



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

No. 150

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 25, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG LOPEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 6513. An act to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections.

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.

CELEBRATING RICHARD KEEP, JR.'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, one of the most joyous things we do in Congress is to speak about people in our district.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable milestone for a fellow Iowan and a fellow veteran.

Richard Keep, Jr., is about to turn 100 years old on September 28, 2024. Richard's life is a shining example of bravery and dedication. As a World War II Army veteran, he served in the 12th Armored Division and the 92nd Reconnaissance Squadron from 1943 to 1945 in Germany.

His courage during a crucial time in our history is an inspiration to us all. Richard fought for the freedoms we enjoy today, demonstrating great strength and commitment to his fellow soldiers and our country, and he did this starting at age 19.

Richard's story doesn't end there. He met his wife, Carol, while they were students at Delta High School. They got married about 5 months before he was deployed to Germany. They graduated together in 1942, married in 1943 before deployment, and have now shared an incredible 81 years of marriage together. They are about to celebrate their 100th birthday together, as well as their 81st anniversary.

Their family includes two children, Kelli and Karen, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren, all influenced by Richard and Carol's strong family values and love for one another.

As we honor Richard on his special occasion, his 100th birthday, let us celebrate his incredible life as a soldier and, on their 81st wedding anniversary, his life as a family man.

Here is to Richard, a true American hero and a proud Iowan.

LEWISTON SHOOTING ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, on October 25, 2023, America's gun violence nightmare became a living hell for the people of Lewiston, Maine, and everyone who calls our State home.

At 6:54 p.m., a man carrying a semi-automatic rifle walked into a bowling alley and fired 18 rounds, taking the lives of eight patrons in 45 seconds, including a 14-year-old boy.

The shooter then drove to a nearby restaurant, where he opened fire again, killing 10 more innocent civilians in 78 seconds, including 4 members of Maine's deaf community who were gathered at the restaurant for a cornhole tournament.

It was Maine's worst mass shooting ever and the tenth deadliest in American history. The total time the gun was operating was 2 minutes. That is 2 minutes of 1 man pulling a single deadly trigger, killing 18 human beings, 18 of our neighbors.

This shouldn't be allowed to happen, not by anyone, not anywhere, not ever again.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the victims of this horrifying tragedy and in holding in our hearts the people of Lewiston, a city that so beautifully embodies the resilience and dynamism of our great State. I also ask my colleagues to commit to the kind of sensible gun-control measures supported by 80 percent of Mainers and supported by a vast majority of Americans.

Please never forget, and never again.

NEW YORK CLIMATE WEEK

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, maybe my colleagues have heard of New York Fashion Week, which was at the beginning of this month, but this week is New York Climate Week, giving us an opportunity to spur climate action.

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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The fashion industry is a massive, \$2.5 trillion global industry and an economic driver with a presence in every State. We cannot ignore the wide-ranging impacts of the fashion industry. Clothing production is surging, textile waste is rising, and workers' wages and conditions are worsening.

Fashion, and particularly fast fashion, is a climate issue. The apparel industry is responsible for about 4 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and 4 percent of the solid waste in the United States alone.

In 2021, the World Economic Forum identified the fashion industry and its supply chain as the world's third largest polluter.

In June, my colleagues and I took an important step by launching the first-ever Congressional Slow Fashion Caucus. We are working to educate Members and the public about the negative impacts of the fashion industry and to develop policies to support a more sustainable industry.

There are important actions we can all take as individuals. We can buy less clothing and get more use out of our clothing by patching holes or buying secondhand, but there is a critical need for new policies to encourage brands to design better clothing and take responsibility for the end of life of their products.

Other countries and States are already starting this work. We cannot only make the planet healthier, but we can use these opportunities to create jobs and support communities and American businesses.

The time for action is now. I invite my colleagues to join me in the Slow Fashion Caucus and raising awareness and making an impact for the future of our planet.

IN RECOGNITION OF KENTUCKY SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SHERIFF OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT CHRIS QUIRE

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Chris Quire of Franklin County for being named the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association Sheriff of the Year in recognition of his 25 years of dedicated service in law enforcement.

Sheriff Quire has risen through the ranks from parking citation officer to captain before being elected sheriff in 2018.

His time as sheriff has been defined by ensuring the safety of the people of Franklin County. Under his leadership, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office was able to fully staff each school in the county with a school resource officer.

Sheriff Quire has earned the respect and support of Franklin County due to his ability to foster strong relationships and his commitment to the well-being of the community. Sheriff Quire's many years of service to Franklin County make him the perfect choice for Kentucky's Sheriff of the Year.

I am confident that Sheriff Quire will continue to serve as an exemplary role model for law enforcement officers all across the First Congressional District and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

NATIONAL BOURBON HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, this is National Bourbon Heritage Month. Kentucky-01 is home to the world's finest bourbon industry, including six distilleries, such as Maker's Mark, Buffalo Trace, Jim Beam, Bulleit, Jefferson's, Yellowstone, and many more of the world's finest bourbons.

The Kentucky bourbon industry is a huge economic driver for my congressional district. In addition to hundreds of good-paying jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue, it is a huge market for many of my farmers who grow corn and wheat.

The Kentucky Bourbon Trail is the State of Kentucky's single largest tourist destination.

Let's all celebrate the Kentucky Bourbon Heritage Month and remember the huge economic impact it has, not just on Kentucky's First Congressional District, but on the whole Commonwealth of Kentucky.

CONGRATULATING DEBRA HEMBREE LAMBERT ON HER ELECTION TO KENTUCKY SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Debra Lambert on being elected the first female chief justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court.

She has served as a judge for 17 years, including 6 years on the Kentucky Supreme Court. I have had the privilege of getting to know Justice Lambert very well over the years. I have always admired her commitment to ensuring every person in Kentucky receives the impartial justice they deserve.

During her time on Kentucky's Supreme Court, Justice Lambert has headed the Kentucky Judicial Commission on Mental Health, which works to address Kentuckians' mental health needs through improvements to the judicial system.

Justice Lambert serves many counties in the First Congressional District, and they are served well due to her hard work and dedication on our State's highest court.

I congratulate Justice Lambert on her election to this prestigious position. I am confident Kentucky will continue to greatly benefit from her leadership.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF MS. BRENDA PHILLIPS-HONG AND HER SISTAH STRUT WALK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STAUBER). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the exemplary and extraordinary work of Ms. Brenda Phillips-Hong, the founder of Brenda's Brown Bosom Buddies in Birmingham, Alabama, ahead of her annual Sistah Strut Walk to fight breast cancer.

A survivor herself, Ms. Brenda's organization is dedicated to supporting,

educating, and advocating for early detection of breast cancer for minority, low-income, and underserved women and men. Not only does it provide a support system for patients, but her organization also helps to connect them to transportation to and from treatments.

Ms. Brenda's work has changed countless lives in Birmingham and in Jefferson County, particularly for Black women, who are 40 percent more likely to die from breast cancer than White women. We are so grateful that she has decided to turn her pain into purpose and use her own story to make a difference in the lives of so many.

As we prepare to observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, let us remember that early detection is our best protection.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the amazing work of breast cancer survivor and community leader, Ms. Brenda Phillips-Hong. May this year's Sistah Strut Walk be the best one ever.

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RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HAZING PREVENTION WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Hazing Prevention Week.

For far too long, hazing has been a dangerous, unacceptable issue that has plagued college campuses nationwide.

Hazing is often masked as a tradition or necessary step to joining many student organizations, but let me be clear: Hazing isn't harmless, fun, or a rite of passage. It is a serious issue that puts the physical, emotional, and psychological well-being of students at risk.

Hazing does not build genuine connections out of camaraderie or mutual respect. It creates a power dynamic based on fear. No student should ever be forced to endure demeaning or dangerous acts to feel accepted or to prove their loyalty to others.

It is tragic that these abhorrent acts still occur on campuses across our country. We all play a role in holding clubs, organizations, sports teams, individuals, and campuses to a higher standard when it comes to the well-being of students, which is why I have long advocated for student safety on campuses during my time in Congress.

In 2019, I introduced the END ALL Hazing Act to increase campuswide transparency and accountability for all student organizations.

Earlier this month, I led the effort to advance the Stop Campus Hazing Act through the House Committee on Education and the Workforce alongside several of my colleagues.

Hazing is a serious threat to life and safety on campuses, but obtaining facts about hazing can be somewhat challenging. Under current Federal law, there are no national reporting requirements, and there is no clear definition of hazing.

The Stop Campus Hazing Act, which includes provisions from my END ALL Hazing Act, would require institutions

to report hazing incidents in their annual security report, also known as their Clery report, and enact a responsible definition of hazing that holds perpetrators accountable and protects students nationwide.

This bill also streamlines reporting requirements by respecting State laws and includes several transparency measures to ensure students, parents, and the public can access information about hazing incidents within any student organization.

The formation of the Stop Campus Hazing Act would not have been possible without the long and tireless work of many advocates, including Evelyn and Jim Piazza. Evelyn and Jim are the parents of Tim Piazza, who tragically passed away in February 2017 at Penn State as a direct result of a hazing ritual at his fraternity.

Today would have been Tim's 27th birthday.

As a parent, I cannot imagine Evelyn and Jim's tremendous loss. In the face of this unspeakable tragedy, Evelyn and Jim have been at the forefront of efforts in Pennsylvania, in Congress, and in other States around the country to speak about the dangers of hazing and enact change in Tim's honor.

Their advocacy led to the establishment of the Timothy J. Piazza Center for Fraternity and Sorority Research and Reform at Penn State, whose research helped shape the Stop Campus Hazing Act and led to the enactment of some of the strongest antihazing laws anywhere in the country and Pennsylvania.

Hazing is unacceptable behavior that can lead to great bodily harm and even death. These tragic actions leave families struggling with the loss of their loved ones, changing the trajectory of their lives forever.

Mr. Speaker, these are not isolated events. These are preventable tragedies. We must safeguard the dignity and safety of every student and ensure that our campuses foster an environment of learning and growth.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Americans to recognize the significance of National Hazing Prevention Week and urge all of my colleagues in this Chamber to continue to support commonsense reforms to protect each and every student nationwide.

RECOGNIZING KIMBERLY WYARD ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AT NEVHC

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep gratitude to honor a remarkable woman and extraordinary leader, Kimberly Wyard, who is retiring after 50 years of service at the Northeast Valley Health Corporation, NEVHC.

Kim's tireless dedication has transformed NEVHC into a lifeline for

countless families and individuals, particularly those in our most vulnerable communities.

Kim joined NEVHC in 1974, just a year after the organization opened its very first health center in the city of San Fernando.

In the five decades since, her vision and leadership have guided NEVHC's growth to 18 health centers, providing over 300,000 medical, dental, and behavioral health visits every year, as well as nine WIC sites serving more than 38,000 participants every year.

What started as a single clinic has evolved into a vital network under Kim's unwavering commitment to providing care where it is needed most.

As CEO since 1996, Kim has embodied the spirit of service, ensuring that low-income families, immigrants, and underserved communities have access to quality healthcare. Her leadership, compassion, and relentless drive have changed lives by giving hope and health to those who might otherwise go without.

Kim's service wasn't just limited to her role as CEO. She worked her way up from positions like director of the adolescent health program and clinic administrator, and she represented our community at the local and national level, always advocating for more equitable health access.

Her heart has always been with the people she serves, and that love for her community has been the driving force behind NEVHC's success.

Today, as she steps into a well-earned retirement, I thank Kim Wyard, on behalf of so many of us, for her lifetime of service. She has built a legacy that will continue to enrich the lives of people in our community long after her work is done.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Kim for everything she has done for the Northeast Valley Health Corporation and for the thousands of families whose lives she has touched. Her dedication, compassion, and leadership will forever be remembered, even by my family. With 11 children, my parents used to go to Northeast Valley Health Corporation as well, way back about 50 years ago.

HONORING HALL OF FAME FIGHTER GRACIELA CASILLAS

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Graciela Casillas, "The Goddess," a Hall of Fame fighter from Oxnard, California.

Graciela is one of 11 children born to Mexican immigrants Roberto Casillas and Enedina Santana-Casillas. Graciela spent her formative years between Norwalk, California, where she attended school, and northern California, where her family worked in agriculture.

Her journey in combat sports began when she decided to attend a tae kwon do self-defense class. It was there where Graciela became passionate about fighting. Her career in combat sports spanned from 1976 to 1986. In that time, she became a world champion.

Graciela is the first American, man or woman, to become a world champion

in two sports at the same time. She accomplished the feat when she won the World Women's Boxing Association and the World Kickboxing Association's bantamweight championships. Graciela retired undefeated in 1986.

In 2023, Graciela was inducted into the National Boxing Hall of Fame.

Graciela's parents instilled in their children the pursuit of higher education. Graciela was able to honor her parents by attaining her bachelor's and master's degrees.

Today, after serving as the department chair of counseling at Oxnard College, she now balances her time between teaching as an adjunct and her martial arts pursuits like Filipino stick fighting.

Graciela is a true warrior. Her fight today extends beyond the ring as she continues to fight on behalf of her community.

Graciela was subjected to a double standard between men and women athletes. Graciela has always been a strong voice, speaking the truth, not only for women but for everyone.

Graciela teaches self-defense classes to try to bring the lioness within out in women who would love to have more self-confidence and to be able to defend themselves in any situation.

"The Lioness Within" is Graciela's mantra, and that is how Graciela has always carried herself, not only as a champion in the ring but as a champion for her community and for women. She continues to do many, many things for her community.

Mr. Speaker, in the many years to come, we wish Graciela well in her continued fight to make sure that women and equality exist everywhere.

REMEMBERING DALTON DEBRICK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Stop Campus Hazing Act. I rise on behalf of those who cannot, including Dalton Debrick, an Irving native who tragically lost his life at the young age of 18.

Dalton loved life and lit up a room with his smile. He grew up participating in sports, including baseball and other activities at the Irving YMCA.

These experiences led Dalton to work with children and, after originally declaring an engineering major, inspired him to switch paths to pursue a career in coaching and teaching.

A kindhearted, bright young man, Dalton played baseball and made an impact in our northeast Texas community through his sports teams and involvement in church programs. After 13 years of hard work, Dalton graduated from Nimitz High School and was excited to attend Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Like many of us, Dalton's parents, who are with us in the gallery today, were filled with mixed emotions when they dropped off their eldest child,

proud of their son for pursuing his lifetime dream of attending Tech but nervous for his new chapter.

On August 18, 2014, Dalton turned 18. Days later, his loving family moved him into his freshman dorm, and by August 24, 2014, Dalton went home to be with his Lord. He never got to experience his first day of college nor the joy of graduating and beginning his adult career.

The night before he was set to begin his freshman year, Dalton was killed in an alcohol-fueled hazing incident. After being forced to drink a keg of beer in less than 30 minutes and half a handle of whiskey, Dalton was left in a room unconscious and covered in vomit, guarded by a fraternity member so he wouldn't be seen and couldn't be helped.

Mr. Speaker, 911 wouldn't be called until 3 hours after he was found dead, with a blood alcohol content four times the legal limit. Dalton's death was preventable.

Since Dalton's death, his mom, Debbie, has spoken out and used her platform to urge students to look after each other and to be someone her son didn't have.

In her discussions with colleges and universities, Debbie has been an incredible advocate, working to fulfill Dalton's dream of educating children. In doing so, Debbie and Dalton are saving lives.

Debbie has worked with the Anti-Hazing Coalition to warn families about the dangers of hazing and to pass legislation that will help prevent other parents from experiencing this immeasurable loss.

In 2019, Debbie worked to get Texas Senate Bill 38 signed into law, which changed criminal prosecution for hazing offenses and requires universities to be transparent about hazing incidents on campus.

In the more than 10 years since Dalton was tragically taken from us, Debbie has saved countless students and families from suffering the same fate.

Between 1959 and 2021, at least one hazing death occurred per year on a U.S. college campus. Currently, campus safety laws do not require colleges to report data about hazing, and State-level hazing definitions and penalties are inconsistent.

The Stop Campus Hazing Act provides uniform anti-hazing guidance, mandating that institutions include hazing incidents in their annual reports, requiring them to implement hazing prevention programs and publish their hazing policies online, along with information about which student organizations have a history of hazing incidents.

This is not only a tool for institutions to combat hazing but will also help empower students to make informed decisions when choosing between which schools to attend, clubs to join, and Greek life on campus.

I am hopeful that if we work together, we can put an end to the hazing

culture that is all too common on college campuses. It is imperative that we protect students, provide parents with reassurance, ensure accountability for perpetrators, and save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Debbie and her husband for their tireless work, advocating not only for Dalton but the countless other parents who tragically lost their children the same way. I thank my colleagues for supporting this important legislation as we take a crucial step to stop these preventable tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for being here today.

CONGRATULATING DR. SUSAN HEREDIA

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Susan Heredia for her service to the Natomas Unified School District and the greater Sacramento community.

For nearly a quarter century, Dr. Heredia has worked tirelessly to ensure every Natomas student has access to the opportunities they deserve.

Dr. Heredia began her journey as a bilingual teacher, and her commitment to diversity and inclusion has been a constant throughout her career. As a member of the Natomas school board since 2000 and in her roles at UC Davis and Sacramento State, she has helped shape the education of thousands of students. Her leadership in bilingual and multicultural education has left a lasting impact on our community.

Beyond Natomas, Dr. Heredia has played a critical role on the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and as a leader with the California School Board Association where she has been a strong advocate for improving educational access, opportunities, and outcomes for all students.

As Dr. Heredia steps into a well-deserved retirement, we celebrate not just her decades of service but the countless lives she has touched along the way.

We thank her for her tireless work and unwavering commitment to the students and families of Natomas and our great State. I wish her all the best in her retirement and know her impact will be felt in our community for years to come.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RIO LINDA GRANGE

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Rio Linda Grange No. 403, a cornerstone of community life in Sacramento since 1924.

For a century, the Rio Linda Grange has been a beacon of civic engagement and community spirit, embodying the Grange's tradition of being unspotted from the world while making significant contributions to the well-being of Rio Linda and Elverta.

From the early days of installing the iconic Rio Linda arches to their ongoing

efforts in education, infrastructure, and community support, the Grange has tirelessly worked to improve the lives of local residents.

They have championed causes that led to the establishment of critical infrastructure such as supporting the formation of reliable utility services, advocating for safer rail crossings, and petitioning for better street lighting.

The Grange's influence is deeply woven into the fabric of the community from offering practical workshops on homesteading and fruit preservation to serving as a gathering place for shared learning and support.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, I am proud to honor the Rio Linda Grange for its enduring commitment to the community and its significant contributions to the social and civic fabric of Sacramento County. Their legacy of service continues to inspire and uplift all who have been touched by their work.

HONORING BILL CAMP

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of my good friends, Mr. Bill Camp. He passed this week, and it is with heavy hearts that those of us in Sacramento who got to work with Bill celebrate and remember his extraordinary life.

I first met Bill about 20 years ago through the American Leadership Forum and got to know Bill's life of service. He was an unsung hero.

This was a gentleman who rose up in the civil rights movement in Mississippi and worked tirelessly to give a voice to those that had no voice.

In the words of our former colleague, John Lewis, Bill embodied that spirit of showing up, of standing up, and of speaking up.

He came to Sacramento in the early sixties and became one of our labor leaders. He really did fight tirelessly.

We weren't always on the same side of each issue, we had our disagreements, but Bill showed up and stood up for those that didn't have any voice.

Thank you, Bill, for a lifetime of service. Rest in power, brother Bill. Your fight lives on in all of us.

HONORING JOE QUATTRONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EDWARDS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joe Quattrone, a legend on Capitol Hill who recently passed away at the age of 90.

Joe was the barber in the Rayburn barbershop. He served there for 52 years. During the course of his service, he cut the hair of multiple Presidents, including George H.W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, and the late Gerald Ford.

Joe was known for his outrageous stories, wonderful sense of humor, and love for life. I first met him in 2019 when I got my start right here in Congress, and I was lucky enough to sit in

his chair once a month every month until he retired. I could always count on his positive attitude and his steady hands.

Joe immigrated to the United States from Italy when he was 18 years old. He served in the Air Force and was married to the love of his life, Rita, for 65 years until she passed away.

He is survived by his two grandchildren, his daughter-in-law, and his son, Frank, who described his father as a "one-of-a-kind guy."

To know Joe was to love him. He was kind, openhearted, and possessed a unique ability to brighten anyone's day. We will miss the man who loved his family, worked hard, gave great haircuts, and made everyone laugh.

Joe, may you rest in peace.

WE ARE NOT A NATION IN DECLINE

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, one of the most ridiculous and, really, almost offensive narratives that is out there is that America is a nation in decline. You see it on social media. You see it at rallies that are being held all across the country.

I would suggest to all of my colleagues, if you really want to see the ultimate rebuttal of that argument, then you should go visit a facility like Naval Station Great Lakes, which is in north Chicago and is the largest training facility for recruits going into the Navy since 1911.

When I was at the national convention back in August, I had a chance to stop by and visit the Great Lakes Naval Station.

I spoke at a graduation ceremony for 946 enlistees. It was just a magnificent sight. It was the melting pot of America, recruits from all over the country, every corner, every ethnic group.

There were naturalized Navy recruits, immigrants who had come to this country and gone through the immigration process to now wear the uniform of our country.

I can tell you, those recruits were ramrod straight and were totally motivated and excited about the decision they made to serve our Nation. In my opinion, that is the best rebuttal to anyone who thinks that this country is headed in the wrong direction.

Last year, the Navy fell short in its recruitment efforts. Their target was 37,700. They ended up recruiting only 30,236.

As the ranking member of the Armed Forces Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, this is an issue of great concern because the tempo of Navy deployments, whether it is in the Middle East, whether it is in the Indo-Pacific, or whether it is in the North Atlantic is really at a high, high level. We need more people, and we need more good people.

Here is the good news. In 2024, the Navy is exceeding its recruiting targets. What we saw at Great Lakes in Chicago was that, in fact, this year, they are having to defer some of the recruits that have signed up coming out of high school this year, and they had to find more beds to accommodate the recruits that are coming into the service.

The young people of this country, in my opinion, that is the most powerful statement about them, the fact that they are willing to put their time and their lives into the decision to serve our Nation.

Another indicator, Mr. Speaker, is how our allies regard us.

Here is a picture from the Groton submarine base in southeastern Connecticut, which I have the honor to serve.

Last year, we passed a measure to establish the Australia, U.K., and U.S. security agreement, AUKUS, which provides for those three countries to unite in terms of pushing back and rebalancing the security environment in the Indo-Pacific.

Crucial to that is joint training of Australian Naval officers and enlisted persons who are going to be undertaking nuclear-powered submarines in the early 2030s built here in the U.S.

This is a graduating class of Aussies in Groton, Connecticut, the first enlisted group. They were tops in the class. They actually ranked higher than Americans who were part of the class that was there.

The excitement and enthusiasm, the passion that they have for their work, but also their love for America was just so powerful.

Talking to these young men who were there that day, one of their first graduates, an officer, was at the helm of the USS *Hawaii*, a Virginia-class attack submarine, and he drove it into the Navy station in western Australia in Perth.

Again, that training took place here in the U.S., in Groton. That is going to continue. There are over 100 more Australian Naval enlisted and officers that are going to come through this process.

Those countries are committed, and they see the U.S. as really at the center in terms of trying to provide peace and prosperity, supporting the rule of law, and maritime freedom in the Indo-Pacific, which is under such great stress and strain.

Again, we are not a nation in decline. The young people up at the Great Lakes Naval Station and our allies are coming to the U.S. to skill up and uplift in terms of making sure that the mission and the values and interests of democracies in this country are going to survive and prosper well into the 21st century.

Again, I congratulate those sailors, and I congratulate particularly those young 17- and 18-year-olds who enlisted and are in Chicago and who are going to do great things for our Nation.

ENFORCING THE OFA

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep opposition to circumvention of the merit-based process, and instead, grant Federal recognition to the Lumbee community through political means.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the representatives of the Eastern Band with us in the gallery today. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are the descendants of those that fought to stay in their traditional homelands in the face of forcible Federal removal efforts.

Some Cherokee, including a man named Junaluska, made the forced journey and then walked back to the mountains of western North Carolina to return home.

It must be noted that the Lumbee community has no standing treaties with the Federal Government, no reservation land, and no common language.

As Members of Congress, one of our most sacred duties is making sure that laws are drafted and implemented in an objective and an equal manner.

For over 40 years, the Department of the Interior has carried out a merit-based process, as set out by Congress and administered by the Office of Federal Acknowledgment, the OFA, to make determinations on Federal recognition of Tribes.

If the administration or Congress allows the Lumbee to bypass the OFA, it sends a clear message that other groups with dubious claims for Tribal recognition can also avoid the deliberation and scrutiny that the OFA petition process is designed to provide.

We need the OFA process to protect Indian Country and the public. The process requires verification that the persons who claim to be Tribal members actually have Native American descent.

Believe it or not, the OFA has determined that some petitioning groups are comprised entirely of people that can't demonstrate Native American ancestry; not a single person.

Regarding the Lumbee, in one fell swoop, the Federal Government would recognize a Tribe that would then soon be the largest in the country, and all enrolled members would likely gain full access to all Federal benefits, which will further strain the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services' already stressed budgets.

As a member of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee on House Appropriations, I am proud that we funded the needs of the Indian Health Service and other critical priorities for our Nation's Tribes in fiscal year 2025, the bill that was recently approved in the House.

