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No. 141

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
September 11, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RALPH NORMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### MEDICAL DEBT

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, no one should go bankrupt because they get sick.

I was proud to be able to join Director Chopra of the CFPB along with Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL in hosting a roundtable on the impact of medical debt on our families.

We talked about the groundbreaking proposal by the Biden administration that would change the lives of millions

of people where we would ban and prohibit medical debt from appearing on people's credit reports.

I know this step is long overdue, having introduced legislation like the Restoring Unfairly Impaired Credit and Protecting Consumers Act which would prohibit outright the reporting of medical debt on consumer reports.

Today, 15 million Americans have \$49 billion in medical debt on their credit reports. In Wayne County, which is the largest county in Michigan, nearly one in six residents have medical debt.

Behind these numbers are real people. They are our families, whose lives are being impacted by this crushing burden all because they got sick.

We heard this firsthand from one of my residents, Livonia resident Erika Price, who was devastated by our broken healthcare system while watching her husband's body deteriorate.

For many, medical debt means sleepless nights worrying about making ends meet. Some families go bankrupt. Others lose their homes.

This is wrong, and, again, no one chooses to be sick.

The burden of medical debt can also haunt families by lowering their credit score, preventing them from getting a job, being able to rent a home, or even be able to get a car or a small business loan.

To address this crisis, I joined Senator BERNIE SANDERS and Congressman RO KHANNA in introducing the Medical Debt Cancellation Act to eliminate medical debt completely.

We know that we have sick care in our country, not healthcare. We know that this is also an economic and social justice issue and that many of our low-income families, our most vulnerable, some of my seniors even with insurance, are starting to see medical debt rise. We also know many of our Black and Latino neighbors are more likely to be impacted.

We know that without Medicare for All, millions of people will lack coverage while expenses continue to rise.

We all deserve so much better than a broken healthcare system that profits off of sickness and leaves more than 20 million people without health insurance.

No one should lose their home or have to declare bankruptcy because they got sick. Medical debt should never haunt someone financially. This body must take action to relieve this burden for many of our residents.

#### MICHIGAN NEEDS PUBLIC POWER

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I am sick and tired of DTE Energy's corporate greed, while many residents suffer the consequences and go days without power in Michigan.

Our families can't afford more power outages that spoil their groceries. And guess what? They only get \$25, sometimes \$35 in reimbursement. It ruins their medicine that is in the refrigerator. It leaves our neighbors without access to critical medical devices, all because DTE would rather pay out their executives—look it up—and their shareholders rather than ensure reliability.

They defer maintenance and would rather pay their shareholders instead of making sure the grid is strong and reliable.

Last month, with record-breaking heat waves, temperatures reached 95 degrees in southeast Michigan while over 200,000 residents went without power due to DTE Energy's failure to invest in their infrastructure upgrades while continuing to raise rates on our families.

The company made \$1.4 billion in profits last year alone. Their CEO, Jerry Norcia, makes \$10 million a year, but they are begging the Michigan Public Service Commission to approve more rate hikes—I think it is the third

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

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



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or fourth already—and asking our residents to pick up the tab for their executives to travel on corporate jets. It is shameful.

The Michigan Public Service Commission should reject these outrageous rate increases. They are not reasonable. They are not fair. We need utilities that serve the people, not shareholders.

We need public power. DTE and other for-profit utilities should be turned into publicly owned and operated services. We see it over and over again by DTE's actions that we cannot allow these corporations to continue because they are always going to put profit before our people.

#### FALLING SHORT

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, is often hailed as landmark civil rights law or the most important civil rights laws in our country offering a promise of equal education for all of our children with disabilities.

We continue to fall short though in this promise.

The 50-year-old law is underfunded to this day. We passed it in 1975, and we promised to pay 40 percent of the cost of the Federal mandate on our school districts, and we are only reaching about 14 to sometimes 17 percent.

We are not doing enough.

Paraprofessionals alone in Detroit are working without a contract right now. Our Federal Government needs to cover 40 percent of the extra costs of special education.

#### CHINA IS A SIGNIFICANT THREAT

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the most pressing national security threat to our Nation right now: the Chinese Communist Party.

The CCP is engaged in a full-scale influence and espionage operation right here in the United States of America.

From Confucius Institutes to TikTok, and from spy balloons to intellectual property theft, the CCP's mission is quite clear: to collect our data, to infiltrate our country from within, and to become the world's sole superpower.

Mr. Speaker, plain and simple, we need to make a change.

We must recognize the significant threat that Communist China poses. We must decouple ourselves from our dependence on China. We must restore strong American leadership around the globe. We must ban our adversaries like China from buying U.S. farmland. We must put an end to their data collection schemes.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand behind our ally Taiwan. The path forward is clear: peace through strength and a resolute leader in the White House.

#### GOLD STAR CEREMONY

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak from my heart right now on a

subject matter that we dealt with yesterday in the rotunda not too many feet from this House floor.

I was honored to be at the ceremony yesterday for the 13 Gold Star families, the 13 servicemembers who bravely gave their lives 3 years ago on the wall at Abbey Gate due to a decision made by a failed administration to get all American troops out of Afghanistan, to leave them there—our allies—clinging to the wheels of aircraft as they tried to escape the grip of the Taliban. It was a flawed decision.

This administration never apologized to those 13 families for that critical mistake in our world history. Yesterday, someone finally had the guts to apologize to those families: our Speaker, MIKE JOHNSON. I applaud him for that.

The highest honor that Congress can bestow, the Congressional Gold Medal, was given posthumously to those 13 brave individuals, including Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz from Missouri.

I realize that that apology and that acknowledgment and those Congressional Gold Medals will never completely heal those families, but I do think it was a step in the right direction.

I was honored to have dinner with some of those families last night along with DARRELL ISSA, KEN CALVERT, and BRIAN MAST, sitting down with those families and just hearing their stories and how much it meant to be in that rotunda yesterday, and for our Nation to finally acknowledge that it was a mistake. This administration has never done that, and I think they will have to live with that.

I am glad that our Speaker awarded those Gold Star medals, and I am glad we came together. It was bipartisan yesterday in that rotunda, make no mistake. I think we all felt the pain of those family members.

I just left the rotunda and came back over here. I love going to the rotunda every morning when I can and seeing people come in for the very first time. They look up, and they see the pictures painted by people, like Trumbull and others, who have painted representations of our heroes. To have those 13 heroes with their pictures in that rotunda yesterday was very fitting.

Mr. Speaker, I just want those families to know that we stand with them. We will never forget them. We have their backs. I hope someday we can regain their respect.

Life is precious, but those willing to give the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation deserve our complete respect. I thank the families and their servicemembers for giving it all for our great Nation.

#### A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, lastly, I want to reflect on today, 9/11, as a day of remembrance. This is now the 23rd anniversary of the fateful date in U.S. history when Islamic terrorists on planes loaded with people crashed into the World Trade Center.

Let's keep that memory alive.

#### PARTISAN CHAOS

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, here we are once again. My Republican colleagues have decided to end the 118th Congress the same way they started it; not with a serious budget but with partisan chaos.

Let's look at the last 2 years. First, the GOP manufactured a debt ceiling crisis and took our economy hostage. Despite that, we came together as Democrats and negotiated in good faith. We struck a bipartisan deal, and we signed it into law, but the Republicans tore it up. They have ignored it ever since.

They have driven us to the edge of a government shutdown four times, all to take money out of the pockets of hardworking families and stuff the pockets of billionaires.

It is the same plan every single time: manufacture a crisis then make working people pay the price, cut their healthcare, delay their retirement, lay off the teachers.

Well, this week, they have decided to run this same play for a fifth time. They have brought another extreme partisan bill to the floor.

Speaker JOHNSON said yesterday: "... it's the right thing to do." The right thing to do?

Today is 9/11, the 23rd commemoration of the horrors that were befallen upon us on that day, and I, too, was at the ceremony honoring those heroes that we lost in Afghanistan.

□ 1015

So coming up \$12 billion short for our veterans' healthcare and endangering their disability checks, that is the right thing to do?

Compromising our national security, cutting Social Security's ability to meet the needs of our seniors, and even defunding election security?

That is the right thing to do?

Come on. They know this is the wrong thing to do.

So why are we doing it?

Why this reckless 6-month CR?

It is for one reason: Donald Trump's Project 2025.

The GOP wants to delay this fight past the election into next year all in the hopes that they have a better chance at enacting Trump's extreme agenda.

What is that agenda?

Ending Social Security and Medicare as we know them, auctioning off the VA to for-profit corporations, cutting our school budgets in half, eliminating the Department of Education, eliminating Head Start, raising the cost of childcare, imposing a national sales tax, rationing healthcare for working families, and enacting a nationwide abortion ban.

The Republicans have shown us their plans for a second Trump term. They have told us it will be even worse than his first. We should believe them.

The American people reject this extremism, and so should the GOP. Let's pass a bipartisan funding agreement that fulfills our duty to our country, to our veterans, to our seniors, and to our children.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF GUSTAVOUS "GUS" HOLMES BELL III

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gustavous "Gus" Holmes Bell III of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on July 22 at the age of 86.

Gus, known by many as Buster, was a dedicated, hardworking man who earned a degree in civil engineering from The Citadel before attending graduate school at the University of Kentucky.

Gus was commissioned as a second lieutenant as a reserve commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. After assignments in Virginia, Texas, and New Mexico, Gus moved to Kentucky and was hired in an engineering role. Gus eventually landed in Savannah, Georgia, and was honorably discharged in 1969. Gus was an engineer who was instrumental in establishing a partnership between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia.

In honor of Gus' contributions to the city, former mayor Eddie DeLoach declared August 11 as Gus H. Bell III Day in Savannah. Gus was also a founder of St. Andrews on the Marsh School in Savannah and a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Savannah.

Gus was married for 42 years to his beloved wife, Mandy. After her passing, he was blessed to marry Jan Hall. He is survived by his three children, Lisa, Adair, and Holmes, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We mourn his loss and keep him and his family in our prayers.

On a personal note, he was one of my mentors who had a great deal to do with helping me and the city of Pooler and our tremendous growth that we experienced while I was mayor. I will forever be grateful for that.

#### RECOGNIZING RONALD COOPER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Officer Ronald Cooper, who heroically saved the life of a woman who was kidnapped in Brunswick, Georgia.

On November 9, 2019, now-retired Glynn County police officer, Ronnie Cooper, responded to a kidnapping call on his police radio. A woman had been abducted from the daycare center where she worked. Bravely, the woman fought back against her attacker, allowing more time for Officer Cooper and the Glynn County Police Department to locate her. The assailant was

forced to change his plans, and the brave folks at Glynn County PD were able to locate the victim.

Against the clock and all odds, Officer Cooper and his partner, Officer Jeremy Stagner, successfully rescued the victim from the would-be killer.

Thanks to Officer Cooper, Officer Stagner, and all the brave law enforcement officers who work diligently to keep our communities safe from violence like this.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF FREDDY HOWELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Bryan County Fire Chief Freddy Howell.

Mr. Howell has had a wonderful 39-year career serving his community, and we are all better off for and will deeply miss his passionate service.

During his time of public service for Bryan County, Mr. Howell led his department in various cleanup efforts and oversaw the expansion of the fire department.

He led the cleanup for a tornado in north Bryan that damaged many parts of our community, and Mr. Howell secured several grants that grew his department's team from 36 to over 100 firefighters.

The fire department also acquired new equipment, ambulances, and tankers under Mr. Howell's leadership. With his passion for aiding others, Mr. Howell greatly enhanced Bryan County's emergency response capabilities.

Following his retirement from the Bryan County Fire Department, Mr. Howell plans to join the private sector as a customer relationship manager.

I am grateful for Mr. Howell's impactful public service to Bryan County and the First District of Georgia.

#### REMEMBERING RICHARD "DICK" BERKOWITZ

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to mourn the loss of Richard "Dick" Berkowitz, who sadly passed away this August at the age of 91 years old. He was a dear, dear friend.

After attending the Georgia Military Academy, Dick pursued a graduate degree at the Wharton School of Business. Dick proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in France with the Army Finance Corps.

Mr. Berkowitz also had a 42-year-long career in investment banking and as a stockbroker. His career was marked with success as he was the youngest general partner ever at a Wall Street firm in 1967.

In addition to his military service and professional career, Dick will be remembered for expressing his outspoken political beliefs through writing candid memos and his involvement in the Savannah, Georgia, community.

Dick's legacy will surely be carried on by his wife, Lynn, and his five beloved children.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Berkowitz family, Dick's friends,

and every person he impacted throughout his wonderful life.

We will miss Dick. I will miss my friend Dick. God bless him.

#### U.S. SHIPBUILDING UPDATE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, this coming Saturday, September 14, the USS *New Jersey*, the 23rd *Virginia*-class submarine, is going to be commissioned in northern New Jersey. It was delivered to the Navy earlier this year.

Next to me is a photo of USS *Iowa* which is going to be the 24th *Virginia*-class submarine which is going to be delivered next month. This is a shot from the drydock in Groton, Connecticut.

Early next year, the 25th submarine, the USS *Massachusetts* is going to be delivered to the Navy. Later in the year, the 26th submarine, USS *Idaho* is going to be delivered to the Navy. In the following year in 2026, USS *Arkansas* and USS *Utah* are also going to be delivered.

Again, these are really the most critical maritime vessels, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. We are here on China week. What is happening in these shipyards is the best rebalancing of deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

It is happening at the same time that we are building the *Columbia*-class submarines which are the ballistic submarines. Those submarines are actually 2½ times the size of the *Virginia*-class submarines. They are just massive vessels which, again, are critical because the hull life of the submarines they are replacing, the *Ohio*-class submarines, are over 40 years old. All this work, again, is something that is really driving a lot of economic activities certainly in southern New England but, frankly, all across the State.

Again, Congress has had a big part to play in terms of funding. Just in the recent supplemental, the submarine industrial base funding is aimed at three different things: number one, workforce; number two, supply chain; and number three, facility.

This is a picture of a supply chain company in Tolland, Connecticut, which is in my district in eastern Connecticut, Shelby Supply Company. The gentleman on the far right is Tim Briere. He is the owner of the company.

Their hiring has grown three times over the last 3 years because of the metal fabrication work that they do that, again, are a part of the submarine industrial base.

The woman on the far left in this picture is Amanda Dodd. She is somebody who grew up in Connecticut. She moved to Texas. She is a welder, and she moved back to Tolland, Connecticut, last year. She is part of the team there that is contributing to this production process which took a hit during COVID. There was a slippage in

terms of the production cadence and the schedule, but now they are recovering it. Congress has had a big part to play in terms of giving the funding for programs like those that Shelby Supply is part of.

In August, I visited Divers Cove, American Systems in Norwich, SEACORP in Groton, and Collins and Jewell in Bozrah. Again, these are all supply chain companies which are part of this enterprise.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would just say that when we look at the horizon as far as the amount of work we are talking about here, it is at least 20 years, and we have to go younger and sooner in terms of training up people in terms of the metal trade skills and engineering skills that are going to be essential if we are going to succeed in this shipbuilding plan.

This is a picture of a welding lab where last Friday we had a ribbon cutting. This is a small public high school up in the northeast corner of the State of Connecticut, Tourtellotte High School. It is a regular public high school. This is a comprehensive high school, not a trade school. Because of the submarine industrial base funding which passed in this Chamber earlier this year, they, again, are now installing more welding booths so that the students are going to be able to take advantage of this opportunity.

The welding class used to be eight kids. Now it is going to be 50. These are kids who when they graduate from high school are going to be eligible to get their security badge, go into the shipyard, and be part of this production process.

Interestingly, talking to Superintendent Melinda Smith and some of the teachers at the high school, because of this program, students who otherwise would really not be that connected in terms of the work that was going on there because they really were not college bound, attendance is now going up. It is because these kids understand that this program which they really like, which is about an hour and a half a day, if they don't show up for school, then they are going to get removed from the program.

It is a win-win situation in terms of increasing educational proficiency in terms of all subjects, but particularly in giving people a skill which is a life skill that is going to allow them to succeed in the future.

Again, this is now happening not just in trade schools, which are wonderful, the career and technical schools which now have waiting lists for kids who want to get involved, but it is also happening in nontrade public high schools. Westbrook High School in Connecticut is also going to be a part of this program, and that is how we succeed as a nation to recapitalize our Navy fleet.

#### RECOGNIZING 100 YEARS OF THE CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate a few wonderful things that happened in my district this fall.

Mr. Speaker, every September, Cleveland County, North Carolina, celebrates an iconic event that marks the transition to autumn. This year, however, we have a special reason to celebrate. It is because the Cleveland County Fair in Shelby, North Carolina, is reaching an extraordinary milestone: its 100th anniversary.

For a century, the fair has been more than just an event. It has been a cornerstone of our community. It has brought families together, celebrated Cleveland County's rich agricultural heritage, and provided endless entertainment with thrilling rides and fantastic food.

As the leaves turn and the air grows crisp, the fair is the perfect way to welcome the fall season in North Carolina, and if you are a politician running for office, then you need to be there. The fair is a must. I have spent a lot of time shaking hands there over the years.

I am really grateful for the opportunity to interact with people when they are having great family fun. I thank everyone who makes the fair happen, the volunteers and the folks who work the fair.

I congratulate the Cleveland County Fair on its 100th anniversary.

#### RECOGNIZING CAMP MEETINGS IN NORTH CAROLINA'S TENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a unique and longstanding summer tradition in North Carolina's 10th Congressional District: church camp meetings. These annual events date back to the 1800s and are wonderful celebrations of faith, family, and community.

There are three camp meetings in my district not far from where I live: the Balls Creek camp meeting held in Catawba County and the Rock Springs and Tucker's Grove camp meetings which are both held in Lincoln County and very close to where I live in Lincoln County.

All three campgrounds are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Camp meetings happen each August and last for up to 2 weeks. Families gather for worship under an arbor which is a central open-air shelter that seats hundreds of people. There are also singings, youth rallies, and plenty of time to visit with family and friends.

Many families, in fact, stay at the campground in wooden cabins known as tents. Ownership of many tents has been passed down for generations.

These are beloved events, and they truly are events. These events were started so many years ago by families of the earliest settlers to the area. Many people who attend are direct descendants of these people of faith who first started gathering more than 150 years ago.

It is important to not just honor our traditions, but to preserve them, and that is what these camp meetings do. The organizers of these camp meetings continue to do that with these important events and timeless expressions of our enduring faith. For that, we honor and thank them.

□ 1030

#### REMEMBERING CASSIE MAE SMITH

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate a remarkable woman, Cassie Mae Smith, a Battleboro, North Carolina, resident, and my State of the Union guest this year whose beautiful life spanned 109 years.

On August 10, she passed at her home, surrounded by family and friends. She was a beloved figure, affectionately called Ma Cassie by her neighbors and friends.

She was born in 1914, before women had the right to vote. Once Ma Cassie was able to exercise her right to vote, she voted in every election she could and began advocating for others to do the same.

In March, my office helped her achieve two items on her bucket list. She had never met a President or flown on an airplane. She flew to our Nation's Capital for the State of the Union. Afterward, she met President Joe Biden.

While here, I am grateful for so many colleagues from across the country and from across the aisle for taking the time to speak with her.

I am also grateful for President Biden spending time talking with her. If not the oldest, she had to be one of the oldest ever to attend the State of the Union Address. It meant a lot to her, and she was indeed grateful.

She loved our country, the United States of America. Her story of resilience and grace has touched the lives of many, including my own. Her journey has inspired us all, from working on a farm in North Carolina to traveling for the first time at 109 on an airplane to our Nation's Capital.

For those who knew her, Ms. Cassie Smith was also a woman of unwavering faith. She loved the Lord. She loved her church, Pittman Grove Baptist Church, and Pastor Thomas Ray Green and his wife, Sharon, who traveled with her for the State of the Union.

In fact, after the State of the Union, she made clear to me, she said: "I know my pastor prays for me." Frank Smith, her son, said his mother had a deep spiritual connection with God, always looking up when she prayed. He once asked: "Momma, who are you talking to?" She said: "I am talking to the Lord."

I also recognize Faye, Frank's wife and Ms. Cassie's caregiver, and all her caregivers.

According to her son, the family had planned to celebrate Ma Cassie's 110th birthday this October with a trip to the mountains, the last item that she had on the bucket list.

Well, she didn't make it to the mountains. However, Frank, her son, said it best: "God has said, I am going to take her, perhaps, to the mountain top."

We will forever hold her legacy in our hearts, and my deepest condolences go to her family and the Battleboro community.

#### RECOGNIZING AUSTIN LIVINGSTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAMMACK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Austin Livingston and his years of incredible service and exemplary work for the Fifth District of South Carolina.

Austin was born in Texas. He was adopted as an infant and spent most of his formative childhood years raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

I had the privilege of him living in our neighborhood, and I took him on backhoe rides, along with other children, to the store and other places. He was known for his physical power on the high school tennis team and also served in our Nation's Capitol as Senate page for Senator Strom Thurmond.

This early experience left on him a lasting impression, and he was delighted when fate brought him back nearly three decades later to serve as a staff member for the House of Representatives.

He was head of the committee for the Fifth District. In between two congressional jobs, he proudly graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in computer information systems. He also worked as a commercial airline pilot, where he flew for Continental Airlines for over 11 years. He was a leader in the commencement photography industry and started his own information technology consulting company, specializing in cybersecurity.

He has taught Sunday school at his local Presbyterian church in Rock Hill for years and helps as chair of the board of Westminster Catawba Christian School in Rock Hill.

Most importantly, Austin is an outstanding father to his son, Pierce, and he is a loving husband to his wonderful wife, Camille.

As communications director and later deputy chief of staff for my office, Austin spearheaded numerous initiatives, including extensive office renovations and building a TV studio from scratch, which I didn't have to ask him to do. He did that on his own initiative. This was during COVID, when restrictions to facilitate virtual interviews were rampant.

It is not only Austin's accomplishments that set him apart but his character. Throughout the years, colleagues and associates have consist-

ently noted his integrity, humility, work ethic, humor, and levelheadedness in a crisis.

I can tell you he is one of the few people I have ever met who has never said a bad word about anybody. He is a leader among leaders, and it has been a true honor to have him on my staff.

His impact on the Fifth District of South Carolina and its 725,000 people will be seen for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Austin Livingston for his profound dedication and work. I wish him all the best in his new photography business, as he deserves the best of the best.

#### CELEBRATING MORTON COLLEGE'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate Morton College, the second oldest community college in Illinois, on its 100th anniversary.

Located in Cicero, Illinois, since 1973, Morton College is the pride of the community. The campus has an award-winning library, a student success center, and facilities equipped with state-of-the-art technology for the more than 3,500 students enrolled in it.

As a Hispanic-serving institution, Morton has remained true to its mission of enhancing the quality of life of a diverse community through exemplary teaching and learning opportunities, community service, and lifelong learning.

I am honored to have an exemplary institution in my district, and I congratulate the Morton College community. Here is to the next 100 years.

#### HONORING JORGE RAMOS

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legendary journalist, Jorge Ramos, as he steps down after 40 remarkable years at Univision.

Jorge has been a beacon of truth and integrity, a voice for the voiceless, and a relentless advocate for justice for the Latino community.

In a world often dominated by sensationalism, he stood as a pillar of credibility, amplifying stories that might otherwise remain unheard. From covering the struggles of immigrants to challenging those in power, Jorge's work has illuminated issues that many in the media choose to ignore.

His legacy is one of courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to truth.

"Thank you, Jorge, for being a voice dedicated to justice and for keeping our community informed." "Gracias, Jorge, por ser una voz dedicada a la justicia y por mantener informada a nuestra comunidad."

#### REMEMBERING 9/11

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, September 11 serves as a reminder to each of us and our allies across the world, across the planet, of the tragic loss of nearly 3,000 innocent Americans. It also serves as a reminder of our strength as a nation to stand united in the face of terrorism.

Yes, 23 years ago, we remember and will never forget the lives lost that fateful day as we witnessed the strength and bravery of individuals who sacrificed everything to help their fellow New Yorkers, colleagues at the Pentagon, and fellow passengers and crewmembers of United Airlines Flight 93.

We remember, Madam Speaker, Port Authority Police Officer Bruce Reynolds, who raced from the George Washington Bridge south to the towers to give his life in support of New Yorkers. Today, we honor him with Bruce's Garden in Inwood, along with 22 other members of the Inwood community who were either raised or lived in that community and gave their lives on that fateful day.

We remember Yamel Josefina Merino, a 24-year-old emergency responder who raced down to the southern tower to try to help people and was one of the first victims of that attack.

Since 2001, we have worked to increase the benefits for those who have been affected in the aftermath. I am a proud cosponsor of the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act, which will provide additional funding to the program that provides treatments to 9/11 responders and survivors.

September 11 is a solemn day in our Nation's history. It brought our Nation together. We remember how churches in my district had processions in the street. Thousands of local residents participated.

We have heroes from Harlem, East Harlem, the Bronx, Washington Heights, Inwood, and Hamilton Heights who gave their lives for our Nation. While 23 years have passed since the attacks, we remember and mourn the lives we lost and reflect on the sacrifices and heroism of our first responders, and we vow to never forget. I know many young people who were not there on that day perhaps have forgotten or the memory has faded.

We will never forget the heroism of the men and women who gave up everything for our country, for democracy. We will never forget 9/11 and cannot ignore the magnitude of emotion and remembrance as we reflect on the lives of survivors, their families, and first responders.

May God continue to bless our 9/11 families and first responders, and may God continue to bless these United States of America.

□ 1045

IN RECOGNITION OF THE  
SEPTEMBER 11 ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the solemn anniversary of the most tragic day in modern American history, the September 11 attacks.

Our Nation was deliberately attacked 23 years ago by al-Qaida terrorists, killing almost 3,000 Americans and injuring countless more in the worst attack against our homeland in American history.

On this day, let us honor the memories of the fallen and stand with the friends and families of those who perished. May their memories always be a blessing.

Let us also commend the courage of the first responders and emergency personnel who put themselves in harm's way to help the victims. While others ran to safety, these individuals braved smoke and fire in service to their fellow Americans, sometimes paying the ultimate sacrifice while in the line of duty.

While the terrorists hoped this brazen attack would break America's resolve, they were dead wrong. In the days and months following 9/11, our Nation came together with a renewed sense of fortitude, unity, and determination. It sparked an enduring sense of resilience that carried us through the darkest hour and emboldened us to hold those responsible accountable.

May God bless America.

## FENTANYL CRISIS IN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to shine a light on the destructive surge and scourge of fentanyl, which is poisoning communities in my district and across the Nation. Across America, countless lives have been lost, and too many families have felt the pain of losing a loved one.

In May, I hosted Members of the Judiciary Committee for a field hearing in my district. We heard from Jill Fagan Alexander, a mother who has tragically lost not only one, but two children to the fentanyl crisis, Sam and Gabe. Tragically, these are only two of the many lives lost to the poison at the hands of the Mexican drug cartels and the Chinese Communist Party.

Amid the ongoing border crisis, the amount of fentanyl entering our country has spiked to record levels, endangering citizens across the Nation. In Arizona, the cost of this epidemic ballooned to over \$58 billion in 2023, accounting for the cost of hospitals, public services, law enforcement officers, and the loss of quality of life and productivity of those suffering from this addiction.

Just this week, this body passed H.R. 8663, the DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act. This would authorize DHS to test and develop more tech-

nology to better detect these deadly drugs. However, we must do more.

I stand willing and ready to work with any of my colleagues who want to find solutions to solve this crisis. The stakes could not be clearer. One pill can kill. We must do more to fight the spread of fentanyl to ensure the safety of our citizens and our communities.

## RURAL PHARMACIES CLOSING IN ARIZONA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Madam Speaker, I rise today with the grave concerns over the continued reports of pharmacies closing in rural communities across my district.

I was notified by a constituent recently that two independent pharmacies in Wilcox and Benson will soon close, citing the constrictive practices of pharmacy benefit managers. Local independent pharmacies are critical to rural communities as they are often the only medical provider for hundreds of miles, especially in light of the vast consolidation of large pharmacies buying up smaller ones.

We must stand for independent practices that serve our local communities. As we speak, this becomes a rural access health crisis, forcing residents of those communities to travel long distances to receive the medication and medical services that they need. This not only places an undue burden on those with limited resources and mobility, but it also increases their risk of delayed treatments and worsened health outcomes, leaving rural communities vulnerable and underserved.

