizations under that subchapter.

Subtitle B—Making Recreation a Priority

SEC. 5331. EXTENSION OF SEASONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF SEASONAL CLOSURE.—In this section, the term ''seasonal closure'' means any period during which—

(1) a unit, or portion of a unit, of Federal recreational lands and waters is closed to the public for a continuous period of 30 days or more, excluding temporary closures relating to wildlife conservation or public safety; and

(2) permitted or allowable recreational activities, which provide an economic benefit, including off-season or winter-season tourism, do not take place at the unit, or portion of a unit, of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall consult and coordinate with outdoor recreation-related businesses operating on, or adjacent to, a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters, State offices of outdoor recreation, local destination marketing organizations, applicable trade organizations, nonprofit organizations, Indian Tribes, local governments, and institutions of higher education—

(A) to better understand—

(i) trends with respect to visitors to the unit of Federal recreational lands and waters;

(ii) the effect of seasonal closures on areas of, or infrastructure on, units of Federal recreational lands and waters on outdoor recreation opportunities, adjacent businesses, and local tax revenue; and

(iii) opportunities to extend the period of time during which areas of, or infrastructure on, units of Federal recreational lands and waters are open to the public to increase outdoor recreation opportunities and associated revenues for businesses and local governments; and

(B) to solicit input from, and provide information for, outdoor recreation marketing campaigns.

(2) LOCAL COORDINATION.—As part of the consultation and coordination required under subparagraph (1), the Secretaries shall encourage relevant unit managers of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service to consult and coordinate with local governments, Indian Tribes, outdoor recreation-related businesses, and other local stakeholders operating on or adjacent to the relevant unit of Federal recreational lands and waters.

(c) EXTENSIONS BEYOND SEASONAL CLOSURES.—

(1) EXTENSION OF RECREATIONAL SEASON.—In the case of a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters managed by the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, or the National Park Service in which recreational use is highly seasonal, the Secretary concerned, acting through the relevant unit manager, may—

(A) as appropriate, extend the recreation season or increase recreation use in a sustainable manner during the offseason; and

(B) make information about extended season schedules and related recreational opportunities available to the public and local communities.

(2) DETERMINATION.—In determining whether to extend the recreation season under this subsection, the Secretary concerned, acting through the relevant unit manager, shall consider the benefits of extending the recreation season—

(A) for the duration of income to gateway communities; and

(B) to provide more opportunities to visit resources on units of Federal recreational lands and waters to reduce crowding during peak visitation.

(3) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary concerned, acting through the relevant unit manager, from providing for additional recreational opportunities and uses at times other than those described in this subsection.

(4) INCLUSIONS.—An extension of a recreation season or an increase in recreation use during the offseason under paragraph (1) may include—

(A) the addition of facilities that would increase recreation use during the offseason; and

(B) improvement of access to the relevant unit to extend the recreation season.

(5) REQUIREMENT.—An extension of a recreation season or increase in recreation use during the offseason under paragraph (1) shall be done in compliance with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies, including land use plans.

(6) AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may enter into agreements with businesses, local governments, or other entities to share the cost of additional expenses necessary to extend the period of time during which an area of, or infrastructure on, a unit of Federal recreational lands and waters is made open to the public.

(B) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary concerned may accept in-kind contributions of goods and services provided by businesses, local governments, or other entities for purposes of paragraph (1).

SEC. 5332. INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF ACCESS CLOSURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall, to the extent practicable and in a timely fashion, alert the public to any closures or disruption to the public campsites, trails, roads, and other public areas and access points under the jurisdiction of the applicable Secretary.

(b) ONLINE ALERT.—An alert under subsection (a) shall be posted online on a public website of the appropriate land unit in a manner that—

(1) ensures that the public can easily find the alert in searching for the applicable campsite, trail, road, or other access point; and

(2) consolidates all alerts under subsection (a).

Subtitle C—Maintenance of Public Land

SEC. 5341. VOLUNTEERS IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS ACT.

The Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 558a et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

''SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

''This Act may be cited as the 'Volunteers in the National Forests and Public Lands Act'.

''SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

''The purpose of this Act is to leverage volunteer engagement to supplement projects that are carried out by the Secretaries to fulfill the missions of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management and are accomplished with appropriated funds.

''SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF SECRETARIES.

''In this Act, the term 'Secretaries' means each of—

''(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

''(2) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

''SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION.

''The Secretaries are authorized to recruit, train, and accept without regard to the civil service and classification laws, rules, or regulations the services of individuals without compensation as volunteers for or in aid of recreation access, trail construction or maintenance, facility construction or maintenance, educational uses (including outdoor classroom construction or maintenance), interpretive functions, visitor services, conservation measures and development, or other activities in and related to areas administered by the Secretaries. In carrying out this section, the Secretaries shall consider referrals of prospective volunteers made by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

''SEC. 5. INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

''The Secretaries are authorized to provide for incidental expenses, such as transportation, uniforms, lodging, training, equipment, and subsistence.

''SEC. 6. CONSIDERATION AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEE.

''(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a volunteer shall not be deemed a Federal employee and shall not be subject to the provisions of law relating to Federal employment, including those relating to hours of work, rates of compensation, leave, unemployment compensation, and Federal employee benefits.

''(b) For the purpose of the tort claim provisions of title 28, United States Code, a volunteer under this Act shall be considered a Federal employee.

''(c) For the purposes of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, relating to compensation to Federal employees for work injuries, volunteers under this Act shall be deemed civil employees of the United States within the meaning of the term 'employee' as defined in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, and the provisions of that subchapter shall apply.

''(d) For the purposes of claims relating to damage to, or loss of, personal property of a volunteer incident to volunteer service, a volunteer under this Act shall be considered a Federal employee, and the provisions of section 3721 of title 31, United States Code, shall apply.

''(e) For the purposes of subsections (b), (c), and (d), the term 'volunteer' includes a person providing volunteer services to either of the Secretaries who—

''(1) is recruited, trained, and supported by a cooperator under a mutual benefit agreement or cooperative agreement with either of the Secretaries; and

''(2) performs such volunteer services under the supervision of the cooperator as directed by either of the Secretaries in the mutual benefit agreement or cooperative agreement in the mutual benefit agreement, including direction that specifies—

''(A) the volunteer services, including the geographic boundaries of the work to be performed by the volunteers, and the supervision to be provided by the cooperator;

''(B) the applicable project safety standards and protocols to be adhered to by the volunteers and enforced by the cooperator;

''(C) the on-site visits to be made by either of the Secretaries, if feasible and only if necessary to verify that volunteers are performing the volunteer services and the cooperator is providing the supervision agreed upon;

''(D) the equipment the volunteers are authorized to use;

''(E) the training the volunteers are required to complete;

''(F) the actions the volunteers are authorized to take; and

''(G) any other terms and conditions that are determined to be necessary by the applicable Secretary.

''SEC. 7. PROMOTION OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.

''The Secretaries shall promote volunteer opportunities in areas administered by the Secretaries.

''SEC. 8. LIABILITY INSURANCE.

''The Secretaries shall not require a cooperator or volunteer (as those terms are used in section 6) to have liability insurance to provide the volunteer services authorized under this Act.''.

SEC. 5342. REFERENCE.

Any reference to the Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the Volunteers in the National Forests and Public Land Act.

Subtitle D—Recreation Not Red Tape

SEC. 5351. GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY FOR RECREATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTHORIZED RECREATION SERVICES.—The term ''authorized recreation services'' means similar and complementary recreation enhancement or improvement services carried out—

(A) on Federal land, non-Federal land, or land owned by an Indian Tribe; and

(B) by either the Secretary or a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county, as applicable, pursuant to a good neighbor agreement.

(2) COUNTY.—The term ''county'' means—

(A) the appropriate executive official of an affected county; or

(B) in any case in which multiple counties are affected, the appropriate executive official of a compact of the affected counties.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means land that is—

(A) owned and administered by the United States as a part of—

(i) the National Forest System; or

(ii) the National Park System; or

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)).

(4) RECREATION ENHANCEMENT OR IMPROVEMENT SERVICES.—The term ''recreation enhancement or improvement services'' means—

(A) establishing, repairing, restoring, improving, relocating, constructing, or reconstructing new or existing—

(i) trails or trailheads;

(ii) campgrounds and camping areas;

(iii) cabins;

(iv) picnic areas or other day use areas;

(v) shooting ranges;

(vi) restroom or shower facilities;

(vii) paved or permanent roads or parking areas that serve existing recreation facilities or areas;

(viii) fishing piers, wildlife viewing platforms, docks, or other constructed features at a recreation site;

(ix) boat landings;

(x) hunting or fishing sites;

(xi) infrastructure within ski areas; or

(xii) visitor centers or other interpretative sites; and

(B) activities that create, improve, or restore access to existing recreation facilities or areas.

(5) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT.—The term ''good neighbor agreement'' means a cooperative agreement or contract (including a sole source contract) entered into between the Secretary and a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county, as applicable, to carry out authorized recreation services under this title.

(6) GOVERNOR.—The term ''Governor'' means the Governor or any other appropriate executive official of an affected State or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

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

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System land; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to National Park System land and public lands.

(b) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS FOR RECREATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned may enter into a good neighbor agreement with a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county to carry out authorized recreation services in accordance with this title.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary concerned shall make each good neighbor agreement available to the public.

(3) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary concerned may provide financial or technical assistance to a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county carrying out authorized recreation services.

(4) RETENTION OF NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES.—Any decision required to be made under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to any authorized recreation services to be provided under this section on Federal land shall not be delegated to a Governor, Indian Tribe, or county.

(5) TERMINATION.—The authority provided under this section terminates effective September 30, 2031.

SEC. 5352. PERMIT RELIEF FOR PICNIC AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary concerned does not require the public to obtain a permit or reservation to access a picnic area on Federal recreational lands and waters administered by the Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary concerned shall not require a covered person to obtain a permit solely to access the picnic area.

(b) COVERED PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered person'' means a person (including an educational group) that provides outfitting and guiding services to fewer than 40 customers per year at a picnic area described in subsection (a).

SEC. 5353. INTERAGENCY REPORT ON SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.

(a) COVERED COMMUNITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered community'' means a rural or urban community, including an Indian Tribe, that is—

(1) low-income or underserved; and

(2) has been underrepresented in outdoor recreation opportunities on Federal recreational lands and waters.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this title, the Secretaries, acting jointly, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the estimated use of special recreation permits serving covered communities;

(2) examples of special recreation permits, partnerships, cooperative agreements, or other arrangements providing access to Federal recreational lands and waters for covered communities;

(3) other ways covered communities are engaging on Federal recreational lands and waters, including through stewardship and conservation projects or activities;

(4) any barriers for existing or prospective recreation service providers and holders of commercial use authorizations operating within or serving a covered community; and

(5) any recommendations to facilitate and increase permitted access to Federal recreational lands and waters for covered communities.

SEC. 5354. MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC LAND ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act (16 U.S.C. 6851 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3(1) (16 U.S.C. 6852(1)), by striking ''public outdoor recreational use'' and inserting ''recreation sites'';

(2) in section 5(a)(4) (16 U.S.C. 6854(a)(4)), by striking ''permanently restricted or prohibited'' and inserting ''regulated or closed''; and

(3) in section 6(b) (16 U.S.C. 6855(b))—

(A) by striking ''may'' and inserting ''shall''; and

(B) by striking ''the Secretary of the Interior'' and inserting ''the Secretaries''.

SEC. 5355. SAVINGS PROVISION.

No additional Federal funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this division and the activities authorized by this division are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

SA 3136. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 46, line 19, insert ''(but no diversity, equity, and inclusion officers, personnel, or staff of covered platforms)'' after ''platforms''.

SA 3137. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X add the following:

Subtitle I—TICKET Act

SEC. 1096. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COMMISSION; EVENT TICKET; TICKET ISSUER.—The terms ''Commission'', ''event ticket'', and ''ticket issuer'' have the same meanings as in the Better Online Ticket Sales Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–274).

(2) BASE EVENT TICKET PRICE.—The term ''base event ticket price'' means, with respect to an event ticket, the price of the event ticket excluding the cost of any event ticket fees.

(3) EVENT.—The term ''event'' means any live concert, theatrical performance, sporting event, show, or similarly scheduled live activity, taking place in a venue with a seating or attendance capacity exceeding 200 persons that is—

(A) open to the general public; and

(B) promoted, advertised, or marketed in interstate commerce, or for which event tickets are generally sold or distributed in interstate commerce.

(4) TOTAL EVENT TICKET PRICE.—The term ''total event ticket price'' means, with respect to an event ticket, the total cost of the event ticket, including the base event ticket price and any event ticket fees.

(5) EVENT TICKET FEE.—The term ''event ticket fee'' means a charge that must be paid in addition to the base event ticket price in order to obtain an event ticket from a ticket issuer or secondary market ticket issuer, including service fees, charge and order processing fees, delivery fees, facility charge fees, taxes, and other charges, and does not include any charge or fee for an optional product or service associated with the event that may be selected by a purchaser of an event ticket.

(6) OPTIONAL PRODUCT OR SERVICE.—The term ''optional product or service'' means a product or service that an individual does not need to purchase to use or take possession of an event ticket.

(7) SECONDARY MARKET TICKET ISSUER.—The term ''secondary market ticket issuer'' means any entity for which it is in the regular course of the trade or business of the entity to resell or make a secondary sale of an event ticket to the general public.

(8) RESALE; SECONDARY SALE.—The terms ''resale'' and ''secondary sale'' mean any sale of an event ticket that occurs after the initial sale of the event ticket by a ticket issuer.

SEC. 1097. ALL-INCLUSIVE TICKET PRICE DISCLOSURE.

Beginning 120 days after the date of enactment of this subtitle, it shall be unlawful for a ticket issuer or secondary market ticket issuer to offer for sale an event ticket unless the ticket issuer or secondary market ticket issuer—

(1) clearly and conspicuously displays the total event ticket price, if a price is displayed, in any advertisement, marketing, or price list wherever the ticket is offered for sale;

(2) clearly and conspicuously discloses to any individual who seeks to purchase an event ticket the total event ticket price at the time the ticket is first displayed to the individual and anytime thereafter throughout the ticket purchasing process; and

(3) provides an itemized list of the base event ticket price and each event ticket fee.

SEC. 1098. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACT OR PRACTICE.—A violation of section 1097 shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(b) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce section 1097 in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this subtitle.

(2) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates section 1097 shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

SA 3138. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. ___. ADVANCED COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENABLE ADVANCED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish an advanced computing infrastructure program within the Department of Defense.

(b) DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall expand upon the current infrastructure of the Department for development and deployment of military applications of high-performance computing and artificial intelligence that are located on-premises at Department installations or accessible via commercial classified cloud providers.

(2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPLICATIONS.—(A) The Secretary shall ensure that some of the infrastructure capacity developed pursuant to paragraph (1) is dedicated to providing access to modern artificial intelligence accelerators, configured consistently with industry best practices, for training, fine-tuning, modifying, and deploying large artificial intelligence systems.

(B) In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practical, that new artificial intelligence system development is not performed using infrastructure capacity described in such subparagraph that is duplicative of readily available commercial or open source solutions.

(c) HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING ROADMAP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop a high-performance computing roadmap that describes the computing infrastructure needed to research, test, develop, and evaluate advanced artificial intelligence applications projected over the period covered by the future-years defense program.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—The roadmap developed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall assess anticipated artificial intelligence applications, including the computing needs associated with their development, and the evaluation, milestones, and resourcing needs to maintain and expand the computing infrastructure necessary for those computing needs.

(d) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using the infrastructure from the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall develop artificial intelligence systems that have general-purpose military applications for language, image, audio, video, and other data modalities.

(2) TRAINING OF SYSTEMS.—The Secretary shall ensure that systems developed pursuant to paragraph (1) are trained using datasets curated by the Department using general, openly or commercially available sources of such data, or data owned by the Department, depending on the appropriate use case. Such systems may use openly or commercially available artificial intelligence systems, including those available via classified cloud providers, as a base for additional development such as fine-tuning.

(e) COORDINATION AND DUPLICATION.—In establishing the program required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of Energy to ensure no duplication of activities carried out under this section with the activities of research entities of the Department of Energy, including the following:

(1) The National Laboratories.

(2) The Advanced Scientific Computing Research program.

(3) The Advanced Simulation and Computing program.

SA 3139. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. PHYSICAL AND CYBERSECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGHLY CAPABLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—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).

(2) COVERED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''covered artificial intelligence technology'' means a technology specified in the guidance developed under subsection (c)(3), including all components of that technology, such as source code and numerical parameters of a trained artificial intelligence system.

(3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means a person (as defined in section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801)) who engages in the development, deployment, storage, or transportation of a covered artificial intelligence technology.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Source code, numerical parameters, and related technology associated with highly capable artificial intelligence systems in the possession of private artificial intelligence companies are an invaluable national resource that would pose a grave threat to United States national security if stolen by a foreign adversary through a cyber operation or insider threat.

(2) Numerous foreign adversaries have the capacity to engage in cyber operations to extract important data from private companies, absent the most stringent cybersecurity protections.

(c) SECURITY FRAMEWORK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall jointly, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, develop a consensus-based framework describing best practices for artificial intelligence cybersecurity, physical security, and insider threat mitigation to address or mitigate risks relating to national security, foreign policy, economic stability, or public safety implications, including to protect vital national resources from theft that would do grave damage to the United States.

(2) RISK-BASED FRAMEWORK.—The framework developed under paragraph (1) shall be risk-based, with stronger security corresponding proportionally to the national security, foreign policy, economic stability, or public safety risks posed by the artificial intelligence technology being stolen or made publicly available.

(3) COVERED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGIES.—

(A) GUIDANCE.—The framework developed under paragraph (1) shall provide clear guidance about which artificial intelligence technologies are covered under the framework. Such technologies shall be those that, if obtained by a foreign adversary, would pose a grave threat to the national security of the United States.

(B) OBJECTIVE EVALUATION PROCEDURES.—Where feasible, the guidance provided under subparagraph (A) shall be specified in terms of objective evaluation procedures that measure or estimate the national security implications of the artificial intelligence technology, either before, during, or after it has been developed.

(4) MINIMUM STRINGENCY.—The framework developed under paragraph (1) shall be no less stringent than ISO/IEC 27001, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) FORM.—At the discretion of the Secretary, the framework developed under paragraph (1) may be implemented in the form of technical standards.

(d) SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security may issue rules to require covered entities to implement the best practices described in the framework developed under subsection (c).

(2) RISK-BASED RULES.—Requirements implemented in rules developed under paragraph (1) shall be as narrowly tailored as practicable to the specific covered artificial intelligence technologies developed, deployed, stored, or transported by a covered entity, and shall be calibrated accordingly to the different tasks involved in development, deployment, storage, or transportation of components of those covered artificial intelligence technologies.

SA 3140. Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION E—COMBATING CARTELS ON SOCIAL MEDIA ACT OF 2024

SEC. 5001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2024''.

SEC. 5002. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED OPERATOR.—The term ''covered operator'' means the operator, developer, or publisher of a covered service.

(3) COVERED SERVICE.—The term ''covered service'' means—

(A) a social media platform;

(B) a mobile or desktop service with direct or group messaging capabilities, but not including text messaging services without other substantial social functionalities or electronic mail services, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 5003; and

(C) a digital platform, or an electronic application utilizing the digital platform, involving real-time interactive communication between multiple individuals, including multi-player gaming services and immersive technology platforms or applications, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 5003.

(4) CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.—The term ''criminal enterprise'' has the meaning given the term ''continuing criminal enterprise'' in section 408 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 848).

(5) ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.—The term ''illicit activities'' means the following criminal activities that transcend national borders:

(A) A violation of section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841).

(B) Narcotics trafficking, as defined in section 808 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1907).

(C) Trafficking of weapons, as defined in section 922 of title 18, United States Code.

(D) Migrant smuggling, defined as a violation of section 274(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)).

(E) Human trafficking, defined as—

(i) a violation of section 1590, 1591, or 1592 of title 18, United States Code; or

(ii) engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(F) Cyber crime, defined as a violation of section 1030 of title 18, United States Code.

(G) A violation of any provision that is subject to intellectual property enforcement, as defined in section 302 of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 8112).

(H) Bulk cash smuggling of currency, defined as a violation of section 5332 of title 31, United States Code.

(I) Laundering the proceeds of the criminal activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

(6) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''transnational criminal organization'' means a group or network, and associated individuals, that operate transnationally for the purposes of obtaining power, influence, or monetary or commercial gain, wholly or in part by certain illegal means, while advancing their activities through a pattern of crime, corruption, or violence, and while protecting their illegal activities through a transnational organizational structure and the exploitation of public corruption or transnational logistics, financial, or communication mechanisms.

SEC. 5003. ASSESSMENT OF ILLICIT USAGE.

Not later than July 1, 2025, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint assessment describing—

(1) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to engage in recruitment efforts, including the recruitment of individuals, including individuals under 18 years of age, located in the United States to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international boundary of the United States;

(2) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations to engage in illicit activities or conduct in support of illicit activities, including—

(A) smuggling or trafficking involving narcotics, other controlled substances, precursors thereof, or other items prohibited under the laws of the United States, Mexico, or another relevant jurisdiction, including firearms;

(B) human smuggling or trafficking, including the exploitation of children; and

(C) transportation of bulk currency or monetary instruments in furtherance of smuggling activity; and

(3) the existing efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and relevant government and law enforcement entities to counter, monitor, or otherwise respond to the usage of covered services described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

SEC. 5004. STRATEGY TO COMBAT CARTEL RECRUITMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PLATFORMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2026, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint strategy, to be known as the National Strategy to Combat Illicit Recruitment Activity by Transnational Criminal Organizations on Social Media and Online Platforms, to combat the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to recruit individuals located in the United States to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international boundary of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) A proposal to improve cooperation and thereafter maintain cooperation between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and relevant law enforcement entities with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(B) Recommendations to implement a process for the voluntary reporting of information regarding the recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations in the United States involving covered services.

(C) A proposal to improve intragovernmental coordination with respect to the matters described in subsection (a), including between the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, and State, Tribal, and local governments.

(D) A proposal to improve coordination within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State and between the components of those Departments with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(E) Activities to facilitate increased intelligence analysis for law enforcement purposes of efforts of transnational criminal organizations to utilize covered services for recruitment to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities.

(F) Activities to foster international partnerships and enhance collaboration with foreign governments and, as applicable, multilateral institutions with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(G) Activities to specifically increase engagement and outreach with youth in border communities, including regarding the recruitment tactics of transnational criminal organizations and the consequences of participation in illicit activities.

(H) A detailed description of the measures used to ensure—

(i) law enforcement and intelligence activities focus on the recruitment activities of transitional criminal organizations not individuals the transnational criminal organizations attempt to or successfully recruit; and

(ii) the protection of privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties in carrying out the activities described in clause (i), with a particular focus on the protections in place to protect minors and constitutionally protected activities.

(2) LIMITATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall not include legislative recommendations or elements predicated on the passage of legislation that is not enacted as of the date on which the strategy is submitted under subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION.—In drafting and implementing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall, at a minimum, consult and engage with—

(1) the heads of relevant components of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(A) the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis;

(B) the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans;

(C) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology;

(D) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(E) the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

(F) the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties;

(G) the Privacy Officer; and

(H) the Assistant Secretary of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement;

(2) the heads of relevant components of the Department of Justice, including—

(A) the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division;

(B) the Assistant Attorney General for National Security;

(C) the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division;

(D) the Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer;

(E) the Director of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces;

(F) the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(G) the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives;

(3) the heads of relevant components of the Department of State, including—

(A) the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs;

(B) the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs; and

(C) the Coordinator of the Global Engagement Center;

(4) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(5) the Secretary of Education; and

(6) as selected by the Secretary of Homeland Security, or his or her designee in the Office of Public Engagement, representatives of border communities, including representatives of—

(A) State, Tribal, and local governments, including school districts and local law enforcement; and

(B) nongovernmental experts in the fields of—

(i) civil rights and civil liberties;

(ii) online privacy;

(iii) humanitarian assistance for migrants; and

(iv) youth outreach and rehabilitation.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall commence implementation of the strategy.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is implemented under paragraph (1), and semiannually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report describing the efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of State to implement the strategy required under subsection (a) and the progress of those efforts, which shall include a description of—

(i) the recommendations, and corresponding implementation of those recommendations, with respect to the matters described in subsection (b)(1)(B);

(ii) the interagency posture with respect to the matters covered by the strategy required under subsection (a), which shall include a description of collaboration between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, other Federal entities, State, local, and Tribal entities, and foreign governments; and

(iii) the threat landscape, including new developments related to the United States recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations and the use by those organizations of new or emergent covered services and recruitment methods.

(B) FORM.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(3) CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND PRIVACY ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is implemented under paragraph (1), the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Privacy Office of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report that includes—

(A) a detailed assessment of the measures used to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy rights in carrying out this section; and

(B) recommendations to improve the implementation of the strategy required under subsection (a).

(4) RULEMAKING.—Prior to implementation of the strategy required under subsection (a) at the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue rules to carry out this section in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 5005. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this division shall be construed to expand the statutory law enforcement or regulatory authority of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of State.

SEC. 5006. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this division.

SA 3141. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. COUNTERING EMERGING AERIAL THREATS TO DIPLOMATIC SECURITY.

Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 65. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

''(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

''(2) The term 'budget', with respect to a fiscal year, means the budget for that fiscal year that is submitted to Congress by the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

''(3) The term 'covered facility or asset' means any facility or asset that—

''(A) is identified as high-risk and a potential target for unlawful unmanned aircraft activity by the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation with respect to potentially impacted airspace, through a risk-based assessment;

''(B) is located in the United States; and

''(C) directly relates to the security or protection operations of the Department of State, including operations pursuant to—

''(i) section 37; or

''(ii) the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.).

''(4) The terms 'electronic communication', 'intercept', 'oral communication', and 'wire communication' have the meanings given those terms in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code.

''(5)(A) The term 'personnel' means—

''(i) an officer, employee, or contractor of the Department of State, who is authorized to perform duties that include safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets; or

''(ii) an employee who is trained and certified to perform those duties, including training specific to countering unmanned aircraft threats and mitigating risks in the national airspace.