That said, if the overall Tribal population covered by the services is allowed to swell by tens of thousands of

people, many of whom have no native ancestry, I fear that necessary appropriations cannot feasibly keep pace.

That is the crux of the issue. If there was an actual merit-based system behind the Lumbee case for Federal recognition, they would go through the OFA process as set out in the current law.

As they know, it won't hold up under a deliberative process. They have instead sought to seek special treatment through other avenues, all in the face of credible opposition by multiple federally recognized Tribes.

More than 140 established Tribes from across the country have said that the Lumbee and other groups should go through the Federal recognition process at the Department of the Interior to demonstrate the merits of their claim to be a Tribe. I agree.

I urge all my colleagues to take these concerns into account, and I hope that the merit-based process put in place by Congress decades ago on Federal Tribal recognition will be adhered to.

Mr. Speaker, while I have the floor, I would also like to urge you and my colleagues to move H.R. 7227, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, to create a commission to get a better understanding of the grievous wrongs done to Native American children in federally run boarding schools.

Our Tribal nations deserve the dignity to understand what happened to their family members at these schools. It is the very least this country can do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The chair would remind Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

□ 1045

HONORING BLACK ARTISTS

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of Frankie Beverly, James Earl Jones, and Tito Jackson, three remarkable individuals who have left an undeniable mark on the arts and Black community.

Frankie Beverly, the smooth-voiced, gospel choir boy turned Maze front man, was a cornerstone of R&B and soul music for over five decades. Timeless hits like "Before I Let Go" have become anthems in the Black community, serving as the soundtrack to countless celebrations, romances, and moments of reflection.

Beverly's music, characterized by his blend of funk, soul, and gospel influences, speaks to the heart of the Black experience. His unwavering commitment to his craft and his refusal to compromise his artistic vision have earned him the respect of peers and fans alike, paving the way for Black artists to thrive after him.

His impact extends beyond music. He has been a voice for unity and pride within the Black community, using his platform to promote positivity. I was proud to honor him when he performed in Los Angeles on his farewell tour just a few months ago.

Frankie Beverly was a musical storyteller, poet, and icon. I am grateful he lived authentically and encouraged us to do the same.

James Earl Jones, a titan of stage and screen, captivated audiences worldwide for decades with his commanding presence and iconic voice. From his groundbreaking role as the first African-American President in "The Man" to his unforgettable voice performances as Darth Vader and Mufasa, Jones regularly broke barriers and inspired generations of aspiring performers.

From Broadway to the silver screen, Jones' range shined bright, so much so that he was one of 27 people to ever achieve an EGOT designation.

Beyond his artistic achievements, Jones was a vocal advocate for civil rights and a role model for aspiring Black actors. He proved that with talent and perseverance, you can reach the pinnacle of success in the entertainment industry.

James Earl Jones will forever be remembered for his powerful, majestic voice that carries nostalgia across generational barriers.

As a founding member of the legendary Jackson 5, Tito Jackson was a pivotal figure in shaping the landscape of popular music. Alongside his brothers, Tito helped break down racial barriers in the entertainment industry during the 1970s. His distinctive guitar playing contributed to the group's unique sound, influencing countless musicians across genres.

Later, Tito established himself as a solo artist, continuing to create music that touched fans worldwide.

His dedication to preserving the Jackson family's musical legacy while supporting various charities demonstrated his commitment to both artistry and the Black community.

We shall honor his legacy by continuing to support Black artistry and encouraging youth in Black communities to pursue their musical dreams.

These three men—Frankie Beverly, James Earl Jones, and Tito Jackson—have not only entertained us but have also served as beacons of excellence, perseverance, and cultural pride. Their contributions to the Black community and to the arts are immeasurable, and their legacies will continue to inspire future generations.

Please join me in honoring them today for their talent, dedication, and enduring impact on American culture.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SIKA DWIMFO

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sika Dwimfo, a prolific artist, jeweler, and businessowner, who was an integral part of the fabric of our Los Angeles community. He was widely known as

Sika and also the godfather of Leimert Park.

The son of a tailor, Sika developed a love for art and a strong sense of personal style that he would carry with him for the rest of his life.

In 1971, he moved from Chicago to L.A. in search of warmer weather and a place to complement his free-spirited energy. He set down his roots in my district, and in 1992 established Sika Gallery on Degnan Boulevard. The shop, which I was honored to visit in February, sells African jewelry, art, and clothing. Over the years, it has become a beloved and integral part of the historic Leimert Park neighborhood. His daughter, Milan, helps run the gallery today.

Though Sika is no longer with us, his legacy lives on, not only through his business, but through Sika Dwimfo Corridor, a street that was named in his honor in June.

Please join me in honoring Sika's memory. His authenticity, creativity, and gentle spirit made Los Angeles a better place.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FRANCISCO YBANEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero from my home State of Texas, Mr. Francisco Ybanez.

Born on September 28, 1922, near George West, Mr. Ybanez has lived a life of dedicated service to our Nation. Before World War II, he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, but when his country called upon him to serve in the military, he answered with courage and commitment.

Enlisting in 1942 at Fort Sam Houston, Mr. Ybanez became a marksman, rifleman, and a AAA auto weapons crewman for the 601st. He fought bravely in the Pacific, serving in the Philippines and Okinawa, earning numerous honors, including the Asiatic Pacific Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Today, at almost 102 years old, Mr. Ybanez resides in Alice, Texas, surrounded by generations of his beautiful family. His legacy of service and sacrifice is an inspiration to all Americans. I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating his extraordinary life. I wish Mr. Ybanez a happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING CHIEF ROMAN FLORES

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate and recognize Chief Roman Candelario Flores as the new fire chief of Alamo, Texas. Chief Flores brings over two decades of invaluable experience in firefighting and emergency response to his new role, making him a tremendous asset to the city of Alamo and its residents.

With an associate's degree in fire services administration and certifications such as master firefighter and fire inspector, Chief Flores is a true leader in public safety.

Mayor J.R. Garza and the people of Alamo have rightly expressed their excitement for his leadership, and I share in their excitement. Chief Flores' dedication extends beyond his firefighting duties. He is deeply involved in youth programs, church groups, and local economic development. His commitment to serving others exemplifies the values we hold dear in south Texas.

I congratulate Chief Flores on his well-deserved appointment, and I look forward to working with him and seeing the positive impact he will make in Alamo, Texas. I congratulate Chief Flores.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to honor the profound contributions of Hispanic Americans to the fabric of our Nation. From the fields of agriculture to the Halls of Congress, Hispanic men and women have shaped America's story with hard work, faith, and a deep love of this country.

Our vibrant culture, rooted in strong family values and perseverance, continues to inspire new generations. As the first Hispanic from my community to serve in Congress, I am proud to be part of this legacy, a legacy that reminds us of the power of "the American Dream," "el sueño Americano" for all.

This month, let us not only reflect on our history, but also recommit ourselves to policies that uplift Hispanic families and every American. Together, we can build a bright future that honors our heritage and strengthens our Nation.

ACCESSING BASIC NECESSITIES

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, access to utilities is often a matter of life and death. Without access to electricity or water, people may find themselves unable to keep their families healthy, their homes heated or cooled during extreme weather, or unable to sustain critical medical equipment in their home.

Utilities are not just a convenience, Mr. Speaker, but a fundamental human right that should be affordable and accessible to all. That is why Congresswoman CORI BUSH, Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN, and I introduced a resolution recognizing the human rights to utilities, to affirm that access to water, sanitation, electricity, heating, cooling, public transit, and broadband are basic human rights. Utility access is especially critical for rural and low-income communities, like many in my congressional district, where many, again, are struggling to

make ends meet and are on the front lines of the climate crisis.

The greedy corporations that own and operate utilities could choose to help families, but instead they are forcing them through the dehumanizing process of having their power cut off and their water shut down. Instead, companies like DTE in my community prioritize stockholder returns and CEO pay, trapping many of our neighbors in a cycle of poverty while they continue to make enormous profits.

Mr. Speaker, in the richest country on Earth, no family should be denied access to utilities, lack access to clean water, face energy burdens, and bear the brunt of corporate pollution. Access to these basic necessities is and should be a fundamental human right in our country.

CONDEMNING RACISM AND BIGOTRY TOWARD HAITIAN PEOPLE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, our Haitian neighbors from Detroit to Springfield, Ohio, are being targeted with hate, threatened with violence, and smeared with dehumanizing lies.

MAGA extremists, including the twice-impeached former President, are spreading disgusting lies about our Haitian neighbors. This is nothing more than xenophobia and anti-Black racism.

Our Haitian neighbors have been victimized by centuries of colonization, foreign exploitation, and repeated occupation and oppression by foreign powers, most notably by the United States. Haitian immigrant families in Springfield do not deserve to be targeted with a wave of bomb threats.

We must stop the dehumanization of our immigrant neighbors coming from both sides. We should welcome asylum seekers, not push legislation that funds separation of families and criminalization. We always, always must stand with our immigrant neighbors who are seeking a better life for their families.

I am so proud to have joined colleagues in the Haiti Caucus in introducing H. Res. 1473 condemning the racism and bigotry toward our Haitian neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I say to our Haitian neighbors in Springfield and across our country: We love you. We see you. We stand with you, and we will always have your back.

SAFE STORAGE SAVES LIVES

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, my residents continue to share with me their fears of getting that dreaded phone call from their kids at school, that there is an active shooter, that there is a high-alert alarm now.

Just in the first month of the school year in my district, Southfield police arrested a 15-year-old boy for carrying a handgun in his high school. We are grateful for Michigan's OK2Say program that gave that student the ability to share that vital information that saved lives.

Gun violence is everywhere, Mr. Speaker. It is not just in our schools. After a Lions' game last week, gun vio-

lence took two innocent lives in the Eastern Market. We saw it, literally, at a children's splash pad in Michigan. Also, we even saw it at a block club, where many neighbors in the community were celebrating.

We must never get numb to the gun violence impacting our families, Mr. Speaker. The majority of our communities want more action on gun violence. That is why I am really proud to have worked with so many folks to introduce the Safe Storage Saves Lives Act, which would require firearm sellers to provide each buyer with a secure gun storage or safety device, a gun lock, for every gun they buy.

Mr. Speaker, in Michigan, the Children's Hospital of Michigan is now passing out gun boxes, literally storage for guns because they know this is now the leading cause of death for our children.

Of course, we have so much more work to do here in this Congress. It pains me that we continue to have inaction after continued over-and-over and high-profile shootings. It cannot become the norm. We must work together. Congress cannot ignore survivors' families forever.

□ 1100

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let the Charleston County's sanctuary sheriff in South Carolina know that she can run, but she cannot hide.

In recent weeks, I have had sources and a whistleblower come forward about the damaging policies of Charleston County's sanctuary sheriff letting off criminal illegal aliens onto the streets of Charleston County, South Carolina. She can say that the Charleston County jail doesn't reside in my district, but when she lets out an illegal alien who is committing crimes against residents in South Carolina, she doesn't get that excuse.

She can blame the release of illegal aliens on her department policies all she wants, but what she will not tell you is that she literally drafted and signed off on her own department policies for what she is blaming the reason why she has allowed over 50 criminal illegal aliens out onto the streets of South Carolina.

She can call me a liar all she wants, but anyone who knows me knows that in Congress or in a Committee on Oversight and Accountability hearing or any hearing, quite frankly, I bring the receipts, including a receipt from ICE showing she has let off over 50 criminal illegal aliens out onto the streets of South Carolina, most recently as August 23, when she allowed a criminal illegal alien, an alleged pedophile who tried to solicit a minor, back out onto the streets.

She blamed that release because she said her department policy is that a judge has to keep him detained. I say to sanctuary Sheriff Kristin Graziano that it is her own policies that she wrote and signed her name to that she is blaming it on.

When we are up here in Congress, I demand truth, I demand honesty, and I demand integrity. So, too, do the residents of South Carolina. They deserve to be put first. They deserve to be safe in their homes, safe on the streets, and safe in their communities. Until that changes, Charleston County sanctuary Sheriff Kristin Graziano is to blame for what is happening in South Carolina today and her own county.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to share that if you go out onto sanctuary Sheriff Kristin Graziano's Twitter feed, you will see in her header, she is proudly standing with border czar KAMALA HARRIS. The Biden-Harris administration has allowed our borders wide open for the last 4 years, allowing over 10 million illegals to come into our country illegally. Every town has become a border town. Every county has become a border county. Every State has become a border State, and not on my watch at all, not one more day.

ICE even responded to Charleston County sanctuary Sheriff Kristin Graziano yesterday and commented on how problematic her policies are, freely releasing criminal illegal aliens out onto the streets of South Carolina.

I won't put up with her lies. In fact, this morning, at 10 a.m., she had a press conference for the local press. She spoke for barely 1 minute and refused to take any questions from any member of the press. That is cowardly, that is shameful, and that is disgusting.

She doesn't deserve the privilege of serving as sheriff of Charleston County. Her policies are damaging to our residents, and I will not allow one more day of this behavior on my watch.

CELEBRATING GRAND OPENING OF JOSEPH S.
DANING AMPHITHEATER

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise my hometown of Goose Creek, South Carolina, which came together to celebrate the grand opening of the Joseph S. Daning Amphitheater.

Named after former South Carolina House Representative Joseph Daning, who worked hard to secure the funding for this nearly \$4 million project, this amphitheater can accommodate around 800 people—plenty of room for families and friends all at once.

I feel truly blessed to represent a district so dedicated to our community, and I certainly enjoyed working with former South Carolina House Representative Joe Daning when we served in the State Legislature together.

We appreciate all of his work and the town of Goose Creek's work to provide this amphitheater for residents of the Lowcountry.

COMMEMORATING POLISH
CADETS' 125TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Polish Cadets of Buffalo, New York, an organization dedicated to honoring and preserving Polish heritage and providing a welcoming community for intercultural peace and unity.

Founded in 1899, the Cadets emphasized athletics and physical and military training. Booming in popularity leading up to the First World War, the group, led by Anthony Schreiber, censor of the Polish National Alliance, laid the cornerstone for their clubhouse in September 1913.

A fixture of the Black Rock neighborhood in Buffalo, the community center would host speakers, hold celebrations, and organized fundraisers for Polish relief when the conflict started.

When the war came, 18 members left to fight in Europe. All returned home.

By the end of World War II, the Polish Cadets had over 1,200 members and formed their own credit union. During the postwar era, the Cadets opened their membership to individuals of non-Polish descent, fostering greater inclusivity.

Today, the Polish Cadets preserve their traditions and create new ones. It maintains the Polish library and Harmony Polish Folk Ensemble and hosts Dyngus Day and Oktoberfest.

For 125 years, the focus of the Polish Cadets has been to provide a welcoming space for coexistence, harmony, and community betterment.

I offer my congratulations and gratitude to the Polish Cadets on this significant milestone of preserving the Polish heritage for future generations and honoring those who began this important Buffalo institution.

REMEMBERING MARK MORTENSON

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mark Mortenson, who passed on September 14 and whose life's work brought beauty and wonder to so many lives in western New York.

After taking on his most recent role as president and CEO of the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens in 2022, Mark was ready to take on a multimillion-dollar expansion to fulfill its mission of delivering wow, wonder, and welcome to our region. In pursuit of doing so, he created an environment where people of all backgrounds felt this sense of welcoming and belonging.

Before coming to Buffalo, his tenure with The Walt Disney Company spanned 20 years, but it was in Buffalo, his home since 2006, where Mark and his family put down roots.

Throughout his career, his warmth, focus, and sense of humor cultivated partnerships and support for our cultural institutions, including as the CEO of Richardson Center Corporation,

the heart of Buffalo's cultural corridor; executive director of the Lipsey Architecture Center in Buffalo; and as president and CEO of the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tiff Nature Preserve.

His loving family is in our prayers, including his husband, Curt Maranto, and children Nicolas, Kiara, Mikey, Elliott, and Emily, and the late Clayton. He will be missed.

May my friend Mark Mortenson rest in peace.

CONDEMNING PROJECT 2025

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn Trump's Project 2025. The American people need to know what is in this extreme MAGA Republican agenda and what it is all about.

It would reject the power of the people. Trump's Project 2025 weaponizes the DOJ and FBI, imposes loyalty tests to purge our civil service, and undermines congressional oversight.

It would take away our rights and freedoms. Trump's Project 2025 goes after free speech, a woman's right to choose, LGBTQ protection, and the progress we have made toward racial equity.

It would hurt middle-class families. Trump's Project 2025 raises taxes on working people, increases the cost of prescription drugs, slashes funding for public schools, reduces benefits for our veterans with disabilities, and jeopardizes Social Security and Medicare that our seniors rely on.

It would be an un-American attack on each of us. Trump's Project 2025 erodes consumer protections, damages our election integrity, and harms our world standing.

This is a blueprint to deny the rights and privileges of many in pursuit of total power of a few.

We must reject Trump's Project 2025. We cannot allow this extreme MAGA Republican agenda to become our reality.

THE CHOICE BEFORE US

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge this will be the very last time I speak in this Chamber before the next Presidential election.

In the coming weeks, the American people will head to the polls, and we will have a choice before us. We can choose 4 more years of Vice President HARRIS chaos and madness, or we can choose 4 years of law and order and American strength.

When I came to Congress almost 4 years ago, America was strong, our streets were safe, and our border was more secure than at any time in recent history. Prior to the pandemic, the U.S. had one of the strongest economies we have had in the past 20 years.

Even in the face of adversity, President Trump led the Federal Government in empowering America's small businesses and families.

Just a few years before, House Republicans passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that put more money in the pockets of American families, put more food on their tables, and better positioned them to care for each other.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, America's strength was well understood on the world stage. The Trump administration spearheaded the historic Abraham Accords, and the U.S. was tough on adversaries like Communist China, Iran, and their terrorist proxies. We saw an era of historic trade deals with the passage of USMCA, President Trump's trade deal with Japan, and his administration's work to hold China accountable for the deal it agreed to. It truly was an era of American greatness.

Unfortunately, much of that greatness has been undermined. I once looked at the Nation and felt optimistic about the future that awaited my children. I felt that when it was time for them to spread their wings and build their own lives, they would inherit a country that gave them the opportunity to pursue their American Dreams.

I was confident that when their time came for them to purchase a home, choose a college or university, or start their own small business, they would step into an economy that would empower them to successfully do these things.

On January 21, 2021, that started to change. Vice President HARRIS and President Biden have made America less safe, destroyed the American economy, and made America look weak on the world stage.

Since day one, Vice President HARRIS and President Biden have been laser focused on rolling back President Trump's policies that actually worked.

Their open-border policies have ushered 16 million illegal immigrants into the country without adequate background checks or vetting, making every State in this country a border State. Rather than fixing their open-border policies, they coddle radical activists and leave Americans at risk. Under their leadership, cartels and drug lords have been the winners, and the American people have been the losers.

Vice President HARRIS and President Biden's economic policies are the primary reason for the skyrocketing inflation that has haunted America over the past 3 years.

In the Big First District of Kansas, American families, small business owners, farmers, ranchers, and our agricultural producers have struggled to manage sky-high interest rates, higher input costs, and a crumbling economy. For young Americans, homeownership feels like a distant dream. Rather than reversing bad policies or coming up with solutions to these challenges, the Biden-Harris administration's proposal is more reckless government spending that got us here in the first place.

Vice President HARRIS and President Biden have failed to capitalize on the

strength of President Trump's trade deals and have formed zero new trade deals in the last 4 years. The country is facing the largest agricultural trade deficit that we have faced in years, hurting American farmers, ranchers, and ag producers, who desperately want access to new markets to help feed a hungry world.

Vice President HARRIS and President Biden's weak foreign policy gave Russia a green light to attack Ukraine while their appeasement to the Iranian regime emboldened Iran-backed Hamas to attack our strongest ally in the Middle East, Israel. As anti-Semitism roted our own Nation, college campuses, and universities, the Biden-Harris administration turned a blind eye and instead held up congressionally approved arms for Israel to protect itself.

Mr. Speaker, is this the future that we want? Do we want to gift our children a nation with wide-open borders? Do we want them to grow up in a country with an economy that fails to work for the average family and fails to address our \$35 trillion debt? Do we want a nation that is unsafe or where the American Dream is no longer attainable?

In a few short weeks, we will head to the polls, and we have a choice. We can vote for a candidate who has told us what she wants to do to address her own failing policies, or we can vote for a candidate who has shown us what his policies can do to strengthen the Nation. I know the choice that I will make.

□ 1115

MARKING OCTOBER 7TH

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a brutal invasion of our ally Israel, killing more Jews than on any single day since the Holocaust and taking hundreds of hostages.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year later, thousands of families continue to grieve the loss of their loved ones, and the families of the remaining hostages continue to long for their safe return, including the family of Keith Siegel from my home State of North Carolina.

The unspeakable horrors Hamas has inflicted on innocent civilians, including terrifying sexual violence and its ongoing torment of the hostages, should shock the conscience of the entire world.

Just last month, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, a 23-year-old American citizen, was brutally murdered along with five other hostages in the Hamas tunnels beneath Gaza as they were about to be rescued by the IDF.

Since October 7, more than 40 American citizens have been killed by Hamas terrorists, and at least 10 remain hostages.

As we mark the anniversary of Hamas' devastating attack, I am grateful to President Biden and Vice President HARRIS for their unwavering commitment to securing the return of all hostages and for their clear recognition that the onus is on Hamas to accept a proposed deal.

Just last month, Israel accepted the terms for a deal. The responsibility continues to lie with Hamas to release the hostages and accept the deal on the table.

The release of the hostages and the surrender of the terrorist group Hamas is absolutely necessary to allow the international community to assist with the reconstruction of Gaza and bring about a stable government that is willing to live in peace with Israel. The Arab countries willing to assist in the rebuilding of Gaza will not do so if Hamas remains.

Israel stands as our strongest, most dependable, and only democratic ally in the Middle East. The United States must continue to stand by Israel as it faces ongoing attacks from Iran and its proxies, including Hezbollah, which began its attacks on Israel on October 8 while Israel was still fighting the terrorists who had invaded their country and had not yet sent troops to Gaza.

Even today, thousands of Israelis are unable to return to their homes in southern Israel, and almost 100,000 Israelis are unable to return to their homes in northern Israel because of Hezbollah's relentless attacks on Israeli civilians.

Iran, Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis must not be allowed to continue to destabilize the region and threaten Israel's security. They must be held accountable by the international community, and the United States must continue to affirm the safety and security of our ally.

Let us be clear-eyed about what is at risk, not just the security of our only democratic ally in the Middle East, but the defeat of a terrorist ideology that abhors our western values.

As we reflect on the horrors of October 7, my heart goes out to all the loved ones of those affected by Hamas' brutal assault. The attack on October 7 continues to traumatize Israelis and Jews across our country.

I urge Congress to continue to provide Israel the support it needs to protect its citizens and to protect the values we Americans hold dear.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month to commemorate a people, my ethnicity, who are crucial to the prosperity of this Nation. I want to encourage all my brothers and sisters across

America to participate in this celebration from September 15 through October 15.

America thrives on the cumulative efforts of all ethnicities working for the collective good, beginning with the annexation of Florida, Louisiana, and the northern part of Mexico. More than 100,000 Hispanic people became U.S. citizens in the 1800s to be followed by millions more over the next 200 years.

Today, the American-Latino population amounts to over 65 million people and roughly 20 percent of the total U.S. population. The name of my home State of Colorado comes from the Spanish phrase “coloreado rojo,” “colored red.” This name originates from the 16th century conquistadors who explored the area in search of gold over 400 years ago. Their journey paved the way for exchanges that continue to shape our society today.

In the late 1800s, following the end of the Civil War, 25 percent of New Mexico’s Hispanic population moved to Colorado and established towns throughout. One of the most notable was the trading post of El Pueblo, which at the time was the border between the United States and Mexico. This area became a hub of commerce and culture, illustrating the vital role of Hispanic communities in our Nation’s development.

San Luis, the oldest town in Colorado, was founded by Hispanic settlers who came to farm and raise livestock. These pioneers laid the groundwork for agricultural practices that are still necessary to our economy today. Then, in the early 1900s, Hispanic families moved to Greeley, Colorado, to work for the Great Western Sugar Company, which offered workers the chance to own a small home.

This opportunity allowed families to build a foundation for future generations, demonstrating the enduring spirit of resilience and hard work.

Some individuals in the Hispanic community have stood tall as leaders in Colorado, including Rodolfo “Corky” Gonzales, a boxer and poet who led the crusade for justice during the Chicano movement in the 1960s and 1970s fighting for the rights of the Hispanic community nationwide. His dedication to social justice continues to inspire community activists today.

Joe Trujillo, a good friend of mine that for years lived in Colorado, was an instrumental mentor not only to myself but to others to always be proud of our heritage, to always be proud of what we came from, and never forget our humble beginning.

You see, I come from humble beginnings. My mom and dad grew up working in the fields. My dad had a sixth-grade education and never learned to read and write. My mom has a tenth-grade education, and yet, I stand before you here in Congress as a true representation of what America offers the Hispanic community, and it is an honor to be an American.

Just 6 years ago, Kendrick Castillo, a young Hispanic boy attending a STEM

school in Highlands Ranch, sacrificed himself for his classmates, when a shooter entered his school, saving their lives. His bravery serves as a reminder that any of us can have the courage to stand up for our communities.