It is critical that we address this growing problem now and support our rural pharmacies to ensure that all individuals, regardless of where they live, have access to the healthcare that they deserve.

## CLOSING THE BRIBERY LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, 3 months ago, the Supreme Court opened a loophole in our bribery laws. They legalized, in effect, a certain kind of bribery. That is bribery where the payment to the politician comes after they do the thing they have been bribed to do.

The Supreme Court said: That is not bribery, but that is a tip. That is a gratuity, and it is not against the law.

Justice Kavanaugh said: If Congress wants this to be against the law, then they should pass a law saying so.

Well, I agree. My office has filed a bill to close exactly that loophole, and nothing else. We consider this a completely nonpartisan effort. This is simply about making sure that you cannot bribe politicians. That was the state of the law 3 months ago as we all understood it, and now that has been changed by this court ruling.

My office filed a bill. We are very grateful that a Member of the majority, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) has joined us on that bill.

I am encouraging every Member of this body, regardless of party, to join us to make sure that we send a very simple statement to the country: You cannot bribe politicians. That should be against the law. Even if you come up with a somewhat creative way in which to do it straightforwardly, it is wrong. It should be illegal. If we pass this bill, it will be illegal once again.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR JOHN  
“LUCKY” LUCKADOO

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

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major John “Lucky” Luckadoo, an extraordinary American hero who displayed remarkable bravery in World War II.

Now 102 years old, Major Luckadoo is one of the last remaining members of the distinguished 100th Bomb Group, famously known as the Bloody Hundred.

Major Luckadoo grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He joined the Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. After training, he served with the Eighth Air Force’s 100th Bomb Group based in Thorpe Abbotts, England.

Of the 40 men from his training class who served in the 100th, only four completed their tour, highlighting the dangerous nature of their mission and Major Luckadoo’s extraordinary fortune and resilience.

Major Luckadoo undertook 25 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe, serving as both a pilot and copilot in the B-17 Flying Fortress, showcasing his outstanding bravery and expertise under highly challenging conditions and overwhelming odds.

Lieutenant Colonel John Bennett, leader of the 100th Bomb Group, aptly remarked: “What the 100th lacks in luck, it makes up for in courage.”

Major Luckadoo embodied this spirit, and his extraordinary story of survival is chronicled in his biography, “Damn Lucky.” Major Luckadoo’s survival and the subsequent telling of his story contribute significantly to the historical record of World War II and stand as a testament to the bravery and sacrifices of the Greatest Generation.

Major Luckadoo currently resides in Dallas, where he actively engages in his community and continues to share his story, ensuring that future generations will continue to draw inspiration from his courage and dedication.

In light of his heroic service and enduring legacy, it is fitting that we honor Major John “Lucky” Luckadoo and express our deepest gratitude for his remarkable contributions to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL KENNETH WILLIAM  
CORDIER

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Kenneth William Cordier, who dedicated his life to serving his country and embodied the

SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE OF  
ARTHUR O. EVE, JR.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of Arthur O. Eve, Jr., a remarkable individual and leader, affectionately known throughout western New York and beyond as Champ.

As the beloved son of New York State Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve and an educator, the late Lee Constance Eve, life lessons in civic responsibility, faith, and a strong work ethic were instilled in him early by his family.

As a standout football player who earned all-Catholic honors during his time at Canisius High School and shined on the field at the University of Texas at El Paso, Champ turned his athletic talent, natural leadership, and team-building skills into an opportunity to inspire and mentor countless young people through coaching basketball at Calvary Baptist Church, Hutch Tech High School, and Buffalo State University.

Through his coaching, he touched hundreds of lives for the better.

In his professional positions within a juvenile detention center and Educational Opportunity Center, Champ dedicated himself to empowering those in need.

At Buffalo's Municipal Housing Authority, Champ transformed the agency and set a national standard for compliance and inclusion, which led to the BMHA being recognized as a high performer by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Champ was a leader and a respected voice on issues impacting Buffalo's Black community, serving as president of the Black Student Union during his time at the University at Buffalo. He was the founder and president of Unity Coalition, widely recognized as one of the strongest organizing units in the entire State of New York.

As deputy commissioner of the Erie County Board of Elections and as a community leader, Champ supported democracy through his work, impressing upon others the power of a vote to express one's values and shape the future of our community and our entire Nation.

A man of great faith and devotion, Champ was an active member of Elim Christian Fellowship under the leadership of Bishop T. Anthony Bronner.

To me, Champ was a dear friend whose counsel guided me in many important decisions throughout my own career.

Through a lifetime of tireless advocacy, Champ had an impact on every single life in western New York, our great State of New York, and the entire Nation. He helped unite us like never before in Buffalo, and our great city's renaissance is a shining example of what Champ believed in: diversity,

highest ideals of patriotism, courage, and sacrifice, including more than 6 years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

Born in 1937 in Canton, Ohio, Colonel Cordier entered the United States Air Force through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Akron University in 1960, beginning a distinguished military career that spanned over two decades.

After training as a Minuteman missile launch officer, Colonel Cordier earned his pilot's wings in 1963 and was assigned to the 45th Tactical Fighter Squadron, flying the F-4C Phantom jet fighter.

On December 2, 1966, during his 176th combat mission, Colonel Cordier was shot down over North Vietnam. Captured and imprisoned for over 6 years, he endured harsh conditions in the infamous North Vietnamese prisons, in which he demonstrated extraordinary resilience and unwavering faith.

After his release in 1973, Colonel Cordier resumed Active-Duty service with distinction, directing air operations at Sembach Air Base, reactivating the Wiesbaden Air Force Base, and serving as an air attaché in England.

Colonel Cordier's service to his Nation is dignified by numerous awards, including two Silver Stars, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars with Valor, the Purple Heart, seven Air Medals, the POW Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. He retired with honors in 1985.

After the war, he worked tirelessly to dissuade animosity against the Vietnamese people and culture, instead advocating for diplomatic solutions to bring peace to the region and heal old wounds.

Colonel Cordier would return to Vietnam five separate times. A special note: On his second visit, this distinguished hero brought former POWs to help them find closure in their traumatic experiences as prisoners in Vietnam and to assist in their healing process.

Beyond his military career, Colonel Cordier was a devoted husband and father to his wife and daughter, Barbara and Ann.

Colonel Cordier's life and service are a testament to the values of duty, honor, country, and inspiring future generations to serve with the same dedication and courage. Therefore, I ask that all Americans take a moment to honor the legacy and life of Colonel Kenneth William Cordier, United States Air Force.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL  
AEROSPACE WEEK

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Aerospace Week, I

rise to recognize the vital role the aerospace industry plays in our Nation's economy, security, and technological leadership.

The United States is on the cutting edge of aerospace technology because of the people who dared to do the unimaginable, just like the Wright brothers over 120 years ago.

Because we dreamed big, we have flown faster than the speed of sound and put mankind on the Moon. We have made flying and space launch a normal occurrence. What used to be science fiction is now a fact of life.

Aviation has become an integral part of our society and our economy. Every day in the United States alone, nearly 3 million people fly on 45,000 flights. The industry continues to grow each year.

In 2023, the aerospace industry contributed \$425 billion to the U.S. GDP and supported over 2.2 million jobs. It is also a key tenet of our National Defense Strategy, equipping servicemembers with the most advanced and effective systems in the world.

As co-chair of the House Aerospace Caucus, I am proud to recognize our Nation's incredible aerospace industry and its workforce, our pilots, flight attendants, mechanics, engineers, and others who will help us continue to soar to new heights.

IN RECOGNITION OF MISS NAVAJO  
AMY BEGAYE

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

Mr. CRANE. Madam Speaker, last week, contestants competed in the 72nd Annual Miss Navajo Pageant in my district.

To become Miss Navajo, contestants participate in a rigorous weeklong annual competition which requires contestants to demonstrate proficiency in both Navajo and English languages, knowledge of Navajo culture and beliefs, business interviews, contemporary talents, and traditional skills such as sheep butchering and preparing traditional foods.

I recognize Amy Begaye, who has served as Miss Navajo for the past year.

□ 1100

I met Amy last year during her first trip to the U.S. Capitol and learned about her experience and background and the process of becoming Miss Navajo.

We have had a few chances to connect throughout the years, and I have been impressed with her hard work and professionalism. She has been a strong leader and an advocate for Navajo history and culture.

Madam Speaker, I thank Amy for her leadership as Miss Navajo over the last year. I wish her the best in her future endeavors and know she will continue to make the Navajo Nation proud.

inclusivity, and opportunity, and a world where everyone can succeed.

Transcending his passion for the community was his love and devotion to his family. He leaves behind his father, the Honorable Arthur O. Eve, Sr.; beloved wife, Kim; nine children, Arthur III, Shiana Denise, LaNeesha, Eric James, Louis, Ashley, Melzetta, Bobby, and David Paul; and eight grandchildren, Caiden, Rylee, Cailee, Kendall, Ari, Lucian, Maliha, and Lux, shared through their blended family; siblings, Leecia, Eric, Malcolm, and Martin; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

As we remember Arthur O. Eve, Jr., we grieve the loss of a beloved friend, celebrate a life well lived, and find solace in knowing that his legacy of service will live on.

Madam Speaker, may Champ Eve rest in peace.

#### REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, 23 years ago, the events of 9/11 forever changed our Nation. Family members, friends, neighbors, and loved ones left their homes that morning never to return. Firefighters from across our district answered the call that day. Port Authority police officers would lay down their lives to save others, honoring the oath they made the day they put on their uniform for the first time.

Our hearts are heavy with the memories of those who were lost on that fateful day, but we haven't forgotten and we will never forget the bravery and courage of the New Jerseyans and all those who responded to 9/11. Their memory is a blessing and a solemn reminder of what is most important in our own lives.

I personally remember being a high schooler, standing across the Hudson River, watching countless men and women covered in ashes just trying to make their way home. We all realized in that moment that our Nation would never be the same.

Since then, more brave responders have died of illnesses caused by 9/11 than were lost on that day. This tragic reality is proof that there is more work to be done. We will continue to fight for 9/11 first responders and their families, to ensure they are given the resources, support, and gratitude for the sacrifices they made in service to others.

As we mourn today, let our memories be a reminder that in the wake of 9/11, we united as a country. We united not just in grief, but in resolve. We set aside our differences, we found common ground, and we healed together.

Today, as we face a Nation that feels more divided than ever before, I join my colleagues in remembering the challenges that we have overcome and the unity that made it possible. For

the sake of our country, let's recommit ourselves to finding that unity, once again. If we do so, we will truly honor all of the lives that were lost that day and in the years since.

#### REMEMBERING BILL PASCRELL, JR.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, on August 21, New Jersey lost one of the greatest champions in our State's history.

Bill Pascrell was more than just a Member of Congress. He was a friend, a mentor, and someone who was loved and admired by many, myself included.

Bill was a true Patersonian, Paterson with one t, and his constituents knew that in him they had a fighter. He was always ready to speak up for what was right, and he served with purpose. Bill was tough, but kind; strong-willed, but a team player; and he always had a joke or story that would make you laugh.

His legacy has left a mark on this institution and our entire country that will never be forgotten.

Since coming to Congress last year, I knew I could count on Bill, and this place will not be the same without him here. I know the same is true for all of those who had the privilege of serving alongside him.

It is on all of us to continue Bill's legacy by continuing to fight for that which we know is fair and right. That is how we can rightfully honor such a great man, a great leader, and a great friend.

Madam Speaker, may Bill rest in peace. It was an honor and privilege to know him and to call him friend.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 9 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

Holy and eternal God, on this 11th of September, we remember a clear blue sky and a nation at peace. As that memory is now shattered by the destruction that followed, we pray the wisdom to claim Your eternal promises in our country's remembrance of that tragedy.

Like grass are our days, that flourish like flowers in the field. The wind passes over them, and they are gone. And so, in an instant, our country was robbed of its sense of security and bereft of thousands of its citizens, swept away by the winds of war.

We pray that Your steadfast love, O Lord, which is from everlasting to everlasting, to rise from the wreckage of that defining day in history. Bless the sacrifice of too many of our sons and daughters who gave their lives to defend the freedoms assaulted on that bucolic day and the decades that followed. Heal the enduring grief of countless families. Bring peace upon our world which remains in upheaval.

Remind us again of Your compassion for Your children. Freedom, by Your grace, is still to be found in You. Peace and justice, in Your mercy, are ours to preserve and uphold.

Enoble us as a nation, each children of Your creation, with the assurance that our hope still rests in You alone.

God, bless America and receive our prayers as we offer them in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina 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

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

#### HONORING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 23rd anniversary of September 11, 2001, a day where nearly 3,000 lives were stolen from us in a series of brutal terrorist attacks that would alter the course of our Nation's history.

On that fateful morning, families in New York and across America began their day like any other, only to face a tragedy that forever changed our Nation. Husbands and wives, parents and children, went about their routines unaware of the devastation that awaited them.

Their loss is immeasurable, but so too is the extraordinary bravery and sense of patriotism that emerged from that chaos. Our first responders, firefighters, police officers, and medics

rushed into danger displaying unmatched heroism and selflessness. They ran toward the inferno while others fled, saving countless lives and embodying the true spirit of courage.

As we remember those whom we lost and honor the valor of our first responders, let us renew our commitment to the values they protected. Their sacrifice demands that we stand united, proud, and resolute.

May their legacy drive us to uphold the freedom and unity that make our Nation strong and resilient. God bless the families impacted that day, God bless our first responders and military, and God bless the United States of America.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 7032. An Act to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide the Congressional Budget Office with necessary authorities to expedite the sharing of data from executive branch agencies and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment concurrent resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for a ceremony to present the Congressional Gold Medals awarded under the Hidden Figures Congressional Gold Medal Act.

H. Con. Res. 126. Concurrent Resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

#### RECOGNIZING EMMAI PIERCE OF ROANOKE RAPIDS UPON JOINING THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARS

(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, the National Society of High School Scholars announced Emmai Pierce of Roanoke Rapids' selection to join the esteemed organization.

Pierce is a rising senior at Halifax County Early College where his weighted cumulative grade point average is over 4.0.

Over the past summer, he interned in the technology services department of Halifax County Schools and in the Halifax School District C Teamship.

The National Society of High School Scholars is a prestigious honor society that recognizes students with outstanding leadership skills, community service, and academic achievement.

Emmai is now a member of a unique community of scholars, a community

that represents the bright future even of eastern North Carolina.

Congratulations to Emmai. It is a well-deserved recognition.

#### 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11

(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, today marks the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks, and I rise today to remember the innocent lives that we lost.

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 flew into Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. Not long after, Flight 175 roared over lower Manhattan into Tower 2.

While Americans around the country were grappling with the events that just transpired, a third plane, Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon.

In southwest Pennsylvania, the fourth flight, United 93, was hijacked and made the abrupt turn toward Washington, D.C., but because of the brave passengers and crew members, it crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

In the days, weeks, months, and now more than two decades that followed September 11, our country joined together to face the very evil which attempted to take us down. We will forever be indebted to our servicemen and -women who joined the fight to protect our freedoms.

While today's world has grown no less dangerous, we, as Americans, are resilient. We will never forget, not 23 years later, and not ever. May God continue to watch over our first responders, our men and women in uniform, and all of those who keep us safe.

#### PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP IS A POLL TAX

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, we find ourselves in the position where rather than passing bipartisan appropriation bills, House Republicans have, once again, loaded must-pass legislation with their MAGA wish list.

This time it is the SAVE Act, which seeks to address noncitizen voting, which is already illegal and punishable by up to 5 years in prison, despite no evidence of a widespread problem.

What the SAVE Act really is is the latest Republican effort to restrict access to the ballot box with burdensome proof-of-citizenship requirements. However, under this bill, Americans would not be able to use their driver's license, any State-provided ID, or military or travel ID. The only acceptable form of proof of citizenship will cost money, such as a passport.

That is a poll tax.

I took my oath of office in this body on the Bible in which my father kept

the poll tax receipt that he had to pay as a reminder of how my family had to fight for the sacred right to vote.

I will not stand for a new poll tax to be put in Federal law, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on today's CR.

#### HONORING SARPY COUNTY SHERIFF JEFF DAVIS

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarpy County Sheriff Jeff Davis, who has announced his retirement after one-half century of service.

Sheriff Davis began his career as a 911 dispatcher at 18 years old. After gaining experience on the operations side of law enforcement, he received his law enforcement officer certification and served as a deputy sheriff for the county.

Through the years he has worked in several divisions before becoming the chief deputy. In 2005, he was sworn in as the new Sarpy County sheriff. Serving in that role, he is known as someone who leads with common sense and a sense of fairness that has earned him respect across the State of Nebraska.

Beyond the sheriff's office, he has given back to his community as the chairman of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Easter Seals Telethon and through the Knights of Columbus.

As Sheriff Davis embarks on this new chapter, I want to extend my gratitude and that of the people of the First District of Nebraska for his many years of outstanding service.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. KEAN of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the United States, a day where the lives of 2,977 Americans, 750 of whom were New Jerseyans, were lost.

After the worst attack in our Nation's history, we came together as Americans, and we showed the entire world our resilience.

Today, we mourn the lives lost in the Twin Towers and the buildings nearby, the Pentagon, and in the field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, on Flight 93. We commemorate the sacrifice of thousands of first responders who rushed into the face of danger. We honor the passengers of the hijacked flights.

We remember those who were lost and help those today who survived and who are now dealing with illnesses from that day. We recognize the resilience of our families, our communities, and our Nation.

Today, I will remember and keep alive the call to never forget.

□ 1215

**PROTECTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES ACT OF 2024**

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1430, I call up the bill (H.R. 9456) to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 with respect to foreign investments in United States agriculture, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9456

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024”.

**SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ON COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN UNITED STATES AND CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.**

(a) **INCLUSION ON THE COMMITTEE.**—Section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) **INCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall be a member of the Committee with respect to a covered transaction that involves—

“(A) agricultural land;

“(B) agriculture biotechnology; or

“(C) the agriculture industry, including agricultural—

“(i) transportation;

“(ii) storage; and

“(iii) processing.”.

(b) **CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.**—Section 721(b)(1) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(I) **CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTIONS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—After receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture of a reportable agricultural land transaction, the Committee shall determine—

“(I) whether the transaction is a covered transaction; and

“(II) if the Committee determines that the transaction is a covered transaction, whether the Committee should initiate a review pursuant to subparagraph (D), or take another action authorized under this section, with respect to the reportable agricultural land transaction.

“(ii) **REPORTABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND TRANSACTION.**—In this subparagraph, the term ‘reportable agricultural land transaction’ means a transaction—

“(I) that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe is a covered transaction;

“(II) that involves the acquisition of an interest in agricultural land by a foreign person of the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of Iran; and

“(III) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of

Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

“(iii) **SUNSET.**—The requirements under this subparagraph shall terminate, with respect to a foreign person of the respective foreign country, on the date that the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, or the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the case may be, is removed from the list of foreign adversaries in section 7914 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS).

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. LUCAS. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9456, the Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act of 2024. This important legislation would codify a new set of policies that were enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. H.R. 9456 would make those measures permanent.

I would like to begin by thanking the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for offering this legislation.

The bill is straightforward. It adds the Secretary of Agriculture as a permanent member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, CFIUS, for any transactions related to the purchase of agricultural land, agricultural biotechnology, or any other transactions related to the U.S. agriculture industry.

The bill also provides a mechanism for USDA to notify CFIUS of particularly sensitive agricultural transactions. Then, the interagency process must determine whether a review is appropriate. This legislation guarantees that the Secretary of Agriculture will have a seat at the table.

Agriculture Secretary Perdue under the Trump administration and Secretary Vilsack under this administration both agree that having a permanent member of CFIUS is necessary. In fact, during the House Committee on Agriculture hearing earlier this Congress, Secretary Vilsack discussed the implications of a permanent placement of the USDA Secretary on CFIUS, saying: “Being a permanent member would allow us . . . to educate the

other members of CFIUS about what to look for and what to be sensitive to when it comes to agriculture and agricultural production.”

I agree with the Secretary. USDA has the unique expertise that can benefit the other CFIUS members. That is why this bill is so important.

This bill is the combination of two pieces of legislation that received unanimous recorded votes as part of a Financial Services Committee markup last fall.

My legislation, the inclusion of the Agriculture Secretary as a CFIUS member, and my colleague from Missouri, BLAINE LUETKEMEYER's legislation, the USDA referral system, both enjoyed unanimous bipartisan support. In addition, slightly modified versions of these measures were enacted in the FY24 appropriations in March. I was pleased to see the policies become the law of the land.

H.R. 9456 would permanently authorize them rather than rely on the annual appropriations process.

The bill focuses the government's limited resources on foreign adversaries: the People's Republic of China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. It is not about closing off the United States from the rest of the world.

For decades, Congress and the executive branch have upheld our country's commitment to an open investment climate. Foreign investment in the United States creates millions of jobs while boosting U.S. exports and expanding R&D budgets.

This legislation is consistent with our core American values and consistent with the unanimous bipartisan legislation passed in the Financial Services Committee.

Since the 1970s, USDA has been responsible for the collection of foreign ownership in U.S. agricultural land. This piece of legislation, as with the bipartisan committee-passed version and the provision currently in law as appropriations language, empowers USDA to flag foreign persons and entities for CFIUS to consider.

To object to this legislation is to object to current law, existing practices, and bipartisan consensus.

CFIUS' mandate remains clear. It must stay focused on national security issues, whether in agriculture or any other sector.

I am hopeful this bill will soon find its way to the President's desk so that the growing cooperation between CFIUS and USDA can continue, allowing CFIUS to take advantage of the subject matter expertise housed at the Department of Agriculture. Food and agricultural security is a critical component of our national security, and this legislation recognizes that.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge

the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Today will serve as a reminder that we should work hard to guard against terrorism and always stand against hate.

Mr. Speaker, moving to the debate on H.R. 9456, I would like to start by noting that Democrats, especially those serving on the Financial Services Committee, have a strong record of working with Republicans to counter threats from the People's Republic of China. In fact, just yesterday, the House passed two bills from our committee.

Unfortunately, H.R. 9456 is not an example of that kind of bipartisanship. In fact, this bill undermines a bipartisan law that we passed just 6 months ago. Yes, it was 6 months ago that the House and Senate worked across the aisle and with the Biden-Harris administration to pass legislation that would protect our national security from adversarial countries like China acquiring critical agricultural land in the United States.

To help review foreign investments involving U.S. agriculture, this bipartisan law added the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, which is the interagency committee that determines whether a foreign investment in a United States company or asset could pose a threat to our national security. That law further codified reporting and coordination between the Secretary of Agriculture and CFIUS.

I mention this law, Mr. Speaker, because I think my Republican colleagues have forgotten what we did only 6 months ago. In their rush to pull together bills for the so-called China week, they appear to have brought up a poorly drafted copy of legislation we already passed.

However, in the frenzy to bring this bill to the floor, H.R. 9456 doesn't duplicate the law. Rather, it results in the Secretary of Agriculture having to report countless transactions to the committee that have nothing to do with our national security.

Currently, the law provides to the Secretary of Agriculture the support of the United States intelligence community to identify those transactions that may pose a threat to our national security. Inexplicably, H.R. 9456 removes that intelligence community assistance, leaving the Secretary to guess which transactions might pose a threat to our national security.

Further, unlike the law that was passed just 6 months ago, the bill broadens the scope from "foreign governments and entities of concern" to now include "foreign persons," which means all individuals and entities of China, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. This means anyone with citizenship in those countries, including refugees or people who are here in the United States with green cards or other visas.

The bill's broad-brush approach of targeting individuals from China,

North Korea, Russia, and Iran amounts to racial profiling. This bill's focus is similar to the restrictive, xenophobic real estate laws passed in a number of States, like Florida, where citizens of the same countries are banned from buying property and which has resulted in numerous instances of discrimination.

It is for this reason that this bill is opposed by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the National Iranian American Council, Stop AAPI Hate, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, the Asian American Scholar Forum, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Biden-Harris administration has also put out a Statement of Administration Policy, saying that it is inconsistent with CFIUS process and would not be implementable as drafted.

Mr. Speaker, these deficiencies, taken together, will divert precious resources from CFIUS' targeted national security reviews. This is a bad bill that harms the bipartisan work we already passed this year and would sow divisions among neighbors across America.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I will vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), who not only understands the security issues because of his involvement as a United States Congressman for the State of Washington, but he is also a farmer from the State of Washington. He understands the impact these issues have on farms and ranches across the country.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, the reality that we face is simple: The CCP, the Chinese Communist Party, is planting roots in our homeland and working around the clock to infiltrate our institutions.

In the last decade, Communist China's investment in U.S. ag land has grown tenfold. That is a dangerous trend that we cannot overstate, but today, we are taking an important step in keeping them out.

My bill to add the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States is critical in keeping the CCP off of American soil.

Mr. Speaker, food security, as you have heard many times, is national security. This legislation strengthens the safety of our supply chains and opens a door to new reporting mechanisms that USDA can use to keep us safe from this threat.

□ 1230

With an already flawed foreign purchase reporting system within USDA, we must be sure our ag land is protected from nefarious actors.

As chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, I hear from farmers and ranchers across the country who are concerned by the reality that not

only is the CCP in our backyard, but we cannot accurately say where.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, my bill guarantees that the Secretary of Agriculture can accurately monitor and report purchases not just for land, but also for biotechnology, transportation, storage, and processing.

This bill is a first step. It is the beginning of the effort to keep our greatest adversaries from being able to purchase any American farmland because, the way I see it, a group like the CCP, who has made it their goal to cripple the United States, has no business having a hand in our supply chains and critical lands, but, first, we must know exactly how much they already have.

Mr. Speaker, time is not on our side here. Every moment we wait, the CCP tightens their grip on our system, further succeeding in their efforts.

I thank Speaker JOHNSON and Leader SCALISE for bringing this important piece of legislation to the floor. A vote for this bill is a vote for our farmers, our economy, and our national security.

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

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

I want to highlight just how rushed the process for this bill has been. I remind my colleagues that this bill was only introduced 5 days ago, on Friday of last week.

The notice of the Rules Committee hearing for this bill went out the same day that the bill was introduced, and the hearing happened the very next Monday.

That timing didn't give Members and staff so much as a single business day to prepare, let alone for the Treasury Department and outside groups to conduct their own analyses. Needless to say, there hasn't been a single hearing on this bill, nor has it ever been marked up. To top it all off, the rule providing for consideration of the bill gives Members no opportunity for amendment.

Considering we just passed legislation to address the very concerns that this bill purports to tackle, I can see no policy reason as to why we are moving ahead with this bill so hastily. Given the serious defects with this bill, I don't understand why Republican leadership is denying Members the opportunity to properly assess these issues.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have insisted on following regular order again and again, so I would urge them to heed their own calls on this bill and allow this body to properly consider this legislation.

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

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

H.R. 9456 is comprised of two bills that were both marked up and unanimously reported from the Financial Services Committee. The administration did not send any technical assistance when both bills were marked up in

the committee a full year ago. They did not send TA until 2 days before this bill went to Rules. The edits were very technical in nature and open to interpretation.

I repeat again: Both of the underlying bills were marked up and unanimously reported from the committee in September of 2023. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle voted for the language in committee, and the Treasury gave no responses at the time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Nebraska (Mr. FLOOD).

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for introducing this very important and long-overdue piece of legislation.

According to the USDA, as of 2022, foreign individuals held an interest in over 43 million acres of U.S. ag land. For context, 43 million acres is larger than the State of Florida and greater than the total land area of 29 U.S. States.

Between December of 2021 and December of 2022, privately held foreign ag land increased by more than 3 million acres and now accounts for 3.4 percent of all privately held agricultural lands in the U.S.

This is a real problem, and it is growing. Our Nation's land is linked to our national security, our food supply, and energy resources. The rising trend of foreign ownership is highly concerning. The USDA is responsible for collecting data and reporting to Congress on foreign-owned ag land, but that is it. In its own words, the USDA does not have a role in reviewing the purchase or sale of ag land in our country.

Additionally, the USDA has failed to penalize improper filing of ag land transactions by foreign nationals, further emphasizing its lack of sufficient enforcement authority in this area.