''(B) To qualify for use of the authorities described in subsection (b), a contractor conducting operations described in that subsection must—

''(i) be directly contracted by the Department of State;

''(ii) provide, in the contract, insurance coverage sufficient to compensate tort victims;

''(iii) operate at a government-owned or government-leased facility or asset;

''(iv) not conduct inherently governmental functions;

''(v) be trained to safeguard privacy and civil liberties; and

''(vi) be trained and certified, including use-of-force training and certification, by the Department of State to meet the established standards and regulations of the Department of State.

''(6) The term 'risk-based assessment' means an evaluation of threat information specific to a covered facility or asset and, with respect to potential impacts on the safety and efficiency of the national airspace system and the needs of law enforcement and national security at each covered facility or asset identified by the Secretary of State, of each of the following factors:

''(A) Potential impacts to safety, efficiency, and use of the national airspace system, including potential effects on manned aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft, aviation safety, airport operations, infrastructure, and air navigation services relating to the use of any system or technology for carrying out the actions described in subsection (c).

''(B) Options for mitigating any identified impacts to the national airspace system relating to the use of any system or technology, including minimizing, when possible, the use of any technology that disrupts the transmission of radio or electronic signals, for carrying out the actions described in subsection (c).

''(C) Potential consequences of the impacts of any actions taken under subsection (c) to the national airspace system and infrastructure if not mitigated.

''(D) The ability to provide reasonable advance notice to aircraft operators consistent with the safety of the national airspace system and the needs of law enforcement and national security.

''(E) The setting and character of any covered facility or asset, including—

''(i) whether the covered facility or asset is located in a populated area or near other structures;

''(ii) whether the covered facility or asset is open to the public;

''(iii) whether the covered facility or asset is used for nongovernmental functions; and

''(iv) any potential for interference with wireless communications or for injury or damage to persons or property.

''(F) Potential consequences to national security, public safety, or law enforcement if threats posed by unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft are not mitigated or defeated.

''(7) The terms 'unmanned aircraft' and 'unmanned aircraft system' have the meanings given those terms in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

''(b) AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—Notwithstanding section 46502 of title 49, United States Code, or sections 32, 1030, 1367, and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18, United States Code, the Secretary of State may take, and may authorize personnel with assigned duties that include the safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets to take, actions described in subsection (c) that are necessary to detect, identify, monitor, track, and mitigate a credible threat (as defined by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Transportation through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration) that an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft poses to the safety or security of a covered facility or asset.

''(c) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The actions authorized by subsection (b) are the following:

''(A) During the operation of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, detect, identify, monitor, and track the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, without prior consent, including by means of intercept or other access of a wire communication, an oral communication, or an electronic communication used to control the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(B) Warn the operator of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, including by passive or active, and direct or indirect, physical, electronic, radio, and electromagnetic means.

''(C) Disrupt control of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, without prior consent of the operator of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft, including by disabling the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft by intercepting, interfering, or causing interference with wire, oral, electronic, or radio communications used to control the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(D) Seize or exercise control of the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(E) Seize or otherwise confiscate the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(F) Use reasonable force, if necessary, to disable, damage, or destroy the unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft.

''(2) TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS.—A temporary flight restriction shall be timely published prior to undertaking any actions described in paragraph (1).

''(d) RESEARCH, TESTING, TRAINING, AND EVALUATION.—

''(1) REQUIREMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 46502 of title 49, United States Code, or any provision of title 18, United States Code, the Secretary of State shall conduct research, testing, training on, and evaluation of any equipment, including any electronic equipment, to determine the capability and utility of the equipment prior to the use of the equipment in carrying out any action described in subsection (c).

''(B) COORDINATION.—Personnel and contractors who do not have duties that include the safety, security, or protection of people, facilities, or assets may engage in research, testing, training, and evaluation activities pursuant to subparagraph (A).

''(2) COORDINATION FOR RESEARCH, TESTING, TRAINING, AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate procedures governing research, testing, training, and evaluation to carry out any provision under this subsection with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration before initiating such activity in order that the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may ensure the activity does not adversely impact or interfere with safe airport operations, navigation, air traffic services, or the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system.

''(e) FORFEITURE.—Any unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft that is seized by the Secretary of State pursuant to subsection (b) is subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to the provisions of chapter 46 of title 18, United States Code.

''(f) REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Transportation—

''(1) may prescribe regulations to carry out this section; and

''(2) in developing regulations described in paragraph (1), consult the Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

''(g) COORDINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration before carrying out any action authorized under this section in order that the Administrator may ensure the action does not adversely impact or interfere with—

''(A) safe airport operations;

''(B) navigation;

''(C) air traffic services; or

''(D) the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system.

''(2) GUIDANCE.—Before issuing any guidance, or otherwise implementing this section, the Secretary of State shall, coordinate with—

''(A) the Secretary of Transportation in order that the Secretary of Transportation may ensure the guidance or implementation does not adversely impact or interfere with any critical infrastructure relating to transportation; and

''(B) the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration in order that the Administrator may ensure the guidance or implementation does not adversely impact or interfere with—

''(i) safe airport operations;

''(ii) navigation;

''(iii) air traffic services; or

''(iv) the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system.

''(3) COORDINATION WITH THE FAA.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate the development of guidance under subsection (f) with the Secretary of Transportation (through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration).

''(4) COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate the development of the actions described in subsection (c) with the Secretary of Transportation (through the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration) and the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

''(h) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any regulation or guidance issued to carry out an action under subsection (c) by the Secretary of State shall ensure for the Department of State, that—

''(A) the interception of, acquisition of, access to, maintenance of, or use of any communication to or from an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft under this section is conducted in a manner consistent with the First and Fourth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States and any applicable provision of Federal law;

''(B) any communication to or from an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft are intercepted or acquired only to the extent necessary to support an action described in subsection (c);

''(C) any record of a communication described in subparagraph (B) is maintained only for as long as necessary, and in no event for more than 180 days, unless the Secretary of State determines that maintenance of the record is—

''(i) required under Federal law;

''(ii) necessary for the purpose of litigation; and

''(iii) necessary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law, including by—

''(I) directly supporting an ongoing security operation; or

''(II) protecting against dangerous or unauthorized activity by unmanned aircraft systems or unmanned aircraft; and

''(D) a communication described in subparagraph (B) is not disclosed to any person not employed or contracted by the Department of State unless the disclosure—

''(i) is necessary to investigate or prosecute a violation of law;

''(ii) will support—

''(I) the Department of Defense;

''(II) a Federal law enforcement, intelligence, or security agency;

''(III) a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency; or

''(IV) another relevant entity or person if the entity or person is engaged in a security or protection operation;

''(iii) is necessary to support a department or agency listed in clause (ii) in investigating or prosecuting a violation of law;

''(iv) will support the enforcement activities of a Federal regulatory agency relating to a criminal or civil investigation of, or any regulatory, statutory, or other enforcement action relating to, an action described in subsection (c);

''(v) is between the Department of State and a Federal law enforcement agency in the course of a security or protection operation of either agency or a joint operation of such agencies; or

''(vi) is otherwise required by law;

''(i) BUDGET.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall submit to Congress, as a part of the budget materials of the Department of State for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, a consolidated funding display that identifies the funding source for the actions described in subsection (c) within the Department of State.

''(2) CLASSIFICATION.—Each funding display submitted under paragraph (1) shall be in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

''(j) PUBLIC DISCLOSURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Information shall be governed by the disclosure obligations set forth in section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act'), if the information relates to—

''(A) any capability, limitation, or sensitive detail of the operation of any technology used to carry out an action described in subsection (c); or

''(B) an operational procedure or protocol used to carry out this section.

''(2) ACCESS.—Any request for public access to information described in paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Department of State, which shall process the request as required under section 552(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code.

''(k) ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT.—

''(1) FACILITIES AND SERVICES OF OTHER AGENCIES AND NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is authorized to use or accept from any other Federal agency, or any other public or private entity, any supply or service to facilitate or carry out any action described in subsection (c).

''(B) REIMBURSEMENT.—In accordance with subparagraph (A), the Secretary of State may accept any supply or service with or without reimbursement to the entity providing the supply or service and notwithstanding any provision of law that would prevent the use or acceptance of the supply or service.

''(C) AGREEMENTS.—To implement the requirements of subsection (a)(3)(C), the Secretary of State may enter into 1 or more agreements with the head of another executive agency or with an appropriate official of a non-Federal public or private agency or entity, as may be necessary and proper to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretary of State under this section.

''(1) SEMIANNUAL BRIEFINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On a semiannual basis beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of State shall provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the activities carried out pursuant to this section.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of State shall conduct the briefing required under paragraph (1) jointly with the Secretary of Transportation.

''(3) CONTENT.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) policies, programs, and procedures to mitigate or eliminate impacts of activities carried out pursuant to this section to the national airspace system and other critical infrastructure relating to national transportation;

''(B) a description of—

''(i) each instance in which any action described in subsection (c) has been taken, including any instances that may have resulted in harm, damage, or loss to a person or to private property;

''(ii) the guidance, policies, or procedures established by the Secretary of State to address privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties issues implicated by the actions permitted under this section, as well as any changes or subsequent efforts by the Secretary of State that would significantly affect privacy, civil rights, or civil liberties;

''(iii) options considered and steps taken by the Secretary of State to mitigate any identified impacts to the national airspace system relating to the use of any system or technology, including the minimization of the use of any technology that disrupts the transmission of radio or electronic signals, for carrying out the actions described in subsection (c); and

''(iv) each instance in which a communication intercepted or acquired during the course of operations of an unmanned aircraft system or unmanned aircraft was—

''(I) held in the possession of the Department of State for more than 180 days; or

''(II) shared with any entity other than the Department of State;

''(C) an explanation of how the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Transportation have—

''(i) informed the public as to the possible use of authorities granted under this section; and

''(ii) engaged with Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to implement and use authorities granted under this section; and

''(D) a description of the impact of the authorities granted under this section on—

''(i) lawful operator access to national airspace; and

''(ii) unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft integration into the national airspace system.

''(4) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—Each briefing required under paragraph (1) shall be in unclassified form but may be accompanied by an additional classified briefing.

''(m) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to—

''(1) vest in the Secretary of State any authority of the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration;

''(2) vest in the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration any authority of the Secretary of State; or

''(3) provide a new basis of liability with respect to an officer of a State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency who participates in a security or protection operation of the Department of State and in so doing—

''(A) is acting in the official capacity of the individual as an officer; and

''(B) does not exercise the authority granted to the Secretary of State by this section.

''(n) TERMINATION.—The authority provided by subsection (b) shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the date of the enactment of this section.

''(o) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide the Secretary of State with additional authorities beyond those described in subsection (b).''.

SA 3142. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. REVIEW OF AND REPORTING ON NATIONAL SECURITY SENSITIVE SITES FOR PURPOSES OF REVIEWS OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) LIST OF NATIONAL SECURITY SENSITIVE SITES.—Section 721(a)(4)(C) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) LIST OF SITES.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii), the Committee may prescribe through regulations a list of facilities and property of the United States Government that are sensitive for reasons relating to national security. Such list may include certain facilities and property of the intelligence community and National Laboratories (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)).''.

(b) REVIEW AND REPORTS.—Section 721(m) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(m)(2)) is amended—

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

''(L) A list of all notices and declarations filed and all reviews or investigations of covered transactions completed during the period relating to facilities and property of the United States Government determined to be sensitive for reasons relating to national security for purposes of subsection (a)(4)(B)(ii).

''(M) A certification that the list of sites identified under subsection (a)(4)(C)(iii) reflects consideration of the recommended updates and revisions submitted under paragraph (4)(B). Upon request from any Member of Congress specified in subsection (b)(3)(C)(iii), the chairperson shall provide a classified briefing to that Member, and staff of the member with appropriate security clearances, regarding the list of sites identified under subsection (a)(4)(C)(iii).'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

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

''(4) ANNUAL REVIEW OF LIST OF FACILITIES AND PROPERTY.—Not later than January 31 of each year, each member of the Committee shall—

''(A) review the facilities and property of the agency represented by that member that are on the list prescribed under subparagraph (C)(iii) of subsection (a)(4) of facilities and property that are sensitive for reasons relating to national security for purposes of subparagraph (B)(ii) of that subsection; and

''(B) submit to the chairperson a report on that review, after approval of the report by an Assistant Secretary or equivalent official of the agency, which shall include any recommended updates or revisions to the list regarding facilities and property administered by the member of the Committee.''.

SA 3143. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 36 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Veterans Business Development and the Office of Government Contracting, shall, with respect to each Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii) for the most recently completed fiscal year, provide training to contracting officers of that Federal agency on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

''(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Veterans Business Development and the Office of Government Contracting, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to small businesses owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii) applies.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

''(A) for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year to which the report applies, a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii);

''(B) for the fiscal year to which the report applies, the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) an overview of the content included in the training sessions described in subparagraph (B).''.

(b) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Women's Business Ownership and the Office of Government Contracting, shall, with respect to each Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(v)

for the most recently completed fiscal year, provide training to contracting officers of that Federal agency on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

''(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Office of Women's Business Ownership and the Office of Government Contracting, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to small businesses owned and controlled by women for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(v) applies.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

''(i) for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year to which the report applies, a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(v);

''(ii) for the fiscal year to which the report applies, the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in clause (i); and

''(iii) an overview of the content included in the training sessions described in clause (ii).''.

(c) QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 31 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of the HUBZone Program and the Office of Government Contracting, shall, with respect to each Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iii) for the most recently completed fiscal year, provide training to contracting officers of that Federal agency on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to qualified HUBZone small business concerns.

''(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of the HUBZone Program and the Office of Government Contracting, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to qualified HUBZone small business concern for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iii) applies.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

''(A) for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year to which the report applies, a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iii);

''(B) for the fiscal year to which the report applies, the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in subparagraph (A); and

''(C) an overview of the content included in the training sessions described in subparagraph (B).''.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(22) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Government Contracting, shall, with respect to each Federal agency that did not meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iv) for the most recently completed fiscal year, provide training to contracting officers of that Federal agency on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

''(B) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Government Contracting, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iv) applies.

''(C) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report detailing—

''(i) for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year to which the report applies, a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(iv);

''(ii) for the fiscal year to which the report applies, the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in clause (i); and

''(iii) an overview of the content included in the training sessions described in clause (ii).''.

(e) NO AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section or any of the amendments made by this section.

SA 3144. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle F of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 578. REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND DYSLEXIA PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Department of Defense Education Activity (in this section referred to as ''DODEA'') shall review the special education processes and procedures in place within DODEA to diagnose disabilities and provide evidence-based interventions and supports for students with disabilities.

(b) PROVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION MATERIALS AND INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—As part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following:

(1) A briefing on the special education processes and procedures of DODEA, particularly those for diagnosing and treating dyslexia.

(2) All documents, including documents not publicly available, related to special education in schools operated by DODEA.

(c) PROVISION OF DYSLEXIA MATERIALS AND INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.—No later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, as part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees the following information regarding the dyslexia screening program of DODEA:

(1) A description of the following:

(A) How DODEA ensures that it screens each student enrolled in a school operated by DODEA for dyslexia near the end of kindergarten and near the end of first grade.

(B) How DODEA ensures that it screens new enrollees in each such school regardless of year, unless the new enrollee has already been diagnosed with dyslexia.

(C) How DODEA ensures it provides comprehensive literacy instruction (as defined in section 2221(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6641(b)(1))).

(D) How DODEA provides high-quality training for school personnel, particularly specialized instructional support personnel (as defined in section 8101(47)(A)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(47)(A)(ii))) related to dyslexia.

(E) How DODEA ensures that each district of schools operated by DODEA employs at least one specialized instructional support personnel who specializes in dyslexia.

(2) Information with respect to the following:

(A) The number of students at schools operated by DODEA screened for dyslexia each year and the grade in which those students were screened.

(B) The number and types of dyslexia screeners used by DODEA each year.

(C) The total number of students diagnosed with dyslexia that are served by DODEA.

(D) The total number of such students, disaggregated by each subgroup of student (as defined in section 1111(c)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(c)(2))).

(E) The type of professional conducting the intervention program for a student diagnosed with dyslexia.

(F) A list of, and all materials related to, the interventions used by DODEA to treat students diagnosed with dyslexia.

(G) The number of trainings per year provided by DODEA on identifying and treating dyslexia in students.

(H) A list of organizations outside of DODEA that are used to consult on the dyslexia screening and intervention program.

(d) ASSESSMENT OF DEFINITIONS USED BY DODEA.—As part of the review required by subsection (a), the Director shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a description of how DODEA's definitions of the following terms align with or differ from the following definitions:

(1) COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY INSTRUCTION.—The term ''comprehensive literacy instruction'' has the meaning given that term in section 2221(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6641(b)(1)).

(2) DYSLEXIA.—The term ''dyslexia'' means an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, most commonly caused by a difficulty in the phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, and spell.

(3) DYSLEXIA SCREENING PROGRAM.—The term ''dyslexia screening program'' means a screening program for dyslexia that is—

(A) evidence-based with proven psychometrics for validity;

(B) efficient and low-cost; and

(C) readily available.

(4) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term ''evidence-based'' has the meaning given that term in section 8101(21)(A)(i) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(21)(A)(i)).

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

(1) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SA 3145. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1239. MODIFICATION TO WAIVERS OF LIMITATIONS ON TRANSFER OF ARTICLES ON UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST TO REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

(a) EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SECURITY AND ENERGY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2019.—Section 205(d)(2) of the Eastern Mediterranean Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–94; 133 Stat. 3052), is amended by striking ''one fiscal year'' and inserting ''five fiscal years''.

(b) NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.—Section 1250A(d)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2373 note), is amended by striking ''one fiscal year'' and inserting ''five fiscal years''.

SA 3146. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10___. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT.

Section 797(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16137(a)) is amended by striking ''2024'' and inserting ''2029''.

SA 3147. Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

Subtitle I—International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024

SEC. 1099A. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024''.

SEC. 1099B. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR.—The term ''advanced nuclear reactor'' means—

(A) a nuclear fission reactor, including a prototype plant (as defined in sections 50.2 and 52.1 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)), with significant improvements compared to reactors operating on October 19, 2016, including improvements such as—

(i) additional inherent safety features;

(ii) lower waste yields;

(iii) improved fuel and material performance;

(iv) increased tolerance to loss of fuel cooling;

(v) enhanced reliability or improved resilience;

(vi) increased proliferation resistance;

(vii) increased thermal efficiency;

(viii) reduced consumption of cooling water and other environmental impacts;

(ix) the ability to integrate into electric applications and nonelectric applications;

(x) modular sizes to allow for deployment that corresponds with the demand for electricity or process heat; and

(xi) operational flexibility to respond to changes in demand for electricity or process heat and to complement integration with intermittent renewable energy or energy storage;

(B) a fusion reactor; and

(C) a radioisotope power system that utilizes heat from radioactive decay to generate energy.

(2) ALLY OR PARTNER NATION.—The term ''ally or partner nation'' means—

(A) the Government of any country that is a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(B) the Government of the Republic of India; and

(C) the Government of any country designated as an ally or partner nation by the Secretary of State for purposes of this subtitle.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committees on Foreign Relations and Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(4) ASSISTANT.—The term ''Assistant'' means the Assistant to the President and Director for International Nuclear Energy Policy described in section 1099C(a)(1)(D).

(5) ASSOCIATED ENTITY.—The term ''associated entity'' means an entity that—

(A) is owned, controlled, or operated by—

(i) an ally or partner nation; or

(ii) an associated individual; or

(B) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, a country described in paragraph (2), including a corporation that is incorporated in a country described in that paragraph.

(6) ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''associated individual'' means a foreign national who is a national of a country described in paragraph (2).

(7) CIVIL NUCLEAR.—The term ''civil nuclear'' means activities relating to—

(A) nuclear plant construction;

(B) nuclear fuel services;

(C) nuclear energy financing;

(D) nuclear plant operations;

(E) nuclear plant regulation;

(F) nuclear medicine;

(G) nuclear safety;

(H) community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(I) infrastructure support for nuclear energy;

(J) nuclear plant decommissioning;

(K) nuclear liability;

(L) safe storage and safe disposal of spent nuclear fuel;

(M) environmental safeguards;

(N) nuclear nonproliferation and security; and

(O) technology related to the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (N).

(8) EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''embarking civil nuclear nation'' means a country that—

(i) does not have a civil nuclear energy program;

(ii) is in the process of developing or expanding a civil nuclear energy program, including safeguards and a legal and regulatory framework, for—

(I) nuclear safety;

(II) nuclear security;

(III) radioactive waste management;

(IV) civil nuclear energy;

(V) environmental safeguards;

(VI) community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;

(VII) nuclear liability; or

(VIII) advanced nuclear reactor licensing;

(iii) is in the process of selecting, developing, constructing, or utilizing advanced light water reactors, advanced nuclear reactors, or advanced civil nuclear technologies; or

(iv) is eligible to receive development lending from the World Bank.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''embarking civil nuclear nation'' does not include—

(i) the People's Republic of China;

(ii) the Russian Federation;

(iii) the Republic of Belarus;

(iv) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(v) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

(vi) the Republic of Cuba;

(vii) the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

(viii) the Syrian Arab Republic;

(ix) Burma; or

(x) any other country—

(I) the property or interests in property of the government of which are blocked pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

(II) the government of which the Secretary of State has determined has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

(aa) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

(bb) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d));

(cc) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4813(c)(1)(A)(i)); or

(dd) any other relevant provision of law.

(9) NUCLEAR SAFETY.—The term ''nuclear safety'' means issues relating to the design, construction, operation, or decommissioning of nuclear facilities in a manner that ensures adequate protection of workers, the public, and the environment, including—

(A) the safe operation of nuclear reactors and other nuclear facilities;

(B) radiological protection of—

(i) members of the public;

(ii) workers; and

(iii) the environment;

(C) nuclear waste management;

(D) emergency preparedness;

(E) nuclear liability; and

(F) the safe transportation of nuclear materials.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(11) SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL.—The term ''spent nuclear fuel'' has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

(12) U.S. NUCLEAR ENERGY COMPANY.—The term ''U.S. nuclear energy company'' means a company that—

(A) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the United States; and

(B) is involved in the nuclear energy industry.

SEC. 1099C. CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION AND STRATEGY.

(a) WHITE HOUSE FOCAL POINT ON CIVIL NUCLEAR COORDINATION.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Given the critical importance of developing and implementing, with input from various agencies throughout the executive branch, a cohesive policy with respect to international efforts related to civil nuclear energy, it is the sense of Congress that—

(A) there should be a focal point within the White House, which may, if determined to be appropriate, report to the National Security Council, for coordination on issues relating to those efforts;

(B) to provide that focal point, the President should establish, within the Executive Office of the President, an office, to be known as the ''Office of the Assistant to the President and Director for International Nuclear Energy Policy'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Office'');

(C) the Office should act as a coordinating office for—

(i) international civil nuclear cooperation; and

(ii) civil nuclear export strategy;

(D) the Office should be headed by an individual appointed as an Assistant to the President with the title of ''Director for International Nuclear Energy Policy''; and

(E) the Office should—

(i) coordinate civil nuclear export policies for the United States;

(ii) develop, in coordination with the officials described in paragraph (2), a cohesive Federal strategy for engagement with foreign governments (including ally or partner nations and the governments of embarking civil nuclear nations), associated entities, and associated individuals with respect to civil nuclear exports;

(iii) coordinate with the officials described in paragraph (2) to ensure that necessary framework agreements and trade controls relating to civil nuclear materials and technologies are in place for key markets; and

(iv) develop—

(I) a whole-of-government coordinating strategy for civil nuclear cooperation;

(II) a whole-of-government strategy for civil nuclear exports; and

(III) a whole-of-government approach to support appropriate foreign investment in civil nuclear energy projects supported by the United States in embarking civil nuclear nations.

(2) OFFICIALS DESCRIBED.—The officials referred to in paragraph (1)(E) are—

(A) appropriate officials of any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(B) appropriate officials representing foreign countries and governments, including—

(i) ally or partner nations;

(ii) embarking civil nuclear nations; and

(iii) any other country or government that the Assistant (if appointed) and the officials described in subparagraph (A) jointly determine to be appropriate.

(b) NUCLEAR EXPORTS WORKING GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a working group, to be known as the ''Nuclear Exports Working Group'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''working group'').

(2) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be composed of—

(A) senior-level Federal officials, selected internally by the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(B) other senior-level Federal officials, selected internally by the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any other Federal agency or organization that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the appropriate White House official, which may be the Assistant (if appointed).

(4) DUTIES.—The working group shall coordinate, not less frequently than quarterly, with the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee of the Department of Commerce, the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee of the Department of Energy, and other advisory or stakeholder groups, as necessary, to maintain an accurate and up-to-date knowledge of the standing of civil nuclear exports from the United States, including with respect to meeting the targets established as part of the 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy described in paragraph (5)(A).

(5) STRATEGY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall establish a 10-year civil nuclear trade strategy, including biennial targets for the export of civil nuclear technologies, including light water and non-light water reactors and associated equipment and technologies, civil nuclear materials, and nuclear fuel that align with meeting international energy demand while seeking to avoid or reduce emissions.

(B) COLLABORATION REQUIRED.—In establishing the strategy under subparagraph (A), the working group shall collaborate with—

(i) any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(ii) representatives of private industry.