These individuals exemplify the resilience, character, integrity, and passion that is the lifeblood of the Hispanic community. Moreover, the arts, the culture of the Hispanic community have enriched American life, influencing music, literature, politics, and businesses across the Nation.

Many of the Christian beliefs of our Founding Fathers constitute the pillars of the Hispanic community. Core values like family, faith, and freedom are instrumental to my culture and are essential to the success of a nation. These values unite us and provide a path for future generations to thrive as well.

For centuries, members of the Hispanic community have legally migrated into the U.S. for the opportunity to achieve the American Dream. The influx of illegal immigrants and criminals is damaging this crucial process and is unfair to those who have legally immigrated to America. It is imperative that we differentiate between those seeking refuge and opportunity and those who seek to undermine our laws.

The term “Latinx” is a derogatory term and when utilized is an insult to Hispanic Americans and should never be used. This term was invented to erase the male and female gender of the Hispanic community and culture. It is a perversion of the Spanish language and an insult to Hispanic heritage.

It is vital that we continue to uphold our values of justice and fairness, ensuring that the pathways to citizenship remain open for those who seek a better life. We must support comprehensive immigration reform that honors the contributions of immigrants while addressing security concerns.

In closing, let us celebrate the rich history and achievements of the Hispanic community, recognizing together we can create a future where all individuals, regardless of their backgrounds, can contribute to the American story.

For my Anglo brothers and sisters, I leave you with this: If you like tacos, you are one of us.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF HAMAS’ ATTACK ON ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the approaching, somber, first anniversary of Hamas’ horrific attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

This past year, we have experienced continued heartbreak and mourning with fresh pain rearing its ugly head

each time we learn the tragic fate of hostages who were captured that fateful day and subsequently murdered by their captors.

Just a few weeks ago, on the eve of a rescue operation, Hamas executed six hostages in cold blood, including an American, Hersh Goldberg-Polin. It was a gut punch.

After surviving absolutely horrific conditions for nearly a year, they were brutally murdered by Hamas in the tunnels below Gaza all because their rescue was imminent and because of Hamas’ hatred of Jews and their commitment to destroy Israel.

As a Jewish mother of three, meeting with so many parents of the hostages, including Hersh’s parents, Rachel and Jon, has felt deeply personal. Their fortitude and strength in advocating for the return of their children is nothing less than heroic.

I have met with Rachel and Jon countless times this past year, and something that always sticks with me is when Rachel shared her last embrace with Hersh before he left for the Nova music festival for his 23rd birthday.

No mother should ever have to think that when they kiss their child goodbye before a concert, it will be for the last time because they will be murdered by terrorists.

This senseless evil compels us to hold our own children tighter and strengthens our resolve to end the terrorist threat that lives on Israel’s doorstep, which no people should have to endure.

I was in the region with a congressional delegation on October 7 and in Israel on October 10. Since October 7, I have traveled to Israel twice more. During a visit in March, the most searing moment for me was when our delegation paid our respects at the site of the Nova festival.

The Nova festival was a celebration of peace. Thousands of young people joined together in the desert to celebrate life.

At sunrise, terrorists invaded the site, including flying in on motorized paragliders with the sole objective of murdering, maiming, sexually assaulting, and kidnapping festivalgoers and hundreds of Israelis in their homes.

No parent should fear getting the text that so many received that morning from their children that the worst has happened.

When you go to the Nova site today, you see memorials and photos of the beautiful, vibrant faces of the hundreds of young people marked where they were murdered.

As a mother, a Jew, and a Zionist, the experience was overwhelming.

Despite the horror and ongoing tragedy of the almost 100 hostages that still remain in Gaza, ripped away from their loved ones for almost 365 days, the people of Israel are strong and will never stop fighting for their future.

I am inspired by those Israelis who have dedicated themselves to bringing the hostages home and seeking a just peace.

October 7 didn't just impact Jews living in Israel. It impacted Jews around the world, especially here at home. While anti-Semitism was already on the rise after October 7, Jewish hate exploded, reaching record levels of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States.

According to ADL, since it first started tracking incidents of anti-Semitic harassment, vandalism, and assault in the United States in 1979, this past year resulted in the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents on record.

The American Jewish Committee found that two-thirds of American Jews say the status of Jews in the U.S. is less secure compared to 1 year ago, and 62 percent of American Jews report facing anti-Semitism online or on social media in the past 12 months.

This is unacceptable. Anti-Semitism doesn't just threaten Jews. It is an attack on the very foundations of our society, pluralism, religious freedom, and equal rights, endangering all of us.

I am so grateful for President Biden and Vice President HARRIS' moral clarity and leadership in combating anti-Semitism.

In May 2023, their administration took the unprecedented step to release the U.S.' first ever whole-of-society National Strategy to Counter Anti-Semitism.

We must combat this hatred, and I urge all of my colleagues to call out anti-Semitism no matter where it comes from.

Lastly, I have a plea for my colleagues: When you are home in your districts, please check in on your Jewish friends and neighbors.

We are not okay. Local Jewish organizations are planning events around the October 7 anniversary, so I implore you to reach out and show up for your Jewish neighbors and constituents. Speak out against anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, which is a form of anti-Semitism.

Together, we will stand up against hate and stand up for Israel.

We will never forget the victims, the hostages, and their families. We must bring them all home now.

"Am Yisrael Chai," "The people of Israel live."

□ 1130

FOREST FIRES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I frequently make speeches trying to have the American people know and understand just what we face, especially in our Western States. Every fire season it is pretty much the same thing.

As you see depicted here, Mr. Speaker, this is just one of many fires we would have in California or Idaho or Oregon or Arizona or Montana. In many of our Western States, this is

just a microcosm of what we see each year.

Mr. Speaker, you see these smoke plumes. Not only does it affect the West, but when you get a really, really large fire in the six digits or one in my district 3 years ago known as the Dixie fire which ended up being just under 1 million acres, that smoke plume actually got up into the jet stream and affected the East Coast where there were low health days declared in places like New York City, Philadelphia, and even in D.C.

We experienced it here on the East Coast from Canadian fires earlier on, which is more proximate here just up north of us in Canada. They are affecting the whole East Coast. Even the West Coast fires can affect here. We need to do a lot more about that.

Here is what some of that damage looks like in the very real world in the communities that are affected. I have had several of my communities just in my district, and that is just one of 435 congressional districts, that are negatively affected.

Mr. Speaker, you have heard about the town of Paradise where 85 people lost their lives, as well as about 90 percent of the town.

It is a picture not unlike this town of Greenville a couple years ago in the Dixie fire, or the town of Canyon Dam right nearby in what is called the North Complex fire near Oroville, California, which devoured most of Berry Creek and Forbestown.

This becomes very real to the people who are proximate to these forests.

The Park fire this year consumed at least 70 to 80 homes.

Mr. Speaker, just to give you a quick recap of the acreage we are talking about, I mentioned the Dixie fire just under 1 million acres; the Park fire this year in my district, 430,000 acres; the Bear fire, also known as the North Complex, burned over 300,000 acres. So you can see we are getting really tired of these big numbers. That is just in my own district. Many other Members of Congress can tell you about that.

We see here that 7.3 million acres cumulatively have burned in the West this year. You could say, well, we are getting into the fall; is it going to get better?

It might start tailing off somewhat here as the temperatures come down with the conditions, but fire season is still going to be upon us through the fall, maybe until the first rain and snow starts to fly.

In places like southern California, it never really ends because they have a drier condition down there. Other States, even in the East, are looking at fire conditions that are going to go well into the fall and early winter.

What does all this mean?

It means treatment. It means treatment of our acres. It means the Forest Service needs to engage much more so. I know they are afraid of the lawsuits that the environmental groups always bring, and they are bound up by NEPA

regulations which study to death things that really don't need to be studied. This is not news here, what we need to do to treat our forests.

It is probably hard to see this poster on TV very well, but this area here that is really dark and burned had no treatment. This area in the middle that is nice and green had thinning, removing some of the trees. We still leave a lot of the trees behind.

The left and the environmental groups would have you believe, and scare you into joining organizations and sending dues, saying they are going to cut every tree from here to Canada. That is not the case. That is not even responsible. Nobody wants to do that. It is thinning.

It also says the term "prescribed fire." Fire is a good tool when used properly in the right conditions and the right timeline, et cetera. That actually makes a good condition, getting rid of a lot of the waste material on the forest floor that builds up over time.

We have been putting fires out for over about 100 years under the "Smok-ey the Bear" type theme, which is good, but we have replaced what nature used to do in the last 50 years of inaction in our forests, and managing those lands needs to be done.

Of course, down here, Mr. Speaker, you see thinning only, which works pretty well and is at least a positive step, but we need to do all these things that are making the lands more sustainable, so to speak, in a fire situation.

We have overcrowding of trees that compete for less and less water in an arid area or a drought period, or if you want to say climate change.

What are we doing about it during climate change?

We are not doing much. We are letting the trees grow 500 per acre when a good forest is healthy at 50 to 70 adult trees per acre, a thin forest. So we need to use these tools such as prescribed fire.

We can't just say: Oh, we don't want the smoke.

Well, we are getting the smoke anyway. We are getting the smoke at 7 million acres at a time and a situation that is not timed or a good structure for doing so.

Fix Our Forests is a bill we passed yesterday. It is going to be a good tool toward getting started on that, and we have a lot to do.

PROJECT 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great concern for the people of New Jersey and the future of our country. Project 2025 puts our healthcare access at risk.

The conservative pledge would impose lifetime caps on Medicaid benefits putting coverage at risk for nearly 1 in 40 New Jerseyans.

It also raises prescription drug costs for almost one-half million residents by eliminating Medicare out-of-pocket limits. Even worse, it would block the government from negotiating lower drug prices, lining the pockets of pharmaceutical companies at the expense of our most vulnerable communities.

The attacks on Medicare and Medicaid would be devastating to Black and low-income people's access to vital healthcare. Black women, especially Black expectant mothers who already are facing among the worst infant and maternal mortality rates in the developed world, would face even worse outcomes.

The criminalization of abortion, tracking of miscarriages and stillbirths, and restrictions on access to Plan B would impinge on the freedom of Black women to make their own decisions and eliminate their healthcare options.

That is not all. Project 2025 would eliminate programs like Head Start which provide critical childcare for over 12,000 children in New Jersey alone.

It would force 167,200 student loan borrowers to pay thousands more each year and dismantle the U.S. Department of Education, cutting vital funding for schools serving low-income students and putting nearly 4,000 New Jersey teachers and their students at risk.

Project 2025 isn't just a political pledge. It is a direct attack on our families, our values, and the future of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand together against the dangerous assault. Let's get back to work not for the uber-wealthy and mega corporations behind the 2025 agenda, but for the people.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, in 2023 we lost over 50,000 people to suicide across the country. The year before, more than 1.6 million individuals attempted to take their own lives.

These deaths of despair disproportionately affect some communities more than others. Systemic issues such as generational trauma, racism, economic disparities, and historical oppression have compounded mental health challenges leading to an environment that has been devastating to our Black youth.

For example, between 2007 and 2020, the suicide rate among Black youth ages 10 to 17 increased by 144 percent, and from 2018 to 2022, the suicide rate among Black youth ages 10 to 19 increased by 54 percent while decreasing elsewhere.

Every life lost to suicide is an incomprehensible tragedy, and the heart-breaking truth is that these deaths are so preventable. That is why it is so important that we act. Our choices can make a real difference in people's lives. We have a responsibility, especially here in Congress, to ensure that resources and support are available to people who need help.

In 2019, I chaired the Congressional Black Caucus' Emergency Task Force on Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health. The product of that task force, the Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act, would provide resources to increase access to mental health care among America's youth, as well as help train a new generation of culturally competent mental health professionals.

Mr. Speaker, no matter your race, your background, or your gender, each one of us wants—no, prays for our children to grow healthy. When we see them struggle, we struggle. When we see they are in pain, we feel that pain deeply. Democrat, Republican, or Independent, it does not matter who you are.

However, it doesn't have to be this way. Children who have access to help can thrive. They have shown an ability to bounce back and become strong, happy, and resilient, and to be active and productive in their communities.

We can create the conditions in which all of our children have a shot at happy and fulfilling lives. All that is required is for us to break through the partisan gridlock. Our children's and grandchildren's lives depend upon it.

INVESTIGATING JARED KUSHNER

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, in the past 18 months, Republicans have gathered 3.8 million documents and 80 hours of witness testimonies on a baseless inquiry against President Joe Biden, but now that Joe Biden is not running for President, they have ended their political impeachment stunt.

The investigation that we should be focusing on is Jared Kushner and his \$2 billion from the Saudis, just months after leaving the Trump White House. New reporting today from The New York Times has noted that Jared Kushner collected \$112 million in fees but hasn't made a single dime for the Saudis through this fund. We don't know if the Saudis expected profits or if they just wanted to reward Jared for his service.

This \$2 billion payment for this investment fund represents the reward of sitting next to former President Trump and pushing for pro-Saudi policies.

During his time in the White House, Mr. Kushner consistently ignored the recommendations of top foreign policy experts at the State Department and even ignored the warnings of Trump's own Secretary of State.

These conflicts of interest and the national security threats are obvious, but House Republicans are not interested in uncovering the truth about Kushner's actions or the suspicious actions of the Saudi Government and other foreign governments.

While the Senate is beginning to finally move on this investigation, the House has done nothing.

Mr. Speaker, we can no longer wait to hold the Kushners accountable for their shady dealings. Our democracy is not for sale, and we need to ask ourselves the question: Why did Jared Kushner receive \$2 billion for an investment fund just months after leaving the White House?

The American people deserve answers, and we should never stop until we get them.

LITTLE VILLAGE ARCH

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to celebrate the iconic landmark in my district, the "Little Village Arch," "el Arco de La Villita."

Since 1990, the arch has become the gateway to the largest Mexican community in the Midwest. It is a symbol of economic, cultural, and social contributions of Mexicans and Mexican Americans in the city and the region. It is a reminder to younger generations to be proud of their roots.

The arch is located on West 26th Street, a commercial corridor which is also the second highest revenue generator in Chicago, with businesses predominantly owned by Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants.

As an alderman in 1987, I had the vision of a marker that would celebrate the growing Mexican population in the city and foster community pride. I wanted a monument modeled after Mexican architecture, something that would make 26th Street stand out.

I got to work and secured the funds with the support of numerous community members, small business owners, and the Little Village Chamber of Commerce, and together we began the process to make this dream come true.

The design was commissioned to architect Adrian Lozano, also an immigrant from Mexico, and the contractors who helped build it were Ron Baltierra and Dave Ramirez, both Vietnam veterans. All of them poured their hearts and souls into the design and construction of the arch.

The Little Village Arch has become the heart of the Mexican community in the Midwest. People come from all over the U.S. to visit it. The annual Mexican Independence Day Parade that just celebrated its 53rd year kicks off from the arch.

Two years ago the city council officially approved the landmark status for the arch, thus beginning the much-needed restoration process. I am proud to say that the clock that hangs on the arch, a gift from the Mexican Government, was successfully restored by the original makers, Relojes Centenario, the oldest clockmakers in Mexico.

It is an honor and pride to be part of the origin story of the arch. Mr. Speaker, when you come to my neighborhood, I will take you to the arch and say: "Welcome to the Little Village," "Bienvenidos a La Villita."

□ 1145

HONORING BENITO MORALES

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during Hispanic Heritage Month, we often talk about our cultural and economic contributions, but we cannot forget that Latinos have served our country in every war since the Revolutionary War.

Today, I rise to honor the contributions and patriotism of one of those heroes: Benito Morales.

Benito was born in a small town in Texas during the Great Depression. He attended segregated schools, where he and his brother constantly faced discrimination.

Benito had to start working after finishing the fourth grade. Later, his family moved to Chicago looking for better opportunities. By the time he was 19 years old, Benito was called to service at the height of World War II. He served our country, fighting across France and into Germany.

During the crossing of the Ludendorff Bridge across the Rhine River on March 8, 1945, an enemy artillery shell burst directly in front of the vehicle in which Private Morales was riding.

With complete disregard for his personal safety, he assisted in the evacuation of 11 American soldiers to the nearest station. His heroism earned him the Bronze Star Medal, but it took 75 years and the advocacy of his fellow veterans for the Army to add V for valor to his medal.

In 2016, Benito was awarded the French Government's Legion of Honor Medal by the French Consul General, for which I had the honor to be present. Benito is currently a member of The American Legion Manuel Perez, Jr., Post 1017 in Chicago.

He is now 101 years old, and his life is a perfect example of the contributions that the Latino community has made to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Benito for his bravery and continued service to our country and community.

HONORING SYLVIA PUENTE

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and community leader, Sylvia Puente, who has served for nearly 18 years as president and CEO of the Latino Policy Forum and will step down at the end of this year.

Sylvia is a public policy expert whose activism began at the age of 13, walking the picket line with her mom in support of farmworkers. She has spent her career advocating for justice, equity, and economic prosperity.

Sylvia's last name, Puente, means "bridge" in Spanish and translates into her own personal mission statement, which is to build bridges of understanding and opportunity within and between the Latino community and the larger society.

Mr. Speaker, we wish her Godspeed in her new endeavors as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR DARIN WOOD OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MIDLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for 2 minutes.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Darin Wood of the First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas, who will be opening the House floor in prayer on Friday.

Pastor Wood grew up in Joshua, Texas, and started his career in pastoral ministry in 1999. The Wood family later moved to the Permian Basin and started preaching at First Baptist Church of Midland in February of 2016.

His leadership is truly inspirational in the Permian Basin. He is no stranger to lending a hand to others, and he has opened the congregation's doors to the public during times of need.

In his own words: "you may enjoy the title of 'pastor,' but truthfully, it is an earned role, won bit by bit . . ."

His wife, Julie, and son, Joshua, will be joining him on Friday. Pastor Wood is an inspiration to so many. For those who live in Midland, the Permian Basin, Midland-Odessa, they know Pastor Darin Wood. They know the inspiration that he brings to the community. Not only is he a voice of reason and of wisdom, but he also urges disengagement.

He has personally helped me since I have been here. In fact, just recently, he was telling me about his study on Ezra and Esther and Nehemiah and talking about the stories of the Old Testament and how they apply to us today.

I thank Pastor Wood for his inspiration. For those who live in Midland, they know how inspirational he truly is, and he has been inspirational to me and so many others around Washington, D.C., as he prays for us continuously. I think our country needs prayer right now.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Pastor Wood for what he does to serve the Permian Basin, to serve First Baptist Church, and to serve so many people. I also thank him for his inspiration, education, and prayers for me and so many other leaders.

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 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy and omnipotent God, though we have never seen You, we know You. We know You for You have shown Yourself in the wondrous things that You have done and the countless gifts of love You reveal to us each day.

You Lord, our God, faithful in keeping Your covenant of love to a thousand generations, to those who love You and keep Your commands.

Remind us in our generation of Your command to be bearers of Your love in our time. For when we love one another, You abide in us, and Your love is revealed through us.

And when love is scary, when there seems to be no reason or return in loving those around us, remind us that there is no fear in love, for Your perfect love casts out fear. Your love will prevail.

Remind us again that we love because You first loved us, with all our faults and flaws, doubts and divisions, and that we are commanded to love even the most aggravating of our brothers and sisters.

How great is Your love, O God our Father, that You have lavished on us that each one of us should be called children of God. Today, may we live believing that we are and that those whom we encounter this day are Your children, too.

In Your gracious name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mrs. LESKO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECKLESS IMMIGRATION POLICIES ON FULL DISPLAY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, the Biden-Harris administration's reckless immigration policies are now on full display for all to see.

Newly released Border Patrol data shows that nearly 530,000 illegal aliens have flown into the U.S. under the administration's irresponsible mass parole program. If that wasn't enough, another 800,000 are set to enter.

Yet, on top of that, they are suppressing the information about how many people are coming into this country, including those who are on the terrorist watch lists.

San Diego Chief Aaron Heitke recently spoke to the Homeland Security Committee, talking about how he was told to suppress these numbers, to keep them hidden from the American public and from Congress to do anything about that.

This is the height of hypocrisy by the Biden-Harris administration, especially border czar Harris, trying to keep us from knowing and taking action to repair the sieve of a border we have.

We have to do much better than that because the American public is being subjected to all sorts of fentanyl and potential terrorists, as well as a crime level and all the other things we are seeing that are harming our country.

THE DANGERS OF PROJECT 2025

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm. The dangers of Project 2025 are real, and they are coming. This isn't some distant threat. It is all happening right now, and extreme MAGA Republicans are leading the charge.

This isn't just another political agenda. It is Donald Trump's playbook to seize control of our government with no checks and no balances, just power.

Project 2025 would ban abortion nationwide; strip away birth control, including access to IVF; raise taxes on working families; and destroy Social Security and Medicare as we know them. The American people don't want to roll back the clock with Project 2025. They want a government that works for them.

I came to Washington to fight for working families, to protect our communities, and to defend fundamental rights like reproductive freedom. We have real work to do, and I won't let Project 2025 or Donald Trump stand in the way.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT CREUTZFELDT-JAKOB DISEASE

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness for

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, or CJD. CJD is a rare brain disease that causes a rapid decline in a person's cognitive health and often leads to death within only a few months to 1 year following the onset of symptoms.

There are about 500 new cases in the United States each year. Sadly, one of these cases was a friend of mine and a well-known member of the Central Valley community, Bakersfield Mayor Harvey L. Hall.

In 2018, Mayor Hall lost his life from CJD just 2 weeks after his diagnosis. Mr. Hall was a beloved member of our community and the longest-serving mayor in Bakersfield's history. His sudden death was a shock to our community and devastating for all who knew him, including his wife of 28 years, who is here today, Lavonne Hall.

Madam Speaker, I am introducing a resolution today to designate November 12 as CJD Awareness Day, and I am proud to honor Mayor Hall's memory in this way and raise awareness for thousands of CJD patients and the families who have been impacted by this disease.

PROJECT 2025 IS A CRUEL AND RECKLESS PLAN

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to sound the alarm about the former President's Project 2025.

It is a cruel and reckless plan that threatens the health and welfare of women in every corner of this Nation.

Project 2025 would end access to medication abortion, create an abortion surveillance state, and criminalize abortion services. These policies are more than restrictions. They are a direct assault on women's lives.

Just ask Anya Cook from my home State. At 16 weeks pregnant, suffering from a miscarriage, she was turned away from treatment because of Florida's cruel 6-week abortion ban. Anya nearly bled to death, delivering her fetus alone in a bathroom.

This is the future of Project 2025: women in pain, bleeding, abandoned by a broken system.

We must fight back.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT RALPH H. BODE

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

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Staff Sergeant Ralph H. Bode, from Racine, Wisconsin.

On September 27, 1944, Staff Sergeant Bode's aircraft was shot down over the skies of Kassel, Germany.

After the crash, three crewmembers were taken prisoner. Staff Sergeant Bode was not among them. He was declared missing in action. At the time,

Staff Sergeant Bode was 20 years old, serving as a World War II tail gunner. He played a vital role in the bombing mission aimed at disrupting Nazi operations over Kassel, Germany.

For 80 years, no one knew what actually happened to Staff Sergeant Bode, but recently, his remains were identified. This Friday, 80 years to the day of his last mission, he will be returning home to Racine, Wisconsin.

Madam Speaker, I welcome home Staff Sergeant Bode. We are a nation forever grateful for those who gave their lives defending our freedoms.

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today during Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate our beautiful communities and cultures and how we support one another.

From city councils and school boards to the State legislatures and Congress, Latinos are leaders. We embody the spirit of service and dedication that drive our communities forward.

We put people over politics. We are champions for working families, advocates for justice, and trailblazers who inspire the next generation to strive for excellence.

Our contributions remind us of the rich and vibrant culture Latinos bring to our Nation.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, let us not forget that we are stronger when we stand together, that we have built beautiful lives in this country, and that our brightest days are ahead of us.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to celebrating the rest of Hispanic Heritage Month with my constituents and wish a happy Hispanic Heritage Month to all.

ILLEGAL ALIENS THREATEN DEMOCRACY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, illegal aliens are voting in America. This actually subverts democracy.

It is basic that registration confirms citizenship and voting—confirm photo identification to preserve democracy for all political parties.

Elon Musk suggests a leftwing strategy with the lack of citizenship enforcement, saying: "If Dems win President, House, and Senate . . . they'll grant citizenship to all illegals, and America will become a permanent one-party deep socialist state."

House Republicans passed the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act to protect and preserve the right of

American citizens to vote. This should not be partisan. The bill requires States to obtain proof of citizenship in person when registering and requires States to remove noncitizens from existing voter rolls, as correctly promoted by President Donald Trump.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. HARRIS shamefully opens the borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly, sadly, warned by the FBI.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW SIMON'S LIFELONG SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone whose lifelong service to our Nation has been a blessing to me and countless others, Matthew Simon.

Welcome to the House gallery, Matt. I am so glad you are here.

Through his time teaching in rural classrooms with Teach for America to his years at the Arizona State Legislature as an education policy staffer and his service on my staff as chief of staff, Matt has been a steadfast public servant, committed to advancing policies that empower young people and improve their lives.

Throughout my time in office, Matt has been a reliable counselor and a dedicated member of my team. Even after he left my office to move home to Arizona, he still helped me. I look forward to continuing to work with Matt in the future.