Let me be clear: Foreign ag land ownership is a national security issue, and it should be treated as such. Over the last several years, we have all experienced firsthand the detrimental impact food and energy supply chain disruptions can have on our communities. Therefore, it is simply common sense that we pass this bill to expand CFIUS and better address this ongoing threat.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleague is exactly right that the Financial Services Committee passed language that is similar in some respects to Representative NEWHOUSE's bill just 6 months ago in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

That language reflected bipartisan work done by the Financial Services Committee on two Republican bills that had been marked up by our committee with unanimous votes. We continue to work in a bipartisan manner as well as with the Senate and the Treasury Department to get language that reflected these two bipartisan bills into the appropriations bill, which ultimately got passed into law.

It is simply false to claim that the bill we are considering today is somehow a harmless duplication of what we have already enacted, as I have laid out in detail already.

This bill undermines the bipartisan work that we have done on this issue and raises serious concerns about both national security and racial profiling. We already did the work to strike a reasonable bipartisan compromise on this front, but Republicans are choosing to undermine that bipartisanship with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 9456 would expand the kind of transactions that the Secretary of Agriculture is required to report to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., otherwise known as CFIUS, including any farmland transaction by foreign persons from China, North Korea, Russia, or Iran.

This broad definition of foreign persons would encompass all legal immigrants and refugees from these countries and require the Secretary to report on their agricultural land transactions.

This opens the door to treating immigrants as national security threats solely because of their country of origin and harms Asian-American communities across the board.

I recount that my own family, my father's family, was affected by the alien land laws that were prevalent on the West Coast of the United States. My grandfather, Esal Takano, emigrated to this country through the Port of Tacoma, and he married my American-born grandmother. He was not able to purchase land in his own name. In fact, in the mid-1930s, he purchased five acres of land in my grandmother's name because she was an American citizen. My uncle, who was returning in uniform from the 442nd Infantry, notified the family that there was a lien against the property, and they couldn't pay it in time because they were in internment camps.

It is a terrible chapter in our history that this country passed alien land laws that affected so many of the families that my family knows.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House Rules permitted, I would have offered a motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would add findings regarding the scapegoating of Asian and Iranian Americans as a long part of U.S. history and show instances of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide who have experienced discrimination and unfair treatment.

We must send this bill back to committee and bring forth thoughtful proposals that help our communities without putting our national security at risk.

Therefore, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the text of this amendment immediately prior to the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

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

The Agriculture Foreign Investments Disclosure Act of 1978 already requires that all foreign persons and legal entities acquiring or transferring an interest in U.S. agricultural property submit a report to USDA containing the information on the transaction of the parties involved. That is present law.

CFIUS can already use this data when considering potential national security risks in determining whether a transaction is covered by its jurisdiction.

This bill does not change that jurisdiction. What this bill does is formally establish a referral system between USDA's current monitoring of land purchases and CFIUS in order to target our adversaries and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.

The bill singles out purchases involving the People's Republic of China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia. It is the governments of these nonfree societies that are our threats, and it is their manipulation of their people that are the threats we try to address.

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

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is no secret that China intends to take over America and become the world's superpower. It is all about control for the Chinese. They want to control our prices and our supplies. For the past few years, they have been on a spending spree, buying farmland across the United States.

Today, one in four pigs raised in the United States is owned by the Chinese, and 18 beef and 12 pork establishments have been given export licenses by the Chinese Government.

Even more alarming, not only do they intend to buy this land for their own benefit, but they also try to use these shell companies to buy land near classified military sites. One of the attempted purchases was in my district.

The Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act is an important step to stop this from happening. We must pass this legislation to permanently add the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and to take necessary actions to prohibit the purchase of U.S. agricultural land by foreign adversaries.

If we fail to act now, we risk more than just losing land. We risk the Chinese Communist Party controlling our future.

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

Several groups have come out in opposition to this bill over concerns of racial discrimination and profiling, including the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, the National Iranian American Council, the Stop AAPI Hate, the Asian Americans Advancing Justice, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, the Asian American Scholar Forum, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

□ 1245

For example, according to the American Civil Liberties Union:

This legislation discriminates and targets individuals solely because of their citizenship and tends to conflate individuals from covered countries with their governments. It does this despite the lack of any showing that it is necessary or that passing this bill would do anything to protect U.S. national security interests.

According to the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus:

H.R. 9456 is not an effective way to address national security. It is a continuation of our Nation's shameful history in enacting racist alien land laws from the 19th and 20th century that barred Chinese and Japanese immigrants from purchasing land and which eventually laid the groundwork for mass incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

We cannot go back to those shameful parts of our history where we denied equal protections and due process for entire ethnic groups simply because of their ethnic heritage.

The bipartisan language that we already passed into law appropriately tailors reporting from the Secretary of Agriculture to include only those transactions that have a national security nexus, including transactions that involve foreign governments or entities of concern, which is defined to include foreign terrorist organizations or sanctioned entities on the Treasury Department's economic and trade sanctions lists.

The law also provides support to the Secretary of Agriculture from the United States intelligence community to determine which transactions may pose a national security concern.

This bill overturns that bipartisan compromise and would treat refugees and legal immigrants from any of these countries in the same manner as known terrorist groups.

This is outrageous. I hope that both sides of the aisle will do what is right, do what is fair, and recognize the history that we are not proud of as it relates to racial profiling.

I hope that we would do the right thing on this bill. This bill should not be passed. We have already done what was needed in a bipartisan way. I don't know why they would take time to undermine the work that we did, and I certainly want a "no" vote on the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, before I yield to my colleague from Michigan, I

yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this is a process that combines two good pieces of legislation. This is a process that takes what we successfully did in appropriations, which means an annual process of renewal, and it makes it permanent law.

This is an acknowledgement that Congress recognizes the importance of making this statute permanent, not just a part of annual funding language. It is hard for me to imagine why we wouldn't support this. It is just difficult to imagine.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Madam Speaker, food security is national security. The Chinese Communist Party understands this.

That is why Xi Jinping has labeled food security a national priority, and CCP-aligned companies have amassed thousands of acres of American farmland.

When the CCP looks at U.S. farmland, it sees a strategic asset. Once acquired, it will be used to enhance Chinese national security and undermine our own.

This is because there is no such thing as a private company in China. Under their national security laws, private companies are required to help the Chinese Government and military upon request. It is certainly not a coincidence that so much of the farmland Chinese companies acquire are next to American military bases or critical infrastructure.

China would never allow U.S. firms to buy land near Chinese military bases. To protect our national security, we need to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support Mr. NEWHOUSE's Protecting American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act to do just that.

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

My colleague across the aisle has pointed out that the language that we passed into law as part of the Appropriations Act just 6 months ago may expire along with the appropriations.

While that may be the case, it is simply false to claim that all this bill would do is ensure that the language survives past that expiration. If that were all this bill were doing, I would support it, the same way I supported that language before.

In fact, I would urge Republicans to bring a bill to the floor that would exclusively eliminate any expiration on the bipartisan language that we have already passed so that we can continue to work in a bipartisan manner on this issue, instead of moving this harmful bill that we are considering here today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana

(Mr. BAIRD), one of my fellow farmers, who understands these issues from the tractor seat and the field.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, when we talk about land for farmers and ranchers, we are really talking about that top eight inches of soil, which for some of you that may not recognize, that we consider that a living, breathing organism because of the organisms there and the complex chemistry that takes place, the nutrient exchange that grow the plants that rise above the surface.

I compliment our farmers and ranchers. We have spent a great deal of time and money and effort for conservation programs to protect that top eight inches of soil.

When we talk about land, we are also referring to a very precious resource. Since we have invested so much time and effort to make sure that we preserve that land, we are not interested in letting our adversaries have access to that.

In that vein, in Indiana, foreign investors own and lease about 400,000 acres of agricultural land. When I talk about agricultural land, I am talking about the land that either produces crops, forestry, pasture forages, and that sort of thing.

Some of them do not pose a real threat; however, foreign adversaries, including Communist China, are buying up farmland. Investors from Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela under the Maduro regime, as I heard our speaker mention a minute ago, hold about 95,000 acres of American agricultural land, but between 2010 and 2021, just the last decade or so, individuals or entities affiliated with the Communist China increased ownership of our agricultural land from 13,000 acres to 383,000 acres. That is a tenfold increase.

We need to be conscious of that, we need to be aware of that, and we don't need to let our adversaries have that.

What is even more concerning is that the Chinese-owned entities have purchased farmland near at least 19 of our military bases. This strategically placed land could be used by the Chinese Communist Party to surveil our military sites. This is a huge national security threat.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HINSON). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, our adversaries are buying up our farmland. I mentioned that. The U.S. is currently losing 175 acres of farm and ranchland every hour for housing and other industries. The reduction in the amount of land for sale is contributing to the higher prices of land as well as making it harder for young farmers to access quality land.

We cannot keep burning the candle at both ends and allow our adversaries to purchase land when the American

farmers are struggling to do so. Ultimately, food security, as has already been mentioned, is national security. We must ensure a resource as precious as our farmland cannot be exploited or purchased by our adversaries.

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

As I laid out in my opening remarks, this bill confusingly duplicates and conflicts with existing law.

To be clear, this bill would add new language rather than amending the existing language that is already in law. Having two conflicting laws creates significant legal ambiguity as to how to interpret these competing texts.

It would undoubtedly result in litigation as agencies struggle to determine what their legal obligations are, tying up limited resources at both CFIUS and the Department of Agriculture.

This hastily written text does not appear to have appropriately taken into account the resulting legal ambiguities, and I would urge all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to, at the very least, take the time to address these legal ambiguities and provide a clear mandate.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa, I will simply note that like all legislative processes with the signature of the President on this piece of legislation, it will supersede the appropriated law. It will be straightforward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON).

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting the American Agriculture from Foreign Adversaries Act. I thank Representative NEWHOUSE for his continued leadership on this issue. I am proud to have helped introduce this important piece of legislation to protect our food supply from foreign adversaries like Communist China.

China does continue to buy up American farmland at an alarming rate. They are aiming to gain control of our food and fuel supply chains, stealing American intellectual property, and strategically purchasing land near sensitive sites.

China doesn't even allow its own citizens to own land, but we have allowed China to purchase nearly 350,000 acres of our agriculture land.

Our adversaries will stop at nothing to disrupt critical industries like agriculture, and this bill will help us to block transactions that are a threat to our national security.

By ensuring that the Secretary of Agriculture has a seat at the table at CFIUS, foreign transactions involving agricultural assets will receive proper oversight so that we can prevent our adversaries from continuing to undermine our food supply and national security.

In Iowa, we know our land is sacred. Iowa farmers truly do feed and fuel the

world, so we cannot allow the CCP to continue buying up our most valuable resource.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good piece of legislation.

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

H.R. 9456 undercuts not only a bipartisan accomplishment from 6 months ago, but also our government's ability to stop adversarial countries like China and Russia from acquiring companies, technology, and land that are critical to our national security.

This bill will also cause financial harm to lawful, permanent residents and other immigrants based solely on an investor's citizenship.

Members of this body considered this issue just 6 months ago, passing bipartisan legislation to add the expertise of the Secretary of the USDA to CFIUS and improving the process by which agricultural land transactions are shared with and reviewed by the government.

□ 1300

That bill was drafted in coordination with the Biden-Harris administration as well as Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate. It was passed into law through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. There is no need to rewrite this law.

H.R. 9456 is a rush job by the House Republican leadership, and it shows how harmful this bill is to both our national security and the people who we serve.

I would just say to my colleagues that if you are really concerned about security, if you really want to support ag and the farmers, why did you just pull the continuing resolution that we were supposed to take up to continue government functioning?

Now, I guess you don't have the votes, and you are doing nothing to protect the very people who you purport to want to protect. Wow.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would note, as I conclude with my comments and yield back also, there have been many occasions when the good lady, the ranking member of the full committee, and I have battled over issues, and there have been occasions when we have been in the same trenches, fighting in the same direction on policy. I would say that she is always a very worthwhile adversary and just a pretty viciously effective ally on those rare occasions, but today, we disagree. We disagree.

I believe Americans have long recognized that a resilient food supply is essential to national security, which is why the rise of foreign investments in our Nation's farmlands deserves increased scrutiny.

We have seen our geopolitical adversaries, China in particular, are eager to exploit vulnerabilities in critical supply chains. Investment from China

poses a unique risk to the American economy, and the Chinese Communist Party exercises immense control and influence over Chinese-owned companies operating abroad.

This bill recognizes that a national security framework that excludes agriculture is incomplete.

In my own State of Oklahoma, foreign land ownership has been against the law for decades and decades, but my State officials tell me that with the web of LLCs and trusts and a variety of other legal mechanisms, they have a difficult time in enforcing that.

This piece of legislation today is one of many pieces of the puzzle to bring this to a focus. If you care about the security of this great Nation and if you care about building on actions that we have taken in this Congress before, then I urge you to vote for this bill. Make permanent law what is now an annual appropriation-type process. I think it is the right thing to do.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this discriminatory and unnecessary legislation.

The Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS) is currently empowered to examine foreign investments related to agriculture.

This legislation would continue to exacerbate anti-Asian hate and xenophobia. This legislation mirrors the discriminatory real-estate laws proposed in many States, including my home State of Texas.

As a staunch opponent of invidious discrimination, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 3697—Preemption of Real Property Discrimination Act, which would preempt these unacceptable State laws that seek to deny foreign citizens the opportunity to acquire real property in the United States.

Congress must reject all attempts to exacerbate the already intolerable levels of xenophobia in our Nation.

Diversity is a benefit, not a detriment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

#### MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. TAKANO moves to recommit the bill H.R. 9456 to the Committee on Financial Services.

The material previously referred to by Mr. TAKANO is as follows:

Mr. TAKANO moves to recommit the bill H.R. 9456 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Insert after section 1 the following:

## SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The scapegoating of Asian and Iranian Americans for our nation's problems has long been part of U.S. history—and history has shown us that heightened xenophobia creates a cycle which leads to violence. Since the 19th century, Asian Americans have been unjustly targeted through the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the "Yellow Peril" era lynchings of Chinese immigrants, exclusionary alien land laws, the incarceration of 120,000 innocent Japanese Americans during World War II, the murder of Vincent Chin, the mass surveillance of Muslim, Middle Eastern, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian communities in the aftermath of 9/11, and the racial profiling of Chinese American scientists under the China Initiative.

(2) Today, nearly half (49%) of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders nationwide have experienced discrimination or unfair treatment that may be illegal.

(3) Since March 2020, over 11,500 anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents have been reported to Stop AAPI Hate.

(4) 58% of Asian American adults say they have experienced racial discrimination or been treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity.

(5) 78% of Asian adults have been treated as a foreigner in some way, even if they are U.S. born.

(6) A majority of Iranian Americans say that they or someone they are close to has experienced discrimination.

(7) Six in 10 Iranian Americans are concerned about increasing discrimination against and the personal safety of Iranian Americans.

(8) It has been widely reported that implementation of laws restricting or prohibiting foreign persons from China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran, including refugees and green card holders, from purchasing property and land in 22 States across the country have contributed to racial profiling, xenophobia and discrimination lawsuits.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that racial profiling and xenophobia have no place in America, that hate crimes against the Iranian American, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities have increased, and that Congress should not pass laws that codify or perpetuate discrimination.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. LUCAS. 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 (Mr. TIFFANY). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1316

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TIFFANY) at 1 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.

## NO WHO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TREATY WITHOUT SENATE APPROVAL ACT

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1425.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1425.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1317

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1425) to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, with Mr. VAN DREW in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1425, Congressman Tom TIFFANY's No World Health Organization Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act.

This bill ensures that the Biden-Harris administration does not circumvent Congress, and it requires that any international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response as agreed to by the World Health Assembly must be considered by the Senate as a treaty.

When it comes to imposing binding international obligations on Ameri-

cans, the executive branch cannot go it alone. In our Constitution, in our republican system of government, the people's elected Representatives in Congress must give their approval.

An international treaty that cannot command the support of two-thirds of the Senate is not actually a treaty. While one administration may submit to it, it certainly does not bind our Nation or future administrations.

This proposed World Health Organization Pandemic Agreement is no exception. In fact, that potentially expansive agreement especially needs proper review and debate by the American people's elected Representatives.

Article 19 of the WHO Constitution states that such agreements must be submitted to each member state for review "in accordance with its constitutional processes." Our constitutional process requires ratification by the Senate for something to be considered a treaty before it may come into force.

Likewise, during the World Health Assembly in May, the World Health Organization Director-General promised that any agreement "will go to parliaments for consideration and ratification." We don't have a parliament. In our body, it would go to the Senate.

It isn't being sent there by the Biden-Harris administration. Why does the administration not want this to go to the Senate? That is an important question to ask. They certainly have not kept the drafting and negotiations transparent or accountable to the American people.

Now that negotiations are supposed to conclude by early 2025, there remains a distinct possibility that the World Health Assembly will try to call an emergency vote on a final draft treaty before a new U.S. administration takes office.

Far too little attention has been paid to what this treaty would mean for health policy in the United States and elsewhere. The latest draft is limitless in scope and contains overly broad language that can be read to support abortion and radical left ideology. It claims to impose undefined financial obligations. It grants more authority to the WHO, potentially infringing on our sovereignty. It threatens both intellectual property and free speech rights. It provides zero accountability for China.

The pandemic treaty would give more U.S. taxpayer dollars to the WHO bureaucrats to manage, even though the U.S. has already spent billions on pandemic preparedness. In total, the U.S. has spent around \$2.2 billion toward global health security which, along with the Pandemic Fund donations, goes toward strengthening global health systems, supply chains, healthcare workforces, and international laboratories.

In addition, the International Health Regulations have been in place since 2005 as a mechanism to address infectious disease outbreaks around the world. They were just updated this past May to include a new financial mechanism. Why do we need yet another

funding stream of U.S. dollars for pandemics?

What is also concerning is how the treaty is being used as a vehicle to promote and implement a radical left ideology. If this treaty were truly a model for promoting global health security, then the World Health Organization would keep it clean of divisive and controversial items, not just for Americans' interests but for interests around the world in keeping with the humanitarian principle of neutrality.

Americans remember and are still recovering from the devastations of COVID-19. Many lives and livelihoods were lost, and we can certainly and should prepare for future pandemics. However, Americans also remember the WHO's egregious mishandling of COVID-19. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros enabled the Chinese Communist Party's grand COVID-19 coverup in the winter of 2020 by parroting the Chinese Communist Party's lies such as that the virus did not spread via human-to-human transmission that contributed directly to death and disruption around the world.

Despite that colossal failure, the World Health Organization still has not addressed China's involvement in the pandemic's creation or spread and have not conducted internal reforms necessary to address its own role in the mismanagement of that pandemic. Instead, WHO is asking for more money, more authority, more legitimacy, and less accountability. The Biden-Harris administration is supporting their efforts to do so.

Thankfully, H.R. 1425 ensures that the American people, through their elected Senators, will have the opportunity to review any pandemic treaty, especially the sweeping grant of power and money to the World Health Organization.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chair, I stand in opposition to H.R. 1425. We can't forget the dark times that COVID-19 brought to our communities across the United States and around the entire world. The pandemic resulted in a tragic loss of lives. More than 1.2 million Americans and more than 7 million people around the world died. The next pandemic is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when.

During the response to COVID-19, we saw inequities, inequalities, and unfairness across the international system—vaccine manufacturing capabilities benefiting wealthy nations and vaccine access being denied to less wealthy nations who were forced to wait in line and, in some cases, punished for sharing COVID samples with CDC labs and other global health institutions that helped improve the efficacy of U.S.-produced vaccines.

The American people understand that the United States' leadership is critical to addressing the world's most

pressing challenges. A key way to do this is through multilateral institutions, including the World Health Organization. Working multilaterally is critical to strengthening our national security and to securing our public health systems.

Don't just take my word for it. In a nationwide poll conducted at the height of the pandemic, it was found that 82 percent of American voters supported the United Nations' role in helping to stop the spread of COVID-19 overseas. That included 98 percent of Democrats and 69 percent of Republicans.

The pandemic accord aims to strengthen global pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. The United States is a linchpin in ensuring a pandemic accord not only serves our global health security interests but also helps coordinate a global response to public health threats that don't see our borders.

H.R. 1425 is a sadly, nakedly partisan attempt to subvert U.S. diplomatic efforts to reach a pandemic accord agreement alongside 194 World Health Organization member states. The draft pandemic agreement strengthens the global workforce, improves distribution of medical countermeasures, and provides funding for WHO members to improve their response capacity. We must not miss this opportunity to improve global health systems response capacity, including to prevent the tragic loss of life in the United States of America and globally.

Only by learning from our mistakes made during the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this agreement could be a watershed moment in advancing global health security. We must support the ongoing pandemic agreement negotiations, as it could prove essential to saving American lives. Unfortunately, this bill only serves to undermine diplomatic efforts seeking to strengthen global health security.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats unanimously opposed this measure at markup, and we made clear when this bill was marked up by our committee in July, the President has the authority of acceding to an agreement through executive action.

□ 1330

Executive action does not require the advice and consent of the Senate. The vast majority, 90 percent, of all U.S. international legal agreements are approved via executive action rather than formal approval by the Senate.

The draft pandemic agreement under negotiation is not a treaty. If it were, I would be standing in support of H.R. 1425.

While framed as an effort to increase congressional oversight, this bill really is a part of Republicans' politicization of COVID response and antiscience-based policy. It puts the safety and national security of Americans in jeopardy, simply because they don't like

the WHO, or any multilateral institutions for that matter, under their isolationist—they like to isolate themselves from everything and everyone. It is the MAGA platform.

If the U.S. is not allowed to sit at the table or our negotiating leverage is weakened by this bill, our adversaries and those who do not have our best interests in mind, guess what, they will be the ones to fill the void.

The Biden-Harris administration has made a good-faith effort to notify Congress of its planned actions regarding U.S. negotiations, and these efforts have been met with unanimous opposition from Senate and House Republicans who have voiced their opposition to any agreement no matter what its contents are.

One of the misleading claims made by critics of the draft pandemic agreement includes the idea that it would subvert U.S. sovereignty. Yet, in fact, the draft pandemic agreement explicitly states that it does not give the WHO any power to dictate specific policy to member nations and that member states may implement policies according to their sovereign laws. Simply put, the draft pandemic agreement expressly affirms the sovereignty of nations to address public health matters.

False claims that the agreement would undermine our sovereignty have been thoroughly debunked by multiple reputable sources. The Biden-Harris administration has made it clear that they will not support any agreement harmful to U.S. interests, including our sovereignty.

Securing the pandemic agreement would be essential to saving not just American lives but many lives around the world. This bill undermines diplomatic efforts seeking to strengthen global health security, and I, alongside all House Foreign Affairs Committee Democrats, unanimously oppose this measure.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), the author of this very important bill.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his leadership.

Mr. Chair, who do you want in charge of a pandemic policy in the United States? Do you want the corrupt globalists at the World Health Organization in charge of it, or do you want the United States of America to be at the wheel of our pandemic policy?

The answer is simple.

The World Health Organization has proven time and time again that they cannot be trusted to carry out an effective pandemic response.

In 2019, they ignored Taiwan's early warning about the COVID-19 outbreak, then they parroted the lies of the Chinese Communist Party that there was no human-to-human transmission.

Now, the Biden-Harris administration is seeking to reward them with our pandemic management.

The pandemic treaty draft includes no accountability or improved transparency measures for the CCP in its role in covering up the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It focuses on mandated resource and technology transfers and shreds intellectual property rights. It also contains certain provisions that may police our First Amendment rights.

Lastly, it does not protect the sovereignty of the United States of America. This legislation is a no-brainer for anyone who stands for transparency and America's sovereignty.

It would require any convention or agreement resulting from the work of the World Health Organization's inter-governmental negotiating body to be deemed a treaty, thus requiring the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Senate.

Given the vast reach of this so-called pandemic treaty, don't we want Congress to have oversight of it?

I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill, but more importantly, I urge all my colleagues to choose American sovereignty because that is really what is at stake today.

I would also say, Mr. Chair, I am hearing from the other side, from the gentleman from New York, it sounds like he has a draft of the treaty. If he does, we would like to see it because we have not received a final draft of the treaty, and that is part of the impetus for this bill.

If we are going to have transparency and accountability for the American people, which we should certainly have, then we need to see the document. Produce the document, allow us to be able to review it, and have the United States Senate, a body of the people of the United States of America, be able to ratify this very important agreement that may have far-reaching impacts on the American people.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, the ranking member highlights that the World Health Organization somehow gives a head nod to sovereignty. It is true that in their most recent public draft they mention sovereignty, but only to the extent that they agree that it is in their interest. So somehow they take a position where they are going to judge whether it really conforms or not. That should be alarming, and it should persuade my colleagues to not vote on party lines, but instead, to unite in support of this good bill.

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

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and a co-sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, my constituents in Texas did not elect a single member of the World Health Organization to represent them.

This globalist cabal known as the WHO capitalized on the CCP bioweapon

which we now call COVID-19 and pushed its tyrannical policies across the world.

As my colleague across the aisle said, these were dark days under tyranny.

Leftwing globalists surrendered American sovereignty and gave control to the WHO during the public health emergency. These power-hungry bureaucrats shut down our entire country and infringed upon the constitutional rights of Americans.

The Biden-Harris administration cannot circumvent the treaty process defined by the Constitution. Any agreement with the WHO on international pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response must be considered by the Senate as a treaty.

There are definite criteria that determine what constitutes a treaty. I recommend my colleagues across the aisle read those criteria.

Our lawless President and his lawless administration should execute the law. Our Founders of the Constitution wisely included a requirement for the United States to agree to any international treaty a Senate supermajority would be required.

Americans don't support empowering unelected bureaucrats at the WHO who don't hold American values.

H.R. 1425 reaffirms Americans' voices through their elected Senators. There can be no WHO pandemic treaty without Senate approval.

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President of the United States.

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

The gentleman indicated that he had not seen or known of the draft. I would refer him to the WHO's website. There is plenty of information. Just go to the website.

On the website, Article 24, Paragraph 3 of the draft agreement—I am reading from it now—goes on to say that: "Nothing in the WHO pandemic agreement shall be interpreted as providing the WHO Secretariat, including the WHO Director-General, any authority to direct, order, alter or otherwise prescribe the domestic laws or policies of any party, or to mandate or otherwise impose any requirements that parties take specific actions, such as ban or accept travelers, impose vaccination mandates or therapeutic or diagnostic measures, or implement lockdowns."

It is clear, concise, and available.

Furthermore, I understand that the Biden administration has issued a statement of policy on this bill strongly opposing it.

I include in the RECORD that statement of administration policy.

#### STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 1425—NO WHO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TREATY WITHOUT SENATE APPROVAL ACT—REP. TIFFANY, R-WI, AND 59 COSPONSORS

Pandemic preparedness was a day one priority for the Biden-Harris Administration. Under this Administration's leadership, the United States has coordinated global efforts

to end the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the international community is better prepared to respond to the next pandemic.

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 1425, which provides that any international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by World Health Organization (WHO) member states pursuant to the recommendations, report, or work of the International Negotiating Body (INB) established by the second special session of the World Health Assembly "is deemed to be a treaty" and require the advice and consent of the Senate. Presidents have historically taken a variety of approaches to making and carrying out international agreements, and this bill would improperly purport to constrain the President's authority to do so in furthering the important work of achieving advancements, with the international community, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to pandemics. If enacted, this bill would undermine efforts by this Administration and future Administrations to better protect the United States by preventing international public emergencies like COVID-19 from happening again. The Administration will continue to engage with the Congress and adhere to well-established principles in assessing the outcome of the work of the INB as these negotiations continue.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, Mr. MEEKS talks like there is a final draft of the treaty. We, again, have not seen it. How else would he seem to know or claim to know that it is an executive agreement? We thought it was still in negotiations.

Mr. Chair, I am in strong support of H.R. 1425 requiring any agreement reached by the World Health Organization to be deemed as a treaty, and thus, requiring the approval of the Senate by a two-thirds vote.

The WHO corruptly handled the China virus due, in no small part, to WHO Director-General Tedros being heavily influenced by Chinese President Xi.

In 2020, Tedros praised China for their handling of the pandemic, even though it was clear that they were withholding critical information about the true origin and nature of the virus.

This year, member states of WHO have been working to come to an agreement on what is called the pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response accord. Thankfully, this agreement, which would absolutely be an unconstitutional surrender of sovereignty of the United States, has not been finalized.