SEC. 1099D. ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall launch, in accordance with applicable nuclear technology export laws (including regulations), an international initiative to modernize the civil nuclear outreach to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(b) FINANCING.—In carrying out the initiative described in subsection (a), the President, acting through an appropriate Federal official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed) or the Chief Executive Officer of the International Development Finance Corporation, if determined to be appropriate, and in coordination with the officials described in section 1099C(a)(2), may, if the President determines to be appropriate, seek to establish cooperative financing relationships for the export of civil nuclear technology, components, materials, and infrastructure to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the initiative described in subsection (a), the President shall—

(1) assist nongovernmental organizations and appropriate offices, administrations, agencies, laboratories, and programs of the Department of Energy and other relevant Federal agencies and offices in providing education and training to foreign governments in nuclear safety, security, and safeguards—

(A) through engagement with the International Atomic Energy Agency; or

(B) independently, if the applicable entity determines that it would be more advantageous under the circumstances to provide the applicable education and training independently;

(2) assist the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to expand the support provided by the International Atomic Energy Agency to embarking civil nuclear nations for nuclear safety, security, and safeguards;

(3) coordinate the work of the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the Export-Import Bank of the United States to expand outreach to the private investment community to create public-private financing relationships to assist in the adoption of civil nuclear technologies by embarking civil nuclear nations, including through exports from the United States;

(4) seek to better coordinate, to the maximum extent practicable, the work carried out by any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate; and

(5) coordinate the work of the Export-Import Bank of the United States to improve the efficient and effective exporting and importing of civil nuclear technologies and materials.

SEC. 1099E. COOPERATIVE FINANCING RELATIONSHIPS WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS AND EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate an appropriate White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), and the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation to coordinate with the officials described in section 1099C(a)(2) to develop, as the President determines to be appropriate, financing relationships with ally or partner nations to assist in the adoption of civil nuclear technologies exported from the United States or ally or partner nations to embarking civil nuclear nations.

(b) UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSES.—

(1) DEFINITION OF UNITED STATES COMPETITIVENESS CLAUSE.—In this subsection, the term ''United States competitiveness clause'' means any United States competitiveness provision in any agreement entered into by the Department of Energy, including—

(A) a cooperative agreement;

(B) a cooperative research and development agreement; and

(C) a patent waiver.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the relevant officials described in that subsection shall consider the impact of United States competitiveness clauses on any financing relationships entered into or proposed to be entered into under that subsection.

(3) WAIVER.—The Secretary shall facilitate waivers of United States competitiveness clauses as necessary to facilitate financing relationships with ally or partner nations under subsection (a).

SEC. 1099F. COOPERATION WITH ALLY OR PARTNER NATIONS ON ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR DEMONSTRATION AND COOPERATIVE RESEARCH FACILITIES FOR CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall conduct bilateral and multilateral meetings with not fewer than 5 ally or partner nations, with the aim of enhancing nuclear energy cooperation among those ally or partner nations and the United States, for the purpose of developing collaborative relationships with respect to research, development, licensing, and deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies for civil nuclear energy.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—The meetings described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a focus on cooperation to demonstrate and deploy advanced nuclear reactors, with an emphasis on U.S. nuclear energy companies, during the 10-year period beginning on

the date of enactment of this Act to provide options for addressing energy security and climate change; and

(2) a focus on developing a memorandum of understanding or any other appropriate agreement between the United States and ally or partner nations with respect to—

(A) the demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors; and

(B) the development of cooperative research facilities.

(c) FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS.—In conducting the meetings described in subsection (a), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce, shall seek to develop financing arrangements to share the costs of the demonstration and deployment of advanced nuclear reactors and the development of cooperative research facilities with the ally or partner nations participating in those meetings.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Commerce shall jointly submit to Congress a report highlighting potential partners—

(1) for the establishment of cost-share arrangements described in subsection (c); or

(2) with which the United States may enter into agreements with respect to—

(A) the demonstration of advanced nuclear reactors; or

(B) cooperative research facilities.

SEC. 1099G. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY COOPERATION.

Section 959B of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16279b) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary'';

(2) in subsection (a) (as so designated)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''financing,''; and

(ii) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''preparations for''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C)(v), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) to support, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, the safe, secure, and peaceful use of civil nuclear technology in countries developing nuclear energy programs, with a focus on countries that have increased civil nuclear cooperation with the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China; and

''(4) to promote the fullest utilization of the reactors, fuel, equipment, services, and technology of U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in section 1099B of the International Nuclear Energy Act of 2024) in civil nuclear energy programs outside the United States through—

''(A) bilateral and multilateral arrangements developed and executed with the concurrence of the Secretary of State that contain commitments for the utilization of the reactors, fuel, equipment, services, and technology of U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in that section);

''(B) the designation of 1 or more U.S. nuclear energy companies (as defined in that section) to implement an arrangement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the designation is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of this section;

''(C) the waiver of any provision of law relating to competition with respect to any activity related to an arrangement under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Commerce, determines that a waiver is necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives of this section; and

''(D) the issuance of loans, loan guarantees, other financial assistance, or assistance in the form of an equity interest to carry out activities related to an arrangement under subparagraph (A), to the extent appropriated funds are available.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The program under subsection (a) shall be supported in consultation with the Secretary of State and implemented by the Secretary—

''(1) to facilitate, to the maximum extent practicable, workshops and expert-based exchanges to engage industry, stakeholders, and foreign governments with respect to international civil nuclear issues, such as—

''(A) training;

''(B) financing;

''(C) safety;

''(D) security;

''(E) safeguards;

''(F) liability;

''(G) advanced fuels;

''(H) operations; and

''(I) options for multinational cooperation with respect to the disposal of spent nuclear fuel (as defined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)); and

''(2) in coordination with any Federal agency that the President determines to be appropriate.

''(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out subsection (a)(3) $15,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.''.

SEC. 1099H. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL NUCLEAR PROGRAM SUPPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), shall launch an international initiative (referred to in this section as the ''initiative'') to provide financial assistance to, and facilitate the building of technical capacities by, in accordance with this section, embarking civil nuclear nations for activities relating to the development of civil nuclear energy programs.

(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may award grants of financial assistance to embarking civil nuclear nations in accordance with this subsection—

(A) for activities relating to the development of civil nuclear energy programs; and

(B) to facilitate the building of technical capacities for those activities.

(2) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant of financial assistance under paragraph (1) shall be not more than $5,500,000.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may award—

(A) not more than 1 grant of financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation each fiscal year; and

(B) not more than a total of 5 grants of financial assistance under paragraph (1) to any 1 embarking civil nuclear nation.

(c) SENIOR ADVISORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the initiative, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary and the Assistant (if appointed), may provide financial assistance to an embarking civil nuclear nation for the purpose of contracting with a U.S. nuclear energy company to hire 1 or more senior advisors to assist the embarking civil nuclear nation in establishing a civil nuclear program.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—A senior advisor described in paragraph (1) shall have relevant experience and qualifications to advise the embarking civil nuclear nation on, and facilitate on behalf of the embarking civil nuclear nation, 1 or more of the following activities:

(A) The development of financing relationships.

(B) The development of a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of nuclear power plants.

(C) The development of a standardized licensing framework for—

(i) light water civil nuclear technologies; and

(ii) non-light water civil nuclear technologies and advanced nuclear reactors.

(D) The identification of qualified organizations and service providers.

(E) The identification of funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program.

(F) Market analysis.

(G) The identification of the safety, security, safeguards, and nuclear governance required for a civil nuclear program.

(H) Risk allocation, risk management, and nuclear liability.

(I) Technical assessments of nuclear reactors and technologies.

(J) The identification of actions necessary to participate in a global nuclear liability regime based on the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, with Annex, done at Vienna September 12, 1997 (TIAS 15–415).

(K) Stakeholder engagement.

(L) Management of spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

(M) Any other major activities to support the establishment of a civil nuclear program, such as the establishment of export, financing, construction, training, operations, and education requirements.

(3) CLARIFICATION.—Financial assistance under this subsection may be provided to an embarking civil nuclear nation in addition to any financial assistance provided to that embarking civil nuclear nation under subsection (b).

(d) LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO EMBARKING CIVIL NUCLEAR NATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Offices of the Inspectors General for the Department of State and the Department of Energy shall coordinate—

(1) to establish and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a joint strategic plan to conduct comprehensive oversight of activities authorized under this section to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and

(2) to engage in independent and effective oversight of activities authorized under this section through joint or individual audits, inspections, investigations, or evaluations.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State to carry out the initiative $50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

SEC. 1099I. BIENNIAL CABINET-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY, SECURITY, SAFEGUARDS, AND SUSTAINABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President, in coordination with international partners, as determined by the President, and industry, shall hold a biennial conference on civil nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability (referred to in this section as a ''conference'').

(b) CONFERENCE FUNCTIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should—

(1) be a forum in which ally or partner nations may engage with each other for the purpose of reinforcing the commitment to—

(A) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;
(B) environmental safeguards; and
(C) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites; and
(2) facilitate—
(A) the development of—
(i) joint commitments and goals to improve—
(I) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;
(II) environmental safeguards; and
(III) local community engagement in areas in reasonable proximity to nuclear sites;
(ii) stronger international institutions that support nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;
(iii) cooperative financing relationships to promote competitive alternatives to Chinese and Russian financing;
(iv) a standardized financing and project management framework for the construction of civil nuclear power plants;
(v) a standardized licensing framework for civil nuclear technologies;
(vi) a strategy to change internal policies of multinational development banks, such as the World Bank, to support the financing of civil nuclear projects;
(vii) a document containing any lessons learned from countries that have partnered with the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China with respect to civil nuclear power, including any detrimental outcomes resulting from that partnership; and
(viii) a global civil nuclear liability regime;
(B) cooperation for enhancing the overall aspects of civil nuclear power, such as—
(i) nuclear safety, security, safeguards, and sustainability;
(ii) nuclear laws (including regulations);
(iii) waste management;
(iv) quality management systems;
(v) technology transfer;
(vi) human resources development;
(vii) localization;
(viii) reactor operations;
(ix) nuclear liability; and
(x) decommissioning; and
(C) the development and determination of the mechanisms described in paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 1099J(a), if the President intends to establish an Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center as described in that section.

(c) INPUT FROM INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that each conference should include a meeting that convenes nuclear industry leaders and leaders of government agencies with expertise relating to nuclear safety, security, safeguards, or sustainability to discuss best practices relating to—
(1) the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radiological materials;
(2) managing the evolving cyber threat to nuclear and radiological security; and
(3) the role that the nuclear industry should play in nuclear and radiological safety, security, and safeguards, including with respect to the safe and secure use, storage, and transport of nuclear and radiological materials, including spent nuclear fuel and nuclear waste.

SEC. 1099J. ADVANCED REACTOR COORDINATION AND RESOURCE CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall consider the feasibility of leveraging existing activities or frameworks or, as necessary, establishing a center, to be known as the ''Advanced Reactor Coordination and Resource Center'' (referred to in this section as the ''Center''), for the purposes of—
(1) identifying qualified organizations and service providers—
(A) for embarking civil nuclear nations;
(B) to develop and assemble documents, contracts, and related items required to establish a civil nuclear program; and
(C) to develop a standardized model for the establishment of a civil nuclear program that can be used by the International Atomic Energy Agency;
(2) coordinating with countries participating in the Center and with the Nuclear Exports Working Group established under section 1099C(b)—
(A) to identify funds to support payment for services required to develop a civil nuclear program;
(B) to provide market analysis; and
(C) to create—
(i) project structure models;
(ii) models for electricity market analysis;
(iii) models for nonelectric applications market analysis; and
(iv) financial models;
(3) identifying and developing the safety, security, safeguards, and nuclear governance required for a civil nuclear program;
(4) supporting multinational regulatory standards to be developed by countries with civil nuclear programs and experience;
(5) developing and strengthening communications, engagement, and consensus-building;
(6) carrying out any other major activities to support export, financing, education, construction, training, and education requirements relating to the establishment of a civil nuclear program;
(7) developing mechanisms for how to fund and staff the Center; and
(8) determining mechanisms for the selection of the location or locations of the Center.

(b) OBJECTIVE.—The President shall carry out subsection (a) with the objective of establishing the Center if the President determines that it is feasible to do so.

SEC. 1099K. INVESTMENT BY ALLIES AND PARTNERS OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) COMMERCIAL LICENSES.—Section 103 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2133(d)) is amended, in the second sentence—
(1) by inserting ''for a production facility'' after ''No license''; and
(2) by striking ''any any'' and inserting ''any''.

(b) MEDICAL THERAPY AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT LICENSES.—Section 104 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2134(d)) is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting ''for a production facility'' after ''No license''.

SEC. 1099L. STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE FUND WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a working group, to be known as the ''Strategic Infrastructure Fund Working Group'' (referred to in this section as the ''working group'') to provide input on the feasibility of establishing a program to support strategically important capital-intensive infrastructure projects.

(b) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be—
(1) led by a White House official, who may be the Assistant (if appointed), who shall serve as the White House focal point with respect to matters relating to the working group; and
(2) composed of—
(A) senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any Federal agency or organization that the President determines to be appropriate;
(B) other senior-level Federal officials, selected by the head of the applicable Federal agency or organization, from any other Federal agency or organization that the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and
(C) any senior-level Federal official selected by the White House official described in paragraph (1) from any Federal agency or organization.

(c) REPORTING.—The working group shall report to the National Security Council.

(d) DUTIES.—The working group shall—
(1) provide direction and advice to the officials described in section 1099C(a)(2)(A) and appropriate Federal agencies, as determined by the working group, with respect to the establishment of a Strategic Infrastructure Fund (referred to in this subsection as the ''Fund'') to be used—
(A) to support those aspects of projects relating to—
(i) civil nuclear technologies; and
(ii) microprocessors; and
(B) for strategic investments identified by the working group; and
(2) address critical areas in determining the appropriate design for the Fund, including—
(A) transfer of assets to the Fund;
(B) transfer of assets from the Fund;
(C) how assets in the Fund should be invested; and
(D) governance and implementation of the Fund.

(e) REPORT REQUIRED.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to the committees described in paragraph (2) a report on the findings of the working group that includes suggested legislative text for how to establish and structure a Strategic Infrastructure Fund.
(2) COMMITTEES DESCRIBED.—The committees referred to in paragraph (1) are—
(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and
(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.
(3) ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include suggested legislative language requiring all expenditures from a Strategic Infrastructure Fund established in accordance with this section to be administered by the Secretary of State (or a designee of the Secretary of State).

SEC. 1099M. JOINT ASSESSMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND INDIA ON NUCLEAR LIABILITY RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall establish and maintain within the U.S.-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Government of the Republic of India that convenes on a recurring basis—
(1) to assess the implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of India Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed at Washington October 10, 2008 (TIAS 08–1206);
(2) to discuss opportunities for the Republic of India to align domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms; and
(3) to develop a strategy for the United States and the Republic of India to pursue bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements related to analyzing and implementing those opportunities.

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

annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the joint assessment developed pursuant to subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 1099N. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to alter or otherwise affect the interpretation or implementation of section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153).

SA 3148. Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1014. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NATIONAL GUARD COUNTERDRUG PROGRAM.

It is the sense of Congress that the National Guard Counterdrug Program must be included as part of the overall response of the Department of Defense to the fentanyl and synthetic opioid crisis.

SA 3149. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 10___. CONSULTATION UNDER CERTAIN LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND LAND USE PLANS.

(a) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Section 6(d) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED AFTER APPROVAL OF LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a completed land and resource management plan that has no on-the-ground effects when—

''(A) a new species is listed or a new critical habitat is designated under that Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

''(B) new information reveals effects of the land and resource management plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.''.

(b) BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND USE PLANS.—Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) NO ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION REQUIRED AFTER APPROVAL OF LAND USE PLANS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation), on a completed land use plan that has no on-the-ground effects when—

''(1) a new species is listed or a new critical habitat is designated under that Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); or

''(2) new information reveals effects of the land use plan that may affect a species listed or critical habitat designated under that Act in a manner or to an extent not previously considered.''.

SA 3150. Mr. HICKENLOOPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1510. REPORT ON COOPERATION EFFORTS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

(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 Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on cooperation efforts between the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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

(1) A detailed assessment of existing forms of cooperation between the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2) An assessment of, and recommendations for improving, future joint engagement between the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(3) An assessment of the opportunities for exchange of personnel between the Department of Defense and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and an examination of the feasibility and strategic benefits of establishing—

(A) dedicated joint duty billets for Space Force personnel at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(B) rotational assignments of National Aeronautics and Space Administration employees in Space Force units and in the United States Space Command.

(4) An identification of potential career incentives for Space Force joint duty at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and civilian National Aeronautics and Space Administration rotational assignments at Space Force commands.

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

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

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

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

SA 3151. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ENHANCING MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY MITIGATION AGREEMENTS.—

(1) PROCEDURES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury (in the subsection referred to as the ''Secretary''), as the chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (in this subsection referred to as the ''Committee''), shall promulgate procedures for the Committee with respect to the implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of national security mitigation agreements and conditions entered into or imposed by the Committee pursuant to section 721(l)(3) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(l)(3)), including with respect to—

(A) a consistent approach to monitoring, evaluating, and enforcing the implementation of and compliance with such agreements and conditions;

(B) on-site compliance reviews conducted under such agreements and conditions; and

(C) the use of third-party auditors and monitors.

(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish such guidance as may be appropriate to clarify expectations with respect to periodic reporting and the submission of certain information to the Committee and lead agencies designated under subsection (k)(5) of section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565) in connection with a national security mitigation agreement or condition entered into or imposed pursuant to subsection (l)(3) of that section.

(3) CENTRALIZATION OF MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT FUNCTIONS.—Section 721(q)(2) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(q)(2)) is amended by inserting before the period the following: '', such as monitoring of agreements and conditions entered into or imposed under subsection (l) and enforcement of this section.''.

(b) MANDATORY DECLARATIONS OF TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRITICAL TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 721(b)(1)(C)(v)(IV)(cc) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)(C)(v)(IV)(cc)) is amended by striking ''subsection (a)(4)(B)(iii)(II)'' and inserting ''subclause (I) or (II) of subsection (a)(4)(B)(iii)''.

SA 3152. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY TO IMPOSE EXPORT CONTROLS ON CERTAIN FOREIGN-PRODUCED ITEMS.

Section 1742 of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (14) as paragraphs (9) through (15), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

''(8) ITEM SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of part I, the term 'item subject to the jurisdiction of the United States' includes a foreign-produced item that—

''(i) is in the United States, including in a foreign trade zone or moving in transit through the United States from one foreign country to another foreign country;

''(ii) is commingled with, draws from, is bundled with, or otherwise incorporates United States-origin content;

''(iii)(I) is destined to a prohibited destination or end user identified in the Export Administration Regulations; and

''(II)(aa) is the direct product of—

''(AA) United States-origin technology or software; or

''(BB) foreign technology or software that is commingled with, draws from, is bundled with, or otherwise incorporates United States-origin technology or software; or

''(bb) is produced by any complete plant or major component of a plant located outside the United States, if the complete plant or major component of a plant, whether made in the United States or a foreign country, is itself a direct product of—

''(AA) United States-origin technology or software; or

''(BB) foreign technology or software that is commingled with, draws from, is bundled with, or otherwise incorporates United States-origin technology or software; or

''(iv) contains or is a direct product of an item produced pursuant to the circumstances described in clause (iii).

''(B) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A):

''(i) DIRECT PRODUCT; MAJOR COMPONENT.—The terms 'direct product' and 'major component' have the meanings given those terms in section 734.9 of the Export Administration Regulations (or a successor regulation).

''(ii) FOREIGN TRADE ZONE.—The term 'foreign trade zone' means a zone established pursuant to the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the 'Foreign Trade Zones Act') (48 Stat. 998, chapter 590; 19 U.S.C. 81a et seq.).

''(iii) PRODUCE.—The term 'produce' means production (as defined in section 772.1 of the Export Administration Regulations (or a successor regulation)).

''(iv) SOFTWARE.—The term 'software' has the meaning given that term in section 772.1 of the Export Administration Regulations (or a successor regulation).''.

SA 3153. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. ATTRACTING HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS TO BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY.

Part III of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4851 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1783. ATTRACTING HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS TO BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security (in this section referred to as the 'Under Secretary') may carry out a program using the authority provided in subsection (b) in order to attract to the Bureau of Industry and Security highly qualified experts in needed occupations, as determined by the Under Secretary.

''(b) AUTHORITY.—Under the program under this section, the Under Secretary may—

''(1) appoint personnel from outside the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code) to positions in the Bureau of Industry and Security without regard to any provision of title 5, United States Code, governing the appointment of employees to positions in the Bureau; and

''(2) prescribe the rates of basic pay for positions to which employees are appointed under paragraph (1) at rates not in excess of the maximum rate of basic pay authorized for senior-level positions under section 5376 of title 5, United States Code, as increased by locality-based comparability payments under section 5304 of that title, notwithstanding any provision of that title governing the rates of pay or classification of employees in the executive branch.

''(c) LIMITATION ON TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the service of an employee under an appointment made pursuant to this section may not exceed 5 years.

''(2) EXTENSIONS.—The Under Secretary may, in the case of a particular employee, extend the period to which service is limited under paragraph (1) by up to 1 additional year if the Under Secretary determines that such action is necessary to promote the national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives of the United States.

''(d) LIMITATION ON TOTAL ANNUAL COMPENSATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection or of section 5307 of title 5, United States Code, no additional payments may be paid to an employee under this section in any calendar year if, or to the extent that, the employee's total annual compensation will exceed the maximum amount of total annual compensation payable at the salary set in accordance with section 104 of title 3, United States Code.

''(e) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS.—The number of highly qualified experts appointed and retained by the Under Secretary under subsection (b)(1) shall not exceed 50 at any time.

''(f) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—In the event that the Under Secretary terminates the program under this section, in the case of an employee who, on the day before the termination of the program, is serving in a position pursuant to an appointment under this section—

''(1) the termination of the program does not terminate the employee's employment in that position before the expiration of the lesser of—

''(A) the period for which the employee was appointed; or

''(B) the period to which the employee's service is limited under subsection (c), including any extension made under this section before the termination of the program; and

''(2) the rate of basic pay prescribed for the position under this section may not be reduced as long as the employee continues to serve in the position without a break in service.''.

SA 3154. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. _____. COORDINATOR FOR COMBATING FOREIGN KLEPTOCRACY AND CORRUPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3021) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) assess the national security implications of foreign corruption and kleptocracy (including strategic corruption) and coordinate, without assuming operational authority, the United States Government efforts to counter foreign corruption and kleptocracy.'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (g) the following:

''(h) COORDINATOR FOR COMBATING FOREIGN KLEPTOCRACY AND CORRUPTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall designate an officer of the National Security Council to be responsible for—

''(A) the assessment of the national security implications of foreign corruption and kleptocracy (including strategic corruption); and

''(B) the coordination of the interagency process to counter foreign corruption and kleptocracy.

''(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the coordination and assessment described in paragraph (1), the officer designated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be responsible for the following:

''(A) Coordinating and deconflicting anti-corruption and counter-kleptocracy initiatives across the Federal Government, including those at the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, and the United States Agency for International Development.

''(B) Informing deliberations of the Council by highlighting the wide-ranging and destabilizing effects of corruption on a variety of issues, including drug trafficking, arms trafficking, sanctions evasion, cybercrime, voting rights and global democracy initiatives, and other matters of national security concern to the Council.

''(C) Updating, as appropriate, and coordinating the implementation of the United States strategy on countering corruption.

''(3) COORDINATION WITH COORDINATOR FOR COMBATING MALIGN FOREIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS AND CAMPAIGNS.—The officer designated under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall coordinate with the employee designated under subsection (g)(1).

''(4) LIAISON.—The officer designated under paragraph (1) shall serve as a liaison, for purposes of coordination described in such paragraph and paragraph (2)(A), with the following:

''(A) The Department of State.
''(B) The Department of the Treasury.
''(C) The Department of Justice.
''(D) The intelligence community.
''(E) The United States Agency for International Development.
''(F) Any other Federal agency that the President considers appropriate.
''(G) Good government transparency groups in civil society.
''(5) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—
''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once each year, the officer designated pursuant to paragraph (1), or the officer's designee, shall provide to the congressional committees specified in subparagraph (B) a briefing on the responsibilities and activities of the officer designated under this subsection.
''(B) COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.—The congressional committees specified in this subparagraph are the following:
''(i) The Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Caucus on International Narcotics Control of the Senate.
''(ii) The Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.''.
(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (h) of section 101 of such Act, as added by subsection (a)(3), shall be construed to prohibit the officer designated pursuant to such subsection (h) from serving in any additional roles or positions or being assigned any responsibilities not set forth under such subsection (h).

SA 3155. Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3021 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 11, insert the following after line 17:

(3) availing themselves of privacy-enhancing technologies or designs, including encrypted communications.

SA 3156. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. PACIFIC ISLANDS RESTORATION AND HAZARDS REMOVAL PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall establish an Pacific Islands Restoration and Hazards Removal Program (in this section referred to as the ''Program'').
(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Program is—
(1) to coordinate with the Pacific Island countries—
(A) to support survey and clearance operations of buried and abandoned bombs, mortars, artillery shells, and unexploded ordnance from battlefields of World War II; and
(B) to identify, isolate, and, where appropriate, mitigate environmental risks associated with submerged maritime vessels that pose a threat to public health or marine resources because of the presence of oil, fuel, corrosive metals, or other toxins; and
(2) to build the national capacity of the Pacific Island countries to identify, isolate, and mitigate risks related to explosive ordnance hazards, submerged maritime vessels, or related hazardous marine debris through survey and disposal training, funding to nongovernmental organizations, and support to regional cooperation initiatives with countries that are partners and allies of the United States, including Australia, France, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, and the United Kingdom.
(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State $1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out this section.