Madam Speaker, the State of Arizona and our Nation are in good hands with thoughtful young leaders like Matt Simon at the helm.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

□ 1215

AMERICANS VALUE FREEDOM

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

Mr. MOULTON. Madam Speaker, a second American Revolution will be bloodless if the left allows it to be. These are ominous words from the lead architect of Trump's Project 2025. The Founding Fathers must be rolling in their graves.

From our earliest days as a Nation, Americans have valued freedom. Our Constitution enshrines it. As leaders today in the Chamber, we should all envision a future where Americans have more freedom.

That is not what Trump's Project 2025 envisions. It promises the oppo-

site: total control. Project 2025 would suffocate the institutions that keep our government running. It would sabotage the people that keep our country safe. Cynically, it would grant more freedoms to billionaires and wealthy corporations.

Healthcare, wages, pensions, education, and insurance benefits could be affected. The tentacles of Project 2025 would be so far-reaching into daily life, who knows if it could be reversed.

Trump is trying to hide from Project 2025, but this is simply Trumpism on an industrial scale. Draconian, partisan government control and chaos, that is what Project 2025 represents. Let's choose freedom instead.

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH ALLEN

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

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Joseph Allen, a native Hoosier from Crawfordsville, Indiana, and a renowned astronaut. He earned his bachelor's degree from DePauw University in math and physics and went on to work for NASA in 1967.

While at NASA, Joe Allen flew on the first operational mission on Columbia in 1982 and the first satellite salvage mission on Discovery in 1984.

On Columbia, Allen helped deliver the first satellites to orbit for paying customers, marking the first commercial deployment from a shuttle. On Discovery, he retrieved two satellites that had been stranded in useless orbits.

Joe Allen was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame in 2005. We are proud of his immense accomplishments, and we thank him for his service to our country at NASA and in the final frontier.

HONORING PROFESSOR GREGORY KASTER

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

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Professor Gregory Kaster, a beloved educator and community member who left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

While earning his doctorate, he met his best friend and wife, our beloved Kate Wittenstein, with whom he would have celebrated 40 years of marriage this fall.

They had a shared passion for liberal arts and a lifelong dedication to making the world a better place.

In 1968, they both became professors at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. Together, they helped to develop the college's history department into what it is today, and Professor Kaster would teach there for the rest of his life.

Throughout his distinguished tenure, he was known as a trusted educator,

advocate, mentor, and a friend to students and faculty alike.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his incredible life.

RECOGNIZING COACH BILL HIGDON

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I recognize my dear friend, Coach Bill Higdon, who is turning 80 years old this month.

Coach Higdon retired from the University of Tennessee in 2009 and was inducted into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, something I will never be inducted into. Coach Higdon had a career at UT athletics that spanned 35 years.

Coach Higdon played basketball at Holston High School in east Tennessee and described himself as an ordinary basketball player. He wanted to pursue coaching and took the path that led into multiple sports.

Bill was a basketball graduate assistant at Western Kentucky University when they reached the Final Four. He went on to recruit for the UT football team. He was still working in an administrative role when the Volunteers played in the College World Series not once, not twice, but three times.

Bill loved his work as a recruiter, and he was great at it. He was named one of the top recruiting coordinators of the year under Coach Johnny Majors when Coach Majors returned to the University of Tennessee.

Happy birthday to Coach Higdon. His work at UT is legendary. He deserves a spot in the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame.

Coach and Sue-Sue have an incredible life. They have two wonderful children and four grandchildren. On a very personal note, he was always so kind to my parents before they left this Earth, and he took care of us. Coach is a great man, and I love him.

REMEMBERING RICHARD ALATORRE

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise during Hispanic Heritage Month to commemorate the life and legacy of Richard Alatorre who served on the Los Angeles City Council and the California State Assembly. His life's work was dedicated to delivering for the east side of Los Angeles and the Latino community.

He was tough, smart, and dedicated. He worked hard to get his community the same rights and representation as everyone else.

Early in his career, he helped collect funds and lowered bail for protesters arrested during the 1968 Chicano walkouts.

As an assembly member, he authored bills for bilingual services to be offered in communities that needed them and for farmworkers to be allowed to collectively bargain.

He cofounded the Latino Caucus in the California legislature in 1973 and helped expand Latino representation in the legislature. He strengthened historically Black council seats and ensured they stayed that way for decades.

That is the kind of man he was. He got things done. He prioritized everyday, working-class Angelenos, and he will be missed. East L.A. will never forget our luchador.

May Richard Alatorre rest in peace, and may his memory be a blessing to his family and to his community.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF "THE POWER BROKER"

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

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Robert Caro's "The Power Broker."

As one of the great literary accomplishments over the last five decades, the "The Power Broker" is more than a biography of Robert Moses.

It explores how Moses reshaped New York City, and it is a first-class lesson for anyone interested in policy and politics.

Much like Moses and his work in New York City, Caro's work has transcended generations. I use this book as a guest lecturer at Western New England University, and it references the literary masterpiece that we all have come to love.

Caro's book is a reminder of the responsibility that comes with power and the need for accountability with Democratic institutions.

As we reflect on this seminal work, let us remind ourselves of the challenges we face today, reflecting upon those who wield power in our society and how it affects the lives of everyday citizens.

Let's commit ourselves to the principles of fairness, transparency, and equity, principles that underscore democracy by and of the people. What a favor Robert Moses has done to American history.

I congratulate Mr. Caro on the occasion of the semicentennial of "The Power Broker," and ask him to please finish the Lyndon Johnson series.

EXPANDING ACCESS AND COVERAGE FOR IVF

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, while IVF is a major news story, fertility treatments are deeply personal journeys full of loss and hope.

I see it in my own family. For 2 years, my daughter-in-law, Stephanie, and my son, Patrick, have struggled to have a second child to give their precious daughter, Ella, a sibling, a lifelong best friend.

For 2 years, they have had hope extinguished by heartbreak, two failed IUIs, two IVF egg retrievals, a failed embryo transplant, and two miscarriages.

For them, IVF has opened the door to growing the family they have always hoped for after so many doors were shut.

IVF is not a cure-all, and it will never eliminate the trauma of infertility, but Stephanie and Patrick's latest IVF embryo transfer worked. God willing, we will be blessed with another grandchild this spring.

Their story is like so many other young families, yet it is rarely discussed. Infertility affects one in five women in the United States, many of whom suffer in silence.

That is why I am on the floor today and why Stephanie gave me the blessing to tell their story. Let's end the stigma, and as lawmakers, let's protect and expand access and coverage for IVF.

CONGRATULATING THE WEST POINT CLASS OF 2024

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

Mr. JAMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the West Point class of 2024 for graduating this past spring and for their continued commitment to service. It is no small feat.

I, myself, a West Point graduate of 2004, am celebrating my 20th reunion this fall, and time has flown.

I ask each of them to lead with the West Point motto in mind. "Duty, Honor, Country" is not just a slogan. It is a way of life as they embark on their lifetime of service.

I also congratulate them on going 3-1 against Navy. They are winners.

On a more serious note, our country will be better off for their leadership.

I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the following three grads of the 2024 class from Michigan's 10th Congressional District: Lucas Dickerson from Sterling Heights, Alexzandria Goss from St. Clair Shores, and Chelsy Tene-Kuate of Macomb.

God bless the class of 2024. Their service and their sacrifice will never be forgotten. Godspeed and God bless them all.

IMPACTS OF PROJECT 2025

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Madam Speaker, Project 2025 is Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans' manifesto against everyday Americans.

It is based on an extreme ideology of inequity that envisions a chilling future in which the rich get richer on the backs of working families.

From "child," "keiki" to "elder," "kupuna," Project 2025 would take away our ability to feed and care for our "family," "ohana." In my district, it would raise taxes for working families in Hawaii just to hand out tax cuts to millionaires.

Project 2025 would impose limits on Medicaid benefits that almost 58,000 people in Hawaii depend on for healthcare coverage. It would raise out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for over 82,000 people on Medicare in my State alone. It would eliminate Head Start in Hawaii for almost 3,000 keiki from low-income backgrounds, many who live in rural communities and whose families depend on it for childcare.

For over 1 million Hawaii residents working hard toward a dignified retirement, Project 2025 would raise the retirement age from 67 to 69 and drastically cut the hard-earned Social Security benefits seniors depend on.

We cannot allow Project 2025's terrifying vision to become our future. Our people deserve better, and I won't stop fighting to reject this radical extreme agenda.

□ 1230

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, today is the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, and we honor the family, friends, and loved ones whose lives have been taken far too soon by violence.

I rise in recognition of one of my constituents, Jackie Rowe-Adams, cofounder of Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E., who has dedicated her tireless efforts to ending gun violence and murder in communities across my district.

Gun violence has become far too prevalent in New York City and in communities around the Nation. It is undeniably a national crisis.

Today, we remember those lost to homicide. We honor their memories and uplift their loved ones. Far too many lives in my district have been lost to gun violence and far too many families have been impacted.

Congress must come together now and work toward a future where gun violence no longer plagues America and we can keep our communities safe. I thank Jackie Rowe-Adams for everything she does for us.

CONGRATULATING ROCK RIDGE ELEMENTARY

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Rock Ridge Elementary in Wilson County, North Carolina, as a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School.

The National Blue Ribbon honor demonstrates the outstanding achievements of the Raiders and their unwavering commitment to excellence.

Rock Ridge, led by Principal Emily Chilton, is to be commended for tirelessly pursuing academic excellence. The journey to this honor has involved collaboration, innovation, and a shared vision among students, teachers, educational support professionals, families, and the community.

As Rock Ridge proudly displays the National Blue Ribbon flag, it is a symbol of a commitment to exemplary teaching and learning.

I congratulate the Raiders.

SANCTIONING TYRANNICAL AND OPPRESSIVE PEOPLE WITHIN THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. 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. 3334.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NUNN of Iowa). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Guam?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1486 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. 3334.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1232

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. 3334) to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, with Ms. FOXX 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 Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chairwoman, I rise in support of H.R. 3334, the STOP CCP Act, which

was introduced by my colleague from Michigan, Congresswoman McCLAIN, and ordered favorably reported by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese Communist Party is responsible for some of the world's worst human rights violations and threats to international security.

In Xinjiang, CCP-led genocide seeks to erase the history and culture of Uyghur Muslims, who live in constant fear.

While Hong Kong was once known for its vibrant civil society and the rule of law, today it is under the iron fist of Beijing and many brave democracy advocates sit in jail.

Our close friends in Taiwan live under constant military pressure, with incursions into their air defense identification zone. An oppressive PRC Coast Guard keeps pushing closer and closer to Taiwan's shores.

The Tibetan people have and continue to suffer from decades of brutal repression designed to undermine their identity and culture. I am glad that we have the opportunity today to support an amendment to shine a spotlight on the abuse they endure.

All of these egregious abuses and urgent threats are being directed and implemented by leaders of the Chinese Communist Party. The party's Central Committee, which this bill targets, is like the board of directors of the CCP. As key party decisionmakers, the Central Committee directs CCP abuse and aggression, which threatens our friends and partners in the Indo-Pacific. Therefore, it is critical to use targeted sanctions to hold these top party leaders accountable.

Sadly, the weakness of the Biden-Harris administration's foreign policy has invited aggression around the world—in Ukraine and in the Middle East. We hope it will not invite aggression toward Taiwan.

In the face of chaos, I am sorry that the Biden-Harris administration and some of my friends on the other side of the aisle feel that we cannot afford to put action to our words with these modest sanctions.

The administration opposes this bill, claiming that it needs to maintain flexibility to avoid "veering into conflict." Sadly, I fear that our adversaries have grown to depend on the Biden-Harris administration's flexibility. Just last night, the PRC launched an ICBM near my district of Guam, which landed just below Hawaii. Clearly, we need to draw our line in the sand now.

This bill is not an act of war. It includes exceptions for U.N., intelligence, law enforcement, and national security purposes. It even gives the President the ability to waive sanctions if the President deems it necessary.

We are only ensuring that the CCP officials most responsible for the party's crimes, crimes that include genocide, do not routinely get to enjoy the benefits of the U.S. financial system or travel to our great country.

We must stand up for our founding values and security interests. The defense of liberty and human rights is not escalation. Our partners and allies feel safest when America leads rather than hesitating while our adversaries are on the march.

This bill is a strong display of U.S. foreign policy and the values that guide it. I urge Members to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this legislation.

We all recognize the challenges posed by the People's Republic of China. The Biden-Harris administration and this body are clear-eyed that the PRC is our foremost geopolitical challenge, but how we manage this relationship will have consequences not just for us but for the entire world. This requires sober policies and shrewd diplomacy, not fear or partisan grandstanding.

It is for that reason I oppose H.R. 3334. If signed into law, this bill would sabotage high-level diplomacy with Beijing. Why else would we sanction all of the PRC's top leaders, including the President, the Premier, the senior ministers in one fell swoop, an action that would immediately rupture the U.S.-China relationship? Such a unilateral action would undermine the United States' interests, divide us from our partners and allies, and endanger our national security by making a conflict more likely in the Indo-Pacific.

Over the last few years, the Biden-Harris administration has competed vigorously with China. They have sanctioned Chinese officials and companies for human rights abuses in Xinjiang and Hong Kong. They have provided Taiwan with the weapons that it needs to enhance its self-defense. They have imposed unprecedented export controls against China to ensure our technology isn't bolstering China's military or its human rights abuses. They have done so while revitalizing our alliances and partnerships in the region and stabilizing relations with Beijing so that our competition does not slide into conflict. All of this is endangered by this bill before us.

The State Department has warned that this bill will bluntly curtail the United States' ability to engage with Beijing at senior levels of our civilian and military leadership to advance our national interests.

For example, earlier this month, the head of U.S. forces in the Indo-Pacific spoke to his Chinese counterpart for the first time in years. During the call, Admiral Paparo underscored the importance of sustained lines of communication between the United States military and the PLA, noting that "such discussions between senior leaders serve to clarify intent and reduce the risk of misperception or miscalculation."

If we want to keep the American people safe and lower the chance of an accidental crisis in the Taiwan Strait or

the South China Sea, we have to talk to China. We already know that sanctioning its leaders is counter-productive. Beijing's last defense minister refused to meet with Secretary Lloyd Austin because of U.S. sanctions.

Engagement is necessary. Through senior-level, including engagements between President Biden and President Xi, the Biden-Harris administration has restored open channels of communication with Beijing.

Remember, even during the Cuban Missile Crisis, we were talking with Russia at the time. There was always dialogue and conversation. That probably prevented a nuclear war back then. That is something that we should take knowledge of. Conversation, diplomacy, preventing an accidental war, that is why this bill is not the right bill.

I thank the Biden-Harris administration. For the first time in years, Beijing has agreed to take action to crack down on fentanyl precursor chemicals and pill-presses that are killing 100,000 Americans a year. We still have to deal with issues that most people believe in, that there is a climate crisis. We cannot solve problems like that unless we are talking with each other and Beijing takes action.

Just this month, the Biden-Harris administration's diplomatic efforts led to the release of an American citizen, David Lin, who was unlawfully detained in China for over 18 years. Let me assure you, if this bill becomes law, it will be next to impossible to secure the return of the two remaining wrongfully detained Americans in China.

□ 1245

Sanctioning the top 200-plus CCP officials all at once would limit the United States' future leverage if China engages in more problematic policies and behaviors.

The legislation does not include basic exceptions that are standard in all bipartisan sanctions legislation. While the waiver in this legislation sunsets after just 2 years, the authority to impose sanctions does not. This is poor policymaking, plain and simple.

I oppose this dangerous and counter-productive bill, which will do nothing to help the Uyghurs, the Hong Kongers, and the people of Taiwan, while making it incredibly difficult to engage China to advance any U.S. interests, whether it is fentanyl, regional security, Taiwan, human rights, or IT theft.

Madam Chair, I must oppose this measure and urge all of my colleagues, all Members, to do the same.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Chairwoman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN), the author of this bill.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Chair, I am just confused. There is nothing in the bill that says we can't talk to them, right? There is nothing in the bill that

says we can't talk to them. There is nothing in the bill that says we can't have diplomacy. What the bill says is: We don't need to fund our destroyers.

I am all for talking. How is that working for us? We talk to them ad nauseam, and what do they do? They continue to push the envelope and push the envelope, so I am sharing that maybe what we should do, since our talking doesn't work, is provide some sanctions.

I want to remind us, let's stick with the facts of the bill. It talks about sanctions. You can talk to them. There is nothing in the bill, unless I am missing something—and I would like you to show me in the bill where it says that we are not allowed to talk with them. Stop with the fear-mongering. Let's stick with the basics.

Madam Chair, I rise today to stress the need for the STOP CCP Act. The Chinese Communist Party has grown to be our greatest geopolitical threat. Chinese dictator Xi Jinping and the Central Committee of the CCP are working to turn the People's Republic of China into the dominant world superpower. Meanwhile, the Biden-Harris administration stands by and continues to cozy up with Xi Jinping.

The CCP has shown us they will do anything to achieve global supremacy. Xi and his Central Committee have crushed Hong Kong's democracy. They have threatened to push the world into war over the free and democratic island nation of Taiwan. Xi has authorized the enslavement and genocide of the Uyghurs within his own country. Recently, the CCP has used their Navy to ram other vessels in the South China Sea to intimidate neighboring nations.

How is the talking going? Today, the talking and the strategy of diplomacy have gone so well that the CCP launched an ICBM into the Pacific Ocean. Maybe we should just call them and say, "Don't do that anymore" because they respond so well to that.

For far too long, these atrocities and aggression have gone unchecked and without consequences. Well, I say not anymore. Congress and the United States must send a message that the deliberate disregard for human rights, international norms, and blatant bullying will no longer be tolerated.

I wish words would work, but they don't. They haven't.

Let me remind everyone who may be skeptical about the Chinese Communist Party's intentions: Nothing happens in China without the approval of Xi Jinping and the Central Committee of the CCP.

While I wholeheartedly support the numerous pieces of legislation that have passed this Chamber aimed at countering the CCP's nefarious acts, none of them have targeted the core problem, the actual individuals who are giving the orders.

It is time to begin to deal with the root of the problem. The STOP CCP Act places significant sanctions on Xi Jinping and members of his Central

Committee in response to their decades of aggression, human rights abuses, and outright threats to democracies around the world.

Xi's goal is to cover the world in communism. We are the ones who stand in his way, which is why, instead of opposing my bill, the White House should get tough with the CCP. Let's try a different strategy, one that may actually work.

Every time China crosses a line, Biden sends officials to Beijing. That is embarrassing. We do not need to coddle an aggressor. You need to deal with them from a position of strength, not weakness. It is time we draw a line in the sand, say enough is enough, and stop funding our destroyers.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I thank Congressmen PANETTA, BUCHANAN, and PAPPAS for joining me in this effort to hold the true culprits within the CCP accountable for their heinous acts.

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

Madam Chair, if you think that unilateral sanctions on 200 members in China is going to work, I got a bridge to sell you. Nothing is going to work—unilateral, none of it. All it will do is drive us against some of our Indo-Pacific friends, colleagues, and allies.

H.R. 3334 is a deliberate effort to undermine all of what we are trying to do. It would rupture the U.S.-China relationship. It would create collateral damage that would impact American workers, families, and companies. It would make America look like the instigator and divide us from our partners. It would make a conflict more likely by undermining the ability to have open lines of communication with the PRC civilian and military leaders about Taiwan or the South China Sea.

Shutting down communication channels is not what diplomacy is about. That is not what this committee is about. Shutting down communication channels, specifically with the PRC, is not a strategy for success.

American officials, diplomats, and military leaders must be able to engage directly with their PRC counterparts in Washington and elsewhere to address concerns and reduce tensions.

Ambassador Burns, who was recently here, urges communications even between Members of Congress and members of the PRC, not to back down from them but to make sure they understand what we say and what our positions are.

Dialogue and conversation, that is diplomacy. That is how we get things done, and that is how we can prevent a misunderstanding or a miscalculation that could lead to devastation.

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

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

Madam Chair, I thank Congresswoman McCLAIN for introducing this bill and Chairman McCaul for moving it through committee and to the floor.

We are in a global competition with the Chinese Communist Party. If we do not stand up to those attacking the freedoms we stand for, then we undermine the principles that define us. Allowing the CCP's crimes to go unchallenged disheartens their victims, weakens our global standing, and emboldens authoritarian regimes around the world.

Imposing basic sanctions on CCP's Central Committee members is a measured response to the genocide, abuse, and threats they continue to direct.

Madam Chair, I ask support for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

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

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 118-705, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for 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. 3334

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 “Sanctioning Tyrannical and Oppressive People within the Chinese Communist Party Act” or the “STOP CCP Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Hong Kong National Security Law promulgated on July 1, 2020—

(A) contravenes the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region that provides in Article 23 that the Legislative Council of Hong Kong shall enact legislation related to national security;

(B) violates the People's Republic of China's commitments under international law, as defined by the Joint Declaration; and

(C) causes severe and irreparable damage to the “one country, two systems” principle and further erodes global confidence in the People's Republic of China's commitment to international law.

(2) Repression of ethnic Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China has been ongoing, and was formalized with the “Strike Hard Campaign against Violent Terrorism” that began in 2014.

(3) The mass internment of Uyghur and other Muslim ethnic minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region has been ongoing since April 2017.

(4) The People's Republic of China has conducted a targeted and systemic population-control campaign against ethnic and religious minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region by imposing and implementing coercive population-control practices, including selectively enforcing birth quotas, targeting minority women who are in noncompliance with birth quotas, and subjecting women to coercive measures such as forced birth control, forced sterilization, and forced abortion.

(5) On October 6, 2020, 39 countries delivered a cross-regional joint statement to the United States Mission to the United Nations on the human rights abuses on Uyghurs and other minorities for forced birth control including sterilization.

(6) On January 19, 2021, the Department of State determined that the People's Republic of China committed crimes against humanity and genocide against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, citing forced sterilizations, forced abortions, coerced marriages, and separation of Uyghur children from their families.

(7) The Department of State's 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices affirmed the genocide determination and noted coercive population control measures inflicted on ethnic and religious minority women in China, including forced injections with “drugs that cause temporary or permanent end to their menstrual cycles and fertility”.

(8) The United States ratified the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide in 1988, recognizing that “imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group” with intent to destroy a group in whole or part is an act that constitutes genocide.

(9) Taiwan is a free and prosperous democracy of nearly 24,000,000 people and an important contributor to peace and stability around the world.

(10) Section 2(b) of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8; 22 U.S.C. 3301(b)) states that it is the policy of the United States—

(A) “to preserve and promote extensive, close, and friendly commercial, cultural, and other relations between the people of the United States and the people on Taiwan, as well as the people on the China mainland and all other peoples of the Western Pacific area”;

(B) “to declare that peace and stability in the area are in the political, security, and economic interests of the United States, and are matters of international concern”;

(C) “to make clear that the United States decision to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China rests upon the expectation that the future of Taiwan will be determined by peaceful means”;

(D) “to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States”;

(E) “to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character”;

(F) “to maintain the capacity of the United States to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security, or the social or economic system, of the people on Taiwan”.

(11) Since the election of President Tsai Ing-wen as President of Taiwan in 2016, the Government of the People's Republic of China has intensified its efforts to pressure Taiwan through diplomatic isolation and military provocations.

(12) The rapid modernization of the People's Liberation Army and recent military maneuvers in and around the Taiwan Strait illustrate a clear threat to Taiwan's security.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that members of the Chinese Communist Party, led by General Secretary Xi Jinping, are responsible for violations of Hong Kong's autonomy, increased aggression against the people of Taiwan, numerous human rights violations against the people of Hong Kong and the people of Taiwan, and acts of repression and genocide against Uyghur Muslims in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

SEC. 4. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to—

(1) each person who is a member of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party that the President determines engages in the conduct described in subsection (b);

(2) each person who is a member of any successor organization of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party that the President determines engages in the conduct described in subsection (b), in the event that the Central Committee is dissolved; and

(3) each person who is an adult family member, including a spouse or an adult family member of the spouse, of a person described in paragraph (1) or paragraph (2).

(b) SANCTIONABLE CONDUCT.—A person engages in the conduct described by this subsection if the person plays a significant role in the development or implementation of government policies or laws that the President determines appear designed to—

(1) violate the autonomy of Hong Kong;

(2) harass, intimidate, or result in increased aggression towards the people of Taiwan; or

(3) contribute to political oppression or violation of human rights of individuals or societal groups within the People's Republic of China, including Uyghur Muslims.

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(A) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, is described in subsection (a) is—

(I) inadmissible to the United States;

(II) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

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

(ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien described in clause (i) regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is issued.

(II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under subclause (I) shall take effect immediately and shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—The sanctions described in paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United

Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

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

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

(e) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—The President may exercise all authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes of carrying out this section.

(f) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall, not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this section.

(g) WAIVER.—The President may, for one or more periods of not more than 60 days each, waive the application of sanctions or restrictions imposed with respect to a foreign person under this section if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees, not later than 15 days before such waiver takes effect, that the waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.