However, the World Health Assembly, the body deliberating language in the agreement, has already agreed to several amendments committing to solidarity and equity, establishing a new body to facilitate effective implementation, and creating an international human rights authority to improve coordination between countries.

This is nothing more than an international power grab by leftist elitists

who hate America, want to infringe on individual privacy, and seek to attack the fundamental principles of American self-governance and self-determination.

The WHO symbolizes and represents what the left wants for the world and for the United States, where national sovereignty and individual freedom mean nothing.

The Democrats don't believe in American exceptionalism, American sovereignty, our founding Judeo-Christian principles, or the preservation of that which makes us unique and the hope for the world.

That is why they believe that everybody in the world has the inherent right to come to America, whether legally or illegally.

Just 4 short years ago, the Biden administration—or the Biden-Harris administration as it used to be called—was shutting down our economy and forcing us to stay in our homes due to the China virus. They think that went great, and they would gladly do it again if it was beneficial to their own interests.

The United States should end all taxpayer funding of the WHO, formally withdraw as a member, and ignore any and all edicts put out by that body.

Until we do that, at a minimum, we should ensure the Senate holds them accountable for their infringement on our sovereignty and require a two-thirds approval of any agreement or treaty, which is what it really is.

I thank my friend Mr. TIFFANY for his leadership, and I thank Mr. DAVIDSON for leading this debate on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

□ 1345

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the right to close.

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

Let me say, Mr. Chair, that I believe that one of the things that my Republican friends are trying to do here is to divert the actions, the inactions, and the failure of the prior administration during the pandemic. I think that is what the real issue is here and that is what the problem is. That is why they are putting this bill forward. It is because they know about the former President, and they know what he said during the time of the pandemic. It is still there for all the world to see about what he said at that particular time. It is this debate, and this bill is why they are debating this and are against the bill vigorously.

So what happened?

What did Donald Trump say?

Let's go back, because sometimes it seems as though our memories fail of what took place during the pandemic. One way we can do that is let's look at what the President said because he loves to tweet, or now whatever else he puts it on, but he said:

"We are in very close communication with China concerning the virus. Very

few cases reported in USA, but strongly on watch. We have offered China and President Xi any help that is necessary. Our experts are extraordinary!"

That is what he said. Then he came right back after that:

"I think our relationship has never been better. We're very much involved with them, right now, on the virus that's going around. We're working very closely. I spoke to President Xi. We're working very closely with China. And, honestly, I think, as tough as this negotiation was, I think our relationship with China now might be the best it's been in a long, long time."

He goes on, and on January 29 he said:

"Just received a briefing on the Coronavirus in China from all of our great agencies, who are also working closely with China. We will continue to monitor the ongoing developments. We have the best experts anywhere in the world, and they are on top of it 24/7!"

That is the former President of the United States.

What I think has to happen is that we must apply some of the very painful lessons from COVID-19. One of those lessons that we learned is we must strengthen our global health systems.

The pandemic agreement, if secured, could do just that. We learn from the past. It would help us, but if we do H.R. 1425, we would be effectively sending and torpedoing the United States' membership in the WHO's pandemic agreement.

Now, I know as, I said before, my Republican colleagues don't like to be a part of multilateral organizations. However, when we have a worldwide pandemic, it is multilateral organizations working collectively together that can save lives because it doesn't stay in one part of the world. It travels all over the world, and it means that we have to converse, negotiate, and work with others.

The world is much smaller today. You can't isolate it. We have got to work with people. Multilateral organizations are for that purpose. Often times our experts' voices lead. If you take our voices away, then it hurts the American public, the American people, and our friends and allies and others all around the world.

We have got to strengthen our multilateral relationships, especially when we are talking about WHO's pandemic agreement. That is because what that agreement aims to do is strengthen global pandemic prevention and strengthen preparedness and response. We can't let this noise and we can't allow Republicans to politicize the response of COVID pandemic and utilize antiscience-based policies to derail our diplomatic efforts. This is something that we really should be working together on to get done.

Doesn't it just make sense that we are part of the process of improving and moving forward for the next pandemic because we know it is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when the world will have it?

Don't you want to learn so the lives that we lost previously are no longer lost?

Preventing them should be our goal in a bipartisan way, not coming up with something that virtually takes away our negotiating power with the WHO and move forward.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, it seems that the ranking member feels confident that if this were exposed to the legislature of our own country that it would torpedo the agreement. That is what he said.

He also said, maybe in a different context, that if our voices are not heard, then America is weaker. Well, he joins a long line of members of his party who say things like: To protect our democracy, we have to avoid democratic processes. We can't allow the people's voice to be heard. We have to use the elite to protect everyone, people who know best. Frankly, if we can't just do it within the Biden-Harris administration, we should do it as partisan globalist institutions and not let it be subject to scrutiny.

In fact, maybe he is on to something. Secretary Blinken, when he testified before our committee last, said that he has remaining concerns.

We don't know that this is a final draft because the Secretary of State says that he has lingering concerns, and he is not sure before his term ends as Secretary of State that they can reach a final agreement.

He is not sure that he can.

Why?

It is because he has concerns about intellectual property infringements and things that would hurt the sovereignty of our own country. This subjects the agreement, frankly, to what article 19 of the WHO constitution says. It states that such agreements be submitted to each member state for review "in accordance with its constitutional process."

The World Health Assembly in May, the World Health Organization Director-General promised that any agreement "will go to the parliaments for consideration and ratification."

This administration wants to avoid that, and their proxies here in the House want to make sure they can get away with it. That is what this bill is about.

I, again, thank Mr. TOM TIFFANY from Wisconsin for introducing this bill and Chairman McCaul for moving it through committee and to the floor.

What the other side is claiming is that Congress should not have any role in addressing a sweeping international health treaty that will affect the health, finances, and freedoms of American citizens, and I think it is dead wrong. This bill is the minimum due diligence that we owe the American people.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for H.R. 1425, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the esteemed gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE). My colleague is the ranking member on the Committee on Appropriations' State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank our ranking member, Mr. MEEKS, for his tremendous leadership on so many fronts especially as it relates to global peace and security. I thank him for yielding me time.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1425. Now, we have all seen and felt how global health threats don't respect borders. Any serious global health response requires cooperation, not finger-pointing. This partisan bill doesn't provide any pathway to protecting Americans and the world from the next pandemic.

The good news is that we have an alternative, a positive example of how to build a global health partnership. I am talking about the effort to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Mr. Chair, 20 years ago, AIDS was a death sentence for millions. Entire countries and communities were literally facing oblivion.

I, along with the Congressional Black Caucus, worked with President George W. Bush and top Republicans like Senate Republican leader Bill Frist and House Foreign Affairs Chair Henry Hyde to create PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

I believe now probably only about 20 to 25 percent of Members who are presently serving were here when we passed this first major global health initiative.

Today, PEPFAR is the most successful assistance program in history. PEPFAR investments have helped save 25 million lives. That is what we did. Seven million orphans and vulnerable children have received support, and 5½ million babies have been born HIV-free.

This success has led Congress to extend PEPFAR three times. Last year, for the first time, Congress failed to do this despite bipartisan support. I have spoken at length with many Members on both sides of the aisle, and both sides of the aisle, the Members, continue supporting PEPFAR's work. However, Republican leadership seems to prefer divisive bills like H.R. 1425 instead of bipartisan bills like PEPFAR. They are choosing divisiveness over cooperation and results.

This is just a 5-year extension with no changes. That is all we are asking for.

Mr. Chair, PEPFAR also, you have to understand, is a key national security priority. The world is watching. We are trying to show people in other countries that the United States should be their preferred partner, of course, instead of China, for example.

What message does it send when we walk away from our commitments before the job is done?

Yes, we all are committed to an AIDS-free generation by 2030, and that

is why a 5-year extension is extremely important.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would reauthorize PEPFAR for another 5 years, just as we have in the past three times, to ensure that the United States keeps its commitment to finally defeat HIV and AIDS for everyone everywhere.

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

Ms. Lee of California moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 1425, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "PEPFAR Extension Act of 2024".

#### SEC. 2. INSPECTORS GENERAL AND ANNUAL STUDY.

Section 101 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7611) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (f)(1)—
  - (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "March 25 of fiscal year 2025" and inserting "2030"; and
  - (B) in subparagraph (C)(iv)—
    - (i) by striking "nine" and inserting "14"; and
    - (ii) by striking "2025" and inserting "2030"; and
  - (2) in subsection (g)—
    - (A) in paragraph (1), by striking "2024" and inserting "2031"; and
    - (B) in paragraph (2)—
      - (i) in the heading, by striking "2024" and inserting "2031"; and
      - (ii) by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "September 30, 2031".

#### SEC. 3. PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA.

Section 202(d) of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7622(d)) is amended—

- (1) in paragraph (4)—
  - (A) in subparagraph (A)—
    - (i) in clause (i), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030"; and
    - (ii) in clause (ii), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030"; and
    - (B) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030"; and
  - (2) in paragraph (5), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030".

#### SEC. 4. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.

Section 403 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7673) is amended—

- (1) in subsection (b), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030"; and
- (2) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2030".

Ms. LEE of California. I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

First, I thank my colleague, the indomitable Congresswoman from California, BARBARA LEE, for her remarks on the bill and on PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. She is a true leader and a tremendous advocate on many issues, but especially on PEPFAR.

I support her bill that reauthorizes PEPFAR. As she stated, it is one of the most successful U.S.-led global health interventions ever. She did it in a bipartisan way with a Republican President and Republican Senate. That is the way we used to do business around here.

PEPFAR, as she said, has saved over 25 million lives in more than 50 countries. I was pleased by the statements made by my Foreign Affairs Committee chair, my friend who I have talked to about this bill over and over again, MIKE McCaul, during a hearing we had where we recognized the importance of PEPFAR's programming in Africa.

Chairman McCaul emphasized the need to ensure the extension of PEPFAR, "a 20-year success story." He highlighted the President of Botswana's gratitude toward PEPFAR, who noted its public health impacts have saved a generation.

I was pleased by Africa Subcommittee Chair JOHN JAMES, who today praised PEPFAR as the most successful foreign policy tool since the Marshall Plan and declared we have to have a long-term reauthorization plan—bipartisanship at its best—and recognition of the value of PEPFAR.

The unprecedented 1-year reauthorization has done little to reassure our African partners, our diplomatic corps, and PEPFAR implementers that Congress is committed to ending the scourge of HIV/AIDS once and for all.

We must have a clean 5-year reauthorization of PEPFAR, and I am willing to work with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stop playing politics with people's lives and get a clean 5-year reauthorization done.

I work with MIKE McCaul. I work with JOHN JAMES. I work with my colleagues on the other side, especially on this committee, in a bipartisan way. We work with Republicans in the Senate. We worked with a Republican President. This should not be something that is difficult to get done.

I, again, thank Congresswoman LEE for her leadership, for her vision, and for saving millions of lives. I agree with her that H.R. 1425 is a distraction from responsible global health legislation.

Let's keep PEPFAR in bills that target malaria, tuberculosis, and other neglected tropical diseases. Let's get rid of them collectively together for all time.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Just a reminder to all of our colleagues following this vigorous debate that this bill is not about PEPFAR. This bill is about the administration's desire to enter into a treaty with the World Health Organization to surrender our sovereignty without following our constitutional process.

This bill would require the Senate to ratify a treaty. If it is going to have the binding force of law on future administrations, that is what our process requires in our Constitution, and frankly, it is what is acknowledged by the World Health Organization itself. It is what they are expecting of other countries, but somehow the Biden-Harris administration doesn't expect it of us and, sadly, their proxies don't either.

The other side mentioned in their debate that viruses don't recognize boundaries, that pandemics don't recognize borders, but the reality is the response does. We saw very different responses around the world, some pretty alarming and downright dystopian. If the World Health Organization chose to do that, America should sovereignly make its choice for our country, for how we react to it.

Of course, that is what is going to happen. Admittedly, some future administration might move in lockstep with the World Health Organization, but without the effect of a treaty, the United States certainly isn't obligated to, and perhaps that is a good thing.

Maybe it is a good thing that they are going to skip this. Maybe the administration will avoid it coming up in the Senate. Maybe the administration would veto it if we did get it over the finish line, but certainly, we should never surrender our sovereignty to the World Health Organization, in particular.

I thank Mr. TIFFANY for introducing this bill and Chairman McCaul for moving it through our committee and to the floor.

Mr. Chair, I encourage all of our colleagues to support H.R. 1425, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I am a proud cosponsor of Rep. TIFFANY's H.R. 1425, No WHO pandemic Treaty Without Senate Approval Act. H.R. 1425 would ensure that any international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response agreed to by the World Health Assembly is deemed a treaty and thereby sent to the Senate for "Advice and Consent".

In my 45 years in Congress, I have seen time and time again efforts by the World Health Organization (WHO) to expand authorities and ideologically colonize vulnerable countries using foreign assistance—the majority of it funded by U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Once again, but now in a manner that is most concerning to me—through a treaty—they plan to exploit people's fears of the next pandemic in order to execute and bind Leftist ideological pursuits, disguised as supporting "equity", "essential health services", and the

like, all the while trampling on U.S. sovereignty, threatening intellectual property rights and free speech, and promoting or funding abortion.

The approach to drafting this treaty has also been disturbing—the lack of transparency, the backroom negotiations, support for the WHO power grab, placing unknown financial obligations for U.S. taxpayers—while benefitting China at the expense of the United States.

Can Americans even trust the World Health Organization? Has WHO earned back our trust after the devastating blow we experienced from their horrific mismanagement and coverup of PRC involvement of the COVID-19 pandemic?

No, they haven't.

We weren't even going to be given a chance to see the final negotiated text before the treaty's presentation at the World Health Assembly this past May. Luckily, the negotiators could not reach an agreement in time (but may do so before the end of this year).

From day one, we have been pressing the Biden Administration for transparency, to protect U.S. sovereignty from unelected WHO bureaucrats, and to commit to sending the proposed WHO Pandemic Treaty to the Senate for a real review before the U.S. government makes any agreement. This agreement is far too important to not receive a proper Congressional review and debate. Millions of taxpayer dollars are at stake.

Will President Biden, make the treaty's final draft public so that taxpayers can review this treaty? So that civil society and the private sector can review it? So that U.S. Congress can review and debate it?

So far, our demands have not been heeded.

It is an absolute affront to our sovereignty to hand over critical health authorities to these unelected bureaucrats—with no accountability whatsoever—and empower them to dictate policies to U.S. medical professionals and U.S. taxpayers when it comes to vaccines, therapeutics, and the like.

Using potential pandemics as a pretext to violate the principles of good governance erodes trust and undermines international cooperation when it is most needed.

And we most certainly won't be signing a blank check. The American taxpayer should not be fleeced like this.

Binding international covenants, treaties, or agreements—and the legal obligations imposed on nations—requires serious and comprehensive analysis and must be sent to the Senate for "Advice and Consent".

I urge all members of Congress to do their duty and vote in favor of H.R. 1425.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. McCLELLAN). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-44 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1425

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "No WHO Pandemic Preparedness Treaty Without Senate Approval Act".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

*Congress makes the following findings:*

(1) *On May 18, 2020, President Donald Trump sent a letter to World Health Organization (referred to in this Act as "WHO") Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (referred to in this Act as the "Director-General"), announcing that—*

(A) *United States contributions to WHO would be halted due its mismanagement of the COVID-19 outbreak and its lack of independence from the People's Republic of China; and*

(B) *the United States would withdraw from WHO if it did not commit to substantive improvements within 30 days.*

(2) *President Trump's May 18 letter cited numerous instances of WHO mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic, including—*

(A) *unjustified delays informing member states about a potentially serious disease outbreak in Wuhan, China; and*

(B) *repeated grossly inaccurate or misleading claims about the transmissibility of the virus and about the Government of China's handling of the outbreak.*

(3) *On June 30, 2020, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo formally notified the United Nations of the United States decision to withdraw from WHO, which would have taken effect on July 6, 2021, under the terms of a joint resolution adopted by Congress on June 14, 1948 (Public Law 80-643; 62 Stat. 441).*

(4) *A Pew Research Center survey conducted in April and May 2020 indicated that 51 percent of Americans felt that WHO had done a poor or fair job in managing the COVID-19 pandemic.*

(5) *On January 20, 2021, President Joseph Biden sent United Nations Director-General António Guterres a letter retracting the United States notice of withdrawal from WHO.*

(6) *On December 1, 2021, at the second special session of the World Health Assembly (referred to in this Act as the "WHA") decided—*

(A) *to establish an intergovernmental negotiating body (referred to in this section as the "INB") to draft and negotiate a WHO convention (referred to in this section as the "Convention"), agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, with a view to adoption under Article 19 or any other provision of the WHO Constitution; and*

(B) *that the INB shall submit a progress report to the Seventy-sixth WHA and a working draft of the convention for consideration by the Seventy-seventh WHA, which is scheduled to take place beginning on March 18, 2024.*

(7) *On February 24, March 14 and 15, and June 6 through 8 and 15 through 17, 2022, the INB held its inaugural meeting at which the Director-General proposed the following 5 themes to guide the INB's work in drafting the Convention:*

(A) *Building national, regional, and global capacities based on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.*

(B) *Establishing global access and benefit sharing for all pathogens, and determining a global policy for the equitable production and distribution of countermeasures.*

(C) *Establishing robust systems and tools for pandemic preparedness and response.*

(D) *Establishing a long-term plan for sustainable financing to ensure support for global health threat management and response systems.*

(E) *Empowering WHO to fulfill its mandate as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work, including for pandemic preparedness and response.*

(8) *On July 18 through 22, 2022, the INB held its second meeting at which it agreed that the Convention would be adopted under Article 19*

of the WHO Constitution and legally binding on the parties.

(9) On December 5 through 7, 2022, the INB held its third meeting at which it accepted a conceptual zero draft of the Convention and agreed to prepare a zero draft for consideration at the INB's next meeting.

(10) In early January 2023, an initial draft of the Convention was sent to WHO member states in advance of its formal introduction at the fourth meeting of the INB, which is scheduled for February 27 through March 3, 2023. The draft includes broad and binding provisions, including rules governing parties' access to pathogen genomic sequences and how the products or benefits of such access are to be distributed.

(11) Section 723.3 of title 11 of the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Manual states that when "determining whether any international agreement should be brought into force as a treaty or as an international agreement other than a treaty, the utmost care is to be exercised to avoid any invasion or compromise of the constitutional powers of the President, the Senate, and the Congress as a whole" and includes the following criteria to be considered when determining whether an international agreement should take the form of a treaty or an executive agreement:

(A) "The extent to which the agreement involves commitments or risks affecting the nation as a whole".

(B) "Whether the agreement is intended to affect state laws".

(C) "Whether the agreement can be given effect without the enactment of subsequent legislation by the Congress".

(D) "Past U.S. practice as to similar agreements".

(E) "The preference of the Congress as to a particular type of agreement".

(F) "The degree of formality desired for an agreement".

(G) "The proposed duration of the agreement, the need for prompt conclusion of an agreement, and the desirability of concluding a routine or short-term agreement".

(H) "The general international practice as to similar agreements".

### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a significant segment of the American public is deeply skeptical of the World Health Organization, its leadership, and its independence from the pernicious political influence of certain member states, including the People's Republic of China;

(2) Congress strongly prefers that any agreement related to pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response adopted by the World Health Assembly pursuant to the work of the INB be considered a treaty requiring the advice and consent of the Senate, with two-thirds of Senators concurring;

(3) the scope of the agreement which the INB has been tasked with drafting, as outlined by the Director-General, is so broad that any application of the factors referred to in section 2(11) will weigh strongly in favor of it being considered a treaty; and

(4) given the level of public distrust, any relevant new agreement by the World Health Assembly which cannot garner the two-thirds vote needed for Senate ratification should not be agreed to or implemented by the United States.

### SEC. 4. ANY WORLD HEALTH AGENCY CONVENTION OR AGREEMENT OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT RESULTING FROM THE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATING BODY'S FINAL REPORT DEEMED TO BE A TREATY SUBJECT TO ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly pursuant to the rec-

ommendations, report, or work of the International Negotiating Body established by the second special session of the World Health Assembly is deemed to be a treaty that is subject to the requirements of article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States, which requires the advice and consent of the Senate, with two-thirds of Senators concurring.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118-656. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 118-656.

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:

Redesignate section 4 as section 5 and insert after section 3 the following:

#### SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to unequivocally support Taiwan's full participation in the World Health Organization.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, 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, this amendment would make it the policy of our Nation to advocate for Taiwan's full participation in the World Health Organization.

For far too long, we have allowed Communist China to dictate the course of U.S. foreign policy as well as the agenda and membership of every major international organization, including the United Nations. This decades-long policy of global appeasement to the CCP came home to roost 4 years ago.

Decades upon decades of giving in to China has left Taiwan with fewer and fewer allies. In the late 1990s, over 30 countries recognized Taiwan. Now, the number is down to 12. Much of the world has placed Taiwan in the company of pariah states like North Korea and Iran.

Because the world allowed the PRC's pressure campaign against Taiwan to succeed, no one listened when Taiwan tried to warn the World Health Organization of possible human-to-human transmission of the coronavirus on December 31, 2019. No one listened to them when Taiwanese health experts visited Wuhan and found indications of human-to-human transmission in mid-January 2020. In fact, at the same time, the WHO released a statement declar-

ing no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission of the coronavirus.

Mr. Chair, we lost weeks. We lost weeks of preparation against the ravaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our Nation all because Communist China told the world that under no circumstance could Taiwan be given a seat at the table at the World Health Organization.

We can only guess how many untold thousands of American lives were lost as a result. We do know, however, that decade after decade of U.S. foreign policymaking has prioritized appeasing the PRC over the security of the American people, and it needs to stop.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment as we need to expand Taiwan's international space and enable its participation in international forums.

Taiwan is a friend, a democracy, and a critical part of the international community. As such, Taiwan should be contributing its expertise and participating as an observer in the World Health Assembly.

This is why last Congress, when I was chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I helped get S. 812 signed into law to direct the State Department to support Taiwan's participation at the World Health Organization and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly.

As a result, the Biden-Harris administration has consistently pushed for greater participation by Taiwan at the WHO. This amendment sends another signal to the WHO as to where the U.S. Congress stands.

I agree with Mr. OGLES' amendment, but I do think that we should be precise and careful in how we talk about important policy matters.

I want to emphasize that I read this amendment as being consistent with the spirit of current U.S. policy, which supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHO's World Health Assembly.

Supporting Taiwan's full membership in the WHO, however, is inconsistent with U.S. policy and would undermine our longstanding One China policy, given Taiwan is not a U.N. member state.

Taiwan should, as I believe this amendment properly states, have full observer status in the WHO, so I urge all of my colleagues to support Mr. OGLES' amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the comments of my colleague because

we should show our support and allegiance to Taiwan, nor should we placate the People's Republic of China regarding Taiwan. We are, in fact, making war more likely, not less, if we allow the Chinese Communist Party to have influence over our policy on such things as Taiwan's participation in the WHO.

We cannot and should not surrender our national sovereignty out of fear. This is the definition of weakness, and weakness invites aggression. If the Communists in Beijing don't think we have established a credible deterrence, they will attack Taiwan. They will consider attacking Taiwan.

I know my colleagues and I agree that Taiwan is an ally to the people and nations of good around the world. They want to work with the United States. They want to help, as they did in April 2020 when Taiwan provided free personal protective equipment to our Nation at a time when it was scarce.

Communist China, on the other hand, would rather cover up a deadly virus, wasting weeks and resulting in the deaths of untold hundreds of thousands if not millions. They are more worried about their reputation. That is an atrocity. It is appalling, and we need to recognize the fact that the existential threat to the United States of America is China. At every turn, they work to undermine us, and I, for one, have had enough.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman McCaul for his support, and I urge adoption of my amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. OGLES. 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 Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. FOXX

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 118-656.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. 5. NO FORCE OR EFFECT TO TREATY PRIOR TO RATIFICATION.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response deemed to be a treaty by section 4—

(1) shall have no force or effect under the laws of the United States before the date on which such treaty is ratified with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(2) may not be used, prior to such date, to establish or demonstrate the existence of a

violation of United States law or an offense against the law of nations in United States courts, including—

(A) to establish standing, a cause of action, or damages as a matter of law; or

(B) to demonstrate whether an action by a Federal agency is arbitrary or capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, the United States must never relinquish its sovereignty. Without question, we must work to ensure that, in the eloquent words of President Lincoln during the "Gettysburg Address": "This government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

The power bestowed upon our government is derived from the will of the American people, not by foreign governments or organizations that siphon away our money as if we were a cash cow.

Foreign entities, such as the World Health Organization, or WHO, should never be allowed to corrode America's sovereignty and hand down edicts to the American people. We chart our own course, and we will not be deterred from doing so.

We should be even more skeptical of foreign entities, like the WHO, that are bedfellows with Communist China. China and its international cabal of bureaucrats would love nothing more than to have the United States follow their direction and the direction of their puppets like mindless lemmings.

They are hell-bent on controlling our God-given freedoms at the expense of our livelihoods. This cannot and will not be allowed to stand.

My amendment strengthens the underlying bill to ensure that H.R. 1425 will slam the door on any attempt to allow international bureaucrats at the WHO to undermine U.S. sovereignty and the will of the people.

My amendment clarifies that no WHO convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, or response can have any force or effect in U.S. law before or unless the Senate ratifies such a treaty.

This includes the clarification that no WHO agreement may be used to establish standing to sue under U.S. law or to challenge U.S. agency actions. Only if the American people's Representatives have spoken, with two-thirds of the Senate ratifying any WHO agreement, should it be allowed to have any impact on U.S. law.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. The draft pandemic agreement advances global health security without impacting the United States' international sovereignty. The draft agreement explicitly states that it does not give the WHO any power to dictate specific policy to member nations and that member states may implement the policies according to their own sovereign laws.

Many of the issues the United States delegation in Geneva is currently negotiating in the draft pandemic agreement are to ensure a final agreement is in compliance with U.S. laws rather than subverting them.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons and others, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this misleading amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I am, frankly, surprised at my colleague for opposing an amendment that does nothing more than strengthen this piece of legislation. This amendment ensures that we do not violate our national sovereignty. I think it is the right thing to do.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, it is explicit in the agreement that our sovereignty is not threatened, so this is duplicative, and that is why I oppose it.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I reiterate what I said a few minutes ago. I respect my colleague from New York (Mr. MEEKS), but what harm does it do to put belts and suspenders on a bill?

The gentleman says it is not needed. It takes up a few words more. It is not going to have any negative effect on the national debt, but it makes it abundantly clear that no organization, particularly the WHO, can order this country to do anything under any kind of an agreement without a vote of the United States Senate, as we would do with any kind of treaty or other agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment, strengthen the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118-656.

Mr. MASSIE. 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 6, after line 17, insert the following:

(12) Article II, Section 2 of the United States Constitution provides that the President "shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators present concur".

(13) Alexander Hamilton writes in Federalist Paper #75 regarding the Treaty Making Powers of the Executive that "Its objects are CONTRACTS with foreign nations, which have the force of law, but derive it from the obligations of good faith. They are not rules prescribed by the sovereign to the subject, but agreements between sovereign and sovereign. The power in question seems therefore to form a distinct department, and to belong, properly, neither to the legislative nor to the Executive. The qualities elsewhere detailed as indispensable in the management of foreign negotiations, point out the Executive as the most fit agent in those transactions; while the vast importance of the trust, and the operation of treaties as laws, plead strongly for the participation of the whole or a portion of the legislative body in the office of making them".

(14) If any provisions of a treaty are to have legal bearing on United States citizens those provisions must pass both the United States House of Representatives and the Senate and be presented to the President, as all Federal laws must.

(15) The United States Constitution establishes a clear framework for making treaties by the Executive and with the advice and consent of the Senate. This process is indispensable for the Founders' vision of constitutional government.

(16) The United States House of Representatives does not vote for, ratify, affirm, or consent to treaties.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment, which simply recognizes that the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land. Our Constitution establishes a very clear framework for making treaties by the executive and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Our Constitution also establishes a clear framework for making laws that affect our domestic affairs. If any provisions of a treaty are to have legal bearing on United States citizens, those provisions must pass both the United States House of Representatives and the Senate and be presented to the President, as all Federal laws must.