SA 3157. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. INCLUSION OF PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES IN DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND USAID PLANNING AND PROGRAM EVALUATION PROCESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (in this section referred to as ''USAID''), shall include Pacific Island countries in existing strategic planning and multi-sector program evaluation processes, including the Integrated Country Strategies of the Department of State, the Country Development Cooperation Strategies of USAID, and the Joint Strategic Plan of the Department and USAID.
(b) PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATIONS.—Evaluations and considerations for Pacific Island countries in the program planning and strategic development processes described in subsection (a) should include—
(1) descriptions of the diplomatic and development challenges of each Pacific Island country as those challenges relate to the strategic, economic, and humanitarian interests of the United States;
(2) reviews of existing Department of State and USAID programs to address the diplomatic and development challenges of those countries identified under paragraph (1);
(3) descriptions of the barriers, if any, to increasing Department of State and USAID programming to Pacific Island countries, including—
(A) the income level of Pacific Island countries relative to other regions where there is high demand for United States foreign assistance to support development needs;
(B) the relative capacity of Pacific Island countries to absorb United States foreign assistance for diplomatic and development needs through partner governments and civil society institutions; and
(C) any other factor that the Secretary or the Administrator determines may constitute a barrier to deploying or increasing United States foreign assistance to the Pacific Island countries;
(4) assessments of the presence of, degree of international development by, partner country indebtedness to, and political influence of malign foreign governments, such as the Government of the People's Republic of China, and non-state actors;
(5) assessments of new foreign economic assistance modalities that could strengthen United States foreign assistance in to Pacific Island countries, including the deployment of technical assistance and asset recovery tools to partner governments and civil society institutions to help develop the capacity and expertise necessary to achieve self-sufficiency;
(6) an evaluation of the existing budget and resource management processes for the mission and work of the Department of State and USAID with respect to programming in Pacific Island countries;
(7) an explanation of how the Secretary and the Administrator will use existing programming processes, including those with respect to development of an Integrated Country Strategy, a Country Development Cooperation Strategy, and the Joint Strategic Plan to advance the long-term growth, governance, economic development, and resilience of Pacific Island countries; and
(8) any recommendations about appropriate budgetary, resource management, and programmatic changes necessary to assist in strengthening United States foreign assistance programming in the Pacific Island countries.

SA 3158. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. REPORT ON ESTABLISHING A PACIFIC ISLANDS SECURITY DIALOGUE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report assessing the feasibility and advisability of establishing a United States-based public-private sponsored security dialogue (to be known as the ''Pacific Islands Security Dialogue'') among the Pacific Islands for the purposes of jointly exploring and discussing issues affecting the economic, diplomatic, and national security of the Pacific Islands.
(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:
(1) A review of the ability of the Department of State to participate in a public-private sponsored security dialogue.
(2) A survey of Pacific Island countries on their interest in engaging in such a dialogue and potential topics for discussion.
(3) An assessment of the potential locations for conducting a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue in the jurisdiction of the United States.
(4) Consideration of dates for conducting a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue that would maximize participation of representatives from the Pacific Islands.
(5) A review of the funding modalities available to the Department of State to help finance a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue, including grant-making authorities available to the Department of State.
(6) An assessment of any administrative, statutory, or other legal limitations that

would prevent the establishment of a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue with participation and support of the Department of State as described in subsection (a).

(7) An analysis of how a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue could help to advance the Boe Declaration on Regional Security, including its emphasis on the changing environment as the greatest existential threat to the Pacific Islands.

(8) An evaluation of how a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue could help amplify the issues and work of existing regional structures and organizations dedicated to the security of the Pacific Islands region, such as the Pacific Island Forum and Pacific Environmental Security Forum.

(9) An analysis of how a Pacific Islands Security Dialogue would help with the implementation of the Pacific Partnership Strategy of the United States and the National Security Strategy of the United States.

(c) INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary of State may consult with the Secretary of Defense and, where appropriate, evaluate the lessons learned of the Regional Centers for Security Studies of the Department of Defense to determine the feasibility and advisability of establishing the Pacific Islands Security Dialogue.

SA 3159. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1266. PACIFIC ISLANDS STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in concurrence with the Director of the United States Trade and Development Agency, and in collaboration with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Secretary of Transportation, the Chief of Engineers, and the Secretary of Energy, working through the directors of the national laboratories of the Department of Energy, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Defense, shall develop a program to catalyze sustainable, resilient infrastructure throughout the Pacific Islands, including by providing frequent and meaningful technical assistance to inform the needs assessments and planning of Pacific Island countries to protect against threats to critical infrastructure.

(b) GOALS.—The goal of the program established under subsection (a) is to strengthen United States support of Pacific Island countries in assessing—

(1) existing and forecasted threats to the functionality and safety of infrastructure resulting from sea-level fluctuation, salt water intrusion, extreme weather, or other severe changes in the environment, as well as cyber threats and any other security risks that disrupt essential services or threaten public health;

(2) the strategies, designs, and engineering techniques for reinforcing or rebuilding failing infrastructure in ways that with withstand and maintain function in light of existing and forecasted threats to community infrastructure;

(3) the rate and sources of deterioration, structural deficiencies, and most pressing risks to public safety from aging and failing infrastructure;

(4) priorities for infrastructure improvement, reinforcement, re-engineering, or replacement based on the significance of infrastructure to ensuring public health, safety, and economic growth;

(5) risks associated with the interconnectedness of supply chains and technology, communications, and financial systems;

(6) the policy and governance needed to strengthen critical infrastructure resilience, including with respect to infrastructure financing to meet the contemporary needs of Pacific Islanders; and

(7) the plan for leveraging regional funding mechanisms, including the Pacific Resilience Facility, as well as bilateral assistance and global multilateral financing to coordinate international financial support for infrastructure projects.

(c) ACTIVITIES.—To achieve the purpose of the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary is encouraged to consider the following activities:

(1) Educational and information sharing with Pacific Island countries that helps develop the local capacity of government and civil society leaders to evaluate localized critical infrastructure risks, interdependencies across systems, and risk-mitigation solutions.

(2) Technology exchanges that provide Pacific Island countries with access to proven, cost-effective solutions for mitigating the risks associated with critical infrastructure vulnerabilities and related interdependencies.

(3) Financial and budget management and related technical assistance that provide Pacific Island countries with additional capacity to access, manage, and service financing for contemporary infrastructure projects to support the resilience needs of communities in the Pacific Islands.

SA 3160. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Americas Regional Monitoring of Arms Sales

SECTION 1291. SHORT TITLES.

(a) SHORT TITLES.—This subtitle may be cited as the ''Americas Regional Monitoring of Arms Sales Act of 2024'' or the ''ARMAS Act''.

SEC. 1292. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Violence in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean is exacerbated by firearms originating in the United States.

(2) While firearms are trafficked to Mexico from a variety of countries, firearms originating in the United States account for 70 percent of the firearms recovered and traced from crimes in Mexico, according to the 2021 Government Accountability Office (referred to in this section as ''GAO'') report published by the Comptroller General of the United States titled ''Firearms Trafficking: U.S. Efforts to Disrupt Gun Smuggling into Mexico Would Benefit from Additional Data and Analysis''.

(3) United States-origin firearm flows contribute to human rights violations, organized crime and gang violence, extrajudicial killings, high homicide rates, domestic violence, and femicides in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean.

(4) Firearms trafficking from the United States and firearm violence are key drivers of immigration and asylum claims from Central America.

(5) According to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, firearms are used in 70 percent of homicides in the Caribbean compared to 30 percent globally, and while the Caribbean constitutes less than 1 percent of the global population, 23 percent of all recorded homicides worldwide take place in the Caribbean.

(6) In an August 2022 press conference, Homeland Security Investigations officials reported a ''marked uptick in the number of weapons'', and an increase in the caliber and type of weapons, being illegally trafficked to Haiti and the rest of the Caribbean.

(7) The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative of the Department of State, which commenced in 2009—

(A) is the regional foreign assistance program of the United States that seeks to reduce illicit trafficking in the Caribbean region and advance public safety and security;

(B) seeks to improve the capacity of Caribbean countries to intercept smuggled weapons at airports and seaports; and

(C) provides support for forensic ballistics and firearms destruction and stockpile management; and

(D) has also included support for regional organizations, including—

(i) the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), which based in Trinidad and Tobago, and is the lead agency involved in the issue of illicit firearms trafficking and increasing the capacity of member states to detect and prevent firearms trafficking; and

(ii) the Eastern Caribbean's Regional Security System, which is based in Barbados.

(8) The Central America Regional Security Initiative of the Department of State has been working since 2010 to promote long-term investments in Central America—

(A) to increase citizen security;

(B) to disrupt illicit trafficking; and

(C) to enhance the capacity and accountability of governments in the region to establish effective state-presence and security in violent communities.

(9) Two GAO reports on firearms trafficking, which were published in 2021 and 2022, respectively, have affirmed that firearms trafficking to Mexico and Central America continues to represent a security concern to the United States, as United States-origin firearms are diverted from legitimate owners and end up in the hands of violent criminals, including drug traffickers and other transnational criminal organizations. A GAO report on the effect of firearms trafficking in the Caribbean has not yet been compiled.

(10) In the reports referred to in paragraph (9), the Comptroller General of the United States found that—

(A) Federal departments and agencies lacked information and analysis of the firearms trafficking networks in Mexico and Central America;

(B) few efforts by the United States Government in the region focused on firearms trafficking; and

(C) as a result, Federal departments and agencies lack a detailed understanding of the firearms trafficking that fuels violence and enables criminals in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

(11) Firearms used to kidnap and kill a group of United States citizens traveling in Matamoros, Mexico were illegally smuggled

from the United States into Mexico. The suspect in these killings admitted to Federal agents that he purchased firearms in the United States, smuggled them across the border, and knowingly provided them to members of the Gulf Cartel.

(12) As the incident described in paragraph (11) demonstrates, United States-sourced firearms are being smuggled and diverted to cartels implicated in the supply and flow of illegal fentanyl and other dangerous drugs, which threatens the public health and safety of United States citizens.

(13) In the 2022 GAO report ''Firearms Trafficking: More Information Needed to Inform U.S. Efforts in Central America'', the Comptroller General of the United States reported that efforts of the United States Government focused on firearms trafficking in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras lacked information about relevant country conditions and performance measures to ensure such efforts were designed and implemented to achieve the intended objectives and, as a result, the Comptroller General recommended that the Secretary of State obtain information about the conditions in such countries to support the development of effective programs to reduce the availability of illicit firearms.

(14) Data on firearms trafficking is limited. Data compilation is crucial to understanding the problem.

(15) As of the date of the publication of the report referred to in paragraph (13), the Secretary of Commerce had not assigned any agents to Central America on permanent assignment.

(16) In 2021 and 2022, the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the Department of State included ''unlawful and arbitrary killings'' as a significant human rights issue in Guatemala. Despite such inclusion, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security has authorized approximately 99,270 firearms exports to Guatemala since assuming responsibility for firearms licensing in 2020.

(17) When firearms were controlled under the United States Munitions List and the licensing of firearms was the responsibility of the Secretary of State, the average number of firearms licensed for export to Guatemala was approximately 4,000 per year.

(18) The number of exports specified in paragraph (16) represents an extraordinary increase from the number specified in paragraph (17). The Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security has only been able to conduct a very limited number of end-use checks, according to the 2022 GAO report ''Firearms Trafficking: More Information Needed to Inform U.S. Efforts in Central America''.

(19) Since the Department of Commerce gained jurisdiction over the control of firearm export licensing—

(A) there has been a 42 percent increase in firearm exports compared to averages for such exports when the control of such exports was under the jurisdiction of the Department of State;

(B) the total value of export licenses approved annually has increased by an estimated $4,450,000,000; and

(C) the Secretary of Commerce has also approved 95 percent of license applications for such exports.

(20) According to the Census Bureau, Mexico, Guatemala, and Brazil have been among the top 10 destinations for United States-manufactured semiautomatic firearm exports.

(21) The 2021 security cooperation plan, titled ''U.S.-Mexico Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Heath, and Safe Communities'', explicitly identifies reducing illicit arms trafficking as a ''Cooperation Area'' with specific objectives—

(A) to increase efforts to reduce the illicit trafficking of firearms, ammunition, and explosive devices;

(B) to increase bilateral information sharing on illicit firearms trafficking; and

(C) to increase investigative and prosecutorial capacity to address illicit firearms trafficking.

(22) As of March 2023, during the second phase of the Bicentennial Framework referred to in paragraph (21)—

(A) the United States and Mexico were focusing specifically on stemming firearms trafficking to Mexico; and

(B) the Department of Justice's Operation Southbound had deployed 9 interagency Firearms Trafficking Task Forces to 8 cities along the southwest border to focus on such firearms trafficking, which resulted in the seizure of nearly 2,000 firearms during the first 6 months of fiscal year 2023, and represents a 65.8 percent increase in firearms seizures compared to the same period during fiscal year 2022.

(23) Homeland Security Investigations has reported a surge in firearms trafficking from the United States to Haiti since 2021, and the recovery of increasingly sophisticated arms destined for ports in Haiti, including—

(A) .50 caliber sniper rifles;

(B) .308 caliber rifles; and

(C) belt-fed machine guns.

(24) The 2023 Assessment by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, titled ''Haiti's Criminal Markets: Mapping Trends in Firearms and Drug Trafficking'', outlines the use of increasingly sophisticated methods, including a 2022 seizure of containers filled with semi-automatic weapons and handguns addressed to the Episcopal Church and labeled as relief supplies.

(25) The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (Public Law 117–159), which was enacted into law on June 25, 2022, implemented key efforts to address firearm trafficking, including—

(A) establishing a Federal criminal offense for firearm trafficking; and

(B) strengthening the capability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to interdict firearms.

(26) A growing number of firearms exported by United States manufacturers are found involved in violent crimes worldwide, including the pistol used in a mass shooting of 23 children and two teachers in Thailand in October 2022, which was linked to a United States factory.

SEC. 1293. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

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

(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED COUNTRY.—The term ''covered country'' means any country designated by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 1296 as a covered country.

(3) COVERED MUNITION.—The term ''covered munition'' means—

(A) any previously covered item; or

(B) any item that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, is designated for control under Category I, II, or III of the United States Munitions List pursuant to section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778) or otherwise subject to control under any such category.

(4) FIREARM.—The term ''firearm'' includes covered munitions.

(5) GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.—The term ''gross violations of internationally recognized human rights'' has the meaning given such term in section 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(1)).

(6) PREVIOUSLY COVERED ITEM.—The term ''previously covered item'' means any item that—

(A) as of March 8, 2020, was included in Category I, II, or III of the United States Munitions List; and

(B) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is included on the Commerce Control List.

(7) SECURITY ASSISTANCE.—The term ''security assistance'' includes—

(A) any type of assistance specified in section 502B(d)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304); and

(B) assistance furnished under an international security assistance program of the United States conducted under any other provision of law, including the authorities under chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code.

(8) UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—The term ''United States Munitions List'' means the list maintained pursuant to part 121 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 1294. TRANSFER OF REGULATORY CONTROL OF CERTAIN MUNITIONS EXPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) TRANSFER.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) the Secretary of Commerce shall transfer the control over the export of each previously covered item to the jurisdiction of the Department of State; and

(2) following such transfer, control over the export of any covered munition may not be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce.

(b) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to implement this section by the date specified in subsection (a).

(c) PROHIBITION ON PROMOTION OF CERTAIN MUNITIONS EXPORTS BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Secretary of Commerce may not take any actions to promote the export of any previously covered item, including actions before, on, or after the date on which the Secretary transfers the control over the export of the previously covered item to the jurisdiction of the Department State under subsection (a).

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed as limiting any authority relating to the designation, control, or removal of items under the United States Munitions List or the Commerce Control List, other than the specific authority to transfer the control of an item as specified in subsection (a).

SEC. 1295. REPORTS AND STRATEGY ON DISRUPTION OF ILLEGAL EXPORT AND TRAFFICKING OF FIREARMS TO MEXICO AND CERTAIN CENTRAL AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

(a) REPORT.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the heads of such other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary of State may determine relevant, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the efforts of the Secretary of State and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies to disrupt—

(A) the illegal export or diversion of firearms from the United States to unauthorized

recipients in covered countries, including through unauthorized third-party transfers; and

(B) the illegal trafficking of firearms obtained in the United States to recipients in such countries.

(2) MATTERS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the efforts specified in such paragraph—

(A) the identification of any such efforts, including efforts—

(i) to track and verify information regarding the end-users of firearms so exported, including by entering into data-sharing agreements—

(I) with appropriate counterparts from the governments of such covered countries; and

(II) between the relevant departments and agencies of the United States Government;

(ii) to ensure the destruction of surplus firearms so exported;

(iii) to ensure that firearms so exported are not used to commit extrajudicial killings or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights;

(iv) to build the capacity of such covered countries to prevent the trafficking of firearms so exported, including through current programs supported or implemented by the United States Government;

(v) to track and verify information regarding the end-users of firearms obtained in the United States and illegally trafficked to such covered countries;

(vi) to combat all forms of cross-border smuggling of firearms from the United States, including via maritime vessels and aircraft;

(vii) to engage with subnational government officials in such covered countries to effectively implement and enforce agreements relating to the trafficking of firearms that have been concluded between the United States Government and the national government of the respective covered country;

(viii) to identify the origin of trafficked firearms, including through the serial numbers of trafficked firearms, and sharing such information with relevant law enforcement agencies of—

(I) the United States;

(II) the respective covered country; and

(III) any other country determined relevant for purposes of such information sharing;

(ix) to implement—

(I) the ''U.S.-Mexico Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Heath, and Safe Communities'';

(II) any successor or subsequent bilateral agreements with Mexico; or

(III) similar bilateral agreements with any other covered country on combating firearm trafficking, transnational organizations, or fentanyl;

(x) to implement the recommendations made in—

(I) the 2021 GAO report titled ''Firearms Trafficking: U.S. Efforts to Disrupt Gun Smuggling into Mexico Would Benefit from Additional Data and Analysis'';

(II) the 2022 GAO report titled ''Firearms Trafficking: More Information Needed to Inform U.S. Efforts in Central America''; and

(III) the forthcoming GAO report that focuses on a similar topic for the Caribbean;

(xi) to enhance cooperation among relevant Federal departments and agencies to combat firearms trafficking and prosecute illegal firearm smugglers;

(B) an assessment of the results of the efforts described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) an assessment of the impact that the March 2020 decision to transfer jurisdiction over the export of semiautomatic weapons, including assault-style rifles and sniper rifles, from the Department of State to the Department of Commerce has had on the number of and types of firearms manufactured in the United States being sent to covered countries; and

(D) a description of how homicides, extrajudicial killings, and other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights committed in such covered countries using firearms exported from or obtained in the United States have been investigated.

(b) INTERAGENCY STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, taking into account the findings of the report required under subsection (a), shall jointly develop an interagency strategy for the disruption of the trafficking of firearms exported from the United States to recipients in covered countries.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a plan for the United States to accomplish each of the objectives specified in subsection (a)(2)(A);

(B) the identification of specific performance measures, targets (including the baselines for such targets), and timelines with respect to such objectives;

(C) an estimate of the resources and personnel necessary to carry out the strategy;

(D) a plan for cooperation between the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of any other Federal departments or agencies involved in anti-firearm trafficking efforts, including the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; and

(E) a plan for coordination between the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, and such heads regarding efforts in countries designated as covered countries under section 5 to combat the trafficking of United States-sourced firearms—

(i) from the United States to such designated countries; and

(ii) from such designated countries to other countries in the surrounding region.

(3) REQUIRED CONSIDERATIONS; CONSULTATIONS.—In developing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall—

(A) consider how the strategy may support or otherwise align with broader efforts of the Secretary of State relating to security assistance, anti-corruption, and the prevention of organized crime and drug and gang violence;

(B) consider whether the placement in the Western Hemisphere of an export control officer of the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce, or other personnel of the Department of Commerce or the Department of State, would support the strategy;

(C) consult with the appropriate congressional committees; and

(D) seek to consult with appropriate counterparts from the government of each covered country.

(4) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit the strategy required under paragraph (1) to the appropriate congressional committees.

(c) IMPROVED TRACKING OF TRAFFICKED FIREARMS.—

(1) ASSESSMENT OF DATA AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a country is designated (or deemed to be designated, as the case may be) as a covered country pursuant to section 1296, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Attorney General, the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the heads of such other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary of State may determine relevant, shall conduct and submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives an assessment of the extent to which the law enforcement agencies of such covered country make available to the United States Government forensic information of trafficked firearms.

(2) ADDRESSING GAPS IN DATA.—For the duration of the period during which a country is designated as a covered country pursuant to section 1296, the Secretary of State shall—

(A) seek to engage with the foreign counterparts of the government of such covered country to improve the collection and sharing of the forensic information of trafficked firearms confiscated by the law enforcement agencies of such covered country; and

(B) promptly provide any such forensic information shared pursuant to subparagraph (A) to the relevant Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies for purposes of use in criminal or civil investigations into violations of relevant United States Federal laws, including the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

(3) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term ''forensic information'', with respect to a trafficked firearm, includes—

(A) the serial number of the firearm; and

(B) any other information that may be used to identify the origin of the firearm or any person or organization involved in the trafficking of the firearm.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary or Secretaries concerned (in consultation with the heads of such other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary or Secretaries concerned may determine relevant) shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the export of covered munitions to covered countries.

(2) MATTERS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the year for which the report is submitted, disaggregated by country—

(A) information regarding license applications approved or denied by the Department of State or the Department of Commerce, and previously issued licenses for the export of covered munitions to proposed recipients in covered countries that have been modified or revoked ;

(B) information regarding how evolving country contexts, including with respect to developments in human rights, affected the approval of license applications for such exports;

(C) the number of licenses issued for the export of covered munitions to proposed recipients in covered countries;

(D) the number of covered munitions exported to recipients in covered countries;

(E) with respect to end-user checks for covered munitions exported to recipients in covered countries conducted pursuant to section 38(g)(7) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(g)(7)) (commonly referred to as the ''Blue Lantern'' program), the monitoring program established under the second section 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2785) (as added by section 150(a) of Public Law 104–164), or any other applicable program of the Department of Commerce or the Department of State—

(i) the number of such end-user checks requested;

(ii) the number of such end-user checks conducted;

(iii) the type of such end-user checks conducted; and

(iv) the results of such end-user checks conducted;

(F) information on the extent to which the heads of the governments of covered countries shared with the Secretary or Secretaries concerned and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies (such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) data relating to the receipt and end-use of covered munitions exported from the United States, and the type of data so shared; and

(G) for each covered country, a description of the United States funding and resources allocated for the purpose of disrupting trafficking of covered munitions.

(3) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term ''Secretary or Secretaries concerned'' means—

(A) if a single Federal department or agency has jurisdiction over the export control of covered munitions, the head of such Federal department or agency; or

(B) if multiple Federal departments or agencies have jurisdiction over the export control of covered munitions, the head of each such Federal department or agency.

SEC. 1296. DESIGNATION OF COVERED COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago shall be designated by the Secretary of State as covered countries for purposes of this Act.

(b) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The countries designated pursuant to subsection (a) shall continue to be so designated during the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, after which period the Secretary of State may terminate the designation with respect to any such country if, at least 180 days before such termination, the Secretary submits a notification of such termination to the appropriate congressional committees.

SEC. 1297. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CERTAIN MUNITIONS EXPORTS.

(a) INITIAL CERTIFICATION; PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no covered munition may be transferred to the government of a covered country, or any other organization, citizen, or resident of such covered country, until the Secretary of State submits to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the program required under subsection (c) has been established.

(2) WAIVER.—During the 1-year period beginning on the effective date described in subsection (d), the Secretary of State may waive the certification requirement under paragraph (1) with respect to the transfer of a covered munition to the government of a country described in paragraph (1) if the Secretary—

(A) certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that such waiver is in the national security interest of the United States; and

(B) includes a written justification with such certification.

(b) REVIEW AND RECERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the submission of the certification pursuant to subsection (a) for a covered country, and annually thereafter until such time as the designation of such country is terminated pursuant to section 1296(b), the Secretary of State shall review, and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a recertification of, such certification.

(2) PROHIBITION.—If the Secretary of State is unable to recertify a covered country as required under paragraph (1), no covered munition may be transferred to the government of the covered country, or any other organization, citizen, or resident of such covered country, until the date on which the Secretary is able to so recertify.

(c) PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall establish and carry out a program under which the Secretary shall prohibit the retransfer of covered munitions transferred to covered countries without the consent of the United States and provide for the registration and end-use monitoring of such covered munitions in accordance with the requirements described in paragraph (2).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) DETAILED RECORD.—The Secretary shall maintain a detailed record of the origin, shipping, and distribution of covered munitions transferred to covered countries.

(B) REGISTRATION.—The Secretary shall register the serial numbers of all covered munitions, which shall be provided to the governments of covered countries and other organizations, citizens, and residents within such covered countries.

(C) END-USE MONITORING.—The Secretary shall carry out a program for the end-use monitoring of covered munitions transferred to the entities and individuals described in subparagraph (B).

(3) REVIEW OF DATABASE.—In prohibiting the retransfer of covered munitions without the consent of the United States pursuant to the program established pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall—

(A) review the database of the Department of State that stores records relating to vetting conducted pursuant to section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) or section 362 of title 10, United States Code, known as the ''International Vetting and Security Tracking-cloud system'' or ''INVEST system'' (or any successor database), for any such records relating to the prospective recipients of such retransfer; and

(B) ensure that such consent is not granted for any such prospective recipient who the Secretary of State determines, taking into account the review under subparagraph (A), is credibly implicated in a gross violation of internationally recognized human rights.

(4) DATA STORAGE AND SHARING.—In carrying out the program established pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall—

(A) ensure that any data received pursuant to such program is stored and maintained in a database of the Department of State; and

(B) to the extent practicable, provide for the sharing of such data with the Secretary of Commerce and the heads of such other Federal departments or agencies as the Secretary of State may determine relevant.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date on which the Secretary of Commerce completes the transfer of the control over the export of previously covered items to the jurisdiction of the Department of State pursuant to section 1294(a).

SEC. 1298. LIMITATION ON LICENSES AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR EXPORT OF CERTAIN ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE COMMERCE CONTROL LIST AND INCLUDED ON THE UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State may not grant an export license or other authorization for the export of a previously covered item unless, before granting such license or other authorization, the Secretary submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written certification with respect to such proposed export license or other authorization containing—

(1) the name of the person applying for the license or other authorization;

(2) the name of the person who is the proposed recipient of the export;

(3) the name of the country or international organization to which the export will be made;

(4) a description of the items proposed to be exported; and

(5) the value of the items proposed to be exported.

(b) FORM.—Each certification required under subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, except that information regarding the dollar value and number of items proposed to be exported may be restricted from public disclosure if such disclosure would be detrimental to the security of the United States.