(h) TERMINATION.—The President may terminate any sanctions imposed under subsection (a) not fewer than 15 days after the date on which the President provides a written certification to the appropriate congressional committees, and concurrently publishes on a publicly available website of the Federal Government, that—

(1) the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party have—

(A) ceased the genocide of the Uyghur Muslim population, including verifiably shutting down all internment camps of Uyghurs and ending the practice of facilitating or supporting Uyghur forced labor and forced sterilization;

(B) ceased all forms of threats, military exercises, and aggression toward Taiwan, including through verifiably, and for at least a period of one year, having not conducted any breach of Taiwan's air space, territorial waters, or land mass, by any military or intelligence personnel associated with the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party, or any agency or instrumentality thereof;

(C) ceased the undermining of the autonomy of Hong Kong, including through respecting the terms of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, and reversing all steps taken to interfere with the democratic process and governance of Hong Kong; and

(D) ceased efforts to steal the intellectual property of United States persons; or

(2) the sanctioned person has—

(A) affirmatively renounced membership in the Chinese Communist Party; and

(B) taken affirmative steps to denounce or mediate the conduct forming the basis for imposition of the sanction.

(i) SUNSET OF WAIVER AND LICENSE AUTHORITIES.—The President's authority to issue waivers or licenses with respect to sanctions required by subsection (a), including pursuant to sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704),

shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(j) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "good" means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

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

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

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

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118-705. 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 as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 118-705.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 8, line 16, strike “; and” and insert a semicolon.

Page 8, line 20, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

Page 8, after line 20, insert the following: (4) each person the President determines is a Chinese state-owned enterprise—

(A) illegally manufacturing or distributing fentanyl; or

(B) knowingly or intentionally manufacturing or distributing fentanyl precursor chemicals to be used in the illegal production or distribution of fentanyl.

Page 14, beginning line 7, redesignate subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

Page 14, after line 6, insert the following:

(A) if the person is described in any of paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a)—

Page 14, line 11, strike the period at the end and insert “; or”.

Page 14, after line 11, insert the following:

(B) if the person is described in paragraph (4) of subsection (a), taken affirmative steps to cease the manufacture and distribution of fentanyl or any precursor chemical known or intended to be used in the illegal production or distribution of fentanyl.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1486, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Madam Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 3334, the Sanctioning Tyrannical and Oppressive People within the Chinese Communist Party Act, and the good work by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. I present my amendment, amendment No. 1.

The illegal production, distribution, and sale of fentanyl has contributed to a surge of overdoses across the world and severe addiction right here in the United States, as well. Cheap but deadly fentanyl is flooding into the United States across our open southern border, wreaking havoc on communities across our country and locally in our neighborhoods, killing a record number of Americans, including in Iowa's Third District, my hometown.

In Iowa alone, over the last 2 years, we have seen a 34 percent increase in drug death overdoses, with fentanyl implicated in more than 83 percent of those. Among Iowans, those 25 and under, drug overdoses have increased by 120 percent in the last 24 months alone, a staggering figure.

Fentanyl, tragically, is the leading cause of death of Americans my age down to my high school daughter's age. This epidemic kills over 150 young people in America a day, a catastrophic death toll by any measure.

At the source of the crisis is the Chinese Communist Party. They are the primary source for fentanyl production worldwide, including what ends up here in America. The chemical compounds of this deadly drug are manufactured under Beijing's control and then are sent to cartels and laboratories within Mexico.

Mules from Mexican cartels move this deadly fentanyl across the wide-open border on America's southern States and disperse it out to every community in America, where it kills our friends, neighbors, and families and guts our very communities.

□ 1300

The longer that we allow China to go unchecked as the main producer and funding source for these dangerous drugs, this crisis will continue to get worse and more deadly.

It is time that we put this heart-breaking madness to an end. That is why I offer my amendment, which would add any Chinese state-owned enterprise that knowingly produces chemicals for the manufacturing of fentanyl to the list of sanctioned entities here in the United States.

We must stop this crisis at the source and keep our fellow Americans safe.

My heart goes out to every family who has been impacted by this, and tragically at this point, nearly every American has felt or known someone who has been impacted by the fentanyl crisis, including the Kidd family that joined me here in this very Chamber at

this year's State of the Union who lost their child to Chinese-manufactured fentanyl.

I urge everyone on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers to take action on this by supporting this amendment.

I thank my colleagues for their work in standing up to China to protect our communities and fight for our kids.

Mr. Chair, I do not believe this needs to be a partisan issue. The fact is simple: Fentanyl is killing Americans in every single congressional district in every single community across this country. We know how to stop it, and this is an amendment that can move it forward.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Iowa for yielding.

Mr. Chair, there were 14,700 pounds of fentanyl seized in fiscal year 2022; 27,000 pounds of fentanyl seized in 2023; and 19,700 pounds of fentanyl seized so far in fiscal year 2024.

Mr. Chair, 76,000 Americans died from fentanyl overdoses last year. Tens of thousands or more of Americans have died from fentanyl overdoses since this administration took office. Hundreds of thousands have died from drug overdoses in general.

Chinese state-owned enterprises are seeing an opportunity to profit off of the deaths of Americans, and this administration is letting it happen.

Americans are crying out for new leadership. Until they have their say on November 5, we should be sanctioning the daylights out of every single one of these Chinese Communist Party's genocidal thugs.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I believe that we can all fight this scourge at the source, not only to save Americans, to save lives, but to push back against those who would profit off the death of our country.

This is a bipartisan issue. This is a good issue for America. Most importantly, it is the best safeguard we can do to stop fentanyl in its tracks.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. LATURNER). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN).

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

Mr. AMO. 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 Iowa will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. AMO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 118-705.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from Texas

(Ms. CROCKETT), and I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 9, line 2, strike "or".

Page 9, line 6, strike the period and insert "; or".

Page 9, after line 6, insert the following:

(4) willfully and knowingly engage in malicious activities, including online disinformation campaigns and propaganda, for the purpose of interfering with United States Federal, State, or local elections.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1486, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Chair, while the underlying bill is problematic and harmful to U.S. interests, I have no problem supporting this amendment, which adds election interference as a sanctionable conduct.

Beijing should not be interfering in our democratic processes.

I think if the sanctions authorities in this bill were constructed thoughtfully, this would be an important area of concern where sanctions could be used to hold PRC entities accountable.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118-705.

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:

Page 8, line 8, after "Chinese Communist Party" insert ", including alternate members thereof."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1486, 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, the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party is the highest organ of authority within the 2,000-member National Party Congress. The 205 full members of the Central Committee have critically important decisionmaking authorities and voting rights which include the selection of the general secretary, the politburo, and the politburo's standing committee.

Thankfully, the underlying legislation leaves the possibility of not only permitting the U.S. President to sanction these 205 members but also 171 so-called alternate members of the Central Committee who do not have voting

rights but are nevertheless members of the committee.

This amendment provides both clarification that the legislative's punitive sanctions may also be used against these alternate members and also provides congressional support for blocking and prohibiting all transactions in property against these top Chinese Communist Party cadres.

It further lends support for making these alternate members ineligible to receive a visa to enter the United States.

There should be no confusion as to the nature of the threat posed by the PRC. The Chinese Communist Party seeks to destroy the United States. It is already actively involved in sending the fentanyl precursor chemicals necessary to kill our fellow Americans across our border.

For context, 76,000 Americans died from fentanyl overdoses alone in 2023.

This fiscal year alone, 35,400 Chinese nationals have taken advantage of our porous southern border and come into our country. The CCP has also co-opted every meaningful international institution to the point where our Nation is now funding organizations like the WHO and the wider U.N. to promote policies that are undermining our own national interests.

The CCP engages in gray zone warfare against Taiwan and other Indo-Pacific allies, risking the start of another global conflict.

Communist China steals hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of intellectual property from our Nation every single year, and it uses its diplomatic presence to engage in massive espionage operations.

Our government opens a new China-related counterintelligence case every 10 hours, and approximately 50 percent of all of our Nation's counterintelligence cases are related to China.

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Rhode Island is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Chair, this amendment makes a bad idea even worse. Scratch past the surface of the underlying bill, and you will find an unserious proposal that does nothing to address our problems with Beijing. It would blindly sanction all the PRC's top leaders while getting absolutely nothing in return.

This unilateral action would detonate the U.S.-China relationship. That is right, this bill would slap widespread sanctions on a broad swath of China's Government without achieving a single change in its malign behavior. That truly is some art of the deal.

Given the high-stakes nature of our relationship with China, we need sanctions that are targeted, scoped, and sequenced to be effective. This amendment doesn't come within a football field of meeting this standard. It makes a bad idea worse.

The amendment would sanction an additional 170 or so alternate members of the CCP Central Committee. It is the policy equivalent of taking out a chain saw when the job requires a scalpel. Chaotically applying sweeping sanctions is not thoughtful. It is not smart.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, nothing? It gives the President of the United States, whether Republican or Democrat, the ability to defend our country, to create accountability when a bad actor engages in undermining our national interests.

My colleagues say we need better communication, and when we were communicating to them that Americans were dying because of precursor chemicals, they did nothing. When we communicated that we needed them to stop because our kids were dying, they did nothing. This idea of communicating and appeasement did not work, and hundreds of thousands of Americans paid the price.

I will not sit idly by and allow China to bully our country. Now, if others want to do that, then that is up to them, but this bill is permissive. It gives the President of the United States another tool, another opportunity to hold China accountable.

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Chair, once again, this shortsighted amendment makes a bad idea even worse.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I think it is shortsighted to allow Americans to die on our streets because the Chinese Communist Party is flooding our country with fentanyl.

I think it is shortsighted that we allow the Chinese Communist Party to influence our foreign policy.

I think it is shortsighted that we don't stand up for Taiwan and let them take full control over their own destiny.

It is time that America stands up for its allies: Israel, Taiwan, and all of those beacons of democracy around the world.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 118-705.

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:

Page 13, after line 13, insert the following:

(B) ceased all forms of oppression of the Tibetan people, including those significant human rights abuses detailed in the Tibet section of the Department of State's 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; Page 13, line 14, strike "(B)" and insert "(C)".

Page 13, line 23, strike "(C)" and insert "(D)".

Page 14, line 4, strike "(D)" and insert "(E)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1486, 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, the underlying bill rightfully includes a robust set of preconditions prior to lifting any sanctions on members of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party.

However, when it comes to those who have been sanctioned for their role in the political oppression of minority groups in the PRC, the bar of accountability ought to be set even higher. The ones suffering in Communist China aren't just the people of East Turkestan.

Over the years, the United States has demonstrated its solidarity with the people of Tibet and with the plight of the Tibetan people. Seven decades after the CCP began its illegal occupation of the country of Tibet, the Chinese Communist Party continues its policy of wholesale persecution of the Tibetan people.

This amendment simply states that the sanctioned members of the PRC's Central Committee must also cease any and all oppression of the Tibetan people. The amendment references the State Department's 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, a report which details the numerous different ways the PRC authorities are oppressing the Tibetan people.

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

□ 1315

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, just to be clear, the persecution is rather stark: enforced disappearance, torture or cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or punishment; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrests or detentions; serious problem with the independence of the judiciary, particularly regarding political prisoners; transnational repression against individuals located in other countries; arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; punishment of family members for alleged offenses by a relative; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including censorship; serious restrictions on internet freedom; and substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly.

This is the Chinese Government. This is whom some on the other side of the aisle seek to appease. It is important that we leverage every tool to stand

firm as the dominant superpower in the world and that we continue to be the light of freedom and hope for our tired world.

It is time we take a stand. It is time that we say no to China. It is time that we pass my amendment.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OGLES) having assumed the chair, Mr. LATURNER, 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. 3334) to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

KEEPING VIOLENT OFFENDERS OFF OUR STREETS ACT

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1486, I call up the bill (H.R. 8205) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that Byrne grant funds may be used for public safety report systems, 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. LATURNER). Pursuant to House Resolution 1486, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-51 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 8205

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 "Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act".

SEC. 2. FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH POSTING BAIL.

Section 1033(f)(1)(A) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the comma the following: "(including the posting of monetary bail, criminal bail bonds, and Federal immigration bail bonds)".

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

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD) and the gentleman from

New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. FITZGERALD).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 8205.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before you today in support of my bill, H.R. 8205, the Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act.

This bill defines the posting of cash bail by a corporate, nonprofit, or for-profit entity as engaged in the business of insurance, subjecting them to Federal insurance laws and our criminal fraud statutes.

My district, unfortunately, knows the painful consequences of some of the leftwing bail policies after a repeat offender drove his car through the Waukesha Christmas parade nearly 3 years ago. The Waukesha community continues to heal from this violence that was unleashed that day, but our community is resilient.

While we must take time to remember those whom we lost, we should also turn an eye toward preventing a similar attack from ever happening again. That starts through regulating the use of charitable bail funds, which have been abused time and again to release violent criminals back onto our streets with no consequences.

Charitable bail funds generally flew under the radar until 2020 when the George Floyd riots caused revenues to balloon in many of these funds. The solicitations were done, for the most part, from celebrities and politicians.

What used to be small, community-based organizations that helped post bail for nonviolent misdemeanors has now grown into a multimillion-dollar industry.

For example, the Minnesota Freedom Fund saw revenues increase by 18,000 percent between 2019 and 2020, no doubt benefiting from then-Senator Kamala Harris' tweet encouraging her supporters to help fundraise for the group. A snap of that is just to my right.

Perhaps most alarming, what was intended to help bail out low-level, non-violent protesters has instead been used to release violent felony offenders back into the streets with little to no oversight.

In 2021, for example, the Minnesota Freedom Fund released a domestic abuser back onto the street. Two weeks later, that man, George Howard, was charged with second-degree murder for a road rage incident.

Michael DeWitt of Louisville, Kentucky, was bailed out by The Bail

Project in February 2021 after being arrested on multiple charges. Two months later, he was arrested again for murder.

Shawn Michael Tillman, 3 weeks after having his bail paid by the Minnesota Freedom Fund, murdered a man at a light rail station in St. Paul and is now serving a life sentence for that crime.

Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on.

According to an investigation conducted in Hennepin County, Minnesota, the Minnesota Freedom Fund has bailed out at least 65 defendants who were awaiting trial on felony charges involving violence, physical threats, or sex crimes.

Moreover, because these funds are often anonymous, or at least unrelated to the defendant, there is no incentive to show up for their court dates. It makes no sense. Many of them don't.

According to CNN, which took a look at this issue, nearly 42 percent of the roughly 500 defendants bailed out by the Minnesota Freedom Fund later failed to appear at one or more court hearings between 2021 and 2022.

Commercial bail companies, by comparison, had a failure to appear rate of only 22 percent during that same period of time. This is why many States have begun regulating the use of charitable bail funds. Unfortunately, a State-by-State patchwork has now developed, and it will not solve this problem.

That is why we introduced the Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act. The bill makes a small but important change to our criminal code to define bail bonds as an insurance product—it doesn't seem that significant; it is very simple—thereby subjecting them to the same Federal background check and regulatory requirements as those for for-profit bail agencies under the Federal Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1994.

This change would also bring charitable bail funds under State insurance regulation, giving States the ability to better scrutinize the use of the funds. There is no mandate on any of the State insurance regulations.

Let me be clear: This bill does not outlaw the use of charitable bail funds, nor does it regulate the posting of cash bail by family and friends of the accused. This bill merely says that if you are operating a not-for-profit with the purpose of posting cash bail, then you should be subjected to the same regulation and oversight requirements as those operating as for-profit entities.

This will bring needed oversight to organizations that for years have gone unregulated—\$42 million in the Minnesota Freedom Fund—while ensuring accountability of these funds by subjecting them to Federal insurance fraud statutes if they misappropriate funds or misrepresent the use of these funds in any financial reports. We now will have some oversight.

It is a critical step toward reversing steps by the Democrats, like Vice

President HARRIS, to remove bail safeguards and let violent criminals back into our communities to cause further damage.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio, Chairman JORDAN, for his leadership on this important issue, as well as Congressman TROY NEHLS, Congressman BRYAN STEIL, Congressman TOM TIFFANY, Congressman CLAY HIGGINS, and Congressman KEN CALVERT from California for their support of H.R. 8205.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "yes" vote on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8205 is yet another vehicle for Republican campaign messaging that does nothing to help the American people. It is simply another attempt by Republicans to baselessly claim that Democrats are soft on crime and to distract the American people from the indisputable fact that crime rates continue to drop across this country, as they have for each of the last several years.

This legislation, which would amend the Federal insurance fraud statute to define "the business of insurance" to include the posting of any kind of monetary bail, would do nothing to actually keep violent offenders off our streets.

Instead, it targets nonprofit bail funds that try to address the clear inequities that result when people without financial means are held pending trial simply because they can't afford to pay the bail amounts set by the courts.

Defendants who can afford to pay the bail amount set by the court are set free. In New York, we have such a person, a well-known person who was accused of many felonies was set free on bail pending trial, was convicted of 34 felonies, and is now free on bail pending sentencing. I refer, of course, to Donald Trump.

Nonprofit bail funds, the Minnesota Freedom Fund in particular, have become a favorite target of Republicans recently as they desperately try to prop up their failing Presidential candidate by attacking Vice President HARRIS and Governor Walz. Former President Trump has repeatedly and falsely claimed that Vice President HARRIS donated to the Minnesota Freedom Fund and that her donation secured the release of a man who went on to commit murder.

This is nothing more than another made-up story the Republican ticket has created, and it is just as false as the former President's claim that immigrants are eating the dogs and cats in Springfield, Ohio.

Minnesota Freedom Fund has confirmed that Vice President HARRIS has never donated to them and that her only relationship to the fund was a 2020 tweet encouraging people to chip in if they were able.

□ 1330

The fund, 2 years later, bailed out an offender who went on to commit murder. The majority's attempt to link this incident to Vice President HARRIS demonstrates that Republicans are willing to politicize even the most heinous crimes to serve their desperate needs.

We know from experience and from actual data that, when the political rhetoric is put aside, Democratic policies work to reduce crime. Homicides are down across the country. Violent crimes are down. Property crimes are down. We learned just last week that even drug overdoses are substantially down this year.

While my Republican colleagues love to criticize policies aimed at eliminating or reducing our justice system's reliance on cash bail, study after study, including a recent comprehensive study of 33 jurisdictions, shows that bail reform has not led to an increase in crime.

The majority's only answer to this mountain of evidence about the crime rate is to claim that the FBI's crime data is fraudulent or that it does not include critical jurisdictions, but the FBI's data covers jurisdictions encompassing more than 312 million Americans. It includes every jurisdiction in this Nation with more than 1 million people.

Moreover, data from other agencies and organizations show the same decrease in crime rates that are shown by the FBI's data.

Despite the bill's title, it has nothing to do with violent crime or offenders. It applies to entities that post any type of monetary bond, including non-criminal immigration bonds and bonds for nonviolent criminal offenses, which make up the vast majority of criminal bonds.

In fact, the provision of this bill that actually attempted to address violent crime was stripped from the bill in the Judiciary Committee. All that remains in the bill is the provision relating to insurance fraud, despite the title.

I expect that, during today's debate, Republicans will cite individual examples of people who committed violent offenses after being bailed out by non-profit bail funds. Each is tragic, and our hearts go out to the victims and their families.

What my colleagues on the other side of the aisle won't mention is the thousands more who received help from these funds, finished their cases, and moved on with their lives without incident. The majority won't mention the people who commit crimes after being released with the help of commercial bail agents. Republicans will not mention that it is a judge, not a bail fund, who decides whether to set cash bail in a given case and, if so, in what amount.

Bail funds simply allow indigent defendants to obtain a release that a court has already deemed to be appropriate.

We must remember that we cannot ask for or expect perfection from our

bail system. What we can do is to make sure that the solutions we propose for violent crimes are actually targeted to address the problem rather than to provide sound bites for social media.

There is no question that we must address the root causes of violent crime, invest in proven solutions, such as community violence intervention and drug treatment. We must also support law enforcement with funding and other resources rather than attacking the FBI, the ATF, and our other Federal partners relentlessly.

If and when the majority decides to get serious about combating violence in America, I will gladly join them in exploring serious solutions, but this legislation is no solution at all.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "no" on H.R. 8205, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward nominees for the Office of the President.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS).

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 8205, the so-called Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act.

While I have many concerns with this bill, my primary concern is that it was designed to target nonprofit bail funds, which help defendants who cannot afford bail themselves to obtain pretrial release, release that a court already determined to be appropriate.

Research has found that socioeconomic inequity often makes it harder for people of color to afford bail and that they are more likely to receive higher bail amounts than their White counterparts. I will clarify that the color orange has never been considered a person of color.

As a result, we find people of color in pretrial detention at disproportionately high rates, not out of being guilty, but, rather, due to poverty.

Nonprofit bail funds work to address these disparities and increase fairness in our criminal justice system.

Unfortunately, today's bill turns a blind eye to this and, instead, perpetrates the myth that bail reform has increased violent crime, which data consistently disproves. Understanding that, it should come as no surprise that the Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act does nothing to address violent crime.

Rather, the bill applies criminal penalties for misconduct that is already covered by Federal wire fraud and money laundering statutes, applies to any entity that posts bond, including noncriminal immigration bonds, and affirms a bail system that we know deepens inequity and cycles poverty.

This bill is a distraction from the fact that, thanks largely to Demo-

cratic policies, violent crimes and homicides are down across our country. It is also a distraction from real bipartisan work that we could be doing to bring communities relief and perpetrators of violent crimes to justice.

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 direct the Department of Justice to provide funding to State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies to hire, train, and retain detectives, investigators, and victim services personnel to investigate unsolved violent crimes.

In recent years, the percentage of violent crime and homicide cases solved by law enforcement agencies has declined significantly across the country. To give a clearer picture of what that means, today, nearly half of murders in the United States go unsolved, depriving victims of healing and grieving families of justice.

If Republicans truly want to address violent crime, this amendment would offer a solution by improving clearance rates for violent crimes, bringing perpetrators to justice, radically improving community safety, and enhancing supportive services for victims.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of this amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, Republicans have brought us to the brink of a government shutdown, threatening to cut off essential services for millions of Americans.

Instead of addressing the real needs of the American people, Republicans are poised to advance legislation that does little more than advance false Trump campaign rhetoric.

Although the majority claims that the bill is necessary to provide oversight of bail funds, the bill provides no oversight. It simply applies criminal penalties of up to 10 years, or 15 years in some cases, for misconduct that is already covered by Federal wire fraud and money laundering statutes.

The majority does not even attempt to explain how this bill will live up to its title of "Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets," as the bill has nothing to do with addressing violent crimes.

Like the majority's failed hearings in blue cities across the country, this bill

is another baseless attempt by Republicans to engage in fear-mongering and to label Democrats as soft on crime while ignoring their own documented red State murder problem, the mountain of data showing that crime has been steadily declining throughout the U.S. under the Biden-Harris administration, and that bail reform policies have not contributed to increases in crime that occurred during the pandemic.

In bringing up this legislation, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seek to distract the American people from the fact that their own actions have repeatedly made every American, from Presidential candidates to school children, more at risk at every turn by failing to support law enforcement funding and commonsense gun safety measures.

I urge Members to oppose this flawed legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to close.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle mentioned that many of these bail funds operate locally and, therefore, do not affect interstate commerce. I think it is important to describe the current landscape of the charitable bail funds, and we are not trying to eliminate them.

According to the National Bail Fund Network, there are over 90 charitable bail funds operating across the country. Perhaps the largest fund by revenue, The Bail Project, operates in at least 19 States. That is according to a 2023 annual report.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, The Bail Project saw revenues triple after the George Floyd riots to a whopping \$42 million in 2020. That is \$42 million. There is zero oversight.

Thanks to solicitations from Vice President HARRIS and thanks to those generous donations, The Bail Project ended calendar year 2023 with an astonishing \$71 million. I think an important part that has flown under the radar is that these donations are also tax deductible.

That is right. A lot of Americans are surprised by that. The bail for a violent felony offender could be paid and written off on a tax return, the same as if it were a donation to any charitable cause.

That is an incredibly important point in the context of regulating the payment of cash bail. The donors to these funds have no skin in the game, which makes it incredibly difficult to secure a defendant's appearance in court. They likely care more about their tax deduction than about who actually receives the bail money.

In other words, there is no disincentive to commit a new crime and have a bond forfeited because the source of funds are not tied to the defendant.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 8205, the Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act.

H.R. 8205 is a poorly written Republican messaging bill that seeks to undermine and discredit our Nation's nonprofit support systems. It would do nothing to "keep violent offenders off our streets." Any misconduct by nonprofit bail funds is already a crime under federal wire fraud and money laundering statutes, and both statutes convey harsher penalties than insurance fraud. These nonprofits support low-income people who are in pre-trial detention to be able to post bail. In America, you are innocent until proven guilty. Defendants for non-violent crimes do not deserve to lose their jobs or be forced into poverty simply because they cannot afford to post bail.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to stand ready to work toward real, impactful solutions to address violent crime. Instead debating this bill, Congress should be investing in community violence intervention, fully funding our Federal law enforcement, preventing the flow of weapons of war into our communities, and supporting our local law enforcement agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1486, 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. CÁRDENAS. 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. Cárdenas of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8205 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

Mr. Cárdenas moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8205 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Strike all that follows after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Violent Incident Clearance and Technological Investigative Methods Act of 2024" or "VICTIM Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Research indicates that law enforcement agencies can increase clearance rates by improving—

- (A) investigative processes;
- (B) detective capacities; and
- (C) organizational oversight and supervision of investigations.

(2) When a law enforcement agency expends additional investigative effort, the law enforcement agency improves its success in gaining cooperation of key witnesses and increases the amount of forensic evidence collected.

(3) Effective investigation of shootings can prevent subsequent related violence by—

- (A) deterring retaliation; and
- (B) providing interventions to individuals who may continue to commit crimes or become victims of retaliatory violence.