Treaties don't override our constitutional process for making law. Presidents can't make U.S. law by agreeing to new terms in an international treaty. Every law that American citizens live under must pass the House and the Senate.

My colleagues have eloquently made the point that a President can't enter into a treaty without the advice and consent of the Senate, and, in doing so, they are standing up for the sov-

ereignty of American citizens. They are requiring the Senate to be that portion of the legislative branch that decides what laws will bear on citizens, depending on what the treaty is.

My amendment here is very simple. It says that, if a treaty has a law in it that has a bearing on United States citizens, on our domestic activities, then it has to follow the lawmaking process of the Constitution.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment because it is within the President's authority to negotiate treaties and agreements without Senate ratification. While inserting findings clarifying the role of Congress and ratifying treaties would be entirely appropriate for a treaty under recognition, the draft pandemic agreement is not a treaty.

As I have previously stated, the United States President has the option of acceding to a treaty or agreement through executive action alone without the advice or consent of the Senate.

Over 90 percent of all U.S. international legal agreements have been approved via executive action rather than normal or formal Senate approval. These findings insinuate that the Biden-Harris administration is attempting to sidestep the Senate in these pandemic agreement negotiations. This is absolutely, 100 percent wrong.

Mr. Chairman, it is for these reasons that I urge all of my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, the bulk of my speech in support of my amendment actually doesn't come from me. It is going to come from Alexander Hamilton, who describes in Federalist 75 the treaty-making powers of the executive. He states: "Its objects are contracts with foreign nations, which have the force of law, but derive it from the obligations of good faith."

This is the most important part: "They are not rules prescribed by the sovereign to the subject, but agreements between sovereign and sovereign. The power in question seems therefore to form a distinct department, and to belong, properly, neither to the legislative nor to the executive. The qualities elsewhere detailed as indispensable in the management of foreign negotiations, point out the executive as the most fit agent in those transactions; while the vast importance of the trust, and the operation of treaties as laws, plead strongly for the participation of the whole or a portion of the legislative body in the office of making them."

What is he saying here? He is saying domestic laws can't be made using a treaty. Treaties can't bind the United

States to declare war. Treaties can't raise taxes. Treaties can't create new laws for us. The United States should not take part in international institutions that erode our sovereignty. Congress should not legitimize blatantly unconstitutional notions that agreements that come out of these institutions supersede the Constitution of the United States.

Mr. Chairman, I will close by saying this: Do we believe that the Senate itself and the President, without consulting the House, could implement a vaccine mandate by merely calling it a treaty and finding another sovereign party to enter into it with? I do not.

Do we believe that they could implement or impose social distancing on U.S. citizens by calling it a treaty and finding another sovereign to enter into an agreement with? I do not. They have to come to the House.

Let's take the example of gun control. By the way, this is not a hypothetical. Do we think they could impose gun control on U.S. citizens in a treaty with the United Nations and some other sovereign countries merely with the advice and consent of the Senate? That would take two-thirds or 67 votes in the Senate, but it could completely leave out the House of Representatives. No, they cannot do that. That is outside of our Constitution. We are guaranteed a Republican form of government with a legislature that makes the laws that bear on citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I will close with this most important part of my amendment, which says: "If any provisions of a treaty are to have legal bearing on United States citizens those provisions must pass both the House of Representatives and the Senate and be presented to the President, as all Federal laws must."

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I support the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1430

Mr. DAVIDSON. 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. LAMALFA) having assumed the chair, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, 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. 1425) to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1620

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STRONG) at 4 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.

#### NO WHO PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS TREATY WITHOUT SENATE APPROVAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430 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. 1425.

Will the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) kindly take the chair.

□ 1621

#### 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. 1425) to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, with Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose earlier today, amendment No. 3, printed in part B of House Report 118-656, offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) had been disposed of.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in part B of House Report 118-656, offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), 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 403, noes 0, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 409]

AYES—403

Adams	Armstrong	Banks
Aderholt	Arrington	Barr
Aguilar	Auchincloss	Barragán
Alford	Babin	Bean (FL)
Allen	Bacon	Beatty
Allred	Baird	Bentz
Amo	Balderson	Bera
Amodei	Balint	Bergman

Beyer	Fleischmann	Lesko	Salazar	Spartz	Trone
Bice	Fletcher	Letlow	Salinas	Stansbury	Turner
Biggs	Flood	Levin	Sánchez	Stanton	Underwood
Bilirakis	Fong	Lieu	Barbanes	Stauber	Valadao
Bishop (GA)	Foster	Lofgren	Scanlon	Steel	Van Drew
Bishop (NC)	Foushee	Lopez	Schakowsky	Stefanik	Van Duyne
Blumenauer	Foxx	Loudermilk	Schiff	Steil	Van Orden
Blunt Rochester	Frankel, Lois	Luetkemeyer	Schneider	Steube	Vargas
Boebert	Franklin, Scott	Luna	Scholten	Stevens	Veasey
Bonamici	Frost	Luttrell	Schriner	Strickland	Walberg
Bost	Fulcher	Mace	Schweikert	Strong	Waltz
Boyle (PA)	Gaetz	Magaziner	Scott (VA)	Suozzi	Wasserman
Brecheen	Gallego	Malliotakis	Scott, Austin	Swalwell	Schultz
Brown	Garbarino	Mast	Scott, David	Sykes	Waterson
Buchanan	Garcia (IL)	Maloy	Self	Takano	Waterson
Bucshon	Garcia (TX)	Mann	Sessions	Tenney	Watson Coleman
Budzinski	Garcia, Mike	Manning	Sherman	Thanedar	Weber (TX)
Burchett	Garcia, Robert	Massie	Sherrill	Thompson (CA)	Webster (FL)
Burgess	Gimenez	Mast	Simpson	Thompson (PA)	Wenstrup
Burlison	Golden (ME)	Matsui	Slotkin	Tiffany	Westerman
Bush	Goldman (NY)	McBath	Smith (MO)	Timmons	Wild
Calvert	Gomez	McCaull	Smith (NE)	Titus	Williams (GA)
Cammack	Gonzales, Tony	McClain	Smith (NJ)	Tlaib	Williams (NY)
Caraveo	Gonzalez, V.	McClellan	Smith (WA)	Tokuda	Williams (TX)
Carbajal	González-Colón	McClintock	Smucker	Tonko	Wittman
Cárdenas	Good (VA)	McCullum	Sorensen	Torres (CA)	Womack
Carey	Gooden (TX)	McCormick	Soto	Torres (NY)	Yakym
Carl	Gottheimer	McGarvey	Spanberger	Trahan	Zinke
Carson	Graves (LA)	McGovern			
Carter (GA)	Graves (MO)	Meeks			
Carter (TX)	Green (TN)	Menendez			
Cartwright	Green, Al (TX)	Meng			
Casar	Greene (GA)	Meuser			
Case	Griffith	Mfume			
Casten	Grothman	Miller (IL)			
Castor (FL)	Guest	Miller (OH)			
Castro (TX)	Guthrie	Miller (WV)			
Chavez-DeRemer	Hageman	Miller-Meeks			
Cherifius-	Harder (CA)	Mills			
McCormick	Harris	Molinaro			
Chu	Harshbarger	Moolenaar			
Ciscomani	Hayes	Mooney			
Clark (MA)	Hern	Moore (AL)			
Clarke (NY)	Higgins (LA)	Moore (UT)			
Cleaver	Hill	Moran			
Cline	Himes	Morelle			
Cloud	Hinson	Moskowitz			
Clyburn	Horsford	Moulton			
Clyde	Houchin	Mrvan			
Cohen	Hoyle (OR)	Mullin			
Cole	Hudson	Murphy			
Collins	Huffman	Nadler			
Comer	Huizenga	Napolitano			
Connolly	Issa	Neal			
Correa	Ivey	Neguse			
Costa	Jackson (IL)	Nehls			
Courtney	Jackson (NC)	Newhouse			
Craig	Jackson (TX)	Nickel			
Crane	Jacobs	Norcross			
Crawford	James	Norman			
Crenshaw	Jeffries	Norton			
Crow	Johnson (LA)	Nunn (IA)			
Cuellar	Johnson (SD)	Obernolte			
Curtis	Jordan	Ocasio-Cortez			
D'Esposito	Joyce (OH)	Ogles			
Davids (KS)	Joyce (PA)	Omar			
Davidson	Kamlager-Dove	Owens			
Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Pallone			
Davis (NC)	Kean (NJ)	Palmer			
De La Cruz	Keating	Panetta			
Dean (PA)	Kelly (IL)	Pappas			
DeGette	Kelly (MS)	Pence			
DeLauro	Kelly (PA)	Perez			
DeBene	Kennedy	Perry			
DeSaulnier	Khanna	Petersen			
Díaz-Balart	Kiggans (VA)	Pfluger			
Dingell	Kildee	Phillips			
Doggett	Kiley	Pingree			
Donalds	Kilmer	Plaskett			
Duarte	Kim (CA)	Pocan			
Duncan	Kim (NJ)	Porter			
Dunn (FL)	Krishnamoorthi	Pressley			
Edwards	Kuster	Ramirez			
Ellzey	Kustoff	Raskin			
Emmer	LaHood	Reschenthaler			
Escobar	LaLota	Rodgers (WA)			
Eshoo	LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)			
Espaillat	Lamborn	Rogers (KY)			
Estes	Landsman	Rose			
	Langworthy	Rosendale			
	Larsen (WA)	Ross			
	Larson (CT)	Rouzer			
	Latta	Roy			
	LaTurner	Ruiz			
	Lee (CA)	Rulli			
	Lee (FL)	Ruppersberger			
	Lee (NV)	Rutherford			
	Lee (PA)	Ryan			

#### NOT VOTING—34

Brownley	Jayapal	Radewagen
Carter (LA)	Johnson (GA)	Sablan
Crockett	Lawler	Scalise
DesJarlais	Leger Fernandez	Sewell
Evans	McHenry	Thompson (MS)
Garamendi	Moore (WI)	Vasquez
Gosar	Moylan	Wagner
Granger	Pelosi	Wexton
Grijalva	Peltola	Wilson (FL)
Houlahan	Peters	
Hoyer	Posey	
Hunt	Quigley	

□ 1647

Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. KEATING, and Ms. WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 409.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 409.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CRAWFORD). There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) having assumed the chair, Mr. CRAWFORD, 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. 1425) to require any convention, agreement, or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response reached by the World Health Assembly to be subject to Senate ratification, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1430, 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 further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The question is on the amendments.



Rutherford Stauber Van Orden  
 Salazar Steel Wagner  
 Scalise Stefanik Walberg  
 Schweikert Steil Waltz  
 Scott, Austin Steube Weber (TX)  
 Scott, David Strong Webster (FL)  
 Self Tenney Wenstrup  
 Sessions Thompson (PA) Westerman  
 Simpson Tiffany Williams (NY)  
 Smith (MO) Timmons Williams (TX)  
 Smith (NE) Turner Wittman  
 Smith (NJ) Valadao Womack  
 Smucker Van Drew Yakym  
 Spartz Van Duyne Zinke

NAYS—199

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

NOT VOTING—13

Brownley Granger Quigley  
 DesJarlais Grijalva Wexton  
 Edwards Jayapal Wilson (SC)  
 Evans Lawler  
 Garamendi Peltola

□ 1706

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY changed her vote from “present” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**PROTECT AMERICA'S INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC SECURITY FROM CCP ACT OF 2024**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1398) to establish the CCP Initiative program, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

**MOTION TO RECOMMIT**

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Veasey of Texas moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1398 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 203, nays 214, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 412]

**YEAS—203**

Adams	Crockett	Jacobs
Aguilar	Crow	Jeffries
Allred	Cuellar	Johnson (GA)
Amo	Davids (KS)	Kamlager-Dove
Auchincloss	Davis (IL)	Kaptur
Balint	Davis (NC)	Keating
Barragán	Dean (PA)	Kelly (IL)
Beatty	DeGte	Kennedy
Bera	DeLaurio	Khanna
Beyer	DeBene	Kildee
Bishop (GA)	Deluzio	Kilmer
Blumenauer	DeSaunier	Kim (NJ)
Blunt Rochester	Dingell	Krishnamoorthi
Bonamici	Doggett	Kuster
Bowman	Escobar	Landsman
Boyle (PA)	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Brown	Espailat	Larson (CT)
Budzinski	Fletcher	Lee (CA)
Castro (TX)	Foster	Lee (NV)
Caraveo	Foushee	Lee (PA)
Carbalaj	Frankel, Lois	Leger Fernandez
Cárdenas	Frost	Levin
Carson	Gallego	Lieu
Carter (LA)	Garcia (IL)	Loftgren
Castañeda	Garcia (TX)	Lynch
Chu	Harder (CA)	McGovern
Clark (MA)	Hayes	Meeks
Clarke (NY)	Himes	Menendez
Cleaver	Horsford	Meng
Clyburn	Houlahan	Mfume
Cohen	Hoyer	Moore (WI)
Connolly	Hoyle (OR)	Morelle
Correa	Huffman	Moskowitz
Costa	Ivey	Moulton
Courtney	Jackson (IL)	Mrvan
Craig	Jackson (NC)	Mullin

Nadler	Salinas	Takano
Napolitano	Sánchez	Thanedar
Neal	Barbanes	Thompson (CA)
Neguse	Scanlon	Thompson (MS)
Nickel	Schakowsky	Titus
Norcross	Schiff	Tlaib
Ocasio-Cortez	Schneider	Tokuda
Omar	Scholten	Tonko
Pallone	Schrier	Torres (CA)
Panetta	Scott (VA)	Torres (NY)
Pappas	Scott, David	Trahan
Pelosi	Sewell	Trone
Perez	Sherman	Underwood
Peters	Sherrill	Vargas
Pettersen	Slotkin	Vasquez
Phillips	Smith (WA)	Veasey
Pingree	Sorensen	Velázquez
Pocan	Soto	Wasserman
Porter	Spanberger	Schultz
Pressley	Stansbury	Waters
Ramirez	Stanton	Watson Coleman
Raskin	Stevens	Wild
Ross	Strickland	Williams (GA)
Ruiz	Suozzi	Wilson (FL)
Ruppersberger	Swalwell	Sykes
Ryan		

**NAYS—214**

Aderholt	Fry	Meuser
Alford	Fulcher	Miller (IL)
Allen	Gaetz	Miller (OH)
Amodei	Garbarino	Miller (WV)
Armstrong	Garcia, Mike	Miller-Meeks
Arrington	Gimenez	Mills
Babin	Gonzales, Tony	Molinaro
Bacon	Gooden (TX)	Moolenaar
Baird	Gosar	Mooney
Balderson	Graves (LA)	Moore (AL)
Banks	Graves (MO)	Moore (UT)
Barr	Green (TN)	Moran
Bean (FL)	Greene (GA)	Nehls
Bentz	Griffith	Newhouse
Bergman	Grothman	Norman
Bice	Guest	Nunn (IA)
Biggs	Guthrie	Obernolte
Bilirakis	Hageman	Ogles
Bishop (NC)	Harris	Posey
Boebert	Harshbarger	Owens
Bost	Hern	Palmer
Brecheen	Higgins (LA)	Pence
Buchanan	Hill	Perry
Bucshon	Hinson	Pfluger
Burchett	Houchin	Reischenthaler
Burgess	Hudson	Rodgers (WA)
Burlison	Huizinga	Rogers (AL)
Calvert	Hunt	Rogers (KY)
Cammack	Issa	Rose
Carey	Jackson (TX)	Rosendale
Carl	James	Rouzer
Carter (GA)	Johnson (LA)	Roy
Carter (TX)	Johnson (SD)	Rulli
Chavez-DeRemer	Jordan	Rutherford
Ciscomani	Joyce (OH)	Salazar
Cline	Joyce (PA)	Scalise
Cloud	Kean (NJ)	Scalise
Clyde	Kelly (MS)	Schweikert
Cole	Kelly (PA)	Scott, Austin
Collins	Kiggans (VA)	Self
Comer	Kiley	Sessions
Crane	Kim (CA)	Simpson
DeLa Hood	LaLotta	Smith (MO)
Crenshaw	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)
Curtis	LaMalfa	Smucker
D'Esposito	Lamborn	Spartz
Fadow	Langworthy	Stauber
Finstad	Latta	Steel
Fitzgerald	LaTurner	Stefanik
Fitzpatrick	Lee (FL)	Tiffany
Fleming	Lesko	Timmons
Fleischmann	Letlow	Turner
Ferguson	Lopez	Strong
Finstad	Maloy	Tenney
Fitzgerald	Lucas	Thompson (PA)
Fitzpatrick	Luetkemeyer	Tiffey
Flood	Mann	Timmons
Fong	McAul	Valadao
Fox	McClintock	Webster (TX)
Franklin, Scott	McCormick	Wenstrup
Franklin, Scott	McHenry	Westerman



Raskin	Slotkin	Tonko
Ross	Smith (WA)	Torres (CA)
Ruiz	Sorenson	Torres (NY)
Ruppersberger	Soto	Trahan
Ryan	Spanberger	Trone
Salinas	Stansbury	Underwood
Sánchez	Stanton	Vargas
Sarbanes	Stevens	Vasquez
Scanlon	Strickland	Velázquez
Schakowsky	Suozzi	Veasey
Schiff	Swalwell	Wasserman
Schneider	Sykes	Schultz
Scholten	Takano	Waters
Schrier	Thanedar	Watson Coleman
Scott (VA)	Thompson (CA)	Wild
Scott, David	Thompson (MS)	Williams (GA)
Sewell	Titus	Wilson (FL)
Sherman	Tlaib	
Sherrell	Tokuda	

## NAYS—213

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

## NOT VOTING—15

Arrington	Granger	Quigley
Brownley	Grijalva	Turner
DesJarlais	Jayapal	Waltz
Evans	Lawler	Weston
Garamendi	Peltola	Wilson (SC)

## □ 1725

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 269, nays 149, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 415]

## YEAS—269

Aderholt	Feenstra	Latta	Adams	Frankel, Lois	Neguse
Alford	Ferguson	LaTurner	Aguilar	Frost	Nickel
Allen	Finstad	Lee (FL)	Amo	Garcia (IL)	Ocasio-Cortez
Amodei	Allred	Fischbach	Auchincloss	Garcia (TX)	Omar
Armstrong	Armstrong	Fitzgerald	Balint	Garcia, Robert	Pallone
Babin	Bacon	Fitzpatrick	Barragán	Goldman (NY)	Pelosi
Bacon	Bacon	Fleischmann	Beatty	Gomez	Peters
Baird	Bard	Flood	Bera	Gottheimer	Pingree
Balderson	Banks	Fong	Beyer	Green, Al (TX)	Pocan
Banks	Banks	Fox	Bilbao	Himes	Porter
Barr	Barr	Fulcher	Blumenauer	Hoyer	Pressley
Bean (FL)	Bean (FL)	Fitzgerald	Bowman	Huffman	Ramirez
Bentz	Bentz	Fleischmann	Boyle (PA)	Ivey	Raskin
Bergman	Babin	Flood	Brown	Jackson (IL)	Ross
Bice	Bacon	Fong	Bush	Jacobs	Ruiz
Biggs	Bard	Fox	Carbajal	Jeffries	Ruppersberger
Bilirakis	Balderson	Fry	Cárdenas	Johnson (GA)	Sánchez
Bishop (NC)	Banks	Garcia, Mike	Carson	Kamlager-Dove	Sarbanes
Boebert	Banks	Gimenez	Carter (LA)	Keating	Scanlon
Bost	Barr	Golden (ME)	Chu	Lilly (IL)	Schakowsky
Brecheen	Brecheen	Graves (LA)	Casten	Castor (FL)	Schiff
Buchanan	Buchanan	Graves (MO)	Clarke (NY)	Kilmel	Schneider
Bucshon	Bucshon	Green (TN)	Mast	Castro (TX)	Scott (VA)
Burchett	Blunt Rochester	Good (VA)	McCaul	Cherif	Sewell
Burgess	Boebert	Gooden (TX)	Clyburn	Cormick	Kuster
Burgess	Bost	Gosar	Cohen	Connolly	DeLoach
Burlison	Brecheen	Graves (LA)	Correa	Lofgren	Thompson (CA)
Calvert	Buchanan	Graves (MO)	Lynch	Costa	Thompson (MS)
Cammack	Bishop (NC)	Gonzalez, Tony	Costa	Matsui	Titus
Carey	Bishop (GA)	Gonzalez, V.	Crockett	McBath	Titus
Carl	Bishop (GA)	Good (VA)	Crow	McClellan	Tlaib
Carter (GA)	Bishop (GA)	Gooden (TX)	Davis (IL)	McClintock	Tokuda
Carter (TX)	Bishop (GA)	Gosar	McCollum	Tonko	
Chavez-DeRemer	Bishop (NC)	Graves (LA)	DeGraffenreid	McGarvey	Torres (CA)
Ciscomani	Bishop (GA)	Graves (MO)	DeLauro	McGovern	Torres (NY)
Cline	Bishop (GA)	Green (GA)	DelBene	Meeks	Trahan
Cloud	Bishop (GA)	Green (GA)	DeSaunier	Menendez	Trone
Clyde	Bishop (GA)	Griffith	Dingell	Meng	Underwood
Cole	Bishop (GA)	Grothman	Moore (UT)	Mifune	Vargas
Collins	Bishop (GA)	Guest	Escobar	Moore (WI)	Veasey
Comer	Bishop (GA)	Guthrie	Eshoo	Moulton	Velázquez
Crane	Bishop (GA)	Hageman	Espaiillat	Mullin	Waters
Crawford	Bishop (GA)	Caraveo	Fletcher	Nadler	Watson Coleman
Crenshaw	Bishop (GA)	Harder (CA)	Foster	Napolitano	Williams (GA)
Curtis	Bishop (GA)	Harris	Foushee	Neal	Wilson (FL)
D'Esposito	Bishop (GA)	Harshbarger			
Davidson	Bishop (GA)	Hayes			
De La Cruz	Bishop (GA)	Horn			
Diaz-Balart	Bishop (GA)	Houlihan			
Donalds	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Duarte	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Duncan	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Dunn (FL)	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Edwards	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Ellzey	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Emmer	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Estes	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Ezell	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Fallon	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Feenstra	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Ferguson	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Finstad	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Fischbach	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Fitzgerald	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Fitzpatrick	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Fleischmann	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Flood	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Fong	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Foxx	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Franklin, Scott	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Fry	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Fulcher	Bishop (GA)	Hough			
Arrington	Blitzkrieg	Blitzkrieg	Brownley	Granger	Peltola
Brownley	Blitzkrieg	Blitzkrieg	DesJarlais	Grijalva	Quigley
DesJarlais	Blitzkrieg	Blitzkrieg	Evans	Jayapal	Wexton
Evans	Blitzkrieg	Blitzkrieg	Garamendi	Lawler	Wilson (SC)

## NAYS—149

Scalise	Spartz	Van Orden
Scholten	Stanton	Vasquez
Schrir	Stauber	Wagner
Schweikert	Steel	Walberg
Scott, Austin	Stefanik	Waltz
Scott, David	Steil	Wasserman
Self	Steube	Schultz
Sessions	Strong	Weber (TX)
Sherrill	Swalwell	Webster (FL)
Simpson	Sykes	Wenstrup
Slotkin	Tenney	Westerman
Smith (MO)	Thompson (PA)	Wild
Smith (NE)	Tiffany	Williams (NY)
Smith (NJ)	Timmons	Williams (TX)
Smucker	Turner	Wittman
Sorensen	Valadao	Womack
Soto	Van Drew	Yakym
Spanberger	Van Duyne	Zinke

## NOT VOTING—12

NOT VOTING—12	NOT VOTING—12	NOT VOTING—12
Brownley	Granger	Peltola
DesJarlais	Grijalva	Quigley
Evans	Jayapal	Wexton
Garamendi	Lawler	Wilson (SC)

## □ 1732

Ms. LEE of Nevada changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. LAMALFA. 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.

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE APALACHEE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING**

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it has been a rough year in the 10th District of Georgia. We started out the year with the brutal and heinous murder of Laken Riley over at the University of Georgia, and then last Wednesday, at the Apalachee High School in Barrow County, we had an active shooter enter the school.

Christian Angulo, a 14-year-old student; Mason Schermerhorn, another 14-year-old student; Richard Aspinwall, a teacher and coach; and Christina Irimie, a teacher, lost their lives. Nine other people went to the hospital, and numerous people were hurt.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that our colleagues join us for a moment of silence to reflect and remember those people who lost their lives and their families and those people who are still healing from this incident.

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**MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF OFFICER DARRON BURKS**

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, this past week, north Texas laid to rest a sworn officer and beloved public servant, Officer Darron Burks, who tragically lost his life in the line of duty.

Long before anyone called me a Congresswoman, I was blessed to call Officer Burks a friend. I knew him before his time in law enforcement, when he proudly served his community as a public schoolteacher at Dallas Can Academy.

As a teacher, Darron inspired a generation of Dallas students to seek better for themselves, attain their degrees, and follow his example. He believed in practicing what he preached, and it was this dedication to his community that inspired him to complete police training.

Whether he was in front of a classroom or wearing a badge, Officer Burks was a shining example of servant leadership. He put his family, friends, and community before himself. His painful loss touches each and every one of us as we mourn his passing and celebrate his legacy.

On behalf of the people of north Texas who he loved and cherished, I wish to thank him one more time for his service and vow to honor his legacy of selfless servant leadership.

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**RECOGNIZING JONI CARRICO AS 2024 ANGEL IN ADOPTION**

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Joni Carrico of Graves County, Kentucky, on being chosen as the 2024 Angel in Adoption by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute.

Ms. Carrico has worked tirelessly with the Hope That Binds, a nonprofit organization based out of western Kentucky that aims to provide financial assistance for foster and adopted families.

Through Hope That Binds, a network of loving families is growing and expanding. To date, over 100 families have been assisted through the organization's fundraisers and grant program.

Throughout her time at Hope That Binds, Ms. Carrico has been a voice of advocacy in her church and community. Her service has provided much encouragement to the First Congressional District of Kentucky and our constituents. She remains an important voice for hopeful parents seeking to grow their families.

Ms. Carrico is an outstanding leader in west Kentucky, and her work impacts our community daily. I thank Ms. Carrico for supporting, connecting, and advocating for Kentucky families.

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**DREADED SCOURGE OF PORCH PIRATES**

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, ahoy gentlefolk of the high seas of legislation. We gather 'round to speak of a matter that plagues our shores and threatens our treasures: the dreaded scourge of porch pirates.

Aye, these scallywags who plunder packages from doorsteps are a blight upon our communities, a menace to honest folks awaiting their rightful booty.

But fear not, for Congress spots justice on the horizon: the Porch Pirates Act. This mighty bill preserves our treasure and brings justice to those who dare to steal what is not rightfully theirs.

No longer shall we be at the mercy of porch pirates. Under this noble act, thieves will face fines or even a stretch in the brig.

Muster up, fellow congressional sailors. Let's pass the Porch Pirates Act so honest folk can rest assured that their treasures are safe from those who would plunder 'em.

□ 1745

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**IN MEMORY OF LOIS RUTH CASON WOOTEN**

(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 mourn the loss of

Lois Ruth Cason Wooten, who sadly passed away at the age of 95.

Lois studied English and library sciences at the University of Georgia. She took her passion and expertise to work as the head librarian at Northside High School in Atlanta, Georgia.

After her time in Atlanta, Lois and her husband, Frank, moved to Savannah, Georgia, where they selflessly served the city in a myriad of ways.

Lois was greatly involved in the Savannah Symphony. She was greatly involved in the Savannah College of Art and Design and Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Wooten are survived by their beloved daughter, Ann, and their wonderful grandchildren.

Lois will always be remembered for her service in the Atlanta and the Savannah communities and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere condolences to the entire Wooten family. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and Lois' friends today.

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**IN REMEMBRANCE OF SEPTEMBER 11**

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

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, this morning at Ground Zero, we observed the 23rd anniversary of the worst terrorist attack on American soil.

I was living in Lower Manhattan that day, and I will never forget watching the second plane hit the South Tower and then seeing the soot-covered people walking up Hudson Street. I will never forget the overwhelming patriotism that New Yorkers and Americans around the country displayed in the face of that evil.

Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the first responders who returned day after day to Ground Zero, looking for signs of life and clearing the rubble, and to the survivors who helped rebuild and transform the city in Lower Manhattan.

Now it is our turn to take care of them. That is why Congress must pass the bipartisan 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act to permanently address the funding shortfalls in the World Trade Center Health Program.

Just like our military veterans, we owe it to the 9/11 survivors and first responders, who are true American patriots, to get this bill across the finish line.

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**WATER FOR CROPS IN CALIFORNIA**

(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, we recently had a field hearing in central

California facilitated by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ), chairman of the Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, and hosted by the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE).

We were talking about the water supply issue for the State of California. Why do my colleagues have to hear about water in California? These are the crops that California grows right here on this poster. Somewhere between 90 and 99 percent of them are grown in my home State.

If they aren't grown there, then U.S. consumers will not receive them. They would have to get them from somewhere else, some other country, with whatever quality and supply steadiness issues they might have there. It is important that the water supply in California continue to be directed to agriculture instead of directed to the Pacific Ocean.

We are losing tens of millions of acre-feet because we can't seem to harness the water with the existing dams we have because they let it all out due to dubious supposed environmental needs, whether it is fish, whether it is the smelt, which no longer really exists in the delta, so they find another smelt to call endangered and take more water away.

We need water for agriculture to feed this country.

#### FULLY FUND THE IDEA

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or what we call IDEA, is a landmark civil rights law in our country, offering a promise of equal education for all of our students living with disabilities.

We continue as a country to fall short on this promise, a 50-year-old law that is now chronically underfunded. Teachers and parents in my district repeatedly tell me how we are not doing enough to meet the demands and requirements for IDEA.

The Federal Government promised to cover 40 percent of the extra costs of special education with the passage of IDEA in 1975. That pledge has never been met. Federal funding covers just under 15 percent, creating a shortfall of billions for many of our districts across the country.

My colleagues have been introducing a bill over and over again for almost 25 years to get it fully funded, and we haven't seen it yet.

We must follow on the promise of IDEA. That is why I cosponsored the IDEA Full Funding Act.

The problems today are real for our children. When we fail to fully fund these services, school districts are stuck and end up providing less than the law requires, cuts are made, and children are turned away.

Mr. Speaker, let's fund the IDEA.

#### INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF PATRICK FINUCANE

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge the decision today by the British Government to reopen the inquiry into the death of Patrick Finucane, who was brutally murdered in his home in front of his family in February of 1989.

This high-profile murder of a human rights solicitor by loyalist gunmen connected to the British security forces was one of the most controversial and shocking events of the Troubles in the north of Ireland.

Throughout my 35 years in Congress, I have been a steadfast supporter of the Finucane family and their tireless effort to get truth and justice. After years of public apologies, we are acknowledging today a state of collusion and numerous roadblocks that were set up.

I welcome the British Secretary of State Hilary Benn's comments and his intention to proceed with reopening this case. Pat's wife, Geraldine, and their family are entitled to the truth in hopes that this decades-long ordeal can finally be put to rest.

As co-chairman of the bipartisan Friends of Ireland Caucus, I will continue to advocate for the Finucane family as this process moves forward in our hopes that it is one more step toward peace, justice, and reconciliation on the island of Ireland.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE INDUCTION OF JIM LEYLAND TO THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

(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, I rise today to honor a man whose legacy now stretches from the ballfields of Perrysburg, Ohio, to the hallowed halls of Cooperstown, New York.

Jim Leyland, a son of northwest Ohio, recently became only the second native of northwest Ohio to be enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame, following Toledo's own Roger Bresnahan, who was inducted almost 80 years ago in 1945.

What a momentous achievement that reflects not just on Jim's hard-won success as one of the greatest managers in baseball history, but also honors his hard work, humility, and dedication, qualities that define our region.

From his modest beginnings in Perrysburg, he rose through the ranks with perseverance and grit, leading teams to greatness and even winning a World Series. Through all of his accomplishments, Jim remained loyal to his roots, giving back to his community in countless ways and serving as a role model for generations of young athletes.

As he takes his rightful place in baseball's hallowed halls in Cooperstown, Perrysburg and all of northwest Ohio could not be more proud.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Jim on this historic, well-deserved honor.

#### STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY: THE PEOPLE UNITED WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order hour.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today is 9/11, and I start our Special Order hour by paying tribute to the 2,977 people who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and the thousands of people who were injured that day.

I ask that we observe a minute of silence as we remember the families torn apart, futures stolen and irrevocably changed, and the lives that we lost that day.

As Progressives, we are committed to making our democracy work, repairing the places it is fractured, strengthening the places it is vulnerable, and defending the places it is effective.

In April, the Congressional Progressive Caucus released our platform for 2025. In it, we outlined the work we are committed to, ensuring our democracy is strong.

Today, I have the honor to stand with a number of my colleagues who have been the movers and shakers in protecting our democracy and working toward strengthening our democracy and helping expand our democracy. I am pleased, as we get started with our Special Order hour, to yield to my colleagues who will share the progress that they have made and what Congress must still accomplish to further deliver on the work their communities sent them here to do.

Mr. Speaker, I will start by yielding to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for organizing this Special Order hour on the most important problem of our time, which is democracy.

Will we have democracy, or will we lapse into some other form of government, like autocracy or theocracy or plutocracy?

I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and for leading us in that

beautiful and moving moment of silence for the victims of the terrorist attack on our country on 9/11.

A true Republican President, the founder of the Republican Party, spoke of government of the people, by the people, and for the people. That has been the beautiful, tantalizing vision of America, but we can't say that is how America began. We began as a slave republic of White, male property owners over the age of 21 years old.

It has been through successive waves of popular, political, social struggle and constitutional amendment that we have opened America up and come much closer to forming a more perfect union and reaching the ideal that President Lincoln proclaimed from the battlefield of Gettysburg in 1863.

Still today, Members will come to the floor, Mr. Speaker, and say: We are not a democracy. We are a republic. My colleagues think that they have struck some kind of knockout blow against the overwhelming sentiment of the American people, including President Reagan, who gave a great speech in Europe about American democracy and never once used the word "republic," but constantly invoked democracy.

Yet, there are Members who say: We are not a democracy. We are a republic.

Well, what is a republic? A republic is just a representative democracy because 300 million people can't fit in the U.S. House of Representatives or in a school board meeting. We use republican institutions in order to have the democratic will expressed.

If the Constitution is read the way I read the Constitution, the whole trajectory of American historical and constitutional development has been toward greater democracy.

Look at the amendments we have had since the original Bill of Rights.

The 13th Amendment abolished slavery.

The 14th Amendment gave us equal protection and due process.

The 15th Amendment said no race discrimination in voting.

The 17th Amendment shifted the mode of election of U.S. Senators from the legislatures to the people.

The 19th Amendment doubled the franchise in America by giving women the right to vote and establishing their political equality in the country.

The 23rd Amendment gave people in Washington, D.C., at least the right to vote for President of the United States, although not voting representation.

□ 1800

The 24th Amendment abolished poll taxes and the 26th Amendment lowered the voting age to 18. The whole movement of our history has been toward incorporating, encompassing, and including people who had been formerly disenfranchised, marginalized, and excluded from equal political participation.

It has been a seesaw struggle throughout our history. There have always been people who have wanted to

revoke other people's voting rights, undermine other people's voting rights, disenfranchise them, strip away their ability to register to vote.

Tocqueville said in "Democracy in America" that he observed that democracy and voting rights in our country are either shrinking and shriveling away or they're growing and expanding.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Progressive Caucus for this session because we have got to get democracy back on the growth track in America. We have got to get away from all of the voter suppression and interference tactics that we have seen grow up, at least since 2013 when the Supreme Court rendered its dreadful decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, essentially decapitating the Voting Rights Act, knocking out the preclearance requirement for covered jurisdictions, saying that no longer did they have to submit voting changes to the Department of Justice or to our Federal district court before they could implement those voting changes.

We have since seen more than 100 voter laws passed all over the country, around half of them in the original covered jurisdictions under the Voting Rights Act. We have seen new obstacles to voter registration. We have seen massive closure of precinct voting places, mergers of different precinct voting places.

I just got back from Texas where a group of students came to see me from the University of Texas to say this is going on there right now where the Governor has closed down a polling place and then relocated one in Austin on the campus of the University of Texas away from a well-traveled thoroughfare, a big, bright building to putting it in the basement somewhere else on campus. These kinds of tactics are used all over the country in order to suppress the vote.

We need to be moving forward in terms of voting rights, and I am very eager to hear what my colleagues have to say about that.

Mr. Speaker, I will point just a couple of things out.

We are in 2024. This is the 21st century. It is time for us to be electing the President of the United States the way we elect Governors, Representatives, Senators, mayors, and everybody else. Whoever gets the most votes wins. We have had five popular vote losers become President, twice in this century in 2000 and 2016, under the creaky, antiquated, and obsolete mechanisms of the electoral college, which is subject to fraud and manipulation.

As we saw in this very Chamber, the electoral college can get you killed in the 21st century because it offers more opportunities for strategic bad faith actors like former President Donald Trump to try to revisit a result and reopen results in an election.

We need to be moving forward to a national popular vote for election. We spend tens of millions of dollars a year all over the world teaching people

about democracy and the one thing they never come back to us with when they are writing a new Constitution is the idea that, oh, you know that electoral college thing you have? We think we will import that to our country. We never hear that, right? We should be able to learn from our own experience and from the experience of democracies around the world.

Another important ingredient to democracy is statehood. That is how communities that have been formerly disenfranchised and subordinated have been able to lift themselves up. We are in the Nation's Capital, which is the only Nation's Capital on planet Earth which is not represented in their own national legislature. Mr. Speaker, 713,000 taxpaying, draftable U.S. citizens are completely disenfranchised in the House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate. They don't have representation.

If you told the people of Paris they could not be represented in L'Assemblee nationale because they breathed the same air that other people's representatives breathed, you would have another French Revolution on your hands.

When we passed it in the 117th Congress, the D.C. statehood legislation, and I was one of the floor leaders for that, I had the honor of telling the people of Washington, D.C., this: Thank you for having a bona fide real political grievance and not coming down here and beating the daylights out of our police officers the way that the MAGA mob did when Donald Trump falsely convinced them that they had won the Presidential election, which Trump had lost by more than 7 million votes, 306-232 in the electoral college.

They didn't come down and storm the Chamber and try to overthrow the Constitution. They did it the right way. They had a Statehood Constitutional Convention. They are asking for admission. We should admit the people of Washington, D.C., as an equal State into the Union using our powers under Article IV of the Constitution.

It is the same thing with 3.5 million American citizens in Puerto Rico. They should be given the opportunity to become a State, as well.

We have got to keep the trajectory of democracy moving forward so we don't lapse into some other form of government. This has been a tough time with challenges to the basic constitutional structure when you have Presidential candidates saying, just set the Constitution aside. We saw a violent insurrection supporting a political coup in this very Chamber. That is the alternative to moving forward with everything that we are going to be talking about tonight in terms of improving representation through ranked choice voting, in terms of campaign finance reform so we don't have money drowning out the voice of the people, filibuster reform, ethics reform at the Supreme Court, all of those things are essential and we need the momentum of

a prodemocracy movement to keep us from becoming like Vladimir Putin's country or Viktor Orban's country, the close buddies of Donald Trump that he invoked in the Presidential debate last night that he conscripted as character witnesses for him in this election.

We have got a very clear choice for America moving forward. I thank the Progressive Caucus for offering so much leadership. We know that it is tough, and it is a struggle.

Frederick Douglas from my State said that if there is no struggle, there is no progress. The struggle may be moral, it may be physical, it may be more unphysical, but there must be struggle. Power concedes nothing without a demand.

John Dewey said that there are no ills to democracy that cannot be solved without more democracy. Democracy is the corrective to the impediments to democracies.

What we are suffering from today is the obstacles and the impediments to democracy, but we have got the means, and we have got the will in the country to move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. RAMIREZ for giving me this opportunity.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, Congressman RASKIN is absolutely right. We are committed to progress. We are committed to moving forward. We are committed to strengthening our voting rights. We are committed to improving representation. We are committed to campaign finance reform. We are committed to fully funded Federal agencies. We are committed to ethics, courts, and filibuster reform.

There is someone who has been doing this work for a very long time and has developed the leadership among other Members to continue this work even after he leaves this Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to another gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES), a friend, someone that I am inspired by. I am committed to make sure that we carry on this legacy of progress.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative RAMIREZ for yielding.

I salute the Progressive Congressional Caucus for pulling together this Special Order to talk about the importance of strengthening our democracy.

You are absolutely right to begin the discussion tonight by reminding us that this is the anniversary of September 11, the tragedy that struck our country.

This is a day when, as patriots, we stand up as Americans. We salute the flag. We salute our history. It is very appropriate that it is a day on which we want to speak to the need to strengthen and deepen our resolve when it comes to making sure the democracy of this country, that connected tissue, is as strong as it can possibly be.

The sad reality is that over a period of years now, many Americans have become more cynical because they look at Washington, they look at the places

where laws are made, and they feel that it is more distant from them; that it doesn't fully express their voice, their dreams, their hopes, and aspirations.

A lot of that has to do, as you know, with throwing obstacles in the way of voters as they try to access the ballot box or making it difficult for their priorities to be carried forward because of the insidious influence of dark money and other forces that are behind the curtain.

We have applied ourselves over a period of many Congresses now to try to channel the grievances that our constituents have expressed into pieces of legislation that can begin over time if we can get them passed to restore that fundamental faith in democracy.

These include the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would restore the protections of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. By the way, a piece of legislation that at every opportunity for reauthorization, until very recently, was supported in a bipartisan fashion. Republicans and Democrats understood that you needed to have these voting protections in place.

Unfortunately, over the last few years, for reasons difficult to discern sometimes, our Republican colleagues have fallen away from this commitment, and we have had to carry it ourselves.

That is one important piece of legislation that Democrats are supporting that repeatedly we have brought to the floor of this House, and we have passed here. It has been a more difficult prospect on the Senate side, but we have the hope that that opportunity will present itself, as well.

Another critical piece of legislation that I felt privileged to carry and exercise some leadership on is the Freedom to Vote Act. It started out as the For The People Act. It has evolved over a period of two or three Congresses. We have passed it four or five different times out of this Chamber, again, running into the blockade on the Senate side. This is a bill where every provision of it is designed to respond to that cynicism that Americans are feeling. The first 300 pages of the Freedom to Vote Act were penned, were authored by our late colleague, John Lewis, the freedom fighter who inspired so many of us before he came to Congress and during his time in Congress.

He understood that we had to make it possible for people to access the ballot box without having to run an obstacle course every 2 years, to put in place these fundamental reforms that every American and every community can benefit from: automatic voter registration, same-day registration, early voting, mail balloting.

All the things that make it possible when somebody gets up on the morning of that day when they have decided to cast their vote and know that that is not going to be a difficult transaction. They can do that. They can access their democracy in a straightforward

way. That is one centerpiece of the Freedom to Vote Act.

Another grievance we heard from Americans for many, many years is, why should politicians be able to choose their voters instead of the other way around? We have seen what extreme partisan gerrymandering has done across the country. It means that in the House of Representatives, we don't actually have a fair representation of what the vote is out in the country.

This makes average people out there feel disrespected. Voters feel like their voice is not being given the weight and the due that it deserves, so included within the Freedom to Vote Act are provisions that would establish an objective, independent way of determining how districts should be drawn so that we are respectful of the voters. It is another key piece of this reform package.

The last critical dimension of this is what to do about the undue influence, the sinister, insidious influence that money has over the political system.

□ 1815

Your voice consists of two basic components in a democracy. One is that you can cast your vote freely and fairly, but the other dimension of it is if you send people to Washington, if you elect them, if you pull the lever for them, your expectation is when they get there, they will fight for your priorities and won't get hijacked or captured by special interests and big money. The reality is very different, unfortunately, and it leaves people feeling disempowered.

Two key reforms that are included within this legislation are the DISCLOSE Act, which would require that we have transparency in terms of this dark money that is flooded into our system, and another piece, which I know Representative RAMIREZ feels very passionately about, is a small donor matching system that can support candidates' efforts to get out there and run their campaigns free from dependence on big money and deep pockets.

This legislation would create a system where for every dollar you raise from small donations, grassroots donations, you get a 6-to-1 match from something we call the Freedom From Influence Fund.

By the way, that fund would not be taxpayer underwritten. We would put a small surcharge on government settlements with big corporate lawbreakers and high-end tax cheats. That would go into a special fund, and that would underwrite the matching funds to come in to support these candidates.

What I like about that is the people who are leaning on our democracy and trying to break it are going to have to pay to create a system that can lift up our democracy.

All of these things are designed to respond to those grievances that Americans feel. These key pieces of legislation—the John R. Lewis Voting Rights

Advancement Act, the Freedom to Vote Act, the Native American Voting Rights Act, the D.C. statehood bill—are very simple in what they are trying to achieve: Give a voice to all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Progressive Caucus for pulling us together this evening.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SARBANES for his remarks. He couldn't have said it more perfectly as we are wrapping up here.

I often ask myself what it would look like if money didn't determine elections, if qualifications did, if competency would. What would it look like if we got big money out of politics, which is exactly what we should all be prioritizing?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN). I don't think anyone can speak better about that issue than him.

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative RAMIREZ for her leadership and for allowing me to participate in this really important discussion. I thank her for bringing this issue to the forefront of the American people.

There are many who believe we no longer have a democracy. There are many who believe our country is controlled by an oligarchy. Many believe our country is controlled by a few wealthy Americans who act as puppet masters over Members of Congress and who act as puppet masters over elected officials across the country.

We are not engaging in the arena of new ideas. We are not engaging in the arena of shared values. We take an oath to protect and defend the Constitution against enemies, foreign and domestic, but if we allow people with wealth to undermine our Constitution, we are not doing our job.

Yes, I can speak personally to this issue because, in my primary race, I had special interest groups spend more money against me in my primary than has been spent against any Member of Congress in United States history.

My district was bombarded with advertisements, with mailers, with misinformation and disinformation, and with ideas and policies that reflected the values behind the big money that was being poured in.

What made it worse is a lot of this big money came from unknown sources. Because of Supreme Court decisions like Citizens United, we don't have to publicly know where these dollars are coming from as we engage with super-PACs.

We absolutely need democracy reform, and it starts with getting big money out of politics. One important way to do that is to overturn Citizens United. We must overturn Citizens United. If you want to support a candidate, your name must be public, period. Not only that, but if you believe those who say, and I do, that our democracy is no longer a democracy because it is controlled by an oligarchy, the wealthy elite, we have to look at

the outcomes that our democracy is currently producing.

Why don't we have universal healthcare? Why don't we have fully funded public schools? Why don't we have paid leave for all? Why don't we have a Green New Deal? Why do one in five children go to bed hungry in our country? Why do we have consistent economic and wealth inequality?

I would argue it is because those in the oligarchy class want things to remain that way. As a result, Members of this body continue to vote in favor of special interests.

We couldn't even raise the Federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$15 an hour. If you grow up or live in a redlined community, redlined by American politicians in this body, your schools are less funded than wealthier communities.

A strong, vibrant, healthy democracy must include every single person in our country voting in every election, but they are being disenfranchised by the big money, and they have lost hope because of the big money.

Again, I thank Representative RAMIREZ for her leadership and for allowing me to say a few words. In order for our democracy to be as strong as ever, both on the domestic front but also supporting democracies around the world, we have to get big money out of politics.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BOWMAN for his remarks, and I am committed to working with him here and out of here to ensure that happens.

When we talk about the issues that matter most, as Congressman BOWMAN mentioned, everything from housing to healthcare to education, we understand that when democracy is weakened, our ability to move reforms because of these issues is also impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT), someone I have had the opportunity to serve with for the last 21 months, a fierce advocate for our communities, not just in Vermont but all over, making sure that justice, equity, and strengthening democracy is at the forefront.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to serve with Representative RAMIREZ and to speak here tonight about an issue that is incredibly important to me, and that is the health and strength of democracy.

When I ran for Congress, the issue I heard the most about was just that, the health and the strength of the democracy.

Yes, of course, Vermonters care about particular issues for our district—housing, the workforce crisis, the mental health crisis, all of these things—but they said more than anything, they are worried about the health of the democracy.

I came to the job having come up through the Vermont State Senate, and before that, I was a teacher and tried to instill in my students the im-

portance of being involved in the democracy to keep replenishing it with the energy and attention it requires.

What I have noticed over the last few years is that there is, indeed, a cynicism creeping in, as my colleague mentioned earlier, and cynicism has a corrosive effect, not just on the democracy but on our own health and stability and the health of our communities.

It is, in fact, the voice of the status quo. It is about convincing people that you can't actually make change, so why even try, that it is futile.

The stakes are so incredibly high. I will tell you that my family knows firsthand that democracies don't fail overnight. My grandfather was killed in the Holocaust, and I grew up with the understanding that people can be horribly cruel to one another and can perpetuate horrors upon individuals and families when the law does not protect the most vulnerable and when people turn away from each other and demonize each other. I can tell you in earnest that we have seen this in this country in the last few years grow to a fever pitch of dehumanizing and demonizing our fellow Americans.

I see it in my committees, whether it is attacking immigrants or migrants, attacking the LGBTQ community, or attacking the poor.

It is not about coming together as Americans and finding common cause with other Americans. It is often about making people the scapegoats.

Democracies fail little by little as our rights are stripped away from us, as democratic norms are upended, and as people are scapegoated.

My parents never took for granted the rights and privileges provided to us by the U.S. Constitution and that we must be vigilant and take our responsibility of supporting and protecting the Constitution seriously.

I was very concerned, coming up on almost 2 years ago when I started in Congress, because I knew that 139 Members of this body did not vote to certify a free and fair election. Of those 139, 124 ran for reelection, and 118 are still serving in Congress. They serve with us in committees, and we have to see them on the floor, people who did not support a free and fair election and the peaceful transfer of power. This sickens me.

In moments when I am home in Vermont, it is very difficult to convey to my constituents what it feels like sometimes to be here as a public servant supporting the democracy, supporting the ideals that supposedly we all hold so dear, and to serve alongside people who still will not admit that Joe Biden is the rightful winner of the 2020 election. It should outrage all of us.

How can we make the case to our children and to my former students that democracy is something to protect, that it is sacred, that we all have a stake in making sure it is healthy when there are Members of Congress

who still will not admit that Joe Biden is the rightful winner of the 2020 election?

□ 1830

We must commit, all of us, to rising above this dangerous nonsense because we all know the truth. We do. We know the truth. As we head into another election season, I know what I fear. I fear that once again we will be faced with a critical moment of courage, and that some will fail that test.

When I heard that the topic tonight was about strengthening the democracy, I said: Absolutely, I will be there. None of these things—strengthening our voting rights, improving our representation, making sure that we have campaign finance reform, supporting our communities, and on and on—can happen if we do not have a commitment from the people in this Chamber to admit the rightful winner of an election and to stand in this Chamber and certify those election results.

I look forward to seeing some courage, regardless of the outcome. I hope that I am not, once again, deeply, deeply disappointed and disgusted by the lack of courage and fortitude of those who say that they support the Constitution, the rule of law, and this great democracy.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman BALINT. Her words could not have been more powerful.

We are at a crossroads right now, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus is committed to strengthening voting rights because our caucus wants to make sure that we protect the right to vote by passing broad and comprehensive voting rights bills that eliminate barriers to voting for U.S. citizens.

We want same-day, automatic, and online voter registration. We are committed to improving representation because we are the party that wants to abolish the electoral college, grant statehood to the District of Columbia, and establish a democratic process for the people of Puerto Rico to determine the island's future political status.

We are committed to bold campaign finance reform. We are the party that wants to end corruption and get big money and corporations out of politics by finally eliminating dark money in elections.

We are committed to fully funding Federal agencies that invest in Americans' health, education, and well-being. We are the party that wants to ensure that Congress funds vital Federal agencies and prevents the privatization of government services.

We are committed to eliminating or reforming the filibuster, and we are the party that wants to allow for the democratic consideration and passage of essential legislation.

We are committed to ethics reform. We are the caucus that wants to ban stock trading and ownership for Members of Congress and the Federal judiciary and impose an enforceable code of conduct on the Supreme Court, includ-

ing instituting accountability measures and restrictions on gifts and requiring judicial disclosures and recusal.

We are committed to reforming the Court. We are the party that wants to expand the number of Justices on the bench, implement term limits, and create new judgeships across the Federal system.

Folks, as you heard from my colleagues here, we are committed because it is important to remember that this week extreme Republicans are attempting to hold the government hostage so they can advance a bill that creates barriers to voting for U.S. citizens.

Bottom line: It is already illegal under current law for noncitizens to register to vote or to vote in Federal elections. Despite numerous recounts, challenges in court, and the deep dives by Conservative think tanks, there has been zero evidence of widespread voter fraud.

Folks, it is a scare tactic, and extreme Republicans are trying to scare Americans—the fear-mongering—into giving up their right to exercise their vote in an accessible and unburdensome election process.

The SAVE Act is voter suppression, plain and simple. Requiring citizens to show documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote places an extreme burden on countless Americans, including military voters, Native voters, people who have changed their names, including tens of millions of American women, the elderly, the young, the poor, and naturalized citizens.

The SAVE Act's burdens on rightful voters are extreme because most Americans would be unable to register to vote using their driver's license or other State-provided identification alone. Even Real IDs do not meet the SAVE Act's requirements.

Millions of Americans, including tens of thousands in each congressional district, would be prevented from registering to vote easily, if at all. Americans would not be able to use military IDs or Tribal IDs alone when registering to vote. U.S. citizens who are putting their life on the line would have to go get a passport and other documents to prove their citizenship.

People who have changed their names, including millions of married women, would not be allowed to use their birth certificates when proving their citizenship.

Registration applications would need to be presented in person, essentially ending mail-in voting and creating barriers for same-day voter registration.

The SAVE Act makes it clear exactly who extreme Republicans believe should have an easy time accessing the right to vote and, more importantly, who they believe should have a difficult time.

It is in this moment, in this context that my colleagues and I come to this Chamber to convene this Special Order hour, to make it crystal clear exactly

who is committed to doing the work of repairing and strengthening democracy.

Repairing, strengthening, and protecting our democracy is one of my greatest priorities in Congress. I have the honor of co-chairing the House Task Force on Strengthening Democracy, where I meet with my colleagues to discuss legislative solutions to act on Americans' desire to fortify the basic building blocks of healthy democracy.

During the August recess, I launched my democracy working groups in Chicago and DuPage County. I convened constituents, grassroots leaders, and organizations to share what they have seen, what they have learned, and what they have felt as they do the work on the ground of building a democracy that works for everyone.

I hosted a teletownhall focused on making government work for Illinois-3 and a Wheaton townhall focused on the topic of defending democracy. Listening to the voices of our communities and ensuring those voices are heard and valued is part of our democracy, and it is what is most important.

What we learned and affirmed is that democracy is a work in progress. It is not perfect, by any means. We have heard that we cannot simply strengthen democracy, simply preserve democracy. We must repair it and expand it where it is not living up to its potential.

We need democracy that truly works for the people, where government is responsive to the needs of its citizens, where we keep big money out of politics, where there is ethics reform both in our Supreme Court and Presidency, where we protect our election workers and our right to vote, where we defend public institutions from privatization and elimination.

That is why I am so proud to cosponsor numerous substantial pieces of legislation across the broad aspects of democracy and good governance, including bills like the Freedom to Vote Act by Congressman SARBANES and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act by Congresswoman SEWELL, which must be among the first bills we take on in the 119th Congress.

As I wrap up our Special Order hour in a few minutes, I do want to talk about some of the movers and shakers that are helping do this work to repair, strengthen, and protect our democracy.

To do so, I want to start by recognizing an organization that serves the State of Illinois led by one of my constituents, Mary Ellen Daneels. She is improving access to information, amplifying the voices of young people, and breaking down barriers to their participation.

Illinois Democracy Schools Network is a vital initiative committed to educating the next generation about the civic process. The growing network of middle and high schools is dedicated to expanding civic learning opportunities across Illinois, particularly in schools

serving students of color to ensure all students are prepared to meaningfully participate in public life.

By creating high-quality learning experiences, the Democracy Schools Network helps foster informed, active, and equitable civic engagement among young people. On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I do want to thank the Illinois Democracy Schools Network for nurturing the foundations of our democracy.

Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy. It is why I cosponsored and am cosponsoring several pieces of legislation that protect and expand ballot access, as we just talked about.

I do want to go into H.R. 11 a little deeper. Expanding voter registration and voting access prohibits voting roll removal, establishes election day as a Federal holiday, and enacts other voting rights and election reforms.

H.R. 14, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, strengthens voting rights by expanding and strengthening government's ability to respond to voting discrimination.

Defending the right to vote is defending our communities. Let me say that again. Defending the right to vote is defending our communities. Therefore, I will continue resisting and challenging any attempt from extremists in our government to undermine our democracy and erode our rights.

We all have a role to play. I encourage us all to get engaged: register people to vote, serve as election judges, combat misinformation. We have to fight for the democracy that we deserve.

There is an organization that has been doing this work around the clock, defending democracy, and that is Midwest Voting Rights Program of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights.

This vital initiative focuses on ensuring fair access to the vote and upholding election laws. Through their Election Protection program and litigation, they provide critical resources on election day. They partner with incarcerated and returning community members to expand voting rights. They ensure racial equity in redistricting. They defend civil rights and advocate for equitable election laws in Illinois and Indiana.

A notable leader in this work is Clifford Helm, senior counsel for the program and a proud constituent of Illinois' Third Congressional District. I thank Clifford and Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights for their dedication to eliminating barriers to voting and enhancing civic participation, especially in marginalized communities.

We also need organizations that create and provide citizens tools to hold our officials accountable, and that is why I am proud to recognize Indivisible, a grassroots movement dedicated to strengthening our democracy through education and civic engagement.

Through Indivisible Civics, they provide invaluable resources, training, and tools to empower local groups and activists, including to engage with their local elected officials and hold them accountable.

Since the beginning of 2019, Indivisible members have made 73,625 calls to Congress and have organized over 2,000 grassroots events in all 50 States. Their focus on building civic knowledge and skills helps individuals become effective advocates and informed citizens.

In Illinois' Third Congressional District, active Indivisible chapters in Illinois and civic leaders like Dianne McGuire, Deborah McCoy, Kathy Tholin, Geri Kahn, Patricia Graham, and Denise Poloyac are working tirelessly to engage their neighbors in the civic process. I thank Indivisible for their commitment to fostering a well-informed electorate and a stronger democracy.

While extreme Republicans demonstrate which Americans they believe should have access to vote and who they believe shouldn't, I am honored to recognize the nonprofit Chicago Votes for their efforts in fostering civic engagement among the next generation of leaders in our city.

Their Unlock Civics program works to increase democratic participation from justice-impacted adults, from registering over 5,000 voters in Cook County jail to advocating for legislation to make the jail the first in the Nation to serve as a primary election voting location.

Chicago Votes also works to engage young people in local civic processes, from their regular parade to the polls to creating nonpartisan voting guides to support educators around civic curriculum.

□ 1845

Their fellowships and leadership development opportunities for youth and justice-impacted individuals, including their Democracy Corps, build stronger leaders for a stronger, more informed democracy. I thank Chicago Votes.

I also want to acknowledge the work of organizations like the Latino Policy Forum. The Latino Policy Forum is doing the work to protect our multicultural, our multiracial democracy from attempts to scapegoat, silence, criminalize, and persecute our Latino and our immigrant communities.

Through their efforts in coalition, the forum has engaged Comunidades Latinas in the civic process of our democracy.

Whether by expanding participation in the Census or access to multilingual and culturally competent educational voter material, the organization is fighting to ensure equitable representation and fair investment in our communities.

The work has been possible thanks to the efforts of its staff and its president and CEO of the Latino Policy Forum, Sylvia Puente, who after 16 years of service, announced her well-earned retirement.

Her unwavering leadership has been instrumental in driving positive, meaningful change for our communities.

In the face of the cruel policies that are looking to hurt our communities, I thank Sylvia for inspiring us with her leadership. "Gracias por luchar por nuestra comunidad contra viento y marea." "Thank you for your fight for our community against all odds."

As I wrap up here, I want to thank all my colleagues who join tonight's Progressive Caucus Special Order hour. I want to end with this: I am the product of community organizing. I am the product of a movement that continues to fight for what is right even when the attacks just keep coming and coming and even in the face of fear, even in the face of loss and hardship.

We are and have been a nation at a crossroads. We say we are facing an existential crisis, but the truth is that we have been facing this crisis for a very long time. This country has consistently faced a crossroad to choose fear or to choose hope, to choose love or to choose hate, to choose bigotry or to choose equity, to choose oppression or to choose justice.

We face those all-too-familiar crossroads again. Will we choose democracy or will we submit to dictatorship?

Democracy is a grand experiment of collective experience, and it cannot be taken for granted. It is precious and fragile, and it requires that we strive to be the best of ourselves.

I am encouraged that each time this country faced a crossroads, organizers were there bending the arc of history towards justice; fighting like hell.

We fight like hell for our communities. Our communities have always been the target of injustice. We also know that we fight like hell for our children and the future. We fight like hell against Trump and MAGA Republicans and Project 2025, as they are a fundamental threat to our children.

The people want big money out of politics. The people want us to reform the Supreme Court. The people want us to protect the integrity of our elections. Our democracy will be repaired, strengthened, and preserved when we fight for democracy.

I believe that the people united will never be defeated because we have something to fight for. I fight for my husband, a Dreamer. I fight for my nieces and nephews. I fight for every Latino who aspires to public office. I fight for the movement. The fight ahead is worth it.

There is no greater honor to fight alongside you, to protect, preserve, and expand democracy.

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

#### FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is always lovely to be lectured about democracy from the party that refused to certify the 2005 and 2017 elections. If this place didn't run on double standards, I don't know what fuel would be there. It is fascinating to literally hear this rhetoric. I am sorry to totally take you off point for just a moment, but, again, if the double standards didn't exist, there would be very little for this place to run on.

As we begin tonight's Special Order, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the 23rd anniversary of the attack on September 11, 2001.

Today, we remember a pivotal moment in our Nation's history and the profound loss our Nation endured, the courage we witnessed, and the resilience that we have shown as a Nation in the face of adversity. Nearly 3,000 lives were taken on 9/11 and countless families were forever changed.

Today, we honor the heroism of the law enforcement officers, servicemembers, firefighters, and medical professionals who answered the call of duty on that fateful day.

Today, we also recognize its lasting impact on our country's foreign policy and national security interests. The events of 9/11 revealed vulnerabilities in our national security apparatus and underscored the necessity for a robust and proactive approach to safeguarding our Nation.

Since the attacks, we have worked to rebuild our national security in a new period of great power competition with countries like China, Russia, and Iran, but since President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office, their failed foreign policy of appeasement has diminished our standing on the world stage and emboldened our adversaries.

It goes without saying that strong foreign policy is the key to a strong nation. House Republicans are advancing several bills this week as part of our "China Week" that will bolster our national security and defend against our adversaries.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee also released their report on the Biden-Harris administration's failures during and after the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan. I will speak more on that later.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOORE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last month marked 3 years since the Biden-Harris adminis-

tration's catastrophic withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

This administration rushed the withdrawal of troops, playing politics instead of preparing a plan to get Americans and Afghan partners to safety and to ensure stability in the region.

The results were horrific. The Taliban pulled the rug out from under the Biden-Harris administration, quickly taking control of Afghanistan, and undoing the gains Americans and our allies made over years in just a matter of days.

Meanwhile, 13 American servicemembers were killed in the line of duty, Americans and Afghan partners who supported our troops were stranded, and girls and women were swept under the rug.

The President said he owed no apologies.

The American people, our Gold Star families, and veterans beg to differ.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I am working to conduct congressional oversight, demand accountability, and restore America's leadership on the world stage. The world is watching us. Xi Jinping, Kim Jong-un, Vladimir Putin, and the Ayatollah are all watching us, and our allies and partners around the world are watching us. We must promote peace through strength.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for her remarks. Peace through strength, that is such a simple concept, and it has evaded us over the last few years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LOPEZ).

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

As we all know, today is September 11, and we all recognize and remember what happened to our Nation on that day. For most Americans, it is the day that terrorism was brought on to our shore, and it was the beginning of America fighting against terrorist attacks.

I want to talk today about what happened on August 26, 2021. That is the day of the unpardonable and disgraceful failure that was the Biden-Harris administration's chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

When we look at what happened that day, as a veteran I watched and saw a Commander in Chief abandon America's sons and daughters. That is not a Commander in Chief. A Commander in Chief stands tall and never leaves a soldier behind, never leaves an American citizen behind. Yet, that is exactly what that administration did.

Who is lower than a thief who steals the honor of his countrymen?

Who is more abhorrent than a man who betrays their friends and gives comfort to his enemies?

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS fled a country we freed for two decades and left it in the grasp of merciless terrorists.

Why did we have to lose 13 brave American servicemembers? We didn't.

We lost them because there was no real plan on how to get out of Afghanistan. Any real, true Commander in Chief would know that you must plan accordingly, that you must plan every single step to make sure that there is no one left behind. When you don't have that experience, when you don't understand the conflict that you are in, you will fail like this administration did.

They say that if you want to test the character of a person, give them power. Well, we know the character of our Commander in Chief on that day, and truly the character shows that it was more important to deal with the optics politically than it was to protect the men and women in uniform.

I am here to tell you that I firmly believe, a lot of Americans believe, and a lot of veterans that I know, friends, sons of my fellow brothers and sisters that served, they truly believe that the blood of these Americans is on the hands of the President and Madam Vice President.

I talk to veterans that served in Afghanistan, and they talk about when they saw what was going on, when they saw it on the TV, it was a gut-wrenching thing to see because they had been there for years. They had deployed more than once or twice to stand tall and protect, and to see what happened tore them apart.

It is difficult to encourage the young men and women to serve in our military when we have a Commander in Chief that abandons them.

Billions of American taxpayer dollars in the form of advanced military weapons and equipment fell directly into the hands of terrorists to be used to target our allies and our troops, yet, they don't want to talk about that. They don't want to talk about the billions of dollars that were left behind.

And worse was the fate of our Afghan allies who dedicated their lives to the betterment of their country, only to be brutally murdered when we pulled out, and the Taliban came to power. I know individuals that helped America, and their families were left behind, and they asked me: Why did this occur? How can America allow this to happen?

I wish I had an answer for them, but the only thing I can tell them is it happened because we had a lack of courage.

□ 1900

It happened because we had no foresight. We had no means to understand what we were doing, and so we must change that.

Many of those Afghan allies and their families are dead today, and, once again, we know whom to blame for that. I watched the debate last night, and when the question was asked: Are there any regrets? there was silence on that question.

I am here to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that I understand why there is silence. It is because they don't have the courage to not only stand in front of those

family members who lost their sons and daughters, look them in the eye, and apologize for the mistake they made.

You see, Mr. Speaker, true leadership recognizes when mistakes are made. True leadership stands tall and makes sure that it never happens again. However, silence leaves everyone wondering: What will they do the next time that situation arises?

I hope that should there ever be another time, that we will have a different Commander in Chief, someone who truly understands how to protect, how to defend, and how to make America proud again when we send our sons and daughters into the battlefield.

Those mistakes will make America look weak on the world stage, and we know that they have. Our credibility with our allies and everyone we have ever made promises to has been severely damaged, emboldening our adversaries around the globe. Shamefully, our chaotic withdrawal has weakened the morale of our service-members and rightfully so.

When I served, I wore my uniform with honor. I wore it proudly because I believed in America, and I believed that the Commander in Chief would always have my back.

Today, I question that. I question where the loyalty is of those individuals who made those decisions on that day. You see, Mr. Speaker, those perilous days in August in 2021 will always remain a stain on that administration's legacy for the lack of leadership.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. It is a stain on our flag. It is a stain that we must all endure only because they didn't have the courage and the understanding to do the right thing.

How do you explain to the family members that they lost their loved ones for no real reason?

How do you explain that?

This is why they refuse to even acknowledge the family members, because there is no explanation. President Biden and Vice President HARRIS cannot undo the damage and the pain that they caused, but they could speak honestly to the American people about the facts of this failure.

I urge them in the strongest terms to do that because the American people deserve the real truth.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for his remarks. He is an individual who has had a short time here and is respected in just a few short months. He has been one of the most studious and one of the most thoughtful Members that I have seen in my 3½ years, and I hope to be able to continue to find a way to serve with him. I am sincere about that, and I appreciate his heartfelt comments here tonight.

Again, I thank my colleagues for being here and taking time to speak on some of the most pressing issues facing our Nation.

Yesterday, Speaker Johnson posthumously awarded the Congressional

Gold Medal to the families of the servicemembers killed in a barbaric act of terrorism at the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, including Staff Sergeant Taylor Hoover from Utah.

President Biden's decision to abandon Bagram Air Base and its equipment forced our troops into the impossible task of securing an urban airport while also conducting an impossibly complex humanitarian operation, all under an unreasonable timeframe and without coordination from our allies. The aftermath gave our enemies a window of opportunity of which they took full advantage. Three years later, the Taliban are in control of Afghanistan and are building stronger diplomatic ties to China, making deeper overtures to Iran, and they have enabled the resurgence of ISIS-K in their backyard.

I may be accused of regurgitating this information too much or we need to move on, and I still remember committing to a memorial service that a marine was lost from Utah to never forget and to always remember. That wasn't just a bad mistake. It had second, third, and fourth order consequences that we are going to be facing for decades to come.

President Biden has often said that our number one priority was to make sure that Afghanistan could never again be used as an operating base from which to plan terrorist attacks on the American homeland. The current situation, however, heavily indicates that we are failing in this objective.

I commend Chairman McCaul and his committee for their work on the report released this week that details key failures of the Biden-Harris administration during and after the catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan and its aftermath. Americans deserve answers for how this administration mishandled this crisis, and I am grateful for the committee's diligent work.

Additionally, we should all agree that the China challenge is not a partisan issue. Ensuring our competitiveness with China should unite lawmakers from both sides of aisle. This is the all-encompassing policy fight of our generation. It is not just a faraway foreign policy issue, but rather is one that directly impacts our economic prosperity and shapes the livelihoods of every American.

To that end, yesterday I joined Congressman WENSTRUP, Congressman PFLUGER, and Chairman GREEN in releasing a request for information to solicit feedback on policy solutions to strengthen and enhance domestic medical supply chains.

Congress has the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of our Nation and ensure our medical supply chains are free from dependency on foreign adversaries.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues on this important issue and supporting my colleagues who have been sitting on the Select Committee on China and advancing

valuable legislation out of this Chamber.

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

#### THE PASSING OF SHELDON "SHELLY" GUREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 30 minutes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great respect and admiration remembering the life and works of Sheldon "Shelly" Guren, a remarkable man whose legacy will forever be woven into the fabric of our northern Ohio community.

Shelly Guren's 99 years of life were a brilliant tapestry of excellence and service. Using the GI Bill, he had a distinguished career, but that followed his work in law school at Harvard University. He was an esteemed leader in the Cleveland area, and his contributions have been extraordinary.

He was brilliant. His investments in iconic sports franchises and his stewardship of the Great Lakes Towing Company demonstrate his far-reaching impact and deep commitment to his community. Most important, his word was his bond.

Beyond his professional achievements, Shelly was known for his integrity, generosity, and unwavering love for his family and friends. It was a joy to know him. When you met Shelly, Mr. Speaker, you knew you had met someone extraordinary. He taught Sunday school and was an outstanding leader in Cleveland's Jewish community.

His passing leaves a void in the hearts of everyone who knew him, but his legacy of leadership and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

To his beloved wife, Bonnie; his son, Michael; and his entire family, please accept our heartfelt condolences. Shelly's remarkable life and enduring accomplishments will remain a beacon of inspiration for years to come.

May he rest in peace.

#### SHELDON GUREN OBITUARY

Sheldon "Shelly" Guren, 99, died Aug. 16, 2024. He was born to Nate and Rose Guren on Oct. 25, 1924.

Shelly grew up in Cleveland Heights where he excelled in school and athletics. He graduated high school at age 16 and went on to Western Reserve University, now Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. After World War II, he used the G.I. Bill to go to Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Mass.,

where he met his wife Faith Golden, a student at Emerson College in Boston. He and Faith started their life in Cleveland when Shelly joined his uncle Henry Gottfried's law firm.

He practiced law the remainder of his life while also starting a real estate investment trust, investing in several businesses, teaching Sunday school and being a leader in the Cleveland Jewish community.

Shelly was intrigued by the state of Israel, with its "can do" spirit that in some ways matched his energy and optimism. He and his family spent months on a kibbutz where he helped to focus some of its business practices. He remained connected to that experience both emotionally and philanthropically.

He was generous, magnetic, bright and fun. He began a boating life with a 34' boat at Lakeside Yacht Club in Cleveland and parlayed that into a yachting life, mostly in the Bahamas. He thrived on hosting his friends for weekends living his dream.

He moved to Miami in the 1970s and spent the next 45 years commuting back to Cleveland to oversee The Great Lakes Towing Company. He loved the opportunity to be home and spend time with his best friend (his brother Homer), his sister-in-law Lois and the many other friends he cherished. He loved Cleveland.

Shelly leaves behind his wife, Bonnie, and her son Michael (Adrianna) Stein; children, Jon (Mary) Guren, Pam (Ron, deceased) Korotky, Timmy (Michael, deceased) Burns and Laura (Sylvio) Rodriguez; grandchildren, Sara Burns (Michael Sank), Mike (Lauren) Burns, Leanna and Jacque Rodriguez, Cyleena Morse and Josh, Rachel, Skylar and Luna Stein; his five great-grandchildren; and nephews, Marc (Aliza) Guren and Clifford (Deena) Guren.

#### TOLEDO POLISH CULTURAL CENTER

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this evening I wish to highlight the noble efforts of northwest Ohio's Polish Cultural Center to preserve and celebrate Polish-American heritage in Toledo.

As Mr. Tom Pruss, an advisory board member, wisely observed: Every day that goes by, we lose more and more generations of people who know the reason for certain traditions and the reason why they celebrate their heritage.

Family ancestry deepens the meaning of liberty itself.

The center is working diligently to raise funds for a new building in east Toledo to serve as a cultural hub for the community. I know how hard Tom Sorosiak, a professor, has been working on that. As of July, members had already raised over one-half of the funds needed for the project, and former councilman in Toledo, Tom Waniewski, has been absolutely indefatigable in this quest.

In that same spirit of honoring our Polish cultural heritage, today I introduced a resolution alongside my Congressional Poland Caucus co-chairs recognizing this year's 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

This fierce struggle in Poland in the last century serves forever as a cold reminder of the savagery of Nazi and Russian attempts to annihilate Poland's very existence. In the end, at the cost of tens of thousands of lives, Poland lives.

Let us join together from Toledo, Ohio, to the Halls of Congress to ensure

that future generations can connect with their Polish immigrant roots, their struggles and triumphs over travesty, and never forget history. Celebrate our rich heritage at home and back in our native land.

#### NORFOLK SOUTHERN

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the anticipated departure of Norfolk Southern Railway's chief executive officer, reportedly related to an alleged inappropriate relationship with a subordinate.

One could ask oneself: When did he have time for all of that?

This is just the latest evidence of poor decision making at the highest levels of one of our Nation's largest railroads that has a lot of problems that impact every community through which it travels. Frankly, giant railroad magnates need to be corralled in the public interest. Congress already knows that we cannot trust rail corporate leadership to exercise good judgment and take care of failing overpasses and underpasses in our communities. Particularly when it comes to rail safety, they fail.

In October of 2022, a Norfolk Southern train derailed in my district in Sandusky, Ohio. That is the photo there that I am pointing to. I have been privileged to represent it, but over one dozen cars were left hanging for months over an overpass on the main entry into a town that gets over 5 million visitors a year, spilling paraffin wax all over the roadway dripping down and damaging infrastructure.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker?

Norfolk Southern, despite endless pleas from the local mayor and government officials did nothing for months. They did nothing to clean up the mess until 4 months after that mess happened, when a Norfolk Southern train that also passed through our district derailed one dozen cars in East Palestine, Ohio. That triggered a massive explosion and fire which contaminated the air, soil, and water with toxic chemicals.

Rail safety bills were swiftly introduced in both Chambers in the wake of this latter disaster, but Congress has yet to pass the legislation.

Where are the committees in this place?

Are there all asleep?

The residents of East Palestine will live with questions about the disaster's effects on their health for the rest of their lives.

For their sakes and for the sake of all the communities in our Nation with freight rail tracks running through them, Congress must act now.

Railroads are not getting safer on their own. According to the Federal Railway Administration, the latest annual rail safety data reflect troubling trends, including a 41.1 percent increase, a nearly 50 percent increase in the rate for the human factor that caused accidents between 2013 and 2022. That is because the railroads aren't hiring enough people to do the job.

It is past time for the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to mark up the bipartisan Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2024 and for Congress to make real commitments to rail safety.

It was only after East Palestine happened and we raised questions in the national press that Norfolk Southern sent two people back to the original site of the accident in Sandusky—two people—to begin cleaning up the streets and scrape up all that paraffin and try to prevent it from going into the city sewers and so forth.

I think there are real problems at these railroads, and I can't imagine why the committees of jurisdiction are waiting so long. Frankly, those people in East Palestine deserve a new town. Companies used to build new towns for people, and that is one place in America that deserves it.

□ 1915

#### STRENGTHENING DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I now will turn to an important topic: strengthening domestic manufacturing of medical supplies. This poignant true story from my district illustrates the declining quality and access to USA-made medical supplies.

A female patient who is a senior citizen in my district has had to endure a permanent ileostomy for many years. The lifesaving procedure, a very difficult one, requires her to use ostomy supplies daily.

For years, she has had access to high-quality bags made of thin plastic material prescribed by her physician. These original bags were comfortable and suited to her critical medical needs.

She reached out to me with a distressing situation. As the months of her dependence on these critical supplies wore on, she faced a harsh new reality. Her physician informed her that because the new manufacturers had changed the product design, high-quality bags were no longer available. She had to accept less, but what we found out is ownership of the company had changed. A private equity fund sold the product to an offshore foreign investor that changed the design and quality. Indeed, the new bags were cheapened and very harsh for a patient to endure.

The new bags utilized a cheaper, thicker, and stiffer plastic. This design and fabric irritate the patient's skin and, at over 80 years of age, makes it difficult to cut each bag without causing sharp or ragged edges. This has led to more skin irritation, infections, bag leaks, burns, and skin rashes from the astringent she must use to avoid infection.

What about pain to the patient? All caused by the bags' unevenly cut opening and poor quality that damaged her skin. Imagine the discomfort each day and night, dealing with the pain as these bags fail through daily wear.

Unsatisfied, she went to several pharmacies to find the well-made original

thinner bags from a different manufacturer, but her insurance said no. Medicare said no. She could not access the bag most effective for her medical needs. She even wondered if they were still manufactured.

Refusing to accept this painful decline in care, I personally intervened. I found the original thin, flexible bags available, but only online. I ordered a case for her, but this only solves the problem for so long. Eventually, supplies for the preferred bags will run out entirely, and Medicare is not paying attention.

There are thousands and thousands of people like her across this country. This raises a pressing question: If these superior products are available online, why can't they be accessed through the insurance of an American?

This woman is a Medicare recipient. It is imperative that our system supports her and all our seniors who need proper, safe medical care.

This incident underscores the broader issues of our healthcare supply chain. We depend too heavily on foreign manufacturing where these medical products now come from. This exposes our citizens to vulnerabilities in quality and supply. This not only compromises the care of our citizens but also our national preparedness and health security.

In Congress, I have been a staunch advocate for onshoring and reshoring domestic manufacturing, including that of medical products and pharmaceuticals. Why should our citizens be forced to accept inferior, foreign-made knock-offs? It is cruel and, frankly, un-American.

Relying on foreign sources for medical supplies is also stupid, dangerous, and poses a danger if supply is interrupted, as we learned from the pandemic. America must regain our national security by reducing reliance on foreign manufacturers, and we must stimulate our economy by creating high-skill, high-wage jobs and reliable medical products.

Initiatives like those undertaken the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, BARDA, and the Defense Procurement Act are not merely temporary solutions. Overall, our Nation must launch a sustained effort to strengthen our domestic manufacturing capabilities.

Congress must prioritize legislation to empower agencies like Medicare and private insurers to prioritize quality in their coverage policies. We need to ensure that no patient is forced to settle for inferior care due to bureaucratic oversights or inertia, supply chain vulnerabilities, or selfish private equity companies. Our Nation must reshore medical supplies.

Statistics reveal that the use of inferior medical products significantly increases patients' risk of infections and complications. For example, studies have shown that substandard surgical supplies can increase infection rates by 25 percent. This is unacceptable, and I

say to those folks over at Medicare and Medicaid: Check out ileostomy bags. I bet the infection rates are really high.

As citizens become sicker—and lots more are, too—we continue to use inferior products. May the story I shared today serve as a manufacturing and medical call to action. We need a concerted effort to reclaim our independence in manufacturing critical health products and pharmaceuticals.

America must guarantee that every American has access to the best quality medical supplies and medicines without exception. The reputation and capability of our Nation surely depend on it.

#### COMPLETE APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the 2025 Federal fiscal year is supposed to begin October 1, 2024, 20 days from today. Responsible Republicans and responsible Democrats are trying hard to complete the necessary 12 fiscal year 2025 appropriations bills on time as the deadline looms.

Our Nation needs regular order, not more delays, chaos, and goofy legislative tricks. Without reasonable action, uncertainty will prevail at the highest level of institutions on which our Nation depends for security and progress: Defense, Energy, Agriculture, Treasury, Transportation, infrastructure, healthcare, housing, Homeland Security, the Social Security Administration, and so many more, all jeopardized.

Delay jeopardizes funding America's promises to our veterans, our farmers, our first responders, and our teachers as basic functions of our government. All will be crippled across the board.

What hangs in the lurch is support for the American people, from kids in Head Start to wounded veterans trying to make appointments for their orthopedic exams.

Delay here in Congress cripples our economy. More needless shenanigans in Congress throw a monkey wrench into every Federal instrumentality created to serve the people of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, let us ask certain Members of Congress who cannot compromise in this Nation that leads the free world: Why do you choose to be obstructionists? Follow the simple rules of orderly government, and get the appropriations bills done on time. Do your job.

Post-COVID, our economy has been improving consistently. Interest rates dropped again today. Jobs are increasing. Wall Street is doing well. Inflation is being reduced. Debt as a share of GDP—hello—is shrinking.

So why would a handful of discontented Members choose harm when a vast majority of people in this Chamber want to make progress for the country? We need steady hands on the wheel. Let us do what our constituents sent us here to do: Govern.

The ramifications of a poisoned, partisan appropriations bill will halt hiring of Border Patrol officers, prevent contracting for Army Corps of Engi-

neers' dredging, close our parks, and stall emergency relief to communities devastated by recent natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, I say to some of my friends who can't seem to reach compromise: Do you really realize what you are doing?

Here we are, on the brink of another lapse in funding caused by political brinkmanship and shortsighted partisan antics unworthy of this institution's responsibilities. This is a time for leadership, not mischief. This is a time for succeeding, not retreating. This is a time for unity, not division.

Let us do our work. Let us pass our appropriations bills on time and with dispatch.

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

#### BORDER CRISES FROM SEPTEMBER 11 TO TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Roy) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, as I come here to the floor tonight, we all recognize that today is September 11, a date that will never sound the same, a date that now means something totally different than it did prior to 2001.

We have seen the continued recognition of those lives lost. We saw it in New York today. We saw it in Pennsylvania. We saw it at the Pentagon. We saw the flag unfurled.

I give special recognition to my good friend, Senator Brian Birdwell, a State Senator from the State of Texas. A dear friend, Senator Birdwell was perhaps the individual closest to where the airplane hit the Pentagon in 2001, and he survived.

Senator Birdwell was burned across every part of his body. He was hauled out, taken to the hospital. He didn't think he was going to make it. He was praying. Assuming that he was leaving, he was saying good-bye to his family. He survived. He is a great patriot.

Mr. Speaker, if you have a chance, look up his video called "I Am Second." Senator Brian Birdwell tells the story—it is about 7 to 10 minutes, I think—and it is well worth your time.

It is a testament to his faith, and it is a testament to his patriotism. It is a testament to all those who went through those terrible attacks that day.