(c) DEADLINES.—Each certification required under subsection (a) shall be submitted—

(1) not later than 15 days before a proposed export license or other authorization is granted in the case of a transfer of items to a country which is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Israel, or New Zealand, and

(2) not later than 30 days before a proposed export license or other authorization is granted in the case of a transfer of items to any other country.

(d) CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—A proposed export license or other authorization described in subsection (c)(1) shall become effective after the end of the 15-day period described in such subsection, and a proposed export license or other authorization described in subsection (c)(2) shall become effective after the end of the 30-day period specified in such subsection if Congress does not enact, within the applicable time period, a joint resolution prohibiting the export of the covered item for which the export license or other authorization was proposed.

SA 3161. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ISSUANCE OF RULES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM.—The term ''artificial intelligence system'' has the meaning given the term in section 7223 of the Advancing American AI Act (40 U.S.C. 11301 note).

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''covered individual'' means an individual who is younger than 18 years of age.

(3) PRODUCT.—The term ''product'' includes a program, service, application, or other product.

(4) USER.—The term ''user'' means an individual who is a user or customer with respect to a product offered or operated by an entity.

(b) ISSUANCE OF RULES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, shall issue rules that provide that, with respect to any product offered or operated by an entity—

(1) the entity may not offer to a user of the product who is a covered individual any artificial intelligence system, including an artificial intelligence system chat feature, as

part of the product unless a parent or guardian of that covered individual affirmatively grants consent to accept that artificial intelligence system on behalf of that covered individual;

(2) after granting consent under paragraph (1), a parent or guardian of the applicable covered individual may revoke that consent at any time; and

(3) with respect to the revocation of consent under paragraph (2), the entity may not charge the parent or guardian revoking consent a fee for the removal by the entity of the applicable artificial intelligence system.

(c) VIOLATIONS.—A violation of a rule issued under subsection (b) shall be considered to be a violation of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seq.) or a rule issued under that Act.

SA 3162. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 318. MODIFICATIONS TO SALE OF ROYALTIES FOR ENERGY RESILIENCE PURPOSES.

Section 36 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 192) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; Provided, however, At the request of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior shall sell royalties derived only from lands managed by the Department of Defense for the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, Oklahoma, at or below market price to the Department of Defense for use only at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and only for energy resilience purposes, and only to the extent that such royalties do not exceed the natural gas needs of the installation: And provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may not store or sale any royalties received in excess of such needs.''.

SA 3163. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 318. MODIFICATIONS TO SALE OF ROYALTIES FOR ENERGY RESILIENCE PURPOSES.

Section 36 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 192) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; Provided, however, At the request of the Secretary of Defense, only for the purposes of a Department of Defense energy resilience pilot program not to exceed one year in duration, the Secretary of the Interior shall sell royalties derived only from lands managed by the Department of Defense for the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, Oklahoma, at or below market price to the Department of Defense for use only at the McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and only for energy resilience purposes, and only to the extent that such royalties do not exceed the natural gas needs of the installation: And provided further, That the Secretary of Defense may not store or sale any royalties received in excess of such needs.''.

SA 3164. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XV, add the following:

Subtitle E—SAFE Orbit Act

SEC. 1549. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Situational Awareness of Flying Elements in Orbit Act'' or the ''SAFE Orbit Act''.

SEC. 1550. SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall facilitate safe operations in space and encourage the development of commercial space capabilities by acquiring and disseminating unclassified data, analytics, information, and services on space activities.

(b) IMMUNITY.—The United States, any agencies and instrumentalities thereof, and any individuals, firms, corporations, and other persons acting for the United States, including nongovernmental entities, shall be immune from any suit in any court for any cause of action arising from the provision or receipt of space situational awareness services or information, whether or not provided in accordance with this section, or any related action or omission.

(c) ACQUISITION OF DATA.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce (established under section 50702(b) of title 51, United States Code, as amended by section 1551) is authorized to acquire—

(1) data, analytics, information, and services, including with respect to—

(A) location tracking data;

(B) positional and orbit determination information; and

(C) conjunction data messages; and

(2) such other data, analytics, information, and services as the Secretary of Commerce determines necessary to avoid collisions of space objects.

(d) DATABASE ON SATELLITE LOCATION AND BEHAVIOR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall provide access for the public, at no charge, a fully updated, unclassified database of information concerning space objects and behavior that is maintained separately from the space object catalog maintained by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to the authority provided in section 2274 of title 10, United States Code, to maintain a catalog of space objects in furtherance of the national security interests of the United States.

(2) CONTENTS.—The database under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the data and information acquired under subsection (c), except to the extent that such data or information is classified or a trade secret (as defined in section 1839 of title 18, United States Code); and

(B) the provision of basic space situational awareness services and space traffic coordination based on the data referred to in subparagraph (A), including basic analytics, tracking calculations, and conjunction data messages.

(e) BASIC SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS SERVICES.—The Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce—

(1) shall provide to satellite operators, at no charge, basic space situational awareness services, including the data, analytics, information, and services described in subsection (c);

(2) in carrying out paragraph (1), may not compete with private sector space situational awareness products, to the maximum extent practicable; and

(3) not less frequently than every 3 years, shall review the basic space situational awareness services described in paragraph (1) to ensure that such services provided by the Federal Government do not compete with space situational awareness services offered by the private sector.

(f) REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA ACQUISITION AND DISSEMINATION.—In acquiring data, analytics, information, and services under subsection (c) and disseminating data, analytics, information, and services under subsections (d) and (e), the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce shall—

(1) leverage commercial capabilities to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) prioritize the acquisition of data, analytics, information, and services from commercial industry located in or licensed in the United States to supplement data collected by United States Government agencies, including the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(3) appropriately protect proprietary data, information, and systems of firms located in the United States, including by using appropriate infrastructure and cybersecurity measures, including measures set forth in the most recent version of the Cybersecurity Framework, or successor document, maintained by the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(4) facilitate the development of standardization and consistency in data reporting, in collaboration with satellite owners and operators, commercial space situational awareness data and service providers, the academic community, nonprofit organizations, and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(5) encourage foreign governments to participate in unclassified data sharing arrangements for space situational awareness and space traffic coordination.

(g) OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the activities required by this section, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as may be necessary.

SEC. 1551. OFFICE OF SPACE COMMERCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 50701 of title 51, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 50701. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term 'Assistant Secretary' means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

''(2) BUREAU.—The term 'Bureau' means the Bureau of Space Commerce established under section 50702.

''(3) ORBITAL DEBRIS.—The term 'orbital debris'—

''(A) means—

''(i) any human-made space object orbiting Earth that—

''(I) no longer serves an intended purpose;

''(II) has reached the end of its mission; or

''(III) is incapable of safe maneuver or operation; and

''(ii) a rocket body and other hardware left in orbit as a result of normal launch and operational activities; and

''(B) includes fragmentation debris produced by failure or collision of human-made space objects.

''(4) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Commerce.

''(5) SPACE OBJECT.—The term 'space object' means any object launched into space or created in space robotically or by humans, including the component parts of such an object.

''(6) SPACE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term 'space situational awareness' means—

''(A) the identification, characterization, tracking, and the predicted movement and behavior of space objects and orbital debris; and

''(B) the understanding of the space operational environment.

''(7) SPACE TRAFFIC COORDINATION.—The term 'space traffic coordination' means the planning, assessment, and coordination of activities to enhance the safety, stability, and sustainability of operations in the space environment.''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 507 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 50701 and inserting the following:

''50701. Definitions.''.

(b) TRANSITION OF OFFICE TO BUREAU.—Subsection (a) of section 50702 of title 51, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', which, not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be elevated by the Secretary of Commerce from an office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting directly to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce''.

(c) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF BUREAU.—Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(6) to perform space situational awareness and space traffic management duties pursuant to the SAFE Orbit Act.''.

(d) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR SPACE COMMERCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended to read as follows:

''(b) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The Bureau shall be headed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce, who shall—

''(1) be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate;

''(2) report directly to the Secretary of Commerce; and

''(3) have a rate of pay that is equal to the rate payable for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) Section 50702(d) of title 51, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking ''DIRECTOR'' and inserting ''ASSISTANT SECRETARY''; and

(ii) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''Director'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretary''.

(B) Section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (11)'' and inserting ''Assistant Secretaries of Commerce (12)''.

(3) REFERENCES.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, any reference in any law or regulation to the Director of the Office of Space Commerce shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Space Commerce.

(e) TRANSITION REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that sets forth transition and continuity of operations plans for the functional and administrative transfer of the Office of Space Commerce from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to a bureau reporting to the Office of the Secretary of Commerce.

(2) GOAL.—The goal of transition and continuity of operations planning shall be to minimize the cost and administrative burden of establishing the Bureau of Space Commerce while maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of the functions and responsibilities of the Bureau of Space Commerce, in accordance with this section and the amendments made by this section.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 3165. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Coordinating AUKUS Engagement With Japan

SEC. 1291. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

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

(2) AUKUS OFFICIAL.—The term ''AUKUS official'' means a government official with responsibilities related to the implementation of the AUKUS partnership.

(3) AUKUS PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''AUKUS partnership'' has the meaning given that term in section 1321 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10401).

(4) COMMERCE CONTROL LIST.—The term ''Commerce Control List'' means the list maintained pursuant to part 774 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(5) STATE AUKUS COORDINATOR.—The term ''State AUKUS Coordinator'' means the senior advisor at the Department of State designated under section 1331(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10411(a)(1)).

(6) DEFENSE AUKUS COORDINATOR.—The term ''Defense AUKUS Coordinator'' means the senior civilian official of the Department of Defense designated under section 1332(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10412(a)).

(7) PILLAR TWO.—The term ''Pillar Two'' has the meaning given that term in section 1321(2)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10401(2)(B)).

(8) UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—The term ''United States Munitions List'' means the list set forth in part 121 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

SEC. 1292. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to strengthen relationships and cooperation with allies in order to effectively counter the People's Republic of China;

(2) the United States should capitalize on the technological advancements allies have made in order to deliver more advanced capabilities at speed and at scale to the United States military and the militaries of partner countries;

(3) the historic announcement of the AUKUS partnership laid out a vision for future defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States;

(4) Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership envisions cooperation on advanced technologies, including hypersonic capabilities, electronic warfare capabilities, cyber capabilities, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, and space capabilities;

(5) trusted partners of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, such as Japan, could benefit from and offer significant contributions to a range of projects related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership;

(6) Japan is a treaty ally of the United States and a technologically advanced country with the world's third-largest economy;

(7) in 2022, Australia signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan to facilitate reciprocal access and cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Australian Defence Force;

(8) in 2023, the United Kingdom signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan to facilitate reciprocal access and cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(9) in 2014, Japan relaxed its post-war constraints on the export of non-lethal defense equipment, and in March 2024, Japan further refined that policy to allow for the export of weapons to countries with which it has an agreement in place on defense equipment and technology transfers;

(10) in 2013, Japan passed a secrecy law obligating government officials to protect diplomatic and defense information, and in February 2024, the Cabinet approved a bill creating a new security clearance system covering economic secrets; and

(11) in April 2024, the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom announced they would consider cooperating with Japan on advanced capability projects under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

SEC. 1293. ENGAGEMENT WITH JAPAN ON AUKUS PILLAR TWO COOPERATION.

(a) ENGAGEMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the State AUKUS Coordinator, the Defense AUKUS Coordinator, and the designee of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security shall jointly engage directly, at a technical level, with the relevant stakeholders in the Government of Japan—

(A) to better understand the export control system of Japan and the effects of the reforms the Government of Japan has made to that system since 2014;

(B) to determine overlapping areas of interest and the potential for cooperation with Australia, the United Kingdom, and the

United States on projects related to the AUKUS partnership and other projects;

(C) to identify areas in which the Government of Japan might need to adjust the export control system of Japan in order to guard against export control violations or other related issues in order to be a successful potential partner in Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership; and

(D) to assess the Government of Japan's implementation and enforcement of export controls on sensitive technologies with respect to the People's Republic of China, including the implementation of export controls on semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH AUKUS OFFICIALS.—In carrying out the engagement required by paragraph (1), the State AUKUS Coordinator, the Defense AUKUS Coordinator, and the designee of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security shall consult with relevant AUKUS officials from the United Kingdom and Australia.

(b) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the engagement required by subsection (a), the State AUKUS Coordinator, the Defense AUKUS Coordinator, and the designee of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security shall jointly brief the appropriate congressional committees on the following:

(1) The findings of that engagement.

(2) A strategy for follow-on engagement.

SEC. 1294. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION WITH JAPAN ON AUKUS PILLAR TWO.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Commerce, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the potential for cooperation with Japan on Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership, detailing the following:

(1) Projects the Government of Japan is engaged in related to the development of advanced defense capabilities under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(2) Areas of potential cooperation with Japan on advanced defense capabilities within and outside the scope of Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(3) The Secretaries' assessment of the current export control system of Japan, including—

(A) the procedures under that system for protecting classified and sensitive defense, diplomatic, and economic information;

(B) the effectiveness of that system in protecting such information; and

(C) such other matters as the Secretaries consider appropriate.

(4) Any reforms by Japan that the Secretary of State considers necessary before considering including Japan in the privileges provided under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(5) Any recommendations regarding the scope and conditions of potential cooperation with Japan under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(6) A strategy and forum for communicating the potential benefits of and requirements for engaging in projects related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership with the Government of Japan.

(7) Any views provided by AUKUS officials from the United Kingdom and Australia on issues relevant to the report, and a plan for cooperation with such officials on future engagement with the Government of Japan related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

SA 3166. Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

Subtitle G—Coordinating AUKUS Engagement With Japan

SEC. 1291. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

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

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

(2) AUKUS OFFICIAL.—The term ''AUKUS official'' means a government official with responsibilities related to the implementation of the AUKUS partnership.

(3) AUKUS PARTNERSHIP.—The term ''AUKUS partnership'' has the meaning given that term in section 1321 of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10401).

(4) STATE AUKUS COORDINATOR.—The term ''State AUKUS Coordinator'' means the senior advisor at the Department of State designated under section 1331(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10411(a)(1)).

(5) DEFENSE AUKUS COORDINATOR.—The term ''Defense AUKUS Coordinator'' means the senior civilian official of the Department of Defense designated under section 1332(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10412(a)).

(6) PILLAR TWO.—The term ''Pillar Two'' has the meaning given that term in section 1321(2)(B) of the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 10401(2)(B)).

(7) UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—The term ''United States Munitions List'' means the list set forth in part 121 of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

SEC. 1292. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should continue to strengthen relationships and cooperation with allies in order to effectively counter the People's Republic of China;

(2) the United States should capitalize on the technological advancements allies have made in order to deliver more advanced capabilities at speed and at scale to the United States military and the militaries of partner countries;

(3) the historic announcement of the AUKUS partnership laid out a vision for future defense cooperation in the Indo-Pacific among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States;

(4) Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership envisions cooperation on advanced technologies, including hypersonic capabilities, electronic warfare capabilities, cyber capabilities, quantum technologies, undersea capabilities, and space capabilities;

(5) trusted partners of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, such as Japan, could benefit from and offer significant contributions to a range of projects related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership;

(6) Japan is a treaty ally of the United States and a technologically advanced country with the world's third-largest economy;

(7) in 2022, Australia signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan to facilitate reciprocal access and cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Australian Defence Force;

(8) in 2023, the United Kingdom signed a Reciprocal Access Agreement with Japan to facilitate reciprocal access and cooperation between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(9) in 2014, Japan relaxed its post-war constraints on the export of non-lethal defense equipment, and in March 2024, Japan further refined that policy to allow for the export of weapons to countries with which it has an agreement in place on defense equipment and technology transfers;

(10) in 2013, Japan passed a secrecy law obligating government officials to protect diplomatic and defense information, and in February 2024, the Cabinet approved a bill creating a new security clearance system covering economic secrets; and

(11) in April 2024, the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom announced they would consider cooperating with Japan on advanced capability projects under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

SEC. 1293. ENGAGEMENT WITH JAPAN ON AUKUS PILLAR TWO COOPERATION.

(a) ENGAGEMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall jointly engage directly, at a technical level, with the relevant stakeholders in the Government of Japan—

(A) to better understand the export control system of Japan and the effects of the reforms the Government of Japan has made to that system since 2014;

(B) to determine overlapping areas of interest and the potential for cooperation with Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States on projects related to the AUKUS partnership and other projects; and

(C) to identify areas in which the Government of Japan might need to adjust the export control system of Japan in order to guard against export control violations or other related issues in order to be a successful potential partner in Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH AUKUS OFFICIALS.—In carrying out the engagement required by paragraph (1), the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall consult with relevant AUKUS officials from the United Kingdom and Australia.

(b) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the engagement required by subsection (a), the State AUKUS Coordinator and the Defense AUKUS Coordinator shall jointly brief the appropriate congressional committees on the following:

(1) The findings of that engagement.

(2) A strategy for follow-on engagement.

SEC. 1294. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION WITH JAPAN ON AUKUS PILLAR TWO.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report assessing the potential for cooperation with Japan on Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership, detailing the following:

(1) Projects the Government of Japan is engaged in related to the development of advanced defense capabilities under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(2) Areas of potential cooperation with Japan on advanced defense capabilities within and outside the scope of Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(3) The Secretaries' assessment of the current export control system of Japan, including—

(A) the procedures under that system for protecting classified and sensitive defense, diplomatic, and economic information;

(B) the effectiveness of that system in protecting such information; and

(C) such other matters as the Secretaries consider appropriate.

(4) Any reforms by Japan that the Secretary of State considers necessary before considering including Japan in the privileges provided under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(5) Any recommendations regarding the scope and conditions of potential cooperation with Japan under Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

(6) A strategy and forum for communicating the potential benefits of and requirements for engaging in projects related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership with the Government of Japan.

(7) Any views provided by AUKUS officials from the United Kingdom and Australia on issues relevant to the report, and a plan for cooperation with such officials on future engagement with the Government of Japan related to Pillar Two of the AUKUS partnership.

SA 3167. Mr. PADILLA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle H of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1095. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE OF CALIFORNIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The approximately 167.23 acres of land owned in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California located in San Diego, California, and described in subsection (b) are hereby taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the following:

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

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

(c) REAFFIRMATION OF CERTAIN LAND HELD IN TRUST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress reaffirms the approximately 4.87 acres of land located in San Diego, California, and described in paragraph (2) that was taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California on July 19, 2024.

(2) LAND DESCRIPTIONS.—The land referred to in paragraph (1) is the following:

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

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

(d) FUTURE TRUST LAND.—On acquisition by the Jamul Indian Village of California of the land depicted as ''Proposed 1.1. acres'' on the map of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife entitled ''Amended Acres Proposal'' and dated May 2023, that land shall be taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Land taken into trust under subsections (a) and (d) shall be—

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

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

(f) GAMING PROHIBITED.—Land described in subsections (b), (c)(2), and (d) shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

SA 3168. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1291. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN ADVERSARY MARITIME MILITIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (d) with respect to any foreign adversary entity that the President determines—

(1) has materially contributed to, engaged in, or provided significant direct or indirect support for—

(A) the maritime militia of a foreign adversary;

(B) the provision of logistical support to such a militia, including provision of at-sea or at-port refueling or any other on-shore services, such as repair and servicing;

(C) the construction of vessels used by such a militia;

(D) the direction or control of such a militia, including directing activities that inhibit or coerce another country from protecting its sovereign rights or access to vessels or territory under its control; or

(E) other activities that may support, sustain, or enable the activities of such a militia; or

(2) has materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to, or in support of, any person subject to sanctions pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) EXCEPTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity of the United States.

(3) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The authority to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) GOOD DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''good'' means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment and excluding technical data.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign adversary entity if the President determines and reports to Congress that such a waiver is in the national interests of the United States.

(d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are, notwithstanding section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701), the exercise of the authorities provided to the President under that Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign adversary entity subject to subsection (a) if such property or interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may exercise the authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to the extent necessary to carry out this section.

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (d) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(f) ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLIES AND PARTNERS WITH RESPECT TO MARITIME MILITIA OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State should submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the United States to engage with foreign allies and partners with territorial or security interests in

the South China Sea, East China Sea, Philippine Sea, and other maritime areas of interest to coordinate efforts to counter malign activities of the maritime militia of the People's Republic of China.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FOREIGN ADVERSARY.—The term ''foreign adversary'' means a country specified in section 7.4(a) of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) FOREIGN ADVERSARY ENTITY.—The term ''foreign adversary entity'' means an entity organized under the laws of or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign adversary.

(3) MARITIME MILITIA.—The term ''maritime militia'' means an organized civilian force that—

(A) operates primarily in maritime domains, including coastal waters, exclusive economic zones, and international waters, and may use a variety of vessels, including fishing boats, trawlers, and other commercial vessels;

(B) is acting under the authority of, or is funded by, the government of a country; or

(C) is equipped and trained for the purpose of supporting and advancing the geopolitical or strategic objectives of that government, including asserting territorial claims, safeguarding maritime interests of that country, and conducting activities such as surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering, and logistical support, and may engage in coordinated activities with naval and other military forces of that country.

(4) PERSON.—The term ''person'' means an individual or entity.

(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' means—

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

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

(C) any person located in the United States.

SA 3169. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4638, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

SEC. 1216. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER.

(a) FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATIONS.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of section 1287 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATIONS.—

''(A) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State shall only provide funds under paragraph (1) to an entity described in that paragraph if the Secretary certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the entity receiving such funds—

''(i) has been selected in accordance with relevant existing regulations;

''(ii) has the capability and experience necessary to fulfill the purposes described in that paragraph;

''(iii) is nonpartisan; and

''(iv) is compatible with United States national security and foreign policy interests and objectives.

''(B) PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY.—The Secretary of State shall not knowingly provide funds under this subsection to any entity engaged in unlawful partisan political activity within the United States, including by carrying out activities that—

''(i) are directed toward the success or failure of a political party, a candidate for partisan political office, or a partisan political group; or

''(ii) result in unlawful partisan censorship of speech protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.''.

(b) EXTENSION.—Subsection (j) of such section is amended by striking ''on the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''on September 30, 2034''.

(c) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this section, an amendment made by this section, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this section and the amendments made by this section, and the application of the provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have one request for committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Aaron Moss and Allison Carter, fellows in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BRITT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Pippa Millstone, an intern in my office, be granted floor privileges until August 2, 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following interns in my office: Paul Baier and Harper Katz during the pendency of the month of July.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until July 26, 2024: Esme Vroom, Preston Kotik, Turner Vaughn, and Caitlyn Haggstrom.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to my second session summer interns: Maddie McGowan, Mason Oney, Zayden Schijvens, Ben Lassey, Ellen Kennedy, Grayson McGuire, Kara Johnson, Mariana Low, Dylan Thompson, Kelsey Kimmel; and my Senate Committee on Indian Affairs intern Nyche Andrew for the month of July 2024 in the 118th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 769, Youth Mental Health; and S. Res. 770, Disability Pride Month.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 25; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the House Message to accompany S. 2073 and, notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motion with respect to the House Message ripen at 2:15 p.m., and the mandatory quorum call be waived; further, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on confirmation of the Way nomination pursuant to the order of July 23, 2024; that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that upon disposition of the nomination, the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:42 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CITY OF RIO VISTA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 130th anniversary of the City of Rio Vista.

In 1877, the first consideration of Rio Vista's incorporation began. At that time, concerns that expensive improvements would be brought against the wishes of the citizens led to the postponement of further consideration of the matter. By 1892, the citizens reached a consensus regal ding the necessity of incorporation. Incorporating allowed Rio Vista to establish a Board of Trustees with the power to pass ordinances, purchase and lease property for municipal purposes, contract for the supply of water, improve streets and sidewalks, provide fire apparatus, impose and collect dog license fees and property taxes, and perform other similar duties.

A petition was drafted describing the boundaries of the proposed incorporation. However, just before the petition was scheduled to go before the Solano County Board of Supervisors in May of 1892, it was discovered that the voter registry did not meet legal qualifications and would need to be updated.

Following this, a second petition circulated in November of 1893, with an election scheduled for December 30, 1893. The population at the time was approximately 650. Of those 650, 129 were eligible voters. That day, 121 were polled, with a majority supporting incorporation.

On January 3, 1894, the Board of Supervisors canvassed the votes. As there was a majority, the Board declared the Town of Rio Vista a municipal corporation, and named the first Board of Trustees, Treasurer, Clerk, and Marshal.

In the time since the vote, the population in Rio Vista has grown substantially. Today, there are over 10,000 residents. Since incorporation, numerous notable events have occurred. In 1968, Rio Vista became the City of Rio Vista rather than the Town of Rio Vista. In 1985, Rio Vista gained national attention when Humphrey the Whale deviated from his migratory route, ending up in Rio Vista. In 1989, the Rio Vista Municipal Airport was built, providing residents with more convenient access to flights.

Today, the City of Rio Vista is a sanctuary for those seeking a slower paced atmosphere. A popular location for many wildlife enthusiasts, bird watchers, fisherman, and wind surfers, Rio Vista is surrounded by beautiful rivers. Rio Vista is also the largest producer of Belgian Endive in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as our community now commemorates this momentous anniversary, we celebrate the history of the City of Rio Vista. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the City of Rio Vista here today.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS

HON. PETE SESSIONS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to reflect on a pivotal moment in history—the intervention in Cyprus by Turkish troops in 1974. This event remains a point of contention and deep emotion for many, yet it is essential to approach it with a balanced perspective.

The intervention in Cyprus was not merely a response to a singular incident but the culmination of longstanding tensions between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities marked by decades of inter-communal strife.

The intervention by Turkish troops was a strategic effort to avert further bloodshed and to protect lives on both sides. It sought to stabilize the situation, create a buffer zone, and prevent the escalation of violence.

It is crucial to acknowledge that the intervention's intention was not conquest or aggression but rather a desperate attempt to restore order and ensure the safety of civilians caught in the crossfire.

Since then, Cyprus has remained a divided island, with ongoing efforts at reconciliation and peacebuilding. The scars of the past continue to influence political discourse and societal relations. However, it is also a reminder of the importance of dialogue, understanding, and a commitment to finding peaceful solutions to deeply rooted conflicts.