(4) Law enforcement agencies that demonstrate higher rates of clearance for violent crimes committed against a person—

(A) have more structured oversight and formal interactions between investigative units and agency leadership;

(B) are more likely to have investigative units that have collaborative relationships and robust information sharing with other units of the law enforcement agency;

(C) have investigative units that have specific goals and performance metrics for both the unit and for investigators within the unit;

(D) have investigators who more frequently respond to the initial crime scene shortly after crimes have been reported to collect evidence and interview witnesses;

(E) have investigators who either have specialized experience before joining investigative units or are trained in investigations once they join those units;

(F) often have standard operating procedures for investigations that establish policies and evidence-based best practices for conducting and completing homicide investigations; and

(G) have better relationships with the communities they serve, even if no specific community-oriented campaign or initiative exists between investigative units and community groups.

(5) Criminal justice agencies should collaborate with each other and share best practices for solving violent crimes committed against a person.

(6) A comprehensive community engagement strategy concerning gun violence is essential to improving clearance rates for violent crimes committed against a person.

SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM WITH RESPECT TO VIOLENT INCIDENT CLEARANCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIVE METHODS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLEARANCE BY ARREST.—The term "clearance by arrest", with respect to an offense reported to a law enforcement agency, means the law enforcement agency—

(A) has—

(i) arrested not less than 1 person for the offense;

(ii) charged the person described in subparagraph (A) with the commission of the offense; and

(iii) referred the person described in subparagraph (A) for prosecution for the offense; or

(B) has cited an individual under the age of 18 to appear in juvenile court or before another juvenile authority with respect to the offense, regardless of whether a physical arrest occurred.

(2) CLEARANCE BY EXCEPTION.—The term "clearance by exception", with respect to an offense reported to a law enforcement agency, means the law enforcement agency—

(A) has identified not less than 1 person suspected of the offense; and

(B) with respect to the suspect described in subparagraph (A), has—

(i) gathered enough evidence to—

(I) support an arrest of the suspect;

(II) make a charge against the suspect; and

(III) refer the suspect for prosecution;

(ii) identified the exact location of the suspect so that the suspect could be taken into custody immediately; and

(iii) encountered a circumstance outside the control of the law enforcement agency that prohibits the agency from arresting the suspect, charging the suspect, or referring the suspect for prosecution, including—

(I) the death of the suspect;

(II) the refusal of the victim to cooperate with the prosecution after the suspect has been identified; or

(III) the denial of extradition because the suspect committed an offense in another jurisdiction and is being prosecuted for that offense.

(3) **CLEARANCE RATE.**—The term “clearance rate”, with respect to a law enforcement agency, means—

(A) the number of offenses cleared by the law enforcement agency, including through clearance by arrest and clearance by exception, divided by

(B) the total number of offenses reported to the law enforcement agency.

(4) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means a State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or prosecuting office, or a group of Tribal law enforcement agencies or Tribal prosecuting offices.

(5) **GRANT RECIPIENT.**—The term “grant recipient” means a recipient of a grant under the Program.

(6) **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.**—The term “law enforcement agency” means a public agency charged with policing functions, including any component bureau of the agency (such as a governmental victim services program or village public safety officer program), including an agency composed of officers or persons referred to in subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 2(10) of the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act (25 U.S.C. 2801(10)).

(7) **PROGRAM.**—The term “Program” means the grant program established under subsection (b)(1).

(b) **GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall establish a grant program within the Office of Justice Programs under which the Attorney General awards grants to eligible entities to establish, implement, and administer violent incident clearance and technological investigative methods.

(2) **APPLICATIONS.**—An eligible entity seeking a grant under the Program shall submit to the Attorney General an application at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by—

(A) such information as the Attorney General may reasonably require; and

(B) a description of each eligible project under paragraph (4) that the grant will fund.

(3) **SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.**—The Attorney General, in selecting a recipient of a grant under the Program, shall consider the specific plan and activities proposed by the applicant to improve clearance rates for homicides, rapes, sexual assaults, kidnappings, and non-fatal shootings.

(4) **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.**—A grant recipient shall use the grant for activities with the specific objective of improving clearance rates for homicides, rapes, sexual assaults, kidnappings, and non-fatal shootings, including—

(A) ensuring the retention of detectives who are assigned to investigate homicides, rapes, sexual assaults, kidnappings, and non-fatal shootings as of the date of receipt of the grant;

(B) hiring and training additional detectives who will be dedicated to investigating homicides, rapes, sexual assaults, kidnappings, and non-fatal shootings;

(C) developing policies, procedures, and training to improve the ability of detectives to effectively investigate and solve homicides, rapes, sexual assaults, kidnappings, and non-fatal shootings, including implementing best practices relating to—

(i) improving internal agency cooperation, organizational oversight and accountability, and supervision of investigations;

(ii) developing specific goals and performance metrics for both investigators and investigative units;

(iii) establishing or improving relationships with the communities the agency serves; and

(iv) collaboration with and among other law enforcement agencies and criminal justice organizations;

(D) training personnel to address the needs of victims and family members of victims of homicides, rapes, sexual assaults, kidnappings, or non-fatal shootings or collaborating with trained victim advocates and specialists to better meet victims’ needs;

(E) acquiring, upgrading, or replacing investigative, evidence processing, or forensic testing technology or equipment;

(F) development and implementation of policies that safeguard civil rights and civil liberties during the collection, processing, and forensic testing of evidence;

(G) hiring or training personnel for collection, processing, and forensic testing of evidence;

(H) hiring and training of personnel to analyze violent crime and the temporal and geographic trends among homicides, rapes, sexual assaults, kidnappings, and nonfatal shootings;

(I) retaining experts to conduct a detailed analysis of homicides and shootings using Gun Violence Problem Analysis (commonly known as “GVPA”) or a similar research methodology;

(J) ensuring victims have appropriate access to emergency food, housing, clothing, travel, and transportation;

(K) developing competitive and evidence-based programs to improve homicide and non-fatal shooting clearance rates;

(L) developing best practices for improving access to and acceptance of victim services, including victim services that promote medical and psychological wellness, ongoing counseling, legal advice, and financial compensation;

(M) training investigators and detectives in trauma-informed interview techniques;

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. FITZGERALD. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

STUCK ON HOLD ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6656) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of Social Security to implement automated systems with callback functionality for each customer service

telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration, respectively, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6656

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 “Stuck On Hold Act”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS REGARDING WAIT TIMES FOR CALLERS TO CERTAIN SERVICE TELEPHONE LINES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **AUTOMATED SYSTEM.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement, for each covered line, an automated system that—

(1) informs any caller to a covered line about the anticipated wait time, if any; and

(2) automatically offers a callback to any such caller with an anticipated wait time of more than 10 minutes.

(b) **GUIDANCE REGARDING CALLER WAIT TIMES.**—The Secretary shall issue such guidance the Secretary determines necessary to reduce the average wait time of a caller to a covered line to not more than 10 minutes.

(c) **COVERED LINE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered line” means a customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such term does not include—

(1) the toll-free hotline for veterans provided by the Secretary under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code; or

(2) a phone line for the emergency department of a health care facility of the Department.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 6656, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6656, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), my good friend and colleague.

The Stuck on Hold Act would require the VA to implement an automated callback system. This bill would inform veterans of the expected wait time for their call to be answered. This change would make life easier for veterans while ensuring the VA responds to them in a timely manner.

During my time in Congress, I have long heard horror stories from veterans about waiting on hold for over an hour to talk to someone at the VA. That is unacceptable in today’s digital age, and the VA needs to do better.

Representative CALVERT’s bill is in lockstep with the House Republicans’

effort to modernize VA care and services. I thank the VFW and DAV for their support of this bipartisan legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6656, as amended.

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

□ 1345

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 6656, the Stuck On Hold Act, as amended.

This bill mandates that the Department of Veterans Affairs implement automated callback systems for their customer phone lines and aim to limit wait time for veterans on hold to no more than 10 minutes.

Since we skipped regular order on this bill, we were not able to mark it up in committee and make the needed improvements to the bill. I was not informed why we are rushing this bill to the floor without a markup, but I appreciate that the chairman's staff worked with mine to amend the bill to include important changes to improve the bill to ensure that veterans who should be prioritized for assistance are not negatively impacted by excessive wait times.

Considering the Senate is unlikely to take this bill up as written due to concerns with implementation, I also hope we can continue to work with our Senate colleagues to determine the correct amount of time we should target for veterans on hold.

Obviously, no one likes being on hold, but ideally every veteran should have the option to receive a callback instead of needlessly remaining on hold and waiting for assistance.

During our limited committee consideration, our committee heard from VA about concerns for implementation, and I believe limiting hold time is not simply picking a number but also requires us to understand what resources are necessary to limit hold times.

The rush to get this bill to the floor did not allow for a more detailed conversation about resources and impacts, so I hope a truncated committee process will not prevent us from engaging with the Senate to ensure we enact the best possible bill.

Mr. Speaker, I will support the bill for now with the expectation that there is more work to do, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6656, the Stuck On Hold Act, legislation I introduced to support American veterans.

This legislation is simple yet powerful in its potential to make government services more accessible to those who served our country.

In a time when technology has advanced significantly in the private sec-

tor, it is long overdue that we bring the same level of efficiency and user-friendly approach to our Federal agencies, like the VA.

Right now, when a veteran picks up the phone to call the VA, they often face long, uncertain wait times. They sit on hold, sometimes for hours, with no clear idea of when their call will be answered or how long they will have to wait.

The frustration this causes is immeasurable, and frankly, it is unacceptable.

That is why the Stuck On Hold Act is so crucial. The bill requires the VA to implement a system to inform callers of their estimated wait times and, when those times exceed 10 minutes, give them the option of receiving an automated callback when it is their turn.

Many of us are familiar with this kind of system from our interactions with private companies. It is not a new idea, and it is not revolutionary technology, but for millions of Americans who rely on the VA for benefits or medical treatment, it is a game changer. It shows respect for their time and acknowledges the importance of their needs.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to set acceptable customer service standards for our Federal departments and agencies. The American people, especially those who have served our country, deserve a responsible and efficient government.

That is why the Stuck On Hold Act is supported by the veterans service organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman BOST and Ranking Member TAKANO of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, as well as Chairman VAN ORDEN and Ranking Member LEVIN of the Economic Opportunity Subcommittee and their respective staff for helping us bring this important legislation to the House floor.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 6656, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6656, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DELIVER FOR VETERANS ACT

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 522) to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist

in providing a vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, to pay expenses associated with the delivery of such vehicle, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 522

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 "Deliver for Veterans Act".

SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COVERAGE OF COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH DELIVERY OF AN ADAPTIVE VEHICLE.

Section 3902(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "by paying the total purchase price of the automobile or other conveyance" and inserting "by paying the total purchase price of the automobile or other conveyance, and the total shipping price to deliver the automobile or other conveyance to the veteran".

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "November 15, 2031" each place it appears and inserting "November 29, 2031".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 522, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 522 offered by my friend and colleague, Delegate MOYLAN from Guam.

This bill would allow VA to pay for the shipping price of specially adapted vehicles for disabled veterans.

Currently, service-connected disabled veterans who are unable to drive due to their disability can work with the VA to get an adapted vehicle for their use. Unfortunately, shipping costs are not currently under the program, so it is difficult for a disabled veteran to have an adapted vehicle shipped to them.

While this might not be an issue for some veterans, other veterans are unable to use the program because the resources are not available close to home to make the modifications necessary.

Delegate MOYLAN's bill would correct this issue by allowing shipping costs to be covered by the VA. At a time when people across the country are feeling the effects of the Biden-Harris economic policies, Congress needs to help veterans stretch their dollars a little further.

This bill would do just that, and it would save potentially thousands of dollars for disabled veterans. I thank the DAV and VFW for their tireless work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 522, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 522, the Deliver for Veterans Act, as amended.

This bill would make it easier for disabled veterans to obtain the adaptive automobiles they are entitled to through their service-connected disability. If signed into law, this bill would save veterans tens of thousands of dollars on shipping costs of vehicles.

Last Congress, we passed the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act, a bill authored by Ranking Member MIKE LEVIN and Representative LIZZIE FLETCHER, which expanded the adaptive auto benefit for veterans, allowing them to get a new vehicle if 10 years have passed since using the benefit.

This bill from Representative MOYLAN builds upon that work by simplifying the process for veterans who require their adaptive vehicle to be shipped. This includes veterans who live in areas such as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I will talk about a significant piece of legislation that would benefit many of our Nation's heroes residing in very remote locations, H.R. 522, the Deliver for Veterans Act.

This bill is a significant step forward in ensuring our veterans receive the care, support, and service they not only deserve but that is also legally available. However, obtaining some of these benefits can be challenging because of location.

Currently, a program with the Department of Veterans Affairs allows disabled veterans to receive about \$25,000 to purchase an adaptive vehicle. However, veterans residing in remote areas, such as Guam, Hawaii, Alaska, or other jurisdictions throughout the Nation, would have to pay the rates to ship the vehicle to their homes. It would easily cost between \$3,000 to \$4,000 for a vehicle to be shipped to Guam or Hawaii. I can't imagine the shipping costs if it came from the West Coast.

H.R. 522 addresses this problem by including shipping costs as part of the program. This ensures that a veteran with a disability can obtain an adaptive vehicle from this program and have it delivered to their home.

The legislation would assist many veterans residing in my district of

Guam, which has among the Nation's highest number of veterans per capita. H.R. 522 would also benefit veterans residing in other territories, such as the Northern Marianas and American Samoa. Moreover, it would support those residing in noncontiguous States, such as Hawaii and Alaska, and greatly help veterans living in rural communities throughout the Nation.

This legislation needs to be passed. This bill is another step toward closing many gaps of inadequate care for veterans living in remote areas.

I appreciate my colleagues' support in continuing to deliver our promise to those who served. Veterans have sacrificed so much for our freedoms. It is our duty and moral obligation to ensure they receive the highest standard of care and support when they return home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all the Members to support H.R. 522 and work together to give back to our veterans who have already given so much to our country.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 522, the Deliver for Veterans Act, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, once again, I encourage all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 522, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL SELECTED RESERVES TUITION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2024

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7323) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7323

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 "Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DISAPPROVAL OF COURSES OFFERED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING THAT DO NOT CHARGE VETERANS IN-STATE TUITION RATE FOR PURPOSES OF SELECTED RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 3679 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, or chapter 1606 of title 10,” after “chapter 30, 31, 33, or 35 of this title”;

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

“(E) An individual who is entitled to assistance under section 16131 of title 10.”; and

(3) in paragraph (6), by inserting “, or chapter 1606 of title 10” before the period at the end.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, or chapter 1606 of title 10,” after “chapter 31, 33, or 35 of this title”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “chapter 31 33, or 35 of this title” and inserting “chapter 31, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 of title 10”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “chapter 31 33, or 35 of this title” and inserting “chapter 31, 33, or 35 of this title, or chapter 1606 of title 10”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to an academic period that begins on or after August 1, 2025.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF ENTITLEMENT TO EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PAYABLE FOR FLIGHT TRAINING UNDER POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3313 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(3)(C), by striking “In the case” and inserting “Subject to the limitation under subsection (m), in the case”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) LIMITATION ON USE OF ENTITLEMENT FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter and subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the maximum amount payable under this chapter to an individual, over the lifetime of the individual, for tuition and fees for the pursuit of a program of flight training offered by a public institution of higher learning that leads to a degree, certificate, or other non-college degree, regardless of how many such programs the individual pursues, is—

“(A) in the case of an individual who first pursues such a program during the academic year beginning on August 1, 2025, \$115,749; or

“(B) in the case of an individual who first pursues such a program during an academic year beginning on August 1 of any subsequent year, the amount in effect under this subsection for the previous academic year beginning on August 1, as increased by the percentage increase equal to the most recent percentage increase determined under section 3015(h) of this title.

“(2) PURSUIT ON LESS THAN A FULL-TIME BASIS.—In the case of an individual who is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter by reason of any of paragraph (3) through (7) of section 3311(b) of this title, the maximum amount payable under paragraph (1) is—

“(A) the amount in effect under paragraph (1), multiplied by

“(B) the same percentage applicable to the monthly amounts payable to the individual

under paragraphs (2) through (6) of subsection (c).

“(3) PRIOR USE OF ENTITLEMENT.—In the case of an individual who is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter and who uses any of such entitlement prior to the pursuit of a program of flight training offered by a public institution of higher learning that leads to a degree, certificate, or other non-college degree, the maximum amount of payable to the individual under this subsection is—

“(A) the maximum total amount in effect under paragraph (1), minus

“(B) the amount of entitlement to educational assistance the individual used before enrolling in such program.”

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2025, and shall apply with respect to an individual who first pursues a program of flight training on or after August 1, 2025.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 1400

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 7323, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7323 offered by my friend and fellow veteran, our Economic Opportunity Subcommittee chairman, Representative VAN ORDEN.

This bill would reduce tuition costs for Montgomery GI Bill selected reservists by making them eligible for the same in-State tuition waiver that the other GI Bill recipients receive.

Representative VAN ORDEN's bill would also reduce the cost for veterans seeking to become pilots. Veterans attending flight training schools would not be charged unlimited fees but instead would pay fees equal to those charged by a 4-year private college or university.

Student veterans would also be able to complete their flight training faster because they would be able to attend flight training year-round under this bill.

I fully support this bill that would ensure VA can protect the integrity of the GI Bill and provide veterans with the best economic and educational opportunities out there.

I thank the VFW, the ROA, and the DAV for supporting this bill, and I also thank my friend and colleague from New Jersey, Representative KEAN, for his work on the flight school enhancements that are included in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7323, as amended. I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2024.

Hon. MIKE BOST,

Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOST: I write concerning H.R. 7323, a bill sponsored by Representative

Van Orden of Wisconsin. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H.R. 7323 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, I agree to forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Armed Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 7323 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

Finally, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. ROGERS,

Chairman, House Committee on Armed
Services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 12, 2024.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,

Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024. I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services. I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services over the subject matters contained in this bill or similar legislation in the future. In addition, I would support your request to have the Committee on Armed Services appropriately consulted on any issues in this bill or similar legislation that fall under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services.

I will place copies of this exchange in the committee report on H.R. 7323 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of this legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

MIKE BOST,

Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024.

This bill mandates that the Department of Veterans Affairs deny courses that do not charge in-State tuition rates to veterans using certain educational assistance under Title X.

Now, VA already has the authority to disapprove courses at higher education institutions that do not offer in-State tuition rates for other GI Bill beneficiaries.

Mandating in-State tuition rates is a good policy. It ensures only schools who prioritize quality education at a fair price participate in the programs, it preserves GI Bill benefits for student veterans, and it makes the entire GI Bill program more solvent and sustainable so that the GI Bill stays available for veterans for generations to come.

It is also crucial to ensure that selected reservists receive the same benefits as their Active-Duty counterparts

by ensuring that in-State tuition is granted, regardless of their residency.

This bill will expand educational opportunities by providing them with more affordable education options. Their dedication to serving our country deserves nothing less.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to speak today on behalf of my legislation, H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act.

The bill holds special meaning to me because the issue was brought to my attention by one of my constituents, a fellow veteran, Mr. Greg Tremelling, during a Veterans Day listening session.

His voice, along with many other reservists and veterans, made clear that we have to change our policies. This is how representative government should be, us listening to our constituents and acting on their behalf.

I am proud to represent the brave men and women who serve at Fort McCoy and Volk Field who make sacrifices for us every day and for this Nation.

We have to remember that three out of the last five servicemembers that were killed defending our country were reservists, the other two, of course, being my fellow Navy SEALs who were lost at sea.

These servicemembers gave everything to defend our country, a solemn reminder that reservists face the same risks and make the same sacrifices as their Active-Duty counterparts, and their service must never be overlooked.

By passing this bill, we are going to take steps to ensure parity between reservists and Active-Duty servicemembers.

By addressing this key disparity in educational benefits, my legislation will provide reservists with greater access to affordable education.

I remind everybody that the enemy doesn't care if you are a reservist or a National Guardsman or an Active-Duty servicemember. They are simply aiming at the American flag that you have on your shoulder.

It is time for a change. I thank Mr. Tremelling personally for bringing this to my attention. Again, I thank Chairman BOST and Ranking Member TAKANO for supporting this, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I mention that I support this bill because it is a step forward, but we do have a more comprehensive solution for reservists.

It is called the GI Parity Bill. It would provide parity to our reservists and our guardsmen to make sure that the time they put in for training counts for their qualification for GI Bill benefits.

I am disappointed that that bill has not been brought to the floor because I think that is the real solution to making sure that our guardsmen and our reservists are treated fairly.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN).

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024, introduced by my friend, Congressman VAN ORDEN from Wisconsin.

This legislation includes my bill, H.R. 7613, the Veterans Flight Training Responsibility Act of 2024. This act would allow up to \$115,000 in benefits for veterans to use at public institutions of higher learning for flight school.

This number is on par with the cap for 4-year private institutions so that veterans in flight schools are not disadvantaged and it would allow veterans to go to school year-round.

Additionally, this legislation would protect American taxpayers from schools charging hundreds of thousands of dollars for a degree that should not cost that much.

Finally, by getting veterans through school faster and protecting the VA from flight school GI Bill fraud, this legislation would help the economy and America's deficit, while being a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

This bill would allow student veterans who wish to train during the summer months to do so. This allows those students to take advantage of better weather conditions for flight training.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this vital piece of legislation to help our veterans obtain degrees quicker and advance in their chosen profession.

Finally, I thank Chairman BOST for advancing this legislation and my friend, Congressman VAN ORDEN, for sponsoring the underlying bill.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask all my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 7323, the Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7323, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tui-

tion rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under title 10 of such Code, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERAN IMPROVEMENT COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE ACT OF 2023

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 656) to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 656

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 "Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF RULES FOR APPROVAL OF COMMERCIAL DRIVER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PURPOSES OF VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3680A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (3) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively;

(2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting "(1)" before "The Secretary";

(3) in paragraph (1)(B), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by inserting "except as provided in paragraph (2)," before "the course"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph (2):

"(2)(A) Subject to this paragraph, a commercial driver education program is exempt from paragraph (1)(B) for a branch of an educational institution if the commercial driver education program offered at the branch by the educational institution—

"(i) is appropriately licensed; and

"(ii) uses the same curriculum as a commercial driver education program offered by the educational institution at another location that is approved for purposes of this chapter by a State approving agency or the Secretary when acting in the role of a State approving agency.

"(B)(i) In order for a commercial driver education program of an educational institution offered at a branch described in paragraph (1)(B) to be exempt under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the educational institution shall submit to the Secretary each year that paragraph (1)(B) would otherwise apply a report that demonstrates that the curriculum at the new branch is the same as the curriculum at the primary location.

"(ii) Reporting under clause (i) shall be submitted in accordance with such requirements as the Secretary shall establish in consultation with the State approving agencies.

"(C)(i) The Secretary may withhold an exemption under subparagraph (A) for any educational institution or branch of an educational institution as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(ii) In making any determination under clause (i), the Secretary may consult with

the Secretary of Transportation on the performance of a provider of a commercial driver program, including the status of the provider within the Training Provider Registry of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration when appropriate."

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish requirements under section 3680A(e)(2)(B)(ii) of such title, as added by subsection (a).

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to commercial driver education programs on and after the date that is 180 days after the date on which the Secretary establishes the requirements under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 656.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 656 offered by my colleague, Senator FISCHER from Nebraska. This would cut through the red tape for the approval process for commercial driving schools across the country.

House Republicans' priority is to expand the employment opportunities for veterans after they leave the military.

As a former truck driver and a former manager of our family's trucking business, which I was raised in, I know how important it is to have qualified drivers.

The American Trucking Institute said they need 60,000 more drivers to keep the economy moving. This bill allows veterans to help meet that demand.

We may need to make changes to the law to address some concerns in the future. However, it is essential that we advance the bill to create more job opportunities for our veterans. I look forward to continuing to improve CDL programs, and I urge my colleagues to support S. 656.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on S. 656, the Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act of 2023. This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to create an expedited approval process for commercial driver education programs when the program is an extension of an existing educational institution.

New programs must meet the same curriculum as previously approved by

VA to ensure veterans are not negatively impacted.

While I am considering supporting this bill today, I do wish to point out that our committee has been working on this bill for months, and we had reached a House and Senate bipartisan agreement on approved language for S. 656 that would empower State approving agencies to conduct proper oversight and limit automatic approval of these programs if they are opening in States without existing CDL programs.

However, despite these negotiations, for some unknown reason, this text is the same which passed in the Senate, ignoring the hard work our staff put in to reach a final agreement.

This is unfortunate, and I hope this won't be our last work on this language. It is critically important that we include important oversight provisions in bills such as these to ensure that veterans get the best possible training and that schools who access veterans' hard-earned GI Bill benefits are held accountable for the quality of their programs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague, Chairman BOST, for the purpose of a colloquy to ensure that we can still work to get this bill to a better state.

Mr. Chairman, I understand both our staffs have spent quite a bit of time working on bipartisan language to S. 656. Can I get your commitment that we will continue these discussions and pass an updated bill as soon as possible? I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

Mr. BOST. You have my word we will continue to work with your staff to do the best we can. I think this bill is in very, very good shape the way it is. As the only one that actually has a CDL, we should probably realize that the safety is here, that is all good, but I would be willing to work on it in the future to move it on out today.