Those of us who remember them, we remember them personally, closely. We had friends who were affected, and it reminds us, of course, of what happens when we leave our country wide open for attack.

We look back at September 11, and we tend to get wrapped up in the horrors of the collapsing buildings, the horrors of a plane flying into the Pentagon, but we don't spend a whole lot of time talking about the fact that the individuals who carried out that attack overstayed visas to stay in our country

because of our very broken system of border security.

Yes, “border security” I use broadly to include those individuals who we permit to come into our country and are released into our country on a visa or some other way, and they are in our country and then carry out harm.

We remember every year the almost 3,000 Americans who died in that southern part of Manhattan or in a field in Pennsylvania or in Arlington, Virginia, but where was the recognition today for the 75,000 Americans who died from fentanyl last year alone, 25 times the number of people who died on September 11? Where is the recognition of the thousands of persons who have been targeted by criminals released onto the streets of our country?

Just yesterday here in this complex, we had in the House Judiciary Committee the mothers of three Americans killed as a direct consequence of Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, President Joe Biden, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, their coordinated effort, their conspiracy to ignore the laws of the United States and put dangerous individuals on our streets that result in the deaths of Americans in real time as we speak.

Alexis Nungaray is a 27-year-old young Texas woman who chose life 12 years ago when her daughter was born, her daughter, Jocelyn, who was murdered. She was bound, raped, gagged, had her body thrown into a creek in Texas outside of Houston by two Venezuelan men who were released into our country in direct violation of our laws under parole on purpose.

□ 1930

Rachel Morin was murdered in Maryland. Her mother testified yesterday. Kayla Hamilton. We have had other stories like Laken Riley. There are dozens. There are hundreds. There are so many stories that I had my office produce a report that we put out last week titled: “America Invaded.”

In that report, if you look at what is listed, you will find two full pages of 54 examples of Americans, headline stories, who have been killed, raped, assaulted, all of these, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. Where is the commemoration for those Americans?

In the wake of September 11, what did we do in all of our infinite wisdom? We created a 250,000-person bureaucracy at the Department of Homeland Security. We didn’t used to have this massive bureaucracy. Now we do.

Has that made us any safer or more secure?

If you are watching this as an American, do you feel more secure?

If you are an American in Springfield, Ohio, do you feel more secure with 20,000 Haitians who have been dumped into your community?

Do you feel more secure if you are in Buffalo, New York, where just 2 weeks ago, a man was finally apprehended by ICE after having been released into Texas from Peru, and we now know

that he is wanted for 23 murders in Peru. We released him into the United States.

Every one of these examples I am talking about were specifically the result of having individuals released into the United States from other countries who then carried out a vicious attack, a vicious crime, a vicious murder.

We had a witness yesterday testify to the rape and murder of a beautiful, little, 11-year-old girl. I think her name is Maria Gonzalez. If not, I will correct the RECORD, but I believe that is her name. She was killed, again, by someone who was released here into the United States who then preyed on her. Where is the commemoration?

I am going to be very blunt. I appreciate that we commemorate September 11 every September 11. That is a good thing to do. I have heard the bell now ringing for these 23 years.

Who is ringing the bell for Jocelyn Nungaray? This is a serious question.

KAMALA HARRIS was up where the World Trade Center once stood along with a bunch of other people, including former President Trump, current President Biden, former Mayor Bloomberg. Who was commemorating Jocelyn?

Will they be there next June—I think it was June—for the anniversary of her mother’s pain when she woke up on Monday morning and her daughter wasn’t in the house, and she ran down to the convenience store where there were police sirens and tape to find out that her little girl had been murdered? Who is commemorating that?

Who is paying attention to that? She is a devastated young mother.

Like September 11, where we failed, where we allowed visa overstays to stay in this country and then grab planes and fly into buildings, Jocelyn Nungaray is dead today because of KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden and radical, progressive Democrats who don’t give a whit about whether your streets are safe, America.

Wake up. Wake up and know what the elections are about. Wake up and know what is happening in your country because your leaders in this country are failing you. Worse than failing you, they are purposefully endangering you. There is no other way to put it.

I am tired of listening to this garbage. Come up here to Washington. They say: Oh, why can’t you just sit here and get along and go across to the other side of the aisle and shake hands and say: Why can’t you guys just come together and solve problems? I will tell you why. I have done bipartisan bills. I have them right now, and I have friends on the other side of the aisle.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle, almost to a man and a woman, don’t give a damn about the borders being wide open because, if they did, they would do something about it. That is the truth.

We should start acting like that is the truth. We should stop pretending that we don’t have such a wide gulf between that side of the aisle and this side of the aisle.

We have a choice right now. What world view are you choosing for your kids and your grandkids?

Again, continued tough love for my colleagues on this side of the aisle. For decades, we have been complicit by allowing the chamber of commerce to use cheap labor as their excuse for wide-open borders, which set the stage for what we are dealing with right now.

Well, those days are over. When all of the corporate whores around this town come begging for their tax breaks, I want them to come explain to the American people why we should do it when their boardrooms are chock full of radical, progressive Democrats and liberals who want ESG and want their quarterly reports to do well so their stock portfolios grow, and they come in here begging for tax cuts so they can get richer while America gets screwed.

If you are living in Springfield, Ohio, right now, you don’t give a damn about the guys in the corporate boardroom over in New York City, in Manhattan, or maybe in the tall buildings in Cleveland. You don’t care about how rich they are getting, but you care that there are now 20,000 Haitian migrants sitting in your community, that your grandfathers and your grandmothers and your moms and your dads worked hard to build and now is being trashed.

I could promise you, if you are like those young women who were testifying at the Judiciary Committee yesterday, who were migrants themselves—a young woman talking about her dad who came here from Mexico and fought and worked hard and didn’t take government handouts. He said he was going to do it the right way and that the American Dream wasn’t about being given something from government. Then he had to sit here and watch his granddaughter get murdered because of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, every single one of them, own it.

Every single one of them should march their happy rear ends down to Texas and beg for forgiveness. Beg for forgiveness from Alexis Nungaray and Alexis Nungaray’s father because Jocelyn Nungaray got raped, bound, gagged, murdered, by the people released by Democrats in the White House.

Let’s not pretend that there isn’t a mile of difference between Republicans and Conservatives and Democrats and radical Progressives. There is a mile of difference.

I am not going to sit here and pretend, let’s all get in a room and talk to each other nicely, pat each other on the back and say: Oh, man, can’t we just have these halcyon days of old, have a beer like Tip O’Neill and Ronald Reagan?

Not if you don’t believe in America. Not if you don’t believe in sovereignty. Not if you don’t believe in the rule of law. Not if you believe it is okay to release 5½ million people into our country, utterly disregarding how many criminals you are releasing and allowing Americans to get slaughtered.

Why don't you get in the car, drive up here to Aberdeen, Maryland, and talk to Kayla Hamilton or Rachel Morin's family.

Why don't you beg for forgiveness, get on your knees in the House Chamber and say: I am sorry that I was so focused on my own political well-being that I would endanger the American people, because that is what you are doing.

Finally, my colleagues on this side of the aisle, in getting H.R. 2 passed, has finally forsaken the chamber of commerce's death grip on the Republican Party saying: we need our cheap labor.

We haven't even scratched the surface.

We haven't even begun to do what is necessary to take our country back because, when President Trump talks about mass deportations, he means it. I mean it. I hope to hell Republicans on this side of the aisle mean it because 5½ million people dumped into the United States without vetting, without knowledge of who the hell they are. We have the House Judiciary Committee recognizing 99 people on the terrorist watch list released into the United States, and 35,000 Chinese nationals this year, and the year is not even over.

Who are these people?

I flew out to Aurora, Colorado, last week. I went to an apartment complex area, met with the people who were there, talked to one of the residents of the building, talked to the tenant who put a camera on her door; she is not lying. Yet, we have Colorado Democrats who are trying to say it is a lie that Venezuelan gangs are running those apartment complexes. They get on Twitter, and they say: Not true. It is a figment of their imagination.

That is why I flew to Aurora, talked to the woman. She walked me through the fact that the manager of the apartment complex isn't there anymore.

The manager of the apartment complex left and fled and feared for his life. For 2 months, there was no manager there. They put the cameras up. The cameras then showed what the entire world has now seen, which is armed thugs running around the apartment complex. We are told they smashed doors down, changed the locks on the building.

We had a businessman who was there who helped the woman move out and said he basically stepped into the Third World for a number of hours while he was helping her move out.

This is coming to every street in America. Wake up.

We play up here, playing Tiddley Winks, talking about CRs, and nobody even knows where the hell they are. We go around talking about all these different things. Let's get together and pass a resolution and a messaging thing this week.

What are we going to do to finally just say no?

You don't have to take this, you know?

We are supposed to be a free people. We are supposedly endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We established this government in the very preamble of the Constitution.

What does it say? It lays out the purpose of the government being to secure the blessings of liberty. It is not to give crap away. As I have said before on the House floor, we are not supposed to be the United States House of free stuff. We are not the United States Congress here to give you a check. We are killing the American Dream.

Congress, the administration, are actively killing the American Dream in real time. We voted on another bill for another program that spends more money that we don't have. We rack up more debt. We increase the interest. At no point are we actually securing the country.

We have been at war for a quarter of a century in some form or fashion. I don't even know how many trillions: 8, 9? I have lost count on how many trillions we have spent engaged in conflict, directly in Iraq and Afghanistan, only to tuck tail and run when Biden and the current brass bailed and left those 13 heroes stranded to die.

How many trillions? How many American men and women were injured, lost their legs, lost an eye, PTSD: 80,000, 100,000, or more with PTSD?

How many suicides a day?

We have been at war for a quarter of a century.

In this town, we can't even fight for you, the American people, to actually secure you with a secure border, with secure communities, and with an economy that isn't blown to hell by irresponsible government spending.

Do you want to know why? In the false name of defense and in the false name of securing this country because the defense world tells me every year, if I don't vote for one of these bloated spending bills, we won't get a new submarine.

□ 1945

We won't get a new carrier. What the hell are we trying to defend? What is left of the United States to defend? A school where I can't send my child to pray to God without spending \$20,000 a year on top of the taxes I pay. A school that my friend sends her sixth grader to with a trans music teacher asking her kid to do some dance in class. Yes, it is a true story.

Is that what we are defending with carriers and missiles and endless wars? Are we defending a country where Jocelyn Nungaray gets raped and murdered, or Rachel Morin gets raped and murdered because we release dangerous migrants into the streets of America?

Since I literally released this 40-page report last week, I can't even keep up with the news stories since we put it out.

In Virginia, just 30 miles from here, a teenage girl was abducted by a Peru-

vian illegal immigrant, arrested, who had been released into the interior by this administration. A Palestinian migrant accused of beating a Jewish New York man, released into America because he claimed he wouldn't be safe.

We had two of the people in Aurora, Colorado, where I said I went to that were apprehended by ICE after they had been released into the country, arrested, released on bond because we can't detain them because our entire policies have been turned on their head.

We sit here in September, and we have this grand debate about whether we are going to do a continuing resolution for 75 days or 6 months or a year. Will we include the SAVE Act to ensure that American citizens vote? Heaven forbid that we stand up and say, only American citizens should vote in American elections. It is an 80 percent issue.

We have legislation that would fix it. We had a hearing yesterday in which Secretaries of State, experts on the matter, all acknowledged you need the law to guarantee that only American citizens vote in American elections.

Now, we are having a debate about that. What can we put forward on the floor? With all due respect to some of my conservative colleagues that gag on an add. I can't support a CR because 12 appropriations bills must be passed. Okay. Five have been passed. Now, what?

We actually have to figure out how to proceed. I think maybe we could just fund the government for a few months and try to make sure elections are secure, or let's pick a different fight.

Why don't we actually stand up and do something to make this country better? If we do get a CR to December and if Republicans do win the elections in November, what the hell are we going to do with it? Will we fight? I would like to go to the American people over the next 60 days and say, yes, we are going to fight, and you can believe us this time.

I would like to say that Republicans will be bold enough to do what our Democratic colleagues have done repeated times in the last two decades, which is risk your precious, risk your election certificate.

Stop starting off every Congress saying, well, if we do this, we risk our majority makers. What good is it to be in Congress if you don't do something with your election certificate and then go sell it to the people you represent as being the right thing to do?

I have been in tight districts. I have done that. Every single constituent that I represent are fed up. They are fed up with a country that they no longer recognize. They love their country, but the government that they have entrusted to maintain that country, that their fathers and grandfathers fought, bled, and died for has been turned into something they no longer recognize.

I am glad that we have people today on September 11 commemorating those

lost. I am glad that we show patriotism. I am glad that we put the flag on the Pentagon, but until we recognize that every single day because of our policies in this Chamber and in the other Chamber and at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, Americans are suffering with high inflation, with houses that they can't afford, and with their own people getting murdered and slaughtered on the streets or in their homes.

I cannot imagine just 2 months ago, Alexis Nungaray waking up and her 12-year-old daughter not being in the house, only to find out she is dead after having been raped while the mom was sleeping in the house. This has all happened because KAMALA HARRIS and all of her cronies in the administration chose and still choose, as I speak, to release dangerous individuals on the streets of our country.

I am sure I am going to get some sort of admonition for directing some of my venom to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue; but the fact is, the leaders of this country need to be warned. We better get busy fixing this country or the American people are not going to take it anymore, and I will be right there supporting them.

I am sick and tired of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle not showing up and not doing what we said we would do. I am particularly sick of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle daring to lie to the American people that they somehow believe in securing the border when they put forward legislation that would have codified the very parole policies that have, since they introduced the dang bill, been used to slaughter and kill innocent American citizens.

This is not a negotiation. You don't negotiate for your safety and your security. You just get busy doing it. I can promise you that whatever happens with this election, I am going to be a loud voice for the State of Texas to stick their middle finger up at this godforsaken city and say we are going to secure our State. All of the other people in all of the other States be damned because we have an obligation to do it.

When our people are dying and our people are hurting and we are spending \$13 billion of our own money, where the hell is this Congress and this Senate backing up the people of Texas? When we joined this Union, we were promised something, and we are being denied it.

On behalf of every single one of those moms that come to my office in tears because their kids died from fentanyl or because their little girl was raped and murdered, and for every one of those tombstones that I drive by in Arlington coming to office every day, who either gave or risked the last full measure of devotion, they didn't do it for this. They didn't risk it for this.

They risked it to live free and secure and have opportunity in a country that is sovereign and safe. It is time for us to do our job, and it is time for the

American people to do their job this fall and make sure that the right leaders are running this country.

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

#### DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE PROPOSED FLORIDA STATE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT 4

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DUNN) for 30 minutes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNN of Florida. 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 the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the proposed Florida State Constitution amendment No. 4.

Amendment 4 is a dangerous and ill-advised amendment that will make women and newborns less safe. Amendment 4 will overturn multiple State laws and regulations meant to protect the health and safety of women and children.

As a medical doctor, I know how dangerous abortion procedures can be. The Florida State legislature has wisely placed safeguards that protect the health and safety of women and babies in our State.

These include a requirement for a physician to perform the procedure, sanitation standards, and follow-up care requirements. None of these safeguards are included in amendment 4.

Additionally, the vague viability standard outlined in amendment 4 invites litigation and controversy, and I am personally opposed to it.

I have witnessed firsthand as medicine has evolved to allow babies born earlier and earlier in pregnancy to survive. If amendment 4 passes, babies who can survive outside the womb will be left unprotected.

In fact, I, myself, have performed a number of in utero surgeries on unborn babies as young as 18 weeks. These fragile lives are worth saving and modern medicine has made it possible.

I am unapologetically pro-life, and amendment 4 is a step in the wrong direction. This dangerous amendment will jeopardize the health and safety of women and babies across the State and lead to unsafe and even full-term abortions.

I will be voting "no" on amendment 4, and I urge all Floridians to oppose it. I also urge all Americans across the country to oppose similar ballot measures in their State.

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

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1076.—An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the trafficking into the United States of synthetic drugs, and related illicit finance, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1608.—An act to provide for the expansion of the Starr-Camargo Bridge near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 12, 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-5269. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Procedures for the Active and Inactive Vessel Register [Docket No.: 191203-0099] (RIN: 0648-BH48) received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5270. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019-2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures [Docket No.: 180625576-8999-02] (RIN: 0648-BH93) received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5271. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Interim 2020 Recreational Measures [Docket No.: 200214-0057] (RIN: 0648-BJ57) received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5272. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Recreational Management Measures

for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries: Fishing Year 2018 [Docket No.: 180220193-8488-02] (RIN: 0648-BH79) received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5273. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Revisions to Framework Adjustment 58 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan and Sector Annual Catch Entitlements; Updated Annual Catch Limits for Sectors and the Common Pool for Fishing Year 2019; Correction [Docket No.: 200110-0007; RTID 0648-XX008] received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5274. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan; 2024 Annual Management Measures [Docket No.: 240229-0065; RTID 0648-XD690] received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5275. A letter from the Acting Director, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries [Docket No.: 180117042-8884-02] (RTID: 0648-XT033) received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5276. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the General Category January Through March Fishery for 2024 [Docket No.: 220919-0193; RTID 0648-XD658] received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5277. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General Category and Harpoon Category Retention Limit Adjustments [Docket No.: 220919-0193] (RTID: 0648-XD944) received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5278. A letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 230306-0065; RTID 0648-XD264] received August 20, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. TURNER: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. H.R. 8512. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-662). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROY, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 9534. A bill to enforce the rights protected by the Second and Fourteenth Amendments against the States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 9535. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 130 South Patterson Avenue in Santa Barbara, California, as the "Brigadier General Frederick R. Lopez Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. YAKYM):

H.R. 9536. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with respect to vehicle roadside accidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 9537. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Federal Real Anti-fraud Unified Directorate, to require agencies implement anti-fraud controls for programs susceptible to significant improper payments and high-priority programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 9538. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish certain requirements for meat, poultry, fruit, and vegetable purchases by the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 9539. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse public employee retirement systems for accidental disability retirements and accidental deaths resulting from the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. HAGEMAN (for herself, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. FRY, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. HARDER of California):

H.R. 9540. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require regulated persons to identify tabletting machines and encapsulating machines by serial number; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon (for herself and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 9541. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 9542. A bill to suspend compliance of reporting requirements related to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. McGARVEY:

H.R. 9543. A bill to establish a commission to study the creation of a national sovereign wealth fund by the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mr. TRONE, Mr. HOYER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. PORTER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MEEKS):

H.R. 9544. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 9545. A bill to provide for the electronic submission of domestic violence information and communications with visa applicants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. SELF, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 9546. A bill to promote democracy in Venezuela, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Rules, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 9547. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on firefighter rapid intervention team training and equipment at Department of Defense facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 9548. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on high-impact tutoring in schools operated by the Department of Defense Education Activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms.

SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mrs. NAPOLETANO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. CHERILUS-MC CORMICK, Mr. CASAR, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DE REMER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. FROST, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CHU, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TRONE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia).

H. Res. 1437. A resolution designating the week beginning on September 9, 2024, as "National Hispanic-Serving Institutions Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. COLLINS (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. McCORMICK, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H. Res. 1438. A resolution condemning the horrific shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, recognizing the victims, and expressing condolences and support to their families and their communities; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H. Res. 1439. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 7, 2024, as "Liturgical Dance Day" and the International Dance Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 1440. A resolution Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. JAMES, and Mr. RYAN):

H. Res. 1441. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17, 2024, as "Patriot Week"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H. Res. 1442. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week beginning on September 8, 2024, as "Celebrate Community Week"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted re-

garding (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. MASSIE:  
H.R. 9534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

2nd Amendment

The single subject of this legislation is:

2nd Amendment

By Mr. CARBAJAL:  
H.R. 9535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Postal legislation

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:  
H.R. 9536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl.1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation and Public Works

By Mr. CONNOLLY:  
H.R. 9537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the U.S.C.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill addresses issues of fraud and improper payments, including by establishing the Federal Real Antifraud Unified Directorate within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

By Ms. DELAUBO:

H.R. 9538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to ensure that USDA uses its immense purchasing power to support local and regional food systems and to create market opportunities for small and mid-sized farms.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 9539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would allow FEMA to reimburse the State and City pension systems for the loss in pension payments due to the unanticipated deaths of those who responded to the terrorist attacks and who participated in the clean-up in the weeks following the attacks.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 9540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Controlled Substances Act to require regulated persons to identify tabletting machines and encapsulating machines by serial number

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:

H.R. 9541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, 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:

The single subject of this legislation is disaster response.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 9542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To suspend compliance of reporting requirements related to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

By Mr. McGARVEY:

H.R. 9543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fiscal Policy

By Mr. MFUME:

H.R. 9544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 Enumerated Powers, Clause 7 Post Offices.

The Congress shall have Power To establish Post Offices and post Roads.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 South Loudon Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland, as the "United States Representative Elijah E. Cummings Post Office Building."

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 9545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Streamlining Visas

By Ms. SALAZAR:

H.R. 9546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Venezuela Sanctions

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 9547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America

The single subject of this legislation is:

Studying DoD firefighter training and equipment to better protect military firefighters

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 9548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America

The single subject of this legislation is:

Supporting military families by expanding access to high-impact tutoring programs at DoDEA schools

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 53: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. STRONG, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H.R. 87: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 92: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 333: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 1015: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 1139: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mrs. KIM of California.  
 H.R. 1239: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
 H.R. 1277: Mr. KEATING.  
 H.R. 1491: Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
 H.R. 1507: Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 1572: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.  
 H.R. 1608: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
 H.R. 1666: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 1705: Mrs. FOUSHÉE.  
 H.R. 1770: Mrs. FISCHBACH and Mr. PENCE.  
 H.R. 1822: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.  
 H.R. 1826: Mr. PHILLIPS.  
 H.R. 1833: Mr. NEAL.  
 H.R. 2413: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 2474: Mr. PENCE and Mr. CONNOLLY.  
 H.R. 2501: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
 H.R. 2584: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Mr. LEVIN.  
 H.R. 2620: Mr. ZINKE, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. BOST, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MILLS, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. ELLZEY.  
 H.R. 2700: Mr. HILL and Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 2743: Mr. D'ESPPOSITO and Mr. STRONG.  
 H.R. 2748: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 2818: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 2889: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
 H.R. 2909: Ms. STEVENS.  
 H.R. 2971: Mr. PFLUGER.  
 H.R. 3110: Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
 H.R. 3206: Ms. BOEBERT.  
 H.R. 3378: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.  
 H.R. 3398: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 3413: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 3432: Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 3606: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 3694: Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 3730: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 3811: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
 H.R. 3851: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 3868: Mr. HUNT.  
 H.R. 3909: Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 3933: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 3966: Mr. CORREA.  
 H.R. 4006: Mrs. HAYES.  
 H.R. 4020: Mr. POCAN.  
 H.R. 4034: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 4118: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
 H.R. 4157: Mr. SARBANES and Mr. BRECHEEN.  
 H.R. 4268: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
 H.R. 4333: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. VAN DREW.  
 H.R. 4335: Mrs. KIM of California.  
 H.R. 4340: Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. KAPUR, and Mr. NEAL.  
 H.R. 4343: Mr. PFLUGER.  
 H.R. 4432: MR. LYNCH, Ms. STANSBURY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. AMO, Mr. JOHNSON of GEORGIA, and Mr. SHERMAN.  
 H.R. 4741: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 4974: Mr. RYAN and Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 5035: Ms. MENG.  
 H.R. 5077: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.  
 H.R. 5103: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.  
 H.R. 5198: Mr. BACON.  
 H.R. 5199: Mr. MOLINARO.  
 H.R. 5312: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 5451: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 5488: Mr. MOONEY.  
 H.R. 5502: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 5563: Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 5578: Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 5614: Ms. MENG.  
 H.R. 5625: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. SUOZZI.  
 H.R. 5664: Ms. DELBENE.  
 H.R. 5765: Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 5929: Mr. GALLEGOS.  
 H.R. 6013: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 6031: Mr. FROST, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. PAPPAS.  
 H.R. 6205: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
 H.R. 6225: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 6242: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.  
 H.R. 6347: Mr. HORSFORD.  
 H.R. 6371: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. PENCE.  
 H.R. 6382: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California.  
 H.R. 6411: Mr. AMO.  
 H.R. 6451: Mr. HOYER.  
 H.R. 6687: Mr. BANKS.  
 H.R. 6773: Mr. PANETTA.  
 H.R. 6892: Ms. PORTER.  
 H.R. 6951: Mr. CRENSHAW.  
 H.R. 6957: Mrs. FISCHBACH.  
 H.R. 7002: Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. ROSS, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. NADLER.  
 H.R. 7042: Mr. STAUBER and Mrs. FISCHBACH.  
 H.R. 7050: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
 H.R. 7059: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.  
 H.R. 7142: Mr. MAST.  
 H.R. 7195: Mr. WALTZ and Mrs. FISCHBACH.  
 H.R. 7293: Mr. NORCROSS.  
 H.R. 7297: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.  
 H.R. 7384: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. McGOVERN, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.  
 H.R. 7450: Mr. STRONG and Mr. ELLZEY.  
 H.R. 7479: Mr. DONALDS.  
 H.R. 7563: Mr. WOMACK.  
 H.R. 7569: Ms. LEE of Florida and Ms. ESHOO.  
 H.R. 7599: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
 H.R. 7634: Mr. HORSFORD.  
 H.R. 7735: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LANDSMAN.  
 H.R. 7752: Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H.R. 7764: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. McCLELLAN, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.  
 H.R. 7793: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.  
 H.R. 7811: Mr. MOULTON.  
 H.R. 7829: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 8018: Mr. PFLUGER.  
 H.R. 8061: Ms. MANNING, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. MALOY, and Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 8066: Mr. WALTZ.  
 H.R. 8147: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 8164: Ms. MENG and Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 8193: Mr. CURTIS.  
 H.R. 8231: Mr. ADERHOLT.  
 H.R. 8331: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine and Mr. D'ESPPOSITO.  
 H.R. 8340: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 8371: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 8383: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 8398: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. DUNN of Florida.  
 H.R. 8404: Mr. PFLUGER.  
 H.R. 8412: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 8419: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. LEVIN.  
 H.R. 8446: Mr. BIGGS.  
 H.R. 8481: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 8514: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 8568: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 8641: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. McCLENTOCK.  
 H.R. 8702: Mr. FROST, Mr. ELLZEY, and Ms. PEREZ.  
 H.R. 8715: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 8758: Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 8777: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. ARRINGTON.  
 H.R. 8796: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
 H.R. 8836: Mr. CURTIS.  
 H.R. 8915: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. HILL.  
 H.R. 8928: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 8977: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 9014: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 9035: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 9060: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
 H.R. 9093: Mr. SOTO.  
 H.R. 9096: Mr. CARL.  
 H.R. 9101: Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 9125: Mr. BACON.  
 H.R. 9129: Mr. SOTO.  
 H.R. 9137: Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
 H.R. 9151: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CARL, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 9182: Mr. MOLINARO.  
 H.R. 9218: Mr. BURLISON and Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
 H.R. 9255: Mr. D'ESPPOSITO.  
 H.R. 9260: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mrs. FISCHBACH.  
 H.R. 9274: Mr. BACON.  
 H.R. 9319: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 9340: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 9448: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 9462: Ms. LETLOW.  
 H.R. 9472: Mr. MEUSER.  
 H.R. 9479: Mr. D'ESPPOSITO.  
 H.R. 9486: Ms. TOKUDA.  
 H.R. 9495: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.  
 H.R. 9516: Mr. CURTIS.  
 H.R. 9523: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.  
 H.R. 9525: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Ms. TENNEY.  
 H.R. 9527: Mr. ESTES.  
 H.J. Res. 8: Mr. BARR.  
 H.J. Res. 144: Mrs. FISCHBACH.  
 H.J. Res. 164: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.  
 H.J. Res. 167: Mr. DUNCAN.  
 H.J. Res. 193: Mr. McGARVEY and Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
 H. Con. Res. 128: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H. Res. 566: Mrs. DINGELL.  
 H. Res. 1131: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H. Res. 1286: Mrs. PELTOLA and Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H. Res. 1338: Mr. PFLUGER.  
 H. Res. 1422: Ms. BALINT, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
 H. Res. 1423: Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. MULLIN.  
 H. Res. 1432: Mr. RASKIN.  
 H. Res. 1435: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
 H. Res. 1436: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. DELUZIO.