As we reflect on the intervention in Cyprus, let us strive for empathy and a more nuanced understanding of history. May we honor the memory of those affected by these events. Going forward, may we continue to embrace an impartial arbiter approach to this frozen conflict by working towards a future where both Greek and Turkish Cypriots can live in peace and harmony side by side.

WISHING WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND COMMUNITY BENEFACTOR OAKLEY FARRIS A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS MASSIE
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate and wish a very happy and special 100th birthday to my constituent, Mr. Oakley Farris.

Mr. Farris grew up near Lexington, Kentucky. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and fought heroically in World War II. After returning from his tour of duty in Europe, Mr. Farris settled in Covington, Kentucky, and began working as a salesman, traveling up and down the East Coast.

It was on a sales trip to Miami that Mr. Farris met his future wife, Eva. An immigrant from Havana, Cuba, Eva went on to study at Columbia University. She motivated her husband to capitalize on his hard-working and entrepreneurial spirit. Together, the Farrises built a successful real estate business, and at one point, owned over 40 residential buildings.

Mr. Farris and his late wife made countless investments in our community. Many schools, medical establishments, and organizations in Northern Kentucky have benefited from Mr. Farris' generosity. Mr Farris has said he came into this world with nothing and plans to leave it the same way—a true testament to his charitable nature. I am grateful for all that Mr. Farris has done for my constituents, and I am honored to represent him in Washington.

Happy Birthday to Oakley. May he have many more years of good health and happiness.

HONORING THE STUDENTS AT BEVERLY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. TED LIEU
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the Beverly Hills High School student television station, KBEV. The student-led television station team secured the second place National Silver Medal in the Video News Production category of the 2024 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference. The team consisted of Beverly Hills High School students Aaron Gabayan, Colby Gilardian, Nora Nikfariam, Jason Maybaum, and their dedicated teacher, Professor Romeo Carey of Santa Monica College.

The SkillsUSA Championships showcase the best Career and Technical education students throughout the nation. The KBEV station secured second place nationally for the first time in ten years of competition history. This is an impressive accomplishment for these young media innovators who stood out among over 300,000 participants nationwide.

The KBEV station was founded in 1969 and is now broadcast to thousands of homes in Beverly Hills, California. The station has grown to be the longest-running high school television station in the country. KBEV affords high school students with the opportunity to learn the profession of Broadcast Journalism through practical experience and mentorship, a profession that is vital in a democratic society.

I would like to sincerely congratulate the KBEV station, the students, and Professor Carey, for bringing great pride to the 36th Congressional District. This recognition honors their hard work and dedication and inspires other students to pursue excellence in their fields of interest.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING SCOTT DE LEON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Scott De Leon, an esteemed member of our community. Mr. De Leon is being honored for his over twenty-three years of dedicated service with the County of Lake and his four decades of contributions to our community.

Born in Lakeport, California, Mr. De Leon graduated from Clear Lake High School as a member of the Class of 1982. Mr. De Leon completed his graduate studies at California State University, Chico in 1987 and in 1991, he earned his Civil Engineering License.

Following a decade of work for the private sector, including managing his own engineering firm, Mr. De Leon returned to the Lake County service as Water Resources Director in May of 2010. He held many roles in serving Lake County, including Water Resources Director, County Roads Commissioner, Community Development Director, and Public Works Director. His positive and team-focused leadership aided in the development of numerous staff that have become valued leaders of Lake County.

In 2015, Lake County commended his efforts when Mr. De Leon was honored for Outstanding Leadership in protecting America's Environment and Economy. Mr. De Leon played a pivotal role in reducing invasive-specifies related risk through Lake County's innovative Quagga and Zebra Mussel program, which earned him the "Outstanding Achievement by a Local Government" Award. In 2022, Mr. De Leon was recognized as the County Engineer Association of California's Engineer of the Year, culminating years of his dedicated contributions to this organization.

Mr. De Leon has made impactful contributions to our community, providing a great example for all Lake County youth of what can be achieved by leveraging experiences gamed through opportunities and training for public service. Mr. De Leon is a supportive teacher and coach to Lake County youth. He founded Westshore Youth Basketball in 2007, and as coach led the basketball team at his alma mater, Clear Lake High School to great success.

Mr. De Leon is a proud husband of nearly thirty years to his wife, Melody, and is father to their two sons' Joseph and Max.

Mr Speaker, we thank Mr. De Leon for his dedicated service to our community. His passion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to service have left an indelible mark on us all. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor his retirement here today.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT JAY GOODING, SR.

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the remarkable Superintendent Jay Gooding, Sr. for being a pillar of our community for decades. Pastor Gooding was raised in the Bronx and continues to give back to his home in so many ways.

Superintendent Gooding begin his pastoral journey when he preached his first sermon in 1993 at Miracle Revival Temple. Only three years later Pastor Gooding established the Fellowship Tabernacle Ministries Church of God in Christ. After 13 years of ministry, he was appointed by his father to serve as Pastor at Miracle Revival Temple. As Superintendent in the Church of God in Christ Pastor Gooding oversees 5 churches and serves as their Vice Chairman to the Urban and Civic Affairs Department.

Aside from the positive impact of his ministry, Superintendent Gooding assisted a host of community organizations. He sat on the Board of Directors of the Bronx Business Alliance, served on community board 11, and currently works as the Director of Community Outreach for Jacobi Hospital's SUV (Stand Up to Violence) program. Pastor Gooding's work has touched so many different community members and I am forever grateful.

I thank Superintendent Gooding for all of his wonderful work for the Bronx and the people who make up the community. I look forward to hearing about the Pastor's continued successes and positive impacts on the Bronx.

RECOGNIZING THE HIGH PLAINS HONOR FLIGHT

HON. GREG LOPEZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's heroic veterans and to recognize the Honor Flight Network, which conducts annual trips for veterans to Washington, D.C., to tour the memorials built in celebration of their bravery. On April 28, 2024, High Plains Honor Flight gave many of our courageous veterans this extraordinary opportunity, flying them to our nation's capital. I am pleased to congratulate the April 28, 2024, High Plains Honor Flight and to acknowledge the Korean and Vietnam War veterans of Colorado who took part in it.

Mr. Speaker, those who participated in this flight are as follows:

Korean War Veterans: Pasquale DeMarco, Paticia Gilmore, Kenneth Harvey, Howard Hoxie, Jerry Motooka, Wilbur Noffsinger, Richard Peterson, James Roppo, Terry Udell, Charles Wilson, Jesse Wilson, John Wolf, Wilbur Zeller

Korean and Vietnam War Veteran: Robert J Rea

Vietnam War Veterans: Dale Aagesen, Gene Acklie, Gene Anderson, Richard Barrett, Larry Bauer, Mark Bolin, Patrick Branigan, James Brompton, Patrick Calavan, Christopher Cameron, Terrance Carney, Clyde Chess, Timothy Clark, Theodore Coffelt, David Cole, James Cowman, James Curwood, Donald Darnell, Darrel DeGrofft, Dennis Dooley, John Dubler, Ronald East, Burton Eaton, Richard Ellin, Larry Erickson, Gilbert Espinoza, Donald Foster, David Franson, Jose Gonzales, Donald Greer, Louis Grill, John Grosvenor, Jr., Robert Hanzel, Randall Hayes, Thomas Herret, Jon Howdeshell, Lloyd Jacox, William Kaufman, Laurie King, Randall King, Thomas Kitzmiller, David Kling, David Krapes, Roger Krumbach, Bernard Larson, Robert LeDoux, Charles Livermont, Alan Lovely, Alonzo Martinez, David Martinez, James McBride, Lyle McBride, Arthur McKown, Edward Melko, Michael Melo, Dean Millard, Gary Mitchell, Quentin Moeller, Juan Mohr, Richmond Morse, Francisco Muniz, Louis Nagel, Fred Neal, Gilbert Pagat, Richard Panter, Dennis Patriquin, Richard Payne, Thomas Pearson, Kenneth Perkins, Joseph Perry, Robert S. Pickett, Robert H. Pickett, Jon Piper, Ronald Pretty, James Prince, Clarence Rarden, Norman Reichardt, William Rideout, Delbert Ritchhart, Feladelfio Romero, Steven Roon, Fred Rupple, Donald Sammons, Jimmy Sanchez, Daniel Schell, Kenneth Schneider, Richard Searles, Robert Smith, Herbert Teter, Fred Thomas, III, Steven Thompson, Raymond Twiss, Donald Waldburger, Richard Walker, Duane Wallon, Robert Wardell, Robert Warner, Dan Watt, Clifford Wigfield, Steven Witmer, Gary Wright, Michael Wulfeck, Michael Yoder, Ernest Young and James Zack, Jr.

It is my distinct privilege as the United States Representative of the 4th District of Colorado to recognize the honor, courage, and sacrifice of these heroes, along with that of all other members of America's Armed Forces. I thank them for their dedication and service to this Nation.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendments to H.R. 8997, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025.

These two amendments support essential funding for our National Labs and specifically for the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility, or CEBAF, at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, commonly known as JLab, in Newport News, Virginia. CEBAF is a world-leading facility studying the inner properties of nuclei, such as the quark and gluon structure of protons and neutrons. The research conducted at this facility has vastly improved our understanding of the fundamental make-up of matter and is actively supporting collaborative research globally in medium energy physics.

The first amendment highlights the need for funding critically needed infrastructure improvements at CEBAF. The workforce at JLab is rapidly growing with the increased use of CEBAF and the installation of the Department of Energy's High Performance Data Facility. For JLab to effectively support its employees and researchers, the lab needs increased funding to build a modern workspace to match the research conducted at this facility. The final appropriations bill should include $32 million for JLab to update its CEBAF infrastructure.

The second amendment highlights the importance of an optimal runtime for CEBAF.

Currently, numerous PhD students and researchers are waiting to use the facility for experiments, and the backlog continues to grow as more scientists hope to use this critical technology. The funding in the underlying bill only allows CEBAF to operate 29 weeks of the year, but to meet the research needs and to optimize the use of this facility, CEBAF requires an additional $10 million to operate for an optimal runtime of 34 weeks. An appropriation of $160 million for CEBAF operations should be included in the final legislation.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman ROB WITTMAN, for cosponsoring these amendments that draw attention to the need for additional funding to spur innovation, create jobs, and facilitate incredible discovery. I urge my colleagues to support these amendments.

HONORING JOHN CARLSON, JR.

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr Speaker, I rise today to honor John Carlson, Jr., an esteemed member of our wildlife and conservation community. Mr. Carlson is being honored today for his extensive career in wildlife conservation spanning over 35 years and we thank him for his service.

Mr. Carlson was born in Chicago, and currently lives in Roseville with his wife Michelle. Together, they have two children, Zachary and Jacob. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management from California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt and his Master of Science from Iowa State University in Wildlife Biology.

Mr. Carlson began his career 35 years ago as a biologist with the California Department of Fish and Game. From there, he was promoted to Wildlife Branch Chief and later, to Executive Director of the California Fish and Game Commission. After 21 years serving the Department of Fish and Game, Mr. Carlson went on to spend the next 14 years with the California Waterfowl Association, where he ended his remarkable career as its president. His long career in wildlife conservation is commendable.

Throughout his career, Mr. Carlson has worked tirelessly to give back to our community. As president of California Waterfowl, he directed and oversaw the fee-title acquisition of lands for habitat protection and public use and education, the acquisition of water for the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, and the establishment of upland habitat cover to benefit nesting waterfowl and other wildlife. His commitment to conserving wildlife by emphasizing the need for sound science when making wildlife conservation-related decisions and his positive approach to work is honorable.

Mr. Carlson's dedication to service is further evident through his community involvement. He is an Alumni Fellow of Cohort 12 of the National Conservation Leadership Institute, which provides education and training to wildlife conservation professionals. Additionally, he worked as part of the California Department of Fish and Game Leadership Academy, a program for those interested in careers in wildlife conservation. Mr. Carlson's philanthropic work did not stop there. For several years, he mentored a young 'student at risk' as part of the Student Buddy Program. We are thankful for his service and wish Mr. Carlson a wonderful retirement.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Carlson for his dedicated service to the wildlife conservation community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING REVEREND DR. KEITH ELIJAH THOMPSON

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the Reverend Dr. Keith Elijah Thompson. A man of God who is known across the community as a man who inspires, teaches, and instills hope in those around him. Dr. Thompson started out by leading a small home-based bible study for members of his community. His passion for ministry grew and in 1980 he became the founder and pastor of Bronx Miracle Gospel Tabernacle Word of Faith Ministry. Dr. Thompson's ministry continued to grow and later he founded the Brooklyn Miracle Gospel Tabernacle. As his ministry grew, Dr. Thompson's teaching and faith expanded.

Dr. Thompson's community impact has been a blessing in the Bronx. In 2008, he founded the Bronx Resource Community Center. This faith-based community institution helps to improve the lives of community members through skills training, technology training, and other enrichment programs. In 2002, because of his dedication to others, May 24th was declared as Bronx Miracle Gospel Tabernacle Day.

Throughout his four decades of ministry, Keith Elijah Thompson has spread love, positivity, and community inside and outside of the Bronx. Again, I want to celebrate the work of Dr. Thompson and his ministry. As a community staple, I look forward to his continued positive impact.

HONORING CHIEF MICHAEL WINN

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Chief Mike Winn as he retires from the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Department.

With a passion for public safety, Winn first began his career as a call firefighter with the Greenfield Fire Department in 1991 while attending Greenfield Community College. After graduating in 1993 and receiving his EMT–I certificate, Winn took on a full-time position with the Greenfield Fire Department and continued to move through the ranks, first as a career firefighter, then a captain, before being named Acting Chief in 2008, and later Chief in 2010.

Over the years, Winn had always enjoyed spending time on Cape Cod. In June 2013, Winn made the move to live on Cape Cod full-time when he was brought on as Fire Chief of the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Department, after his predecessor, Chief John Farrington, retired after 40 years in the position. Over the next 11 years, Winn diligently served the Barnstable villages of Centerville, Osterville, and Marstons Mills, responding to countless emergencies and helping to guide the community through uncertain times during the COVID–19 pandemic.

Winn not only mentored and shared his expertise with those working alongside him in the Greenfield and Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Departments, but also with firefighters across the Commonwealth. Throughout his career, Winn served on the Massachusetts Hazardous Materials Response Division, the Southeastern Region Homeland Security Advisory Council, and served as President of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts.

On June 28, 2024, during a change of command ceremony, Chief Winn officially retired from the Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Fire Department and passed the torch to Chief Bryon Eldridge. Over the last 33 years, Winn has dedicated his career to serving the people of Massachusetts, and I wish him many years of well-deserved happiness in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Chief Michael Winn, and I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing his career and thanking him for his years of service.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NELSON MANDELA ON NELSON MANDELA INTERNATIONAL DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorated Nelson Mandela International Day on July 18th, I take this moment to honor the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, a South African anti-apartheid and civil rights activist. Mandela's lifetime commitment to fighting on behalf of marginalized groups in South Africa and the world is the reason for Nelson Mandela International Day. This day should reflect the values and integrity we should have in advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable.

Nelson Mandela International Day was first Declared by the United Nations in 2009. The day reminds us never to get complacent about today's injustices and to fight for tomorrow's freedoms. With its timeless message of equality and justice, Mandela's legacy should serve as a call to action for our youth to pursue equitable justice, especially when democracy is under attack. In the words of Mandela, ''To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.''

Mandela's tenacity and struggle against systemic injustice under South African apartheid are world-renowned. His influence transcends borders, inspiring a global civil rights and social justice movement. Despite Mandela's many accomplishments and distinguished honors, such as a Nobel Peace Prize, his journey to becoming a celebrated civil rights leader

was not achieved overnight. As a youth, Mandela developed his passion for organizing in school, leading movements against racial discrimination and cultivating relationships between White and Black activists. Mandela's unwavering commitment to justice and equality led to his 27-year imprisonment as well to being the first democratically-elected president in South Africa.

Although much of Mandela's work toward justice is in South Africa, his story parallels civil rights struggles in America, both past and present. For example, Chicago continues to experience the impact of deliberate racial redlining from the past. Housing discrimination, such as redlining, led to segregation in Chicago, lower property values in minority communities, lower-funded schools, and systemic inequalities.

We should remember Mandela for his revolutionary acts against systemic injustice and his ability to unite people to dismantle oppressive institutions. Challenging the status quo and pursuing freedom for all has never been easy; it wasn't easy for the Montogomery Bus Boycott protesters fighting segregation nor was it easy for Mandela. It isn't easy now as our country faces the choice between democracy or dictatorship. However, the desire to live in a more just and equal society spurs our fight despite the trials and tribulations we must face. Celebrating Nelson Mandela International Day inspires our collective effort to advance equality that will bring about the change we seek.

HONORING JOHN H. ALDRIDGE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John H. Aldridge, an esteemed member of our community. Mr. Aldridge is being honored for his outstanding service and unwavering dedication to advancing the programs of The American Legion in California.

Mr. Aldridge was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he graduated from Benjamin Franklin High School. He married his wife, Karen Scott, in Sacramento in 1995 and relocated to Fairfield, California within one year. Mr. Aldridge is a graduate of the National Legion College and served in the United States Air Force for 20 years.

Mr. Aldridge's career in the military is truly commendable. Upon his enlistment in 1974, he worked as a Fuels Specialist for six years. Mr. Aldridge then cross-trained and began his career as an Air Passenger Specialist. Following his technical training at Sheppard Air Force Base, he was assigned to Travis Air Force Base Military Airlift Command. During his 20-year career in the United States Air Force, Mr. Aldridge has been stationed across the globe at several other locations. Our country is safer because of the courage and sacrifice Mr. Aldridge has shown throughout his long career.

After retiring from the military in 1994, Mr. Aldridge began work for Aquasis Services Inc. where he worked as a Quality Assurance Inspector for a government air transportation contract. Shortly after, he was promoted to Station Manager. His dedication to serving his community both in and out of uniform is honorable.

Even after his military retirement, Mr. Aldridge continued to serve his country. In 1996, he returned to Travis Air Force Base to manage an Air Terminal Security contract, before being employed by the Department of Defense. He retired from government civilian employment in 2016.

Mr. Aldridge is a lifetime member of the American Legion, serving with distinction in various roles, including Commander and Adjutant for Post 182, Commander and Chaplain for the "Mighty" 5th District, and Department Chaplain for four terms. He later transferred his Legion membership to Yountville Veterans Home Post 306 to support members there with Legion programs and projects. We are grateful for his leadership in our community.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Aldridge for his dedicated service to our military and our Napa County community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING DRU RIDDLE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dru Riddle, PhD, DNP, CRNA, FAAN. Dr. Riddle will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthesiology (AANA). I am proud that Dr. Riddle was elected as the 2023–2024 president of this prestigious healthcare organization.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer more than 50 million anesthetics to patients each year. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites, obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and specialty surgeons. They also provide acute and chronic pain management services to patients in need of such care. CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and are the sole anesthesia providers in many rural hospitals. CRNAs have full practice authority in the Army, Navy, and Air Force and are the predominant provider of anesthesia on forward surgical teams and in combat support hospitals.

As an AANA member for 14 years, Dr. Riddle has contributed greatly to the healthcare community in the Fort Worth area and nationwide. Dr. Riddle is an associate professor of Professional Practice and director of Clinical Education at Texas Christian University School of Nurse Anesthesia.

He also serves as the Director of the Center for Translational Research. A JBI Center of Excellence and Co-Chair of the Cochrane U.S. Network. Dr. Riddle's research interest included evidence-based healthcare, pharmacogenomics, and genetic implications for anesthesia care. Additionally, Dr. Riddle has spoken nationally and internationally on evidence-based healthcare, systematic review strategies, and various clinical anesthesia topics.

In addition to his research and teaching roles, Dr. Riddle maintains an active clinical anesthesia practice through NorthStar Anesthesia. He was inducted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing in 2018.

Dr. Riddle earned his PhD from Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

During his AANA presidency, Dr. Riddle has been a prominent advocate for the patients and practice of nurse anesthesia before federal agencies and members of Congress. He has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system. Dr. Riddle has advocated to eliminate burdensome regulations for CRNAs, to have CRNAs recognized as full practice providers in the Veterans Health Administration, and to address underlying causes of surprise billing such as provider discrimination.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Riddle today on a job well done. His service to AANA and to his patients, and his commitment to safe, quality anesthesia care nationwide, are highly commendable. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Riddle's notable career and outstanding achievements.

HONORING MITCHELL SMITH

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the career of Mitchell Smith and commend him for his many years of service in support of working families in this country and to the men and women of the United Auto Workers (UAW) Region 8.

While working as a maintenance electrician at Ford Motor Company in 1986, Mitchell Smith joined the UAW Local 882 in Atlanta, GA. Just one year later, he was elected a member of the skilled trades committee by his coworkers. For the next 12 years, he served on that committee and as a member of the unit bargaining committee. In further recognition of his capability and leadership, Local 882 elected him building chairperson from 2002 to 2005.

In 2005, Smith was appointed by UAW President Ron Gettelfinger to the position of International representative assigned to Region 8, where he serviced local unions throughout the south. He then served as assistant director of the union's Transnational Department, aiding employees working at Japanese, South Korean, and German original equipment manufacturers and German parts suppliers in the United States. At the 37th Constitutional Convention in June of 2018, he was elected director of UAW Region 8. For over five years, he served the entire Southeast with distinction, working on behalf of auto workers from Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware and the following counties in Pennsylvania: Franklin, Cumberland, Adams, and York.

During his many decades of loyal membership and service to the UAW, Mitchell Smith

demonstrated a strong commitment to the responsibilities of citizenship, being politically active and involved in various Democratic campaigns in Georgia. Outside of his work organizing, Mitchell and his wife Charmaine raised three children: Lacie, Tyler, and Emily. They are the proud grandparents of Hampton, Tobi, and Scout. A man of faith, Mitchell also serves as a lay pastor for Grace Community Fellowship Church.

Through it all, Mitchell truly kept his focus on the membership. After a long and highly successful career fighting to improve working conditions and protect and expand the rights of American workers on the job, it is my distinct honor and privilege to join those who are celebrating the service and leadership of Mitchell Smith—a true champion of working families. Congratulations to Mitchell and I hope he keeps enjoying retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DIYA BALAGOPAL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Diya Balagopal of Frisco, Texas, for her outstanding community service and advocacy for wildlife and environmental conservation.

Ms. Balagopal is currently a student at Reedy High School in Frisco, and she serves as the President of the Nature's Nurturers Club. As part of Project Green Schools, she created a project titled Preserve the Prairie, which seeks to increase community engagement and involvement in conservation efforts of the endangered Blackland Prairie ecosystem. Through Preserve the Prairie, Ms. Balagopal led the campaign to inform Texans about the importance of the Blackland Prairie and distributed thousands of seeds balls. This has resulted in over 5,000 native Blackland Prairie plants being restored to their natural habitat.

For her exceptional efforts, Ms. Balagopal has been recognized by Jeff Cheney, the Mayor of Frisco, and presented with the prestigious Green Difference Award at the Department of Energy. The Green Difference Award honors extraordinary students who have made significant contributions to environmental conservation initiatives. I am proud of the work Ms. Balagopal has accomplished, and I'm confident she will continue to make a positive impact on the world around us.

I have requested the United States flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Ms. Balagopal's leadership and excellence. I wish her the best of luck and continued success in the new school year.

HONORING CHIEF BRAD RASMUSSEN

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Brad Rasmussen, an esteemed member of our community. Chief Rasmussen is being honored today for his outstanding service in his career in law enforcement.

Chief Rasmussen was born in 1969 in Yreka, California to his parents Dave and Connie Rasmussen. He is a graduate of the College of the Redwoods where he completed a two-year administration of justice program. Chief Rasmussen and his wife of 33 years, Karyn, have two daughters: Stephanie and Savannah. Stephanie is currently a doctor at Bellevue Hospital in New York City while Savannah is a board-certified behavior analyst in the Bay Area.

Chief Rassmussen's 35 years of service with the City of Lakeport Police Department are commendable. He started his career in 1989 as a Reserve Officer with the Department. In 1991, he was promoted to Patrol Officer in 1991, Sergeant in 2000, Lieutenant in 2006 and Chief in 2010, a position he has held for the last 14 years. Over the course of his extensive career with the Lakeport Police Department, Chief Rasmussen held various other assignments. From 1994 to 1997, he was a part of the Narcotics Task Force where he spent 3 years doing undercover work. Then, from 1999 to 2000, Chief Rasmussen was on detective assignment where he worked major cases on crimes against persons and property.

Since the beginning of his career, Chief Rasmussen has worked to support our community. He has been a leader in many organizations, some of which include the Lion's Club, where he is the current president, the Kiwanis Club, where he spent two years as president and Lakeport Police Association where he was a previous president. He also enhanced community-oriented policing in Lakeport by starting the Neighborhood Watch program and initiated National Night Out. Chief Rasmussen's service to our community will not end with his retirement as he has been elected by the people to serve on the Lake County Board of Supervisors starting in January 2025.

For the past 35 years, Chief Rassmussen has given countless hours to serving our community that have not gone unnoticed. He has dedicated his life to our Lake County community over the duration of his long and storied career. We are thankful for his service and wish Chief Rasmussen a wonderful retirement.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Chief Brad Rasmussen for his dedicated service in law enforcement and our broader Lake County community Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

CELEBRATING THE TOWN OF ROCKLAND'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Town of Rockland as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

Originally part of the neighboring Town of Abington, Rockland was first settled by the Europeans in 1673. Before the settlers came to Massachusetts, the region that would later be known as Old Abington was first named Manamooskeagin by Native Americans local to Southeastern Massachusetts.

The Town of Rockland was incorporated on March 9, 1874, after separating from the Town of Abington. Rockland got its name from the area's rocky geography that would later be critical to the town's growing industry and economy. Rockland's topography made it less conducive for farming but ideal for mills and manufacturing. Early in the town's history, Rockland was a major lumber producer for local shipyards along the North River. Later, during the Civil War, Rockland saw an economic boom due to the town's growing shoe industry. Rockland's shoe production reached its peak in 1865, when 2,800 men and women were working to produce millions of dollars' worth of shoes. It is believed that Rockland's factories provided shoes for half of the Union Army during the Civil War.