Mr. TAKANO. I appreciate that. We can get to work on an updated bill as soon as possible.

Mr. BOST. Yes.

Mr. TAKANO. I appreciate that pledge.

My second question to you, Mr. Chairman. Can I count on your support for that amended bill, whenever it may be, this Congress or next?

Mr. BOST. Ask that question again. I am sorry.

Mr. TAKANO. I ask if I can count on your support for that amended bill?

Mr. BOST. Yes.

Mr. TAKANO. Whenever it may be, this Congress or next?

Mr. BOST. The updated language is in the Dole Act, if we can have the opportunity to have the Dole Act, too.

Mr. TAKANO. Thank you. I appreciate that. I thank the chairman, and I will reclaim my time.

Mr. Speaker, while this bill will head to the President's desk, I hope our committee can continue to work on this issue in the meantime.

Despite my concerns and reservations, I will support this bill now, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1415

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Senators Fischer and Padilla for their leadership on the Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act.

I was happy to introduce the House version of this very important bill, H.R. 2830, and I look forward to the benefit this language will add on our veterans' quality of life once it becomes law.

Every day, brave men and women join our military to fight for the American Dream so that each of us can live in a country where we have the opportunity to succeed and are free to pursue a better way of life. However, all too often when our servicemembers are transitioning to civilian life, our government fails in their pursuit of achieving the American Dream.

A 2016 study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that 53 percent of all veterans were unemployed for at least 4 months after leaving the military. These are our country's strongest citizens, yet we repeatedly fail to sufficiently support them as they make the biggest transition in their life, from servicemember to civilian.

S. 656 and H.R. 2830 make a much-needed change to the veteran educational assistance programs, expanding job opportunities for the brave men and women who serve our great Nation.

The VA CDL Act will increase veteran access to timely, quality commercial driver license training, reduce veteran unemployment or underemployment, and reduce the strain on our Nation's supply chain by increasing the truck driver workforce pool.

Currently, roughly 8,400 commercial driving programs are approved for use by eligible veterans under the GI Bill, but a bureaucratic 2-year rule prevents these training facilities from accepting GI benefits at secondary locations for 2 years.

This burdensome red tape has excluded many veterans from attending closer secondary branch training and dissuaded servicemembers from joining the trucking industry. Who better knows how to drive big stuff than our veterans?

Due to this rule, veterans must decide between finding a new career path, waiting 2 years to pursue their commercial driver's license, or in some cases traveling hundreds of miles away from their home for immediate training.

S. 656 and H.R. 2830 fix that issue by exempting new branches of preapproved training facilities located in the same State from the statutory 2-year wait to accept veterans' benefits.

It is high time that we take meaningful steps toward better supporting a veteran's transition into the civilian workforce. Too many arbitrary rules are impeding a veteran's ability to

achieve the very American Dream that they are fighting for others to pursue, but the VA CDL Act helps to eliminate one of those barriers.

Ultimately, this is a commonsense reform bill that will reduce unnecessary roadblocks to veteran training and workforce opportunities, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I support S. 656, the Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act of 2023, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, as a veteran and as a person that drove big stuff, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FEENSTRA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 656.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9747) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9747

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 "Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of Contents.
- Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

DIVISION B—EXTENSIONS

TITLE I—MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS

TITLE II—HEALTH EXTENDERS

TITLE III—VETERANS EXTENDERS

TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2024 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2024, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118-42).

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118-42).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public Law 118-47).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division D of Public Law 118-42).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118-47), except sections 637 and 638.

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118-47), except section 546(e), and including sections 102 through 105 of title I of division G of Public Law 118-47.

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division E of Public Law 118-42), except section 447.

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division D of Public Law 118-47).

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024 (division E of Public Law 118-47), except the matter under the heading “Joint Items—Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 2025”, and including section 7 in the matter preceding division A of Public Law 118-47.

(10) The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public Law 118-42), except section 259.

(11) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), except section 7075(a).

(12) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-42).

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for:

(1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2024 or prior years;

(2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2024 funds; or

(3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2024.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements

utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act.

(2) The enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025 without any provision for such project or activity.

(3) December 20, 2024.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2025 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2024, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2024 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for

operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) Section 6 of Public Laws 118-42 and 118-47 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) and sections 138, 140, and 151 of this Act as an emergency requirement.

(c) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated in division B of Public Law 117-159, division J of Public Law 117-58, or in section 443(b) of division G of Public Law 117-328 by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget shall continue to be treated as an amount specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118-5.

(d) This section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act, and shall remain in effect through the date in section 106(3).

SEC. 115. (a) Rescissions or cancellations of discretionary budget authority that continue pursuant to section 101 in Treasury Appropriations Fund Symbols (TAFS)—

(1) to which other appropriations are not provided by this Act, but for which there is a current applicable TAFS that does receive an appropriation in this Act; or

(2) which are no-year TAFS and receive other appropriations in this Act, may be continued instead by reducing the rate for operations otherwise provided by section 101 for such current applicable TAFS, as long as doing so does not impinge on the final funding prerogatives of the Congress.

(b) Rescissions or cancellations described in subsection (a) shall continue in an amount equal to the lesser of—

(1) the amount specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act; or

(2) the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2024, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act.

(c) No later than November 18, 2024, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a comprehensive list of the rescissions or cancellations that will continue pursuant to section 101: *Provided*, That the information in such comprehensive list shall be periodically updated to reflect any subsequent changes in the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2024, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101, and such updates shall

be transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate upon request.

SEC. 116. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Farm Service Agency—Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate approved applications for direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq., and direct farm operating loans, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.

SEC. 117. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain activities as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

SEC. 118. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)” may be apportioned at the rate for operations necessary to maintain participation.

SEC. 119. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain current program caseload in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 120. Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) and section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106-78) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2024”.

SEC. 121. During the period covered by this Act, section 235(b) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. 3551 note; Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2032), as such section relates to chapter 311 of title 18, United States Code, and the United States Parole Commission, shall be applied by substituting “37” for “36” each place it appears.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding section 104, amounts made available by section 101 for “Corps of Engineers—Civil—Operation and Maintenance” may be used up to an amount not to exceed \$37,600,000, adjusted for inflation beginning August 1, 2024, to provide compensation for reserving and operating 3.6 million acre-feet of pre-planned flood storage at Hugh Keenleyside Dam to minimize the flood risk in the Columbia River Basin in the United States.

SEC. 123. During the period covered by this Act, section 3 of Public Law 106-392 shall be applied by substituting “2025” for “2024” each place it appears.

SEC. 124. Notwithstanding section 106, for the duration of fiscal year 2025, amounts made available under section 601(f)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801(f)(3)) shall be available for any necessary expenses of the Department of the Treasury Office of Inspector General with respect to section 601 of such Act, subtitle A of title V of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, or section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

SEC. 125. Notwithstanding section 101, for “Executive Office of the President—Office of Administration—Presidential Transition Administrative Support”, there is appropriated \$25,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) and similar expenses, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to

other accounts (including other agencies) that provide support to offices within the Executive Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President, to carry out such purposes, including to reimburse obligations incurred prior to the enactment of this Act for such purposes.

SEC. 126. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “District of Columbia—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia” at a rate for operations of \$47,000,000, for an additional amount for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration to be held in January 2025: *Provided*, That such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain emergency planning and security activities relating to such Presidential Inauguration.

SEC. 127. (a) The matter preceding the first proviso under the heading “Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Public Defender Service” in division B of Public Law 118-47 is amended by striking “, for costs associated with relocation under a replacement lease for headquarters offices, field offices, and related facilities”.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), subsection (a) shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2024, subsection (a) shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2024.

(c) Notwithstanding section 101, the matter preceding the first proviso under the heading “Federal Payment to the District of Columbia Public Defender Service” in division B of Public Law 118-47, as amended by subsection (a), shall be applied as if “, of which \$3,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026” were struck.

SEC. 128. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds made available under the heading “District of Columbia—District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2024 (title IV of division B of Public Law 118-47) at the rate set forth in the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024 (D.C. Act 25-501), as modified as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 129. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, for “General Services Administration—Expenses, Presidential Transition”, there is appropriated \$19,424,177, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for necessary expenses to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note), of which \$14,443,726 is available for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(1) through 3(a)(7) and 3(a)(10) of such Act; \$2,980,451 is available for activities authorized by section 5 of such Act; and \$2,000,000 is available for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(8) and 3(a)(9) of such Act: *Provided*, That if there are two or more possible apparent successful candidates, each such candidate, with the exception of the incumbent President, is entitled to a proportional share of the appropriations made available for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(1) through 3(a)(7) and 3(a)(10) and sections 3(a)(8) and 3(a)(9) of such Act: *Provided further*, That no apparent successful candidate shall receive more than \$7,221,863 for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(1) through 3(a)(7) and 3(a)(10) of such Act and \$1,000,000 for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(8) and 3(a)(9) of such Act: *Provided further*, That such amounts may be transferred and credited to the “Acquisition Services Fund” or the “Federal Buildings Fund” to reimburse obligations incurred prior to enactment of this Act for the purposes provided herein related to the Presidential elec-

tion in 2024: *Provided further*, That in the case of two or more possible apparent successful candidates, after a sole apparent successful candidate is determined, the remaining funds allotted to any unsuccessful candidate shall be permanently rescinded: *Provided further*, That amounts available under this section shall be in addition to any other amounts available for such purposes.

(b) Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for “General Services Administration—Pre-Election Presidential Transition”.

SEC. 130. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, for “National Archives and Records Administration—Operating Expenses”, there is appropriated \$23,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to carry out transition responsibilities of the Archivist of the United States under sections 2201 through 2209 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Presidential Records Act of 1978”), in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

SEC. 131. Notwithstanding section 101, the matter preceding the first proviso under the heading “Office of Personnel Management—Salaries and Expenses” in division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$190,784,000” for “\$219,076,000” and the second proviso under such heading in such division of such Act shall be applied by substituting “\$245,267,000” for “\$192,975,000”.

SEC. 132. Notwithstanding section 104, amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security for “Coast Guard—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” may be used for closeout costs relating to the C-27J missionization program.

SEC. 133. During the period covered by this Act, section 11223(b)(2) of division K of Public Law 117-263 shall be applied by substituting “shall not apply” for “shall apply”.

SEC. 134. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out response and recovery activities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 135. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security for “United States Secret Service—Operations and Support” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out protective operations, including activities related to National Special Security Events and the 2024 Presidential Campaign.

SEC. 136. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security for “United States Secret Service—Operations and Support”, \$231,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for operations necessary to carry out protective operations including the 2024 Presidential Campaign and National Special Security Events: *Provided*, That not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the United States Secret Service shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate an expenditure plan that identifies, by program, project, and activity, the funding obligated for the purposes specified in this section with amounts for “Operations and Support” in this Act and shall provide to the Committees monthly reports on the execution of such expenditure plan: *Provided further*, That such amounts may not be obligated until the Secretary of the Department of Homeland

Security transmits to the House of Representatives Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs the Mission Assurance Report: *Provided further*, That within 15 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security shall provide to the House of Representatives Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump all materials responsive to such Task Force's letters transmitted on August 12, 2024, and August 28, 2024: *Provided further*, That the Director of the Secret Service shall respond in a timely manner to oversight inquiries (including requests for documents, information, and testimony from any Secret Service personnel) on protective operations funded in this Act or in Public Law 118-47 from the House of Representatives Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump; the Committees on Appropriations, Homeland Security, Oversight and Accountability, and Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and the Committees on Appropriations, Judiciary, and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, or any subcommittees thereof: *Provided further*, That responses shall be considered timely if provided on or before the deadline specified by the requesting committee or subcommittee.

SEC. 137. (a) Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "September 30, 2023".

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2024, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2024.

SEC. 138. (a) During the period covered by this Act, section 104 of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act (division G of Public Law 117-180) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for "2 years after the date on which regulations are first promulgated under subsection (f)", and "May 31, 2024".

(b) Amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 139. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for "Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation of the National Park System" at a rate for operations of \$5,000,000, for an additional amount for security and visitor safety activities related to the Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies.

SEC. 140. (a) Funds previously made available in the Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (subdivision 1 of division B of Public Law 115-123) for the "National Park Service—Historic Preservation Fund" that were available for obligation through fiscal year 2019 are to remain available through fiscal year 2026 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal years 2018 and 2019: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2024, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2024.

SEC. 141. Amounts made available by section 101 for "Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management" may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for wildfire suppression activities.

SEC. 142. (a) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for "Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services" at a rate for operations of \$24,262,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

(b) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for "Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Facilities" at a rate for operations of \$2,060,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

SEC. 143. During the period covered by this Act, section 113 of division G of Public Law 113-76, as amended by Public Law 116-6, shall be applied by substituting "2025" for "2024".

SEC. 144. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for "Department of Labor—Bureau of Labor Statistics—Salaries and Expenses" at a rate for operations of \$6,000,000, for an additional amount for the Current Population Survey.

SEC. 145. Activities authorized by part A of title IV (other than under section 403(c) or 418) and section 1108(b) of the Social Security Act shall continue through the date specified in section 106(3), in the manner authorized for fiscal year 2024, and out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for such purpose.

SEC. 146. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is appropriated—

(1) for payment to the heirs at law of Sheila Jackson Lee, late a Representative from the State of Texas, \$174,000;

(2) for payment to Elsie M. Pascrell, widow of William Pascrell, Jr., late a Representative from the State of New Jersey, \$174,000; and

(3) for payment to Beatrice Y. Payne, widow of Donald M. Payne, Jr., late a Representative from the State of New Jersey, \$174,000.

SEC. 147. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for "Military Construction, Navy" may be used by the Secretary of the Navy to carry out military construction not otherwise authorized by law for a Trident Refit Facility project at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay.

SEC. 148. Notwithstanding section 101, section 126 of division A of Public Law 118-42 shall be applied by substituting "fiscal year 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020" for "fiscal year 2017, 2018, and 2019".

SEC. 149. (a) The remaining unobligated balances as of September 30, 2024, from amounts made available until September 30, 2024, for "Departmental Administration—Construction, Major Projects" in title II of division F of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) are hereby rescinded, and in addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, an amount

of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded pursuant to this section is hereby appropriated on September 30, 2024, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2029, and shall be available for the same purposes and under the same authorities provided under such heading in Public Law 116-94, in addition to other funds as may be available for such purposes.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2024, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2024.

SEC. 150. Amounts made available by section 101 for "Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—Payments to Air Carriers" may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain Essential Air Service program operations.

SEC. 151. During the period covered by this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may use the unobligated balances of amounts made available in prior fiscal years in the second paragraph under the heading "Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assistance" to support additional allocations under subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of such heading to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding in the calendar year 2024 funding cycle: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 152. During the period covered by this Act, section 517 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to the Coast Guard.

This division may be cited as the "Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025".

DIVISION B—EXTENSIONS

TITLE I—MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS

SEC. 101. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) is amended by striking "October 1, 2024" and inserting "December 20, 2024".

SEC. 102. JOINT TASK FORCES.

Section 708(b)(13) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)(13)) shall be applied by substituting "December 20, 2024" for "September 30, 2024".

SEC. 103. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION.

Section 227(a) of the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1525(a)) is amended by striking "September 30, 2024" and inserting "December 20, 2024".

SEC. 104. CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION.

Section 6(g) of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act (16 U.S.C. 410y-4(g)) is amended by striking "40" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "on December 20, 2024".

SEC. 105. EBT BENEFIT FRAUD PREVENTION.

Section 501 of division HH of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (7 U.S.C. 2016a), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(A)(iii), by striking "to the maximum extent practicable,;" and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “October” and inserting “December”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “to the maximum extent practicable,”;

(iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(iv) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E);

(v) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) a comparison of State plans related to reimbursement, prevention, and other relevant procedures approved in accordance with subsection (b)(1)(A); and”;

(vi) in subparagraph (E) (as so redesignated), by inserting “and proactively” after “consistently”;

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(C), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 20, 2024”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that examines risks related to supplemental nutrition assistance program electronic benefit transfer payment system security, including the risk of stolen benefits through card skimming, card cloning, and other similar methods.

“(2) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of—

“(A) the extent to which the Department of Agriculture manages payment system security, including risks related to stolen benefits, compared to leading industry practices;

“(B) the manner in which States, retailers, and other relevant entities manage risks related to stolen benefits;

“(C) the oversight of and guidance provided by the Secretary to States regarding stolen benefits; and

“(D) recommendations and policy options for—

“(i) improving how the Department of Agriculture and other relevant entities manage payment system security risks, including those related to stolen benefits; and

“(ii) how the Department of Agriculture may best share those improvements with States, retailers, and other relevant entities.”.

SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF FOREST SERVICE PARTICIPATION IN ACES PROGRAM.

Section 8302(b) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 3851a(b)) shall be applied by substituting “1 day after December 20, 2024” for “October 1, 2023”.

SEC. 107. EXTENSION OF GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY.

Section 8206(b)(2)(C)(ii) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(b)(2)(C)(ii)) shall be applied by substituting “1 day after December 20, 2024” for “October 1, 2024”.

SEC. 108. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF FOOD FOR PEACE ACT.

The authorities provided by each provision of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), as in effect on September 30, 2024, shall remain in effect through December 20, 2024.

SEC. 109. OVERSEAS PAY COMPARABILITY AND LIMITATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority provided under section 1113 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 123 Stat. 1904) shall remain in effect through December 20, 2024.

(b) LIMITATION.—The authority described in subsection (a) may not be used to pay an

eligible member of the Foreign Service (as defined in section 1113(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 111–32; 123 Stat. 1904)) a locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage) that exceeds two-thirds of the amount of the locality-based comparability payment (stated as a percentage) that would be payable to such member under section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, if such member’s official duty station were in the District of Columbia.

SEC. 110. PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

(a) FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.—During the period beginning on October 1, 2024, and ending on the date on which a new Federal programs and services agreement with the Government of the Republic of Palau enters into force, any activities described in sections 132 and 221(a) of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau set forth in section 201 of Public Law 99–658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note) shall, with the mutual consent of the Government of the Republic of Palau, continue in the manner authorized and required for fiscal year 2024 under the amended agreements described in subsections (b) and (f) of section 462 of that Compact.

(b) AMENDMENTS RELATED TO THE 2024 FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.—

(1) Section 204(e) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 (48 U.S.C. 1983(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4), by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (4) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(C) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “An agreement” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An agreement”;

and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.—Subparagraphs (A) and (D)(iii) of section 101(c)(2) of Public Law 99–658 (48 U.S.C. 1931(c)(2)) and subsection (d)(2)(A) shall not apply to an agreement that would amend, change, or terminate the agreement described in section 462(f) of the U.S.–Palau Compact.”.

(2) Section 210(a)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 (48 U.S.C. 1989(a)(2)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

“(E) with respect to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, any applicable Federal programs and services agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau; and”.

SEC. 111. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CIVIL SERVICE ANNUITANT WAIVER.

Section 625(j)(1)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2385(j)(1)(B)) shall be applied by striking “October 1, 2010” and inserting “December 20, 2024”.

SEC. 112. UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSPECTOR GENERAL ANNUITANT WAIVER.

The authorities provided under section 1015(b) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111–212; 124 Stat. 2332)—

(1) shall remain in effect through December 20, 2024; and

(2) may be used to facilitate the assignment of persons for oversight of programs in countries with a humanitarian disaster or complex emergency declaration.

SEC. 113. EXTENSION OF HONG KONG HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2019.

Section 7(h) of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–76; 22 U.S.C. 5701 note) is amended by striking “the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “December 20, 2024”.

SEC. 114. EXTENSION OF TRANSFERS OF AIR TRAFFIC SYSTEMS ACQUIRED WITH AIP FUNDING.

Section 728(b) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (Public Law 118–63) is amended by striking “October 1, 2024” and inserting “December 20, 2024”.

TITLE II—HEALTH EXTENDERS

Subtitle A—Public Health

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS RELATING TO AUTISM.

(a) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 399AA(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i(e)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 20, 2024”.

(b) AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND INTERVENTION.—Section 399BB(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–1(g)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 20, 2024”.

(c) INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—Section 399CC(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–2(f)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “December 20, 2024”.

SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE PRIORITY REVIEW VOUCHERS TO ENCOURAGE TREATMENTS FOR RARE PEDIATRIC DISEASES.

Section 529(b)(5) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360ff(b)(5)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” each place it appears and inserting “December 20, 2024”.

SEC. 203. NO SURPRISES ACT IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING.

Section 118(a) of title I of division BB of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) is amended by striking “through 2024” and inserting “through September 30, 2025”.

Subtitle B—Medicaid

SEC. 211. MEDICAID FUNDING FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Section 1108(g) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1308) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “and (5)” and inserting “, (5), and (14)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(14) ADDITIONAL INCREASE FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall increase the total amount otherwise determined under this subsection for the Northern Mariana Islands for the period beginning on October 1, 2022, and ending on September 30, 2024, by \$27,100,000.

“(B) SPECIAL RULES.—The increase described in subparagraph (A)—

“(i) shall apply to the total amount certified by the Secretary under title XIX for payment to the Northern Mariana Islands for services attributable to fiscal year 2023 or 2024, notwithstanding that payments for any such services are made by the Northern Mariana Islands in fiscal year 2025; and

“(ii) shall be in addition to the amount calculated under paragraph (2) for the Northern

Mariana Islands for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 and shall not be taken into account in calculating an amount under paragraph (2) for the Northern Mariana Islands for fiscal year 2025 or a subsequent fiscal year.”.

Subtitle C—Medicare

SEC. 221. REVISING PHASE-IN OF MEDICARE CLINICAL LABORATORY TEST PAYMENT CHANGES.

(a) REVISED PHASE-IN OF REDUCTIONS FROM PRIVATE PAYOR RATE IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 1834A(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m–1(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2027” and inserting “2028”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in clause (ii), by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking “2025 through 2027” and inserting “2026 through 2028”.

(b) REVISED REPORTING PERIOD FOR REPORTING OF PRIVATE SECTOR PAYMENT RATES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICARE PAYMENT RATES.—Section 1834A(a)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m–1(a)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “2025” each place it appears and inserting “2026”.

SEC. 222. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “2022, \$0” and inserting “2026, \$3,197,000,000”.

TITLE III—VETERANS EXTENDERS

Subtitle A—Health Care

SEC. 301. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS FOR HOSPITAL CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.

Section 1710(f)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 302. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE NURSING HOME CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

Section 1710A(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 303. EXTENSION OF EXPANSION OF RURAL ACCESS NETWORK FOR GROWTH ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 2(d) of the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–21; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.

SEC. 304. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE VETERANS ACCESS TO COMPLEMENTARY AND INTEGRATIVE HEALTH PROGRAMS THROUGH ANIMAL THERAPY, AGRITHERAPY, SPORTS AND RECREATION THERAPY, ART THERAPY, AND POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH PROGRAMS.

Section 203(d)(1) of the Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–171; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking “for a three-year period beginning on the commencement of the pilot program” and inserting “until September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR JOINT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITY DEMONSTRATION FUND.

Section 1704(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2573), as most recently amended by section 104 of division E of the Continuing Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public

Law 117–180; 136 Stat. 2137), is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

Subtitle B—Memorial Affairs

SEC. 311. EXTENSION OF ENTITLEMENT TO MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FOR COMMEMORATION OF VETERANS AND CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

Section 2306(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “October 1, 2024” both places it appears and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 312. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO BURY REMAINS OF CERTAIN SPOUSES AND CHILDREN IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

Section 2402(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “October 1, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 313. AUTHORITY FOR USE OF FLAT GRAVE MARKERS AT SANTA FE NATIONAL CEMETERY, NEW MEXICO.

Section 2404(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “; and” and inserting a period at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(F) in the case of Santa Fe National Cemetery, New Mexico, the Secretary may provide for flat grave markers in any section of such cemetery in which flat markers were in use on December 22, 2023.”.

Subtitle C—Homelessness

SEC. 321. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING FOR DISABLED VETERANS RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A FAMILY MEMBER.

Section 2102A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “December 31, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 322. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 2108(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 323. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN VETERANS AND HOMELESS VETERANS WITH CHILDREN RE-INTEGRATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 2021A(f)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.

SEC. 324. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) GENERAL TREATMENT.—Section 2031(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

(b) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AT CERTAIN LOCATIONS.—Section 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 325. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2044(e)(H) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 2044(e) of such title is amended by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (H) as paragraphs (1) through (8), respectively.

SEC. 326. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Section 2061(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2025”.

Subtitle D—Other Authorities

SEC. 331. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILITIES.

Section 111A(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 332. EXTENSION OF TESTIMONIAL SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 312(d)(7)(A) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “May 31, 2025” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 333. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Section 315(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 334. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE FOR DISABLED VETERANS TRAINING IN PARALYMPIC AND OLYMPIC SPORTS PROGRAM.

Section 322 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “the United States Olympic Committee” each place it appears and inserting “the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “Veterans Benefits Administration” and inserting “Veterans Health Administration”; and

(3) in subsection (d), by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“(4) There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection the following:

“(A) For each of fiscal years 2010 through 2023, \$2,000,000.

“(B) For each of fiscal years 2024 through 2027, \$2,500,000.”.

SEC. 335. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REPORT ON EQUITABLE RELIEF PROVIDED DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR.