Known for its strong manufacturing history as well as its extensive involvement in lumber and sawmills, Rockland continued to experience industrial development through the 1900s, but production declined during the Great Depression. However, Rockland saw significant growth following World War II, and the town's population nearly doubled throughout the 1950s.

Today, Rockland is home to nearly 18,000 residents as well as the Rockland Trust Company, one of the 100 largest banks in the U.S. Although the former mills and industrial buildings are no longer used for manufacturing, they have found a new purpose. The vacant buildings have been revitalized by a growing community of artists in Rockland and the buildings now serve as a meeting place and creative space for local artists to come together.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Town of Rockland, and I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the important role that the Town of Rockland has played in our country's history and wishing the town and its residents the best of luck in the years to come.

COMMEMORATING BLACK WOMEN'S EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we approach National Black Women's Equal Pay Day on July 27th, I wish to take a moment to recognize the valuable work that Black and African American women in the United States have done to make this country what it is today and to reaffirm the importance of paying them—and everyone fairly regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or disability.

Black women are an essential part of our Nation's fabric and workforce—hard workers who spur our Nation's economic growth despite experiencing barriers to equity and discrimination, which are compounded by the color of their skin as well as their gender.

A primary goal of Black Women's Equal Pay Day is to raise awareness about the gender pay gap that limits the economic mobility of Black women. Goldman Sachs research as part of its Black Womenomics initiative makes clear the multiple ways Black women experience these economic gaps: the wage gap between Black and White women increased from

10 percent in 2010 to 15 percent in 2019; Black women are less likely to have a bank account or to work full-time, salaried jobs; and Black women report living paycheck to paycheck and being burdened by medical debt and student loans relative to their income. Further, these wealth disparities are associated with health and well-being disparities, with Black women being more likely to experience poorer health and live shorter lives.

The inequitable treatment of African American women in the workforce goes counter to the American values that make our country great. To continue pursuing equality for all, I joined my colleagues in cosponsoring the Paycheck Fairness Act, a bill that addresses sex discrimination, limits hiring bias, and equips people—especially marginalized groups—with the tools to successfully negotiate their wages. I also am an original co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 97 that recognizes the importance of equal pay and sheds light on wage disparities between men and women.

All workers in the richest nation on Earth should be paid fairly, and Black women deserve to receive their fair share of economic growth. I will continue to fight to create equitable pay opportunities for Black women and all workers. We must reject policies that keep Black women and other workers in a state of economic subservience.

Together, we can commemorate Black Women's Equal Pay Day as evidence of our commitment to pursuing social justice that will one day lead to a more equal society.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO LINDA BRADDY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, Linda Braddy from the American Red Cross. Linda has extended North Texas' helping hands far beyond our district. Currently deployed in Houston, TX to assist with disaster response efforts against Hurricane Beryl, she has exemplified an unwavering commitment to humanitarian work. Linda serves as the CEO of the American Red Cross North Texas Region.

Her selfless service to those who are most in need has proven to be crucial as she helps uplift communities across our state. As a frontline responder, Linda has worked tirelessly on the ground, taking it upon herself to alleviate suffering and minimize the effects of damage on residents. Her efforts have provided immediate relief, hope, and reassurance to countless individuals affected by the hurricane.

Through her philanthropic endeavors, Linda has epitomized the bravery and selflessness of humanitarians who prioritize the needs of others in times of emergencies, ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable victims and supporting their recovery.

I want to thank Linda for her extraordinary service. Her instrumental role in coordinating relief efforts is a beacon of hope and a testament to the strength and compassion of our community.

HONORING WOODLAND CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Woodland Christian High School's successful football season.

On December 9, 2023, the Woodland Christian Cardinals won the Division 5A CIF State Championship in a game against Banning High School of Wilmington, CA at El Camino College with a final score of 23–13.

During the game, Woodland Christian's top rusher gained 79 yards on eight carries, with other players contributing 52 and 47 yards. The quarterback passed for 53 yards and rushed for 26. The Cardinals ran 66 plays and secured 17 first downs, while Banning only managed 49 plays and 11 first downs. In total, the Cardinals rushed for an impressive 221 yards on 47 carries, possessed the ball for nearly 29 minutes, converted 8 of 15 third downs, and successfully scored on all 3 red zone opportunities.

They became one of only three teams in the Sacramento area to finish the CIF State Championship weekend undefeated since the championship format was introduced in 2006.

Ultimately, the Cardinals finished the season undefeated with 15 wins. Additionally, they won a SMAL League Championship as well as the D7A Sac Joaquin Section Title. They were the first team of any sport from the City of Woodland to win a State Championship.

Many of the team members have been playing together since Junior Football. Many of the coaches have also been with the youth feeder programs, working with the players since their childhood. The head coach has been with the team since the 2021 season and produced a 36–4 record. This excellent football season is a testimony of the team's years of hard work and dedication.

Woodland Christian High School has taught multiple generations of students and has provided the community with quality education since 1974. The school strives to serve the community by supporting Woodland Little League, participating in community events, such as the annual Woodland Christmas Parade, and partnering with local businesses and churches.

Mr. Speaker, we honor Woodland Christian High School's undefeated football season. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Woodland Christian High School here today.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT ERIC FICK

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eric Thomas Fick of Stafford, Virginia, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Eric has dedicated himself to faithfully our community and country.

Eric was born at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington and grew up in an Air Force family. From a young age, he had always felt a connection to our servicemembers and wanted to serve our country. Eric attended the University of Notre Dame as part of its Air Force ROTC program and graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. Upon graduation, he was commissioned into the United States Air Force. Eric served in a variety of roles, including as a mechanical systems engineer for the F–16 fighter, logistics officer, test pilot, weapons testing officer, global outreach director, and legislative liaison on Capitol Hill. From 2019 to 2022, he was the Program Executive Officer and Director for the F–35 Lightning II Program and oversaw the development of the most advanced fighter jet in the world. For his meritorious service, Eric received the Legion of Merit, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, and many more awards.

In 2022, Eric retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant General after 31 years of service. He currently serves as the President of Lyten Federal, a super materials applications company that is developing next-generation batteries to power cars, planes, and spacecraft while reducing global emissions. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his two dogs and playing soccer, volleyball, and golf. Eric is an outstanding leader who has made a tremendous impact on the world around us. I am proud of the work he has accomplished, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

It is an honor to bestow Eric with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BERNICE JOHNSON REAGON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Bernice Johnson Reagon. Not only was Bernice a music and civil rights icon, but she was also my longtime friend. After being expelled from Albany State University because of an arrest related to her activism, Bernice helped form the ''Freedom Singers,'' an a cappella group that was part of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). I was deeply involved in SNCC. The Freedom Singers helped document SNCC's activities through music. Even in the darkest times, civil rights activists would raise their voices in song.

In 1973, while teaching a vocal workshop in the District of Columbia, Bernice founded the a cappella group ''Sweet Honey in the Rock,'' with which she performed until 2004. Since its inception, Sweet Honey in the Rock has expressed African American history through song, dance and sign language, earning three Grammy nominations.

In addition to performing, Bernice was also a music historian who held the title of Curator Emerita at the National Museum of American History. Bernice received a BA from Spelman College and a PhD in History from Howard University and was a professor at American University. In 1989, Bernice was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship. Bernice helped change the history of our country through song.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life and legacy of Bernice Johnson Reagon.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAND INSTITUTE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th anniversary of a critical and innovative program in my state. For the past 25 years, the Island Institute Fellows Program has functioned to enrich the lives of both its participants, as well as the coastal and island communities of Maine by engaging volunteers, providing a hub of tools and resources, and fostering community leadership along the Maine coast.

As a proud resident of North Haven, an island off the coast of Maine, I know firsthand that our coastal and island communities share a distinct and treasured way of life. I've also seen that way of life face unique challenges, from a rapidly changing climate and rising seas to shrinking populations and a shifting global economy. The Island Institute Fellows Program seeks to meet these challenges by pairing recent college graduates with local governments and nonprofits in coastal communities where the fellows live and work for two years to help address community-identified needs. This partnership brings together the energy, resources, talent, and capacity that the fellows can provide with the spirit, resiliency and creativity of Maine's coastal communities, strengthening and enriching the lives of everyone involved.

To date, 148 Island Institute Fellows have brought new perspectives and ideas to support local needs such as broadband access, affordable housing, clean energy transitions, education initiatives, and community resiliency projects. When 75 percent of Maine's coastal communities have fewer than 3,500 residents, and 25 percent have fewer than 800 residents, the addition of one full-time fellow's work and dedication can make the difference in a community's ability to write a grant, facilitate community planning, preserve historical documents, launch a new initiative, or train volunteers and future leaders.

Over their two-year placements, the fellows truly become a part of the community, helping to plan potlucks, coach sports teams, volunteer with the town's Emergency Medical Services, and more. This program provides these recent graduates firsthand experience in a range of projects, providing them unique professional development and valuable skills for their future careers. A true testament to the program, at the end of their fellowships, half of alumni stay in Maine long-term, continuing their commitment to the community long after their placement ends and contributing to our state with their knowledge, experience, and relationships.

The Island Institute Fellows Program's 25 years of service, dedication, innovation, and community-building makes me very proud to represent the Institute, their fellows and alumni, and the state of Maine in Congress. I wish the program many more years of success and wholeheartedly thank them for their impactful work on behalf of Maine's coastal and island communities.

RECOGNIZING TEXAS-24 HOMETOWN HERO ALEXIS GONZALEZ

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas-24 Hometown Hero, Alexis Gonzalez from the American Red Cross. Alexis has extended North Texas' helping hands far beyond our district. Currently deployed in Houston, TX to assist with disaster response efforts against Hurricane Beryl, she has exemplified an unwavering commitment to humanitarian work. Alexis is a Red Cross volunteer who serves as the North Texas Regional Communications Manager.

Her selfless service to those who are most in need has proven to be crucial as she helps uplift communities across our state. As a frontline responder, Alexis has worked tirelessly on the ground, taking it upon herself to alleviate suffering and minimize the effects of damage on residents. Her efforts have provided immediate relief, hope, and reassurance to countless individuals affected by the hurricane.

Through her philanthropic endeavors, Alexis has epitomized the bravery and selflessness of humanitarians who prioritize the needs of others in times of emergencies, ensuring the safety and well-being of vulnerable victims and supporting their recovery.

I want to thank Alexis for her incredible service. Her instrumental role in coordinating relief efforts is a beacon of hope and a testament to the strength and compassion of our community.

HONORING THE SOLANO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Solano County Fair and thank the Solano County Fair Association for the extraordinary work it does for our community.

For the past 75 years, the Solano County Fair has allowed visitors to learn about the accomplishments of California industry and agriculture in our community. Plans to develop the Solano County Fair started in 1938, but the outbreak of World War II halted the planning. After the war, the Solano County Fair Association (SCFA) was established to organize an annual fair. In 1950, the Solano County Fair opened, with then Governor Earl Warren snipping the ribbon.

The Solano County Fair Association is a nonprofit organization established to hold and conduct the annual fair. The SCFA has a 15-member board of directors that are appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, with each supervisor appointing three members to serve a four-year term as Director at the fair, ensuring that the diverse views of Solano County residents are heard.

The SCFA has been providing educational, cultural, artistic, commercial, and recreational programs to our Solano County for more than 75 years. The SCFA also shelters evacuees during natural disasters and other emergencies. Additionally, during the pandemic, SCFA set up pop-up booths at the Solano County Fair serving as free inoculation sites, providing vital access to the COVID–19 vaccine.

The SCFA plays a vital role in our community, bringing residents together during good times and acting as a pillar of support during tough times. The Solano County Fair also presents an important opportunity for non-profit and charity-based organizations to raise money for their respective causes. The SCFA has developed several innovative and entertaining education programs for the public, including the Fair Farm, the Livestock Walk and the Judging Commentator program.

Thanks to the leadership of the Solano County Fair Association, our community can continue to look forward to the annual Solano County Fair. Mr. Speaker, we again thank the SCFA for their diligent and inspiring work in our community and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Solano County Fair.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONMOUTH CIVIC CHORUS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Monmouth Civic Chorus on its 75th anniversary. The Monmouth Civic Chorus is a valuable and influential institution of the local arts community and an outstanding recreational resource for the greater Monmouth County area. Its work and this milestone are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Since its founding in 1949, the Monmouth Civic Chorus has upheld its mission to promote and support choral music and artists in Monmouth County. As a preeminent community chorus, it continues to offer exceptional and diverse performances locally and beyond, performing at Carnegie Hall, St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, among others. It is critically acclaimed and has been recognized for its excellence, receiving several awards including the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce 2010 Spinnaker Award for Arts and Culture and the 2008 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award. It was also a third-place winner of the 2018–19 American Prize Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for its performance of Fern Hill at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Long Branch, New Jersey.

The Monmouth Civic Chorus remains dedicated to fostering musical excellence and imparting the importance of musical appreciation to future generations. Its work enriches the lives of Monmouth County's residents and visitors and contributes to the thriving cultural landscape of the community.

Once again, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me recognizing the contributions and achievements of the Monmouth Civic Chorus and honoring its 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JACK RIDDLE

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a visionary leader who has dedicated his career to advocacy for the arts in Maine. Throughout his career, Jack Riddle has worked tirelessly to elevate opera in Maine, ensuring the artform is accessible and inclusive to all. He has made certain that Mainers, and visitors alike, have the opportunity to connect with this historic tradition of storytelling through music and song.

In 1994, Jack co-founded Opera Maine, the state's only professional opera company, with a dream of providing high-quality opera productions to the people of Maine. Though our state did not yet have an established opera community at that time, Jack believed in his vision of establishing a local company that would showcase nationally recognized singers and composers. As the former president of the Portland Symphony Orchestra, Jack possessed a strong background in arts leadership and marketing in New England. His skills and experience were essential to Opera Maine's founding.

As the company grew, Jack served as a trusted board member and the principal fundraiser, securing major gifts and guiding the board through a recession and a pandemic. Jack's unwavering passion and energy have been essential to the growth and success of the organization. And the calculated risks he has taken over the years for the advancement of the artform, remaining steadfast in his eternal optimism about the importance of opera, have been critical to growing the audiences.

For more than 35 years, Jack has worked to expand the opera community in Maine, ensuring that it is affordable and accessible to all. From including contemporary works in English, to providing no- to low-cost tickets for all Opera Maine productions and programs for anyone under age 25, active-duty and retired military and first responders, and their families, the company has brought new audiences and appreciators to opera. Opera Maine has also led free in-school programming across the state, teaching thousands of students about the fundamentals of opera.

Additionally, Jack has worked to strengthen Opera Maine's Studio Artist Program, which provides annual trainings and performance opportunities for emerging and professional artists seeking opera careers.

Jack Riddle's enthusiasm, vision, and commitment to Maine's vibrant arts community make me very proud to represent him and the State of Maine in Congress. I wish him continued success, and I thank him for his many years of influential work.

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on July 24, 2024, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on July 24 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Anthony C. Adams, Preston C. Allen, Jimmy H. Ashbaugh, Dale W. Banot, James H. Black, Richard N. Boots, George E. Bryar, Thomas W. Burgholzer, Lloyd L. Busse, Julio Caez, Patrick T. Camden, Carlos D. Compian, William A. Cooper, Don E. Costello, Alex Czajka, Billy F. Davis, Anthony J. DeBella, Robert A. DeFalkenberg, James P. DeNardo, Andrew C. Elbert, Jr., Oscar L. Farlow, Patrick L. Flannigan, James E Forbes, Dennis F. Fuhr, Raymond Garivay, William J. Geegan, William G. Geist, David G. Gilles, Thomas E. Goetz, Robert L. Grajek, Nicholas E. Grevan, William C. Haizlip, Fred P. Hall, William A. Hamm, Raymond J. Healy, Lennart H. Henriksson, Thomas W. Huggins, Anthony Iacuzzi, Robert A. Janecek, Rita M. Jaworski, William A. Jaworski, Walter Johnson, Jr., John A. Kay, Thomas J. Kelly, William C. Koc, Gerald E. Kowalewski, Charles W. Krezwick, Michael J. Lasowski, Thomas J. Licar, John E. Luczak, William P. Lyman, Gary L. Martincic, Robert L. Maus, Donald W. McCollough, Ronald R. McFalls, Kenneth J. McGuire, Raymond W. Meyer, Arthur R. Miller, Charles V. Miller, Thomas S. Miller, Curt L. Miller, Robin A. Miller, Robert S. Minetz, John R. Miniutti, Joseph Miraglia, Jr., Thomas Mitchell, Edgar G. Morrison, Lee L. Moses, Angel M. Nieves, Eugene E. Pace, Henry W. Peddle, Norman F. Peterson, Mark F. Pope, James O. Portis, Jean-Pierre Radovanovitch, Donald W. Ramsbottom, Tighe A. Reardon, Frank P. Reichenberger, William J. Renje, Sr., Victor A. Reynolds, William D. Ritze, Sr., George H. Robinson, Marvin E. Roehlke, Joseph W. Rose, Douglas A. Rudisuhle, David E. Salvino, Ralph J. Salvino III, Joseph A. Schrafel, Louis Schubrych, Dennis J. Shea, David R. Shebish, Norbert P. Shebish, Edward F. Skerrett, Stanley A. Silva, Jim Solsberry, William M. Stach, Arthur Stoudemire, Jr., Gregory R. Szafranski, Richard Thurman, Thomas A. Tinkler, James J. Treacy, James C. Truby, Gary W. Verseput, Michael Vold, Edward E. Walls, Karl F. Walter, John Wander, Cyril J. Watson, Richard L. Waxman, Louis J. Weathers, Gregory Will, Charles G. Williams, John H. Williams, Ronald L. Williams, and Jerome M. Zdancewicz.

HONORING THOMAS KELLER AND THE FRENCH LAUNDRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Keller, chef and proprietor of The French Laundry, a three-star Michelin restaurant, celebrating its 30th anniversary. The French Laundry has epitomized fine dining in our community, and we thank Chef Keller for his commitment to culinary excellence, his leadership in the culinary community, and his extensive philanthropic work.

Chef Keller began his career as a dishwasher in his mother's restaurant in Palm Beach, California. After spending time in France as an apprentice chef and stints in New York and Los Angeles, in 1994, Chef Keller opened The French Laundry in Yountville, California.

The French Laundry serves world renowned French cuisine with an American twist, and food connoisseurs travel from across the world to eat at the beautifully constructed stone cottage that hosts the restaurant. Chef Keller's dedication to culinary excellence and innovation has earned The French Laundry numerous accolades, including three Michelin stars and a place on the coveted World's 50 Best Restaurants list Renowned for its service and crafted tasting menus, dining at The French Laundry is a once in a lifetime experience.

Chef Keller holds the honor of being the sole American chef to operate two 3-star Michelin star restaurants. Chef Keller has also led the United States to a gold and a silver medal at the Bocuse d'Or, the culinary world's Olympics. Outside California, Chef Keller owns or manages over 20 restaurants globally and has been named America's best chef by Time Magazine.

Chef Keller has authored six cookbooks, of which more than 1.6 million copies are in circulation. He founded a magazine and retail outpost called Finesse. He has taught three immensely successful MasterClass series, offering in-depth coverage of classic cooking techniques and essential culinary fundamentals tailored for home cooks.

For all his professional accomplishments, Chef Keller's philanthropic work is just as impressive. Raised by a Marine Corp Captain, Chef Keller has lent his generous support to the Yountville Veterans Home, providing meals and fundraising support to our community's veterans. He was recognized with The Connection Award by the Veterans Home Association. Through the Mentor Foundation, which he co-founded, Chef Keller has distributed $2 million in grants for over 150 young chefs in 23 countries worldwide to pursue their culinary dreams. During the peak of the COVID–19 pandemic, Chef Keller established the non-profit Keller Restaurant Relief Fund, extending aid to both current employees and alumni facing financial difficulties. To date, the fund has distributed over $1.5 million in grants.

Perhaps the perfect dish can never be created, but Chef Keller will continue to give it his best shot. Mr. Speaker, we again thank Chef Keller for his devotion to culinary brilliance and celebrate the 30th anniversary of The French Laundry.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I was not able to vote on the previous question and the Brecheen Amendment No. 24.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 359, and YEA on Roll Call No. 387.

RECOGNIZING THE SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Smithfield High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 4 Region A Championship.

As their Congresswoman, I am proud of these young athletes and their recent achievement. Located in Smithfield, Virginia, the Smithfield High School Packers were able to bring the Class 4 Region A Championship back home to their fellow students, faculty, families, and friends through their hard work and dedication to their team. The Smithfield Boys' Soccer team won the game two to zero and advanced to the state tournament.

As a former athlete myself, I want each of these young men to know Virginia's 2nd District is extremely proud of their accomplishment and applauds them on their well-earned victory. Again, congratulations to the Smithfield High School Boys' Soccer team on winning the Class 4 Region A Championship.

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SHAKERS IN AMERICA

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone for a treasured group in my state. August 6, 2024, marks the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the Shakers in the United States. Since 1774, the Shakers have been consistently dedicated to the pursuit of faith and community, enriching Maine and national culture in countless ways.

The Shakers embody the essential American values of inclusivity and equal treatment and have remained committed advocates of pacifism and nonviolence. They have been steadfast champions of racial and gender equality since their early existence, as evidenced by their community's leadership structure and their welcoming of members and neighbors regardless of their race or national origin. Their message is one of universal humanity—a message that is more relevant and necessary than ever.

Throughout their long history, the Shakers' ingenuity and craftsmanship have contributed immeasurably to the development of American arts, agriculture, and manufacturing. Collectively, we continue to benefit from Shaker inventions such as the circular saw blade, the flat broom, and the paper seed envelope. Their sustainable agricultural practices, incorporating water power and regenerative farming, put them on the forefront of environmental stewardship. And their renowned furniture, architecture, and crafts continue to inspire makers, scholars, and artists around the world.

Today, Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, Maine, is the last remaining settlement in the world where Shakers continue to live, work, worship, and steward their legacy. They are an important community hub—hosting events and workshops, involving local young people, and preserving and sharing knowledge of rural Maine life.

I'm honored to have experienced their warm hospitality and kindness, and I'm proud to represent them in Congress. I wholeheartedly congratulate them on 250 years of community, peace, and progress in America, and I know their message will continue to resonate for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF AURELIA GONZALEZ LOPEZ

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of Aurelia Gonzalez Lopez.

Aurelia was born July 25, 1924, in Buenavista, Mexico. She migrated to the United States in 1990, establishing a new life in the City of Pomona for the last 34 years. Raising her family is one of her proudest accomplishments. She had 12 children with her husband, and now her family has expanded to 43 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

On behalf of the 35th Congressional District, I congratulate Aurelia on this incredible milestone. It is my honor to represent people like her who bring so much to family and neighbors. I am grateful for her 34 years of residency in my district I hope that she enjoys much happiness in the coming year.

HONORING THE SERRES FAMILY CENTENNIAL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Serres Family as they celebrate 100 years of the Serres Ranch. The longevity of this great dynasty is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to the Serres family's creativity, tenacity, dedication, and commitment to our vibrant agricultural community.

Serres Ranch was originally owned by Fighting Joe Hooker after the Mexican American War and the Bear Flag Revolt. Mr. Hooker sold the property to George Watriss from New York. Mr. Watriss moved his family onto the land after the purchase in 1857 and partnered with the Serres Family. The property was known as the Watriss-Serres Ranch. The property was fully acquired by the Serres Family in 1924 establishing Serres Ranch.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Serres Ranch cultivated row crops, grapevines, and operated a thriving dairy farm. Generations of the Serres Family, including John Pierre and John Pierre ''Toots'' Serres, dedicated their lives to nurturing the land and preserving its legacy.

The entrepreneurial spirit of the Serres family manifested in Serres Construction, founded in 1929 by Franklin Watriss Serres and his father John Pierre ''Toots'' Serres. This venture evolved into Serres Corporation under the leadership of John Pierre Serres, reflecting the family's commitment to innovation and economic growth.

Today, Serres Ranch stands as a model of sustainable agriculture and family stewardship. It is managed by John Pierre Serres and Judy Serres, alongside their children John, Buck, and Taylor Serres.

The legacy continues with the fifth generation overseeing the farming of their estate's vineyards and creating delicious wines that honor their rich family history. Today, the ranch encompasses 200 acres, with 130 acres dedicated to grapevines, all sustainably grown and climate adaptation certified. The diverse enterprises under the Serres Family umbrella, including Serres Ranch, Serres Corporation, and Serres Ranch Wine, exemplify their dedication to preserving the land and fostering community.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Serres Family for their dedicated service to our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them as they celebrate their centennial year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, due to travel disruptions, I regrettably missed votes on July 22. Had I been present, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call Vote 357, the Pro Codes Act, and Yea on Roll Call Vote 358, the Water Resources Development Act.

RECOGNIZING STACEY LEAVANDOSKY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the most dedicated public servants I have had the pleasure of working with—Stacey Leavandosky. Stacey, who is retiring from public service in August, has served on Capitol Hill for 27 years, including 18 years as Chief of Staff in my Washington, D.C. office. Her service to my California district, to the Congress, and to the American people has been steadfast and invaluable.

For decades, Stacey Leavandosky has offered her expertise on a wide variety of policy issues and the legislative process, while simultaneously leading staff as a capable, respected manager. Stacey first interned for her

hometown Representative, George Hochbrueckner of New York, and was hired as his Staff Assistant in 1993. She quickly rose through the ranks on Capitol Hill, serving as Assistant Director of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation (CDCD) under Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, Legislative Director to Representative Lynn Woolsey, Executive Director of the CDCD, and, finally, as my Chief of Staff. Throughout her more than 20 years working with me, she has been a senior advisor on the Committee on House Administration, Ethics Committee, Immigration Subcommittee, and House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

During Stacey's years on the Hill, our country faced many challenges. From 9/11 to the COVID–19 pandemic, from the anthrax scare to January 6th, with droughts and floods and a number of other obstacles, Stacey has shown an unparalleled commitment to our staff, to the constituents in my district, and to the American people. She has been a constant voice of reason, with a belief that government can be a positive force for change and improvement. She embodies the kind of public servant many aspire to be.

Stacey Leavandosky is a good and kind person. She is a leader worth following. She is wise and rooted in integrity. She has been a mentor to countless interns and staffers, and those fortunate enough to work with her know she is someone to impress and to admire.

I have strategized with, confided in, and sought counsel from Stacey Leavandosky. Through wins and losses, through political crises, Stacey has been by my side, unwavering in her commitment to our democratic republic. My team and I will miss her dearly, and I wish Stacey and her family the very best in this next chapter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on July 23 I regrettably missed the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: No on Roll Call Vote 381, Boebert Amendment No. 7; No on Roll Call Vote 382, Boebert Amendment No. 8; No on Roll Call Vote 383, Boebert Amendment No. 9; No on Roll Call Vote 384, Boebert Amendment No. 18; No on Roll Call Vote 385, Boebert Amendment No. 20, and No on Roll Call Vote 386, Brecheen Amendment No. 23.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss yesterday's votes due to illness. During that time, I was unable to make Roll Call Votes No. 359 through No. 386. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

NO on Roll Call No. 359, H. Res. 1370 On Ordering the Previous Question;

NO on Roll Call No. 360, H. Res. 1370 On Agreeing to the Resolution;

YES on Roll Call No. 361, S. 3706 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass;

YES on Roll Call No. 362, S 227 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass;

NO on Roll Call No. 363, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 364, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 365, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 366, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 367, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 368, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 369, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 370, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 371, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 372, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 373, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 374, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 375, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 376, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 377, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 378, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 379, H.R. 8997 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 380, H.R. 7887 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended;

NO on Roll Call No 381, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 382, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 383, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 384, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment;

NO on Roll Call No. 385, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment; and

NO on Roll Call No. 386, H.R. 8998 On Agreeing to the Amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to cast my vote for S. Amdt. 227 on July 23, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 362.

SOUTHEASTERN COLLEGE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, on Friday July 19th, 2024, I was otherwise detained due to the nationwide CrowdStrike/Microsoft Outage and was unable to deliver the commencement address at Southeastern College. The following are the remarks I prepared to share with the graduating students:

Campus President Melissa Jackson, esteemed faculty, members of the class of 2024, family members, and distinguished guests, what an honor it is to be with you today.

I want to thank President Jackson and Dean Herlene Williams-Ancar for the opportunity to speak to such a remarkable group of men and women.

In my role as a U.S. Congressman, I serve as a senior Member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, as well as a member of the Caucus for Career and Technical Education, so I am especially grateful to be here with you today.

As a grateful father of four sons, I want to give a special greeting to all the families here today. My wife Roxanne and I have had our fair share of graduations and know firsthand how proud you are of your husbands and wives, sons and daughters, and mothers and fathers. What an exciting time for you.

We are here today to congratulate and celebrate the more than 70 members of this years' graduating class, who have put in countless hours of hard work to reach their goals. What an esteemed group of students you are.

Your accomplishments speak for themselves, and you deserve recognition for all the hard work you have put in to reach this point. You have sacrificed spending time with your families and given up most of your free time to push yourself and receive the certificate or diploma you are about to be awarded.

Each of you has a different story as to how you came to this precise moment. Many of you may not have picked up a textbook in years, yet jumped back into becoming a student, all while managing the other aspects of your life. Whether it be working full-time to provide for yourself and your family or trying your best to be a superstar parent or spouse, you were able to juggle all these responsibilities and receive a degree. Just one of these tasks is a job all in its own, so the dedication to your studies should be celebrated and admired. And your commitment to contributing to our workforce is admirable.

As you well know, Southeastern College is a unique and challenging place to learn. The education you have received in the fields of Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Medical Assisting, Radiologic Technology, Surgical Technology, Cosmetology, and Professional Clinical Massage Therapy have prepared you for a new professional career ahead.

Because of the knowledge you have obtained during your time here, you are now the best equipped to assist within the profession you have chosen to benefit the lives of your neighbors and community.

I am sure the hours spent reading quietly alone in a library or surrounded by your noisy family at home have satisfied a thirst you all share for knowledge, and they will serve you as you head on to future endeavors. Your accomplishments have allowed you to be far more knowledgeable and will set you apart from others applying for jobs within your field of choice.

In a National Teacher Appreciation Day Proclamation in 1988, former President Ronald Reagan stated that ''Education is a lifelong process that benefits individuals and entire communities and countries and helps lay the foundation of the future.''

Over the course of your life, you have learned countless lessons, many of which have been obtained through reading a textbook, and others from your personal experiences.

The need for hard work will always be there and I encourage you to never shy away from a tough challenge. You have shown what you can accomplish when you put your heart and mind to doing something worthwhile. So, each of you should be extremely proud of your accomplishments.

You have worked hard to receive a wonderful education, so be confident of your abilities and be optimistic as you meet the future head on.

Our society faces many challenges right now, and politics can seem more divided than ever, but I can tell you from my own experience that there is no greater honor than service to your community.

I want to thank President Jackson and the faculty again for the honor of being with you today. I want to thank the families and friends for letting me share in the celebration of these graduates. And, of course, I want to thank you, the Class of 2024 for the opportunity to be with you today. I wish you all the best in the years to come. May God Bless.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr Speaker, on July 22 and July 23, 2024, I missed votes on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted:

YEA: Roll Call No. 356;
NAY: Roll Call No. 357;
YEA: Roll Call No. 358;
NAY: Roll Call No. 359;
NAY: Roll Call No. 360;
YEA: Roll Call No. 361;
YEA: Roll Call No. 362;
NAY: Roll Call No. 363;
NAY: Roll Call No. 364;
NAY: Roll Call No. 365;
NAY: Roll Call No. 366;
NAY: Roll Call No. 367;
NAY: Roll Call No. 368;
NAY: Roll Call No. 369;
NAY: Roll Call No. 370;
NAY: Roll Call No. 371;
NAY: Roll Call No. 372;
NAY: Roll Call No. 373;
NAY: Roll Call No. 374;
NAY: Roll Call No. 375;
NAY: Roll Call No. 376;
NAY: Roll Call No. 377;
NAY: Roll Call No. 378;
NAY: Roll Call No. 379;
NAY: Roll Call No. 380;
NAY: Roll Call No. 381;
NAY: Roll Call No. 382;
NAY: Roll Call No. 383;
NAY: Roll Call No. 384;
NAY: Roll Call No. 385; and
NAY: Roll Call No. 386.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 364.

TRUMP RELIEF FOR FAMILIES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, during the last three years, Americans have endured the highest inflation in 40 years, costing the average family $13,000 more a year to buy the basics.

Under President Donald Trump, inflation was 1.4 percent. Since then, costs have risen over 20 percent. Families saw prices for Fourth of July celebration staples skyrocket:

Ground beef was up 23 percent
Sodas up 22 percent
Hot dogs up 16 percent
Ice cream also up 16 percent . . . just to name a few.

House Republicans and Donald Trump are committed to stopping reckless spending and restoring fiscal responsibility.

Corrupt Judge Merchan has unintentionally re-elected Donald Trump and removed Biden, clearly earning my invitation to the Trump Inauguration. Unethical conduct backfires.

In conclusion, God Bless Our Troops as the Global War on Terrorism continues. We do not need new border laws; we need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 2024, I was not recorded on Roll Call vote No. 356 and No. 358. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on Roll Call vote No. 318 and No. 320.

COMMEMORATING THE TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the bicentennial of the Town of Ellington, New York. Founded in 1824, Ellington has proudly stood the test of time, exemplifying the quintessential qualities of small-town America.

Ellington, nestled in Chautauqua County, was named after Ellington, Connecticut, reflecting the origins of many of its early settlers who brought with them a pioneering spirit and a commitment to building a new life in the burgeoning frontiers of New York State. From its inception, Ellington has been characterized by its picturesque landscapes, rolling hills, lush forests, and fertile farmland. These natural features have shaped the town's identity and continue to be a source of pride and beauty for its residents.

Agriculture has always been the cornerstone of Ellington's economy. The town's long tradition of dairy farming, crop production, and livestock rearing has sustained its residents and fostered a deep connection to the land. Family-owned farms, some of which have been passed down through generations, are a testament to the town's enduring agricultural heritage.

The people of Ellington are the heart and soul of this town. It is a close-knit community where tradition, hard work, and neighborly support are valued and celebrated. Annual events such as the Ellington Town Picnic bring residents together, reinforcing the bonds of friendship and community spirit that have always been a hallmark of this town.

Ellington is home to several historical sites that reflect its rich heritage. These include well-preserved homes and buildings from the 19th century and the Ellington Town Hall, which serves as a hub for local government and community events. The preservation of these sites is a testament to the town's dedication to honoring its past while looking towards the future.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the bicentennial of Ellington, New York, we honor a town that embodies the enduring values of hard work, tradition, and community spirit.

CELEBRATING DAVID KRUG'S EXCEPTIONAL CAREER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate David Krug and his illustrious career at the City of Buffalo's Department of Permits and Inspection Services. After a career spanning almost four decades, Mr. Krug retires from his position as Coordinator of Plans.

Mr. Krug began his journey four decades ago when he achieved the top score on the 1986 Building Inspector Examination. This outstanding achievement foreshadowed the next foul decades of an exceptional career of service and dedication.

Throughout his time at the Department, Mr. Krug has provided excellent service to the citizens of the City of Buffalo, ensuring each project is diligently worked on and completed.

While Mr. Krug was officially the Coordinator of Plans, his benevolence and helpful nature extended far beyond the department. He would consistently lend a hand to his coworkers and help them find solutions for a myriad of code-related matters. He became the go-to person within the office due to his positive approach and willingness to help.

It is difficult to sum up a career of nearly 40 years, but during his tenure, Mr. Krug served under nine different commissioners, issued tens of thousands of permits, witnessed the construction of countless large-scale projects, including the HSBC building, and played a pivotal role in enhancing the city's landscape through his involvement in initiatives such as the Green Code and the implementation of the Hansen System.

Continuing the trend of kindness and cooperation, Mr. Krug has also been an active and respected member of the AFSCME Local 650 Union and a cherished participant in the

Badge Brothers, fostering camaraderie and unity among his colleagues.

Today, Mr. Krug is a proud South Buffalo native. His unwavering commitment and dedication extends beyond his work, which is evident in his role as a devoted husband to the late Teresa Dougherty, proud father to Liz and Abbie, and loving grandfather to Addison. His children have followed in his footsteps by serving their community as firefighters with the Buffalo Fire Department.

Please join me in congratulating David Krug on a career well spent, and wishing him well as he enters this new chapter of his life.

GREG SHOREY'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the 100th birthday of Greg Shorey, a patriot who has been so important for families in South Carolina developing the modern two-party system.

As South Carolina Republican Party Chairman from 1958 to 1961, he was a courageous pioneer to launch the modern Republican Party. Beginning with the first elected Republican of the Twentieth Century, Charlie Boineau was elected to the State House in August 1961, representing Richland County.

Now, Republicans have super majorities in the State House and Senate, all statewide officials are Republicans, and eight of nine federal officials in the U.S. House of Representatives are Republican.

Chairman Greg Shorey is a champion for promoting limited government, expanded freedom, and peace through strength as hallmarks for Republican success.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 25, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 30

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the findings and recommendations of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy.

SH–216

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion

To hold hearings to examine rural export opportunities, focusing on enabling rural businesses to grow at home while competing abroad.

SR–253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine tax tools for local economic development.

SD–215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine strategic competition with the PRC, focusing on assessing U.S. competitiveness beyond the Indo-Pacific.

SD–419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on the Judiciary

To hold a joint hearing to examine the security failures leading to the assassination attempt on former President Trump.

SD–G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Economic Policy

To hold hearings to examine banning noncompete agreements, focusing on benefits for workers, businesses, and the economy.

SD–538

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation

To hold hearings to examine the future of Europe.

SD–419

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine Senate procedures to confirm nominees.

SR–301

JULY 31

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine long-term economic benefits and impacts from Federal infrastructure and public transportation investment.

SD–538

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine the future of electric vehicles.

SD–608

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider S. 4753, to reform leasing, permitting, and judicial review for certain energy and minerals projects.

SD–366

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider S. 4755, to reauthorize traumatic brain injury programs, an original bill entitled, ''Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act'', an original bill entitled, ''Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act'', and other pending calendar business.

SD–562

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD–226

2 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law

To hold hearings to examine birth behind bars.

SD–226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine understanding the potential environmental impacts of the chemical 6PPD.

SD–406

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SVC–217

SEPTEMBER 24

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Novo Nordisk's high prices for Ozempic and Wegovy for patients with diabetes and obesity.

SD–562

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

House and Senate met in a Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5325–S5488

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4756–4769, S. Res. 768–770, and S. Con. Res. 38. **Pages S5343–44**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled "Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2025". (S. Rept. No. 118–197) **Page S5343**

Measures Passed:

Congratulating the Fighting Irish of the University of Notre Dame Men's Lacrosse Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 768, congratulating the Fighting Irish of the University of Notre Dame men's lacrosse team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse National Championship. **Pages S5331, S5344, S5346**

Recognizing the Importance of Mental Health for Youth: Senate agreed to S. Res. 769, recognizing the importance of mental health for youth in the United States, and expressing the pressing need for awareness and support for mental health care for children and adolescents. **Pages S5344, S5346–47, S5487**

Disability Pride Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 770, expressing support for the designation of July 2024 as "Disability Pride Month". **Pages S5344, S5347, S5487**

Way Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of Kashi Way, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court. **Pages S5325–30, S5331–36**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 78 yeas to 16 nays (Vote No. EX. 215), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S5331–32**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, July 25, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the House message to accompany the bill ripen at 2:15 p.m.; and that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Kashi Way, pursuant to the order of Tuesday, July 23, 2024. **Pages S5487–88**

Landy Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Adam B. Landy, of South Carolina, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court. **Page S5336**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 85 yeas to 12 nays (Vote No. EX. 216), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5336**

Taylor Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. **Pages S5336–41**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 217), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5337**

Messages from the House: **Page S5343**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5344–46**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5346–47**

Additional Statements: **Page S5343**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5347–S5487**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5487**

Privileges of the Floor: Page S5487

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—217) Pages S5331–32, S5336–37

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:42 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S5487–88.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1171, to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prevent Members of Congress and their spouses and dependent children from trading stocks and owning stocks, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 15 public bills, H.R. 9115–9129; 1 private bill, H.R. 9130; and 6 resolutions, H.J. Res. 193; and H. Res. 1381–1385, were introduced. Pages H4912–13

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H4914–15

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Self to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H4863

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police who were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol on July 24, 1998. Page H4875

Recess: The House recessed at 11:17 a.m. for the purpose of receiving His Excellency Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel. The House reconvened at 3:54 p.m., and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. Page H4877

Recess: The House recessed at 6:42 p.m. and reconvened at 8:46 p.m. Page H4902

Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 1376, providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1371) strongly condemning the Biden Administration and its Border Czar, Kamala Harris's, failure to secure the United States border, by a recorded vote of 210 ayes to 202 noes, Roll No. 392, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 208 yeas to 195 nays, Roll No. 391. Pages H4894–H4902, H4902–04

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure: Establishing the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump: H. Res. 1367, amended, establishing the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 393. Pages H4891–94, H4904

Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025: The House passed H.R. 8998, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 399. Consideration began yesterday, July 23rd. Pages H4867–77, H4881–91, H4904–09

Agreed to:

McCormick amendment (No. 56 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that reduces funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Programs and Management account by $7 million; reallocates $5 million to the EPA OIG for increased oversight of the EPA; Page H4868

Miller (IL) amendment (No. 72 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup; Page H4869

Miller (IL) amendment (No. 73 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits funding for rule titled "Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards"; Page H4869

Obernolte amendment (No. 75 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits any funds made

available by this Act from being used by the Environmental Protection Agency to approve a waiver for the California Air Resources Board's In-Use Locomotive Regulation; **Pages H4869–70**

Ogles amendment (No. 76 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits funds to carry out the provisions of section 50262 of Public Law 117–169 (Inflation Reduction Act); **Pages H4870–71**

Ogles amendment (No. 77 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits funds for the Environmental Financial Advisory Board of the Environmental Protection Agency; **Pages H4871–72**

Ogles amendment (No. 78 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits funds to be used by the Environmental Protection Agency for the U.S. Global Change Research Program; **Pages H4872–73**

Palmer amendment (No. 79 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits the EPA from using funds to arm agents as part of the agency's criminal enforcement division; **Pages H4873–74**

Brecheen amendment (No. 25 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that was debated on July 23rd that prohibits funding for any diversity, equity, and inclusion program or office (by a recorded vote of 211 ayes to 202 noes, Roll No. 388); **Page H4875**

Palmer amendment (No. 80 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits funds from being used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review''; **Pages H4881–82**

Perry amendment (No. 84 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits EPA from redesignating the Permian Basin as in nonattainment for ozone; **Pages H4884–86**

Stauber amendment (No. 88 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that ensures States and other cooperating entities that provide search and rescue services on Federal lands can receive reimbursement; **Pages H4886–87**

Stauber amendment (No. 89 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits any funds being used to designate the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness as a national monument under the Antiquities Act; **Pages H4887–88**

Stauber amendment (No. 90 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits any funds from being used to expand the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness; **Pages H4888–89**

Tenney amendment (No. 92 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that prohibits funding for Executive Order 14019, relating to Promoting Access to Voting; **Pages H4889–90**

Tiffany amendment (No. 93 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that strikes funding for the removal of roads that are no longer needed; and **Pages H4890–91**

Perry amendment (No. 85 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that (by a recorded vote of 210 ayes to 204 noes, Roll No. 397). **Pages H4886, H4907**

Rejected:

Brecheen amendment (No. 24 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that was debated on July 23rd that sought to defund the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and moves its $12 million in appropriations to the Spending Reduction Account (by a recorded vote of 156 ayes to 236 noes, Roll No. 387); **Pages H4874–75**

Harshbarger amendment (No. 45 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that was debated on July 23rd that sought to prohibit funding for the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (by a recorded vote of 174 ayes to 239 noes, Roll No. 389); **Pages H4875–76**

Miller (IL) amendment (No. 57 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that sought to reduce the salary of Ya-Wei (Jake) Li, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pesticide Programs to $1 (by a recorded vote of 148 ayes to 267 noes with one answering ''present'', Roll No. 390); **Pages H4868–69, H4876–77**

Perry amendment (No. 81 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that sought to (by a recorded vote of 207 ayes to 211 noes, Roll No. 394); **Pages H4882–83, H4905**

Perry amendment (No. 82 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that sought to (by a recorded vote of 185 ayes to 231 noes, Roll No. 395); **Pages H4883–84, H4905–06**

Perry amendment (No. 83 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that sought to (by a recorded vote of 173 ayes to 243 noes, Roll No. 396); and **Pages H4884, H4906–07**

Tenney amendment (No. 91 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–602) that sought to (by a recorded vote of 160 ayes to 256 noes with one answering ''present'', Roll No. 398). **Pages H4889, H4907–08**

Agreed by unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings. **Page H4909**

H. Res. 1370, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 8997) and (H.R. 8998) was agreed to yesterday, July 23rd.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, July 25th. **Page H4909**

Discharge Petition: Representative Wild presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on

Rules from the consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 1346) a resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7056) to prohibit the limitation of access to assisted reproductive technology, and all medical care surrounding such technology (Discharge Petition No. 15).

Senate Referral: S. 3696 was held at the desk.

Page H4881

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H4881.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and ten recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4874–75, H4875, H4876, H4876–77, H4903, H4903–04, H4904, H4905, H4905–06, H4906–07, H4907, H4907–08, and H4908–09.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Committee Meetings

SAFEGUARDING WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS FROM OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OVERREACH AND SKEWED PRIORITIES

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled ''Safeguarding Workers and Employers from OSHA Overreach and Skewed Priorities''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security held a hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Budget''. Testimony was heard from the following Federal Energy Regulatory Commission officials: Willie L. Phillips, Chairman; Mark C. Christie, Commissioner; David Rosner, Commissioner; Lindsay S. See, Commissioner; and Judy W. Chang, Commissioner.

HOUSING SOLUTIONS: CUTTING THROUGH GOVERNMENT RED TAPE

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled ''Housing Solutions: Cutting Through Government Red Tape''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LATIN AMERICA FORGOTTEN: A LOOK AT PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FY 2025 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled ''Latin America Forgotten: A Look at President Biden's FY 2025 Budget Priorities''. Testimony was heard from Brian Nichols, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State; Julieta Valls Noyes, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, Department of State; and Michael Camilleri, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development.

FROM DRUG INTERDICTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN TO NATIONAL SECURITY PATROLS IN THE ARCTIC: EXAMINING U.S. COAST GUARD'S ROLE IN SECURING THE HOMELAND

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''From Drug Interdictions in the Caribbean to National Security Patrols in the Arctic: Examining U.S. Coast Guard's Role in Securing the Homeland''. Testimony was heard from Admiral Linda L. Fagan, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard.

OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation''. Testimony was heard from Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on legislation on the Apostle Islands National Park and Preserve Act; H.R. 2405, the ''North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act of 2023''; H.R. 3293, the ''Expediting Federal Broadband Deployment Reviews Act''; H.R. 6210, to designate the General George C. Marshall House, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes; H.R. 8403, the ''Benton MacKaye National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study Act of 2024''; and H.R. 8603, the ''ROAM Act''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Tiffany, Collins and Armstrong; Frank Lands, Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; Romaine Quinn, Senator, Wisconsin Senate; Joseph Heringer, Commissioner of University and Lands, North Dakota; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 6489, the "Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act of 2023"; H.R. 8942, the "Improving Tribal Cultural Training for Providers Act of 2024"; H.R. 8955, the "IHS Provider Integrity Act"; and H.R. 8956, the "Uniform Credentials for IHS Providers Act of 2024". Testimony was heard from Representatives Peltola, Newhouse and Johnson of South Dakota; William Smith, Deputy Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

WASTEFUL SPENDING AND INEFFICIENCIES: EXAMINING DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PLATFORM PERFORMANCE AND COSTS

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled "Wasteful Spending and Inefficiencies: Examining DoD Platform Performance and Costs". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXECUTIVE OVERREACH: EXAMINING THE SBA'S ELECTIONEERING EFFORTS WITH ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR OF OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS, JENNIFER KIM

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations held a hearing entitled "Executive Overreach: Examining the SBA's Electioneering Efforts with Associate Administrator of Office of Field Operations, Jennifer Kim". Testimony was heard from Jennifer Kim, Associate Administrator, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Small Business Administration.

EXAMINING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled "Examining the Department of Transportation's Regulatory and Administrative Agenda". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7906, the "Strengthening State and Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act"; and H.R. 9076, the "Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act". H.R. 7906 and H.R. 9076 were ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

RUSSIA'S PERSECUTION OF UKRAINIAN CHRISTIANS

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Russia's persecution of Ukrainian Christians, after receiving testimony from Steven E. Moore, Ukraine Freedom Project; Mark Sergeev, Ukrainian pastor; and Catherine Wanner, Pennsylvania State University.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act", an original bill entitled, "Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act", an original bill entitled, "State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act", and an original bill entitled, "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act", 9:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine advancing national security through export controls, investment security, and the Defense Production Act, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nominations of Jeffrey Samuel Arbeit, of the District of Columbia, Benjamin A. Guider III, of Louisiana, and Cathy Fung, of California, each to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, 9:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on international support for Russia's war in Ukraine, 11 a.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider an authorization for Investigation into the Bankruptcy of Steward Health Care, an authorization for Subpoena of Dr. Ralph de la Torre, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Steward Health Care Systems LLC, for Testimony Relating to the Committee Investigation into the Bankruptcy of Steward Health Care, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ann C. Fisher, of South Dakota, and Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, both to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Carmen G. Iguina Gonzalez, and Joseph Russell Palmore, both to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 2783, to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area

Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, S. 3406, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund, to amend the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 to make technical corrections to the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund and Aamodt Settlement Pueblos' Fund, S. 4000, to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and S. 4365, to provide public health veterinary services to Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations for rabies prevention; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine S. 4370, to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and S. 4505, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of Ohkay Owingeh in the Rio Chama Stream System, to restore the Bosque on Pueblo Land in the State of New Mexico, 2 p.m., SD–628.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development, hearing entitled ''Reauthorizing the CFTC: Stakeholder Perspectives'', 8:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled ''Enhancing Cybersecurity by Eliminating Inconsistent Regulations'', 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Thursday, July 25

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 2073, Eliminate Useless Reports Act (the legislative vehicle for the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act).

At 11:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Kashi Way, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court.

At 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to S. 2073, with Schumer Amendment No. 3021 (to the House amendment to the bill), in the nature of a substitute.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

9 a.m., Thursday, July 25

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H. Res. 1371—Strongly condemning the Biden Administration and its Border Czar, Kamala Harris's, failure to secure the United States border.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Arrington, Jodey C., Tex., E767
Davis, Danny K., Ill., E761, E763
Fallon, Pat, Tex., E763, E764
Gomez, Jimmy, Calif., E769
Granger, Kay, Tex., E762
Keating, William R., Mass., E761, E763
Kennedy, Timothy M., N.Y., E769
Kiggans, Jennifer A., Va., E767
Langworthy, Nicholas A., N.Y, E769
Larson, John B., Conn., E767
Lieu, Ted, Calif., E759
Lofgren, Zoe, Calif., E767
Lopez, Greg, Colo., E760
Massie, Thomas, Ky., E759
McBath, Lucy, Ga., E762
McHenry, Patrick T., N.C., E768
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E764
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E765
Pascrell, Bill, Jr., N.J., E768
Pingree, Chellie, Me., E765, E766, E767
Quigley, Mike, Ill., E766
Ruppersberger, C.A. Dutch, Md., E768
Scott, Robert ''Bobby'', Va., E760
Sessions, Pete, Tex., E759
Sherrill, Mikie, N.J., E769
Smith, Adrian, Nebr., E769
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E759, E760, E761, E762, E763, E764, E765, E766, E767
Torres, Norma J., Calif., E767
Torres, Ritchie, N.Y., E760, E761
Van Duyne, Beth, Tex., E764, E765
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E768, E769, E770

Congressional Record The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at *www.govinfo.gov*, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202–512–1800, or 866–512–1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, *contactcenter@gpo.gov*. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197–9000, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll-free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.