Section 503(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended, in the second sentence, by striking “December 31, 2024” and inserting “December 31, 2025”.

SEC. 336. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 15, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “November 29, 2031”.

SEC. 337. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY.

Section 8118(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 338. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Section 7103 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315) is amended by striking “for fiscal year 2022 and each of the next three subsequent fiscal years” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029”.

TITLE IV—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 401. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the

joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 20 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in true opposition to the legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentlewoman from Connecticut opposed to this?

Ms. DELAURO. No, I am not opposed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas will control the time in opposition.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield one-half of my time to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, and ask that the gentlewoman be allowed to control that time.

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

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. 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. 9747.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 9747, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act of 2025.

In a matter of days, funding for the fiscal year 2024 will run out, and it is Congress' responsibility to ensure that the government remains open and serving the American people. We are here to avert harmful disruptions to our national security and vital programs our constituents rely on.

Before I discuss the underlying bill, I would like to note the progress this body has made so far on the appropriations process. After a late start due to the delay of the fiscal year 2024 process and a late Presidential budget request, the Appropriations Committee succeeded in passing all 12 of our fiscal 2025 bills out of committee, all of which were within the bounds of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which is enshrined in law. The House then passed five of

those bills across the floor, representing nearly 71 percent of overall discretionary spending.

Despite House Republicans' strong momentum, time is drawing short, and our colleagues in the Senate—who have yet to pass all of their bills out of committee or to pass a single fiscal year 2025 bill across the floor—have not kept pace with the House. It is clear we are unable to complete the full appropriations process by September 30. That means that a continuing resolution is needed.

The bill before us is narrow in scope and continues government operations through December 20. It includes extensions for critical programs that must remain in place, such as WIC, TANF, and the National Flood Insurance Program. It also includes additional resources for the Secret Service to ensure candidates and government leaders are protected while also guaranteeing the full cooperation of the Secret Service with congressional investigations.

Mr. Speaker, governance by continuing resolution is not ideal. Like most, my preference would be to pass full-year individual appropriations bills through regular order, but we are out of time. We cannot afford a shutdown, which would be greatly damaging to our national security, to critical government programs, and to the American people, not to mention the enormous cost of government shutdowns.

I commend the Speaker for his efforts to find a path forward. He was dealt a very difficult hand and has delivered once again for the good of the country. This path ensures Americans aren't needlessly punished with a costly shutdown and allows the people, and, importantly, the next President, to have a say in the appropriations process.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 9747 today. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Let me first say a thank you to the gentleman from Oklahoma for allowing me the 10 minutes of time. I am much appreciative.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this continuing resolution, which will avert a costly and pointless government shutdown and provide Congress with the time required to enact bipartisan, full-year funding bills for 2025.

We require a continuing resolution to keep the government open because House Republicans chose to squander the Second Session of the 118th Congress by writing extreme and harmful funding bills based on Donald Trump's Project 2025 manifesto, seven of which the House did not even consider because the majority knew the bills did not have the votes to pass on the floor of the House.

It is never ideal to govern with a continuing resolution, but this is a respon-

sible and sober measure that avoids many of the problems that would have been created with a 6-month funding bill.

After the continuing resolution is enacted, the Appropriations Committees should begin bipartisan negotiations to finish full-year bills by December 20. This will be a difficult task.

We must address significant shortfalls in veterans' healthcare, disaster relief, and other priorities. These problems demand bipartisan solutions, and so we must drop poison pill riders and massive cuts to the services that American families depend on so that this Congress can finish its work.

No matter who wins in November, we owe it to the next Congress and the next President to not saddle them with yesterday's problems. We know where we must end up, and it is my hope that this bill will provide the bipartisan momentum needed to arrive there.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. The last time we moved all 12 appropriations bills through the House, I believe, was in FY 2010. The last time that we did not have to use a continuing resolution to be able to fund government, I believe, was 1997. I think four times in my lifetime have we been able to pass all 12 appropriations bills through both bodies and get them signed by the President of the United States.

This institution is failing. It is failing to do the one core thing it is supposed to try to figure out what to do, and that isn't the spending bills. It is actually defending the United States of America, securing the border of the United States, doing what the Constitution actually prescribes, what the preamble lays out, securing the blessings of liberty. We are not doing that.

We end up in a vicious circle every single year, the same vicious circle. The American people are watching, and they are wondering why on Earth cannot the 435 people sent here to represent them figure out how to do what every other family and business and nonprofit in the United States has to do?

The short answer is because we can and do print money. We irresponsibly continue to spend money that we do not have, that we have not collected, and we continue to retreat to the corners of our safe political spaces and hide behind them in order to try to sell something to the American people.

My colleagues on this side of the aisle tend to hide behind national defense and say, well, we must do this, and therefore we must spend more money that we don't have in order to accomplish the goal of defending the United States which, by the way, I would question whether we are actually defending the United States when our borders are not secure.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have never met a program they don't want to advance to make

another promise that we can't fully honor to the American people in the form of some additional welfare payment or additional bunch of free stuff, but yet we never pay for any of this, not a dime.

□ 1430

We are taking in \$4.5 to \$5 trillion, and we are spending \$6.5 to \$7 trillion. What are we doing? I mean, it is absurd. The American people look at us and ask what on Earth is wrong in Washington. We end up back at the same spot every single year.

This year, the Speaker put forward a proposal that would have the continuing resolution extend into 2025 and then would have guaranteed that we know that only American citizens vote in American elections, in Federal elections.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle like to dismiss that as an issue that is not a problem, non-existent, despite the data rolling in from States with their limited tools to go determine citizenship.

We had the secretary of state of Florida testify in front of the Constitution and Limited Government Subcommittee that they don't have the tools they need. They had to sue the Federal Government to get the limited tools they are using. Other States, Texas, identified people who were on the rolls that were noncitizens. We know it is a real issue.

Give us this simple measure that just reinforces existing law to ensure that issue, and we have violent opposition from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Then, inexplicably, a handful of people on this side of the aisle wanted to oppose that measure out of some sort of deference to opposition to a CR and then set the circumstances for where we are right now, today, where we find ourselves with the Speaker putting a short-term CR into December, which was the natural outcome, the predictable outcome of the opposition of the plan put forward by the Speaker 2 weeks ago.

It is more of the same games that get bemoaned by the very people complaining about the games. You can't complain that the games are going on and then play games. That is the truth.

I appreciate the Appropriations Committee chairman for working and trying to work across the Conference, across the entire body, to figure out how to get something done.

We passed 5 appropriations bills—better than none, not 12. Last year, we passed 7 appropriations bills—better than none, not all 12. The Senate, led by our Democratic colleagues over there, passed zero, not one. Not one appropriations bill has the Senate sent out of that Chamber to this Chamber.

Who is it who is serious about wanting to do our job? I will say, despite my publicly stated concerns about some decisions on this side of the aisle, the truth of the matter is that had our Democratic colleagues been in charge

of this Chamber, what we would have seen is a massive increase in spending. The nondefense spending would have gone up, whereas we have kept it flat. The defense spending that did go up we paid for out of the IRS expansion. We pulled that back so you didn't have IRS agents in your living rooms if you are a middle-class taxpayer.

We took COVID money and paid for that defense increase and were able to stop what the Democrats would have done, which would have passed legislation in the name of border security that would codify that dangerous release of individuals onto the streets of the United States that have led directly to the death of Americans, Americans like Jocelyn Nungaray, whose beautiful 27-year-old mom testified in the Judiciary Committee because her daughter went missing after she put her to bed on Sunday night and then, on Monday, she finds out that she was gagged, bound, and raped in Houston, Texas, and murdered.

Alexis Nungaray is a hero and had the courage to come testify about that, about what happened to her daughter. Are we doing anything about that? No. Our Democrat colleagues refuse.

Instead, they want to hide behind a bill in the Senate, which they couldn't even get out of the Democrat-controlled Senate, that never had any chance of passage. They want to say somehow that that was a grand bipartisan bill because—what?—a couple of Republican Senators had a couple of conversations with them about it.

The bill had no chance of moving, and that bill would have codified Kamala Harris', the border czar's, mass-release policies into the United States.

Laken Riley is dead. Jocelyn Nungaray is dead. Kayla Hamilton is dead. Rachel Morin is dead. I could go down the laundry list of Americans who have died at the hands of people released into the United States by this administration.

I could go down a laundry list of examples of noncitizens voting and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle not caring about it, wanting to continue to fund an executive branch that is refusing to follow the law, blatantly disregarding asylum laws, blatantly disregarding parole laws to endanger the American people.

That is why some of my colleagues here, by the way, didn't want to support a CR. They don't want to fund an executive branch that is at war with the people. If you are a Texan and now increasingly across the country, like Laken Riley in Georgia or Kayla and Rachel in Maryland, you can't help but believe that this administration is, in fact, at war with your well-being.

You have gangs now operating in Dallas and gangs operating in Colorado. You have expansive criminal activity and fentanyl pouring into our streets. We are not doing anything about it as the Article I branch that is sent here to check the Article II executive branch.

Here we are again, kicking the can down the road, to quote my friend—and he is my friend—the gentleman from Kentucky, THOMAS MASSIE, with whom I disagree on our tactical strategy with respect to the CR plus SAVE Act.

The CR plus SAVE Act was designed for a reason. We should secure American elections. We should guarantee that only American citizens vote in American elections. We should not be kicking the can down the road to December 20, a mere 5 days before Christmas.

That is what this town always does because this town is built around K Street. It is built around people believing they need to spend more money, and when we do that, then we just take another chunk out of the hide that is the fabric of this country, racking up more debt.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, in 2022, a \$1.7 trillion omnibus bill was passed when? December 23. That is not an accident. It is by design. It is on purpose. That is what people in this town want. They want the pressure so that everybody will clap, get on their planes, and go home to open their gifts and be around the Christmas tree with their kids while they destroy the very country that they are here to represent.

That is what will happen unless we fight it. Now, we are going to have to spend a lot of time—and I will—fighting against whatever massive omnibus bill is tried to jam down our throats on December 20 before Christmas so that everybody can enjoy their jet fumes and role out of D.C. Last time, we threw in \$45 billion for Ukraine for good measure in that massive omnibus spending bill right before Christmas.

We shouldn't be in this place. We shouldn't be in this position. I think the Speaker was correct. I think the Committee on Appropriations chair was correct in working with the Speaker, and our body was correct in putting forward a bill that would have extended spending into next year.

Allow the next President and allow the next Congress to deal with this issue while we try to preserve and protect American elections. That is what we should have done.

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

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 9747, which does the bare minimum to avoid a government shutdown, keeping the bus moving only until we ultimately face another Republican-induced funding crisis just before Christmas.

I say "reluctant support" because, for some unknown reason, this bill lacks a crucial \$12 billion that we direly need for the Veterans Health Administration. No one in the majority has

come even remotely close to explaining why, not Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Scalise, not even my counterpart on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Chairman BOST. Not a single person can articulate why we aren't helping veterans right now in this vehicle.

We know VHA requires this funding to be able to care for veterans, and we know Congress will provide this money eventually, so I am baffled as to why we are waiting. We can and should be doing it now, yet the bus remains stuck in the station.

What do we gain by holding veteran healthcare hostage to the majority's political whims? The answer is nothing. Yet, we still wait, our wheels spinning round and round, and veterans and their families are left in the lurch.

Mr. Speaker, how much longer must we continue to idle while the majority party deludes themselves into thinking they can govern? This has been the least productive Congress in modern history. The majority can't even convince its own Members to support its own bills.

The Speaker's no buses, anti-omnibus screed was as predictable as it was unrealistic in a divided government. Democrats have been repeatedly called upon to be the adults in the room and keep this body functioning.

Let's drop the pretense and work together on legislation we know has broad support. I can think of nothing that has broader consensus than funding veteran healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to get on board the bus and stop throwing veterans under the bus. Let's provide funding to the Veterans Health Administration as soon as possible.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would note that the reason that there is a question about veterans funding is because, despite the observation and protest of many at least on this side of the aisle that the PACT Act, which was passed, I believe, 2 years ago, was not going to be able to deal with the claims against it and would create funding problems in addition to this massive mandatory bloc of funding. This was all laid bare, and now here we are and we have to pay the piper.

You have to say, okay, we passed the PACT Act with this kind of open-ended amount of funding all in the name of doing something righteous that we all want to do, to care for veterans who were harmed with burn pits, but we did it the worst way possible because we are Congress, and that is what we do. We identify a problem, and we come up with literally the worst possible solution you can come up with. Then the American people kind of look at you and go, well, here we are again.

You have to go write a check like we did last week for \$3 billion, and then guess what happens? The CBO, in all of

its infinite wisdom, will come forward and actually, with a straight face, say something about the baseline and how that \$3 billion that we needed to appropriate really doesn't cost anything, doesn't score. That is what your CBO will do because that is what it just did.

Guess what? The \$12 billion that we are talking about in the additional veterans money that we know we are going to go ahead and fund, as the gentleman was just referring to, CBO will say the same thing. They will say it again. They will say that mandatory spending at baseline is already built in, that this doesn't cost anything. Then why do we have to appropriate it? Why do we come down here and write the check?

This is why you are \$35.6 trillion in debt, Mr. Speaker, because nobody here is serious. They are literally not serious. If we were serious, then we would say that we messed up when we passed the PACT Act, and it is now costing more than they said it was going to cost.

If this were my home, I would say that I thought that if I spent this amount of money, it was going to all be fine. I bought the house, the mortgage, interest rates. Now, it costs more. Do I just walk away from that? Do I just go print some money to go pay for my bills at my house?

That is what we do. We just say let's go to the magic tree, print more money for the \$3 billion that we messed up, and then we will go back and do it again and say: Well, \$12 billion next year. Don't worry. It won't score.

Nobody in America knows what the hell that means. What it means is you are racking up more debt because of our incompetence. That is what that means, and it is done in the name of veterans because you are not allowed to oppose a bill if the word "veteran" is in the title. You are not allowed to oppose a bill if the words "teacher" or "firefighter" or "police officer" are in the title.

Do you know how many bills last week we passed on suspension, racking up more billions because it had something in there about autism or something in there for a study or more funding for something else because you don't dare oppose it because you put something like that in the title? Then all of the people are left holding the bag.

At what point are we going to actually be serious? My friend, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, JODEY ARRINGTON, posed this question of the Committee on the Budget a little bit earlier: Are we ever going to come together and have an actual conversation, or are we just going to say every tax cut, no matter what it is, magically pays for itself?

Let me give a little hint to Republicans: They don't all pay for themselves. They don't. It is simple math. Some tax cuts do because they create economic growth. Some tax cuts don't.

Can we be serious about that on this side of the aisle?

□ 1445

Can my colleagues on the other side of the aisle admit that there is any limit at all to another feel-good program that they want to pass to be able to go buy votes because they put a nice little title in the bill? I doubt it. That is why we are \$35.6 trillion in debt.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time, and I do say with respect to the Appropriations Committee—and by the way, a shout-out to their staff processing a lot of amendments this year, the hard work of the Appropriations Committee. When you process 1,000-odd amendments or whatever it has been, it is an extraordinary amount of work. I am deeply appreciative of the Appropriations Committee.

Those amendments are important. They are an important part of the process. I am proud of the fact that we process amendments.

I am proud of the bills that we produced, the five bills that we passed.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are not wrong. There are some divisions on this side of the aisle. You know what, I am proud of those divisions, too, because at least we are having a debate. At least we are having a full-throated debate about how we can try to get out of this mess while our colleagues on the other side of the aisle bury their heads in the sand.

We are trying to figure out how you can possibly continue to spend money like this without consequences. That is why those 14, 16 Republicans opposed the CR, plus SAVE. I understand why. I am sympathetic to some of their arguments, but I don't believe that you can come down here, do that, and then complain about the result of where we now find ourselves, which is now we have before us the continuing resolution into December, which many of us wanted to avoid. It was the logical outcome of the tactics chosen by a handful of my colleagues.

I am proud of the Republican Conference. When we have been united over the last 20 months, we have done some extraordinary things. We have reopened the process with amendments in the appropriations process. We have passed appropriations bills, which we hadn't been doing for a while. We did pass a budget out of the Budget Committee. I wish we had brought it to the floor. We did pass H.R. 2, one of the strongest border security measures we have ever passed. It was vehemently opposed by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle while they hide behind legislation that had no chance of passing out of the Senate.

We passed strong National Defense Authorization Acts. We were able to

get real reforms, real changes in terms of policies through the National Defense Authorization Act, pulling back on DEI, pulling back on the excessive climate policies of this administration because we went through that amendment process both for appropriations and the NDAA.

I am proud of those things.

I am proud of passing a strong ICC sanction bill to go after the International Criminal Court that is trying to go after and make a war criminal out of our friend Prime Minister Netanyahu who came and addressed this Chamber. The Vice President of the United States wouldn't even come here to the Chamber and stand behind the Prime Minister.

I am proud of doing that.

I am proud of standing alongside Israel. I am proud of my colleagues coming together to do those things and fight for the American people and ensure that nondefense spending stayed flat, defense spending went up, but it was paid for.

I am proud of culling back on the IRS.

We have done a lot of good things when we were united and when we have done it.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are committed to spending money we don't have. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are committed to wide-open borders, endangering the American people. They are committed to wide-open borders and allowing noncitizens to vote, and they wouldn't even allow us to move the legislation on the appropriations bills to try to make sure we solved that problem.

CHUCK SCHUMER has a bill right now, the SAVE Act, that he won't bring to the floor of the Senate. That is a choice.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are for open borders, spending money we don't have, watering down our national defense with woke priorities, DEI, and critical race theory. That is all true.

I am proud of the debate being had on this side of the aisle, sometimes with strong disagreement, but we are, in fact, each one-four hundred and thirty-fifth of one-half of one-third of this Federal Government, so we have to figure out how to come here and figure out how to work together to get this done.

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

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

I just want to ask my colleagues to please support this continuing resolution. We have an obligation in this Chamber to rule, to govern, to say to the American people that we are here on your behalf, you sent us here, and you put your faith and your trust in us.

The legislative process is not one where one gets everything that they want. It is about compromise. It is about coming together to recognize

that we do have this obligation and this responsibility. It would be nice to say that I didn't get what I wanted, so I am going to take the ball and go home. That is not the responsible thing to do.

This continuing resolution, as I said in my remarks, is a somber document. It achieves some goals. There are some areas that have not been covered that need to be covered, like disaster relief, like the \$12 billion shortfall for veterans. We have a process to undertake as we move forward, and that is hammering out the 12 appropriations bills which fund the U.S. Government. That is our responsibility.

If we do not do this today, the government shuts down. We don't suffer. We continue to get our paychecks. Maybe if there was a threat of a furlough for Members of Congress, the outcome might be different.

There are men and women out there who serve this country whose economic stability is in jeopardy, and we hold that in our hands.

We say "yes" today, not because it is everything that we wanted, but "yes" to continue a process that gets us to fund the goods and the services of the American people. That is what they expect us to do. They expect us to govern. That is what this bill is about today.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

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

I would like to begin just with a quick personal reflection and tell both my colleagues what an honor it is to share this floor with them today, and I mean that quite sincerely. These are two of the most principled people that we have in Congress.

They don't always agree with one another. We don't always agree with one another, but I have had the privilege of serving with my good friend, Ms. DELAURO, the distinguished ranking member on the Appropriations Committee for many years. There is nobody that I like to debate with, bargain with, and eventually come to an agreement with more than my friend.

I have had the great privilege of serving with Mr. ROY on the Rules Committee in this Congress, and I have enjoyed every minute of it, quite frankly, because like my friend on the other side of the aisle, he approaches things with a great deal of passion and a great deal of care and always enriches the debate.

It is true that my friend, Mr. ROY, and I have worked on a lot of stuff together. We are on the same side more times than not. I was very proud to work with him last week when we tried to submit a little bit longer CR and tried to get the SAVE Act done. I liked the short one, but I could accept the compromise that the Speaker offered to get the SAVE Act. We didn't quite get that done. Frankly, I have often

worked with my friend, and I think he is right on the spending issues.

I am proud of this Congress because we have pulled that back. There is no American Rescue Plan coming out of this Congress thanks to the Republicans. There is no Inflation Reduction Act coming out of this Congress because we are in the majority in the House. Frankly, even this year we did have the Fiscal Responsibility Act overall governing our spending, but as my friend from Texas knows, there were "side deals." Those are not the law of the land. We literally were operating by things that honestly many of our Members didn't know about.

My Democratic friends like to still talk about that, why aren't we honoring that deal. Maybe we should have kept the guy that made the deal, Speaker McCarthy, but the reality was it was not in law. We appropriated to what was in the law. We lived that way, and I am proud that we did that.

I am proud of the progress we made on the Appropriations Committee: the fact that we got all the bills out of the committee when the Senate has not, the fact that we got five of them constituting the great majority of spending across the floor when the Senate has yet to do a single bill. This committee, and frankly, this institution, is not the reason why we face the challenge we face today.

Let's be honest, too, about the challenge we do face. It is a binary choice. We are either going to shut the government down without achieving anything by shutting it down or we are going to keep it open and keep working on our problems, and frankly, give the American people an opportunity in the election through their votes and their voice to decide who is coming back here and who the President-elect is going to be, and I suspect that will clarify a lot of the decisions in front of us.

I agree with my friend from Connecticut. I am not for shutting down the government. It is a disservice to the American people. We inconvenience them. We endanger them.

Our responsibility, if we can't come to an agreement, is to still keep the country safe, still keep it operating, and frankly, continue to work on and allow the American people to intervene and tell us what they want us to do.

Mr. Speaker, it is pretty clear to me the right thing to do is to join together in a bipartisan sense, and later we hope in a bicameral sense, and pass this bill. Let us keep the government open and functioning, let the American people make a decision a few weeks from today, and in return—and I agree with my friend from Connecticut, I would like to finish our business before the end of the year. I don't know if that is possible, but I agree very much the next President and the next Congress should not be forced to do the work of this administration and this Congress. They should be able to start—they are going to have plenty of problems. They

are going to come here in a dangerous world. The President-elect is going to create a budget, get their people in place, and rewrite the tax code. Let's not throw a potential government shutdown in front of them as well. That is more than enough to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely urge the passage of this legislation, H.R. 9747, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9747.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CONFIRMATION OF CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVER ACCESS ACT OF 2023

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 6513) to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the "Confirmation of Congressional Observer Access Act of 2024" or the "COCOA Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS.

(a) ACCESS REQUIRED.—Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 304 and 305 as sections 305 and 306; and

(2) by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

"SEC. 304. ACCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS.

"(a) FINDING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.—Congress finds that, regardless of legislative action, it has the authority to send congressional election observers to observe polling locations, any location where processing, scanning, tabulating, canvassing, recounting, auditing, or certifying voting results is occurring, or any other part of the process associated with elections for Federal office under the authorities granted under article 1, section 5, clause 1 and article 1, section 4, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States. Procedures described herein do not establish any new authorities or procedures with respect to Congress' constitutional authority to observe congressional elections but are provided simply to permit a convenient statutory reference for existing congressional authority and activity.

"(b) REQUIRING STATES TO PROVIDE ACCESS FOR OBSERVERS.—

"(1) REQUIREMENT.—A State shall provide each individual who is acting as a designated congressional election observer for an election for Federal office with full access to clearly observe all elements of election administration procedures, including, but not limited to, access to any area in which a ballot is cast, processed, scanned, tabulated, canvassed, recounted, audited, or certified, including during pre- and post-election procedures.

"(2) RESTRICTIONS ON ACTIVITIES OF OBSERVERS.—No designated congressional election observer may handle a ballot or election equipment (whether voting or nonvoting or whether tabulating or nontabulating), advocate for any position or candidate, take any action to reduce ballot secrecy or voter privacy, take any action to interfere with the ability of a voter to cast a ballot or an election administrator to carry the administrator's duties, or otherwise interfere with the election administration process.

"(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a designated congressional election observer from asking questions of an election administrator, election official, or election worker, or any other State or local official.

"(c) CONDUCT OF OBSERVERS.—

"(1) REMOVAL.—

"(A) AUTHORIZATION REMOVAL BY ELECTION OFFICIAL.—If a State or local election official has a reasonable basis to believe that a designated congressional election observer has engaged in or imminently will engage in intimidation or deceptive practices prohibited by Federal law, or in the disruption of voting, processing, scanning, tabulating, canvassing, or recounting of ballots, or the certification of results, a State or local election official may remove that observer from the area involved.

"(B) NOTICE TO COMMITTEE.—If a designated congressional election observer is removed from an area under subparagraph (A), the election official shall, within 24 hours of the observer's removal—

"(i) inform the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives; or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as applicable; and

"(ii) provide written notice detailing the reason or reasons the designated congressional election observer was removed.

"(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this subsection, the mere presence of a designated congressional election observer during an observation of election administration procedures, without any additional indicia supporting a reasonable basis for removal, is not a sufficient reason for removal under paragraph (1)(A).

"(3) RIGHT TO REPLACE OBSERVER.—If a designated congressional election observer is properly removed under subparagraph (1)(A), the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, as appropriate, may send another designated congressional election observer as a replacement for the remaining duration of the observation of election administration procedures.

"(d) DESIGNATED CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION OBSERVER DESCRIBED.—In this section, a 'designated congressional election observer' is a House or Senate employee who is designated in writing by the chair or ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, or a successor committee, to gather information with respect to an election, including in the event that the election is contested in the House of Representatives or the Senate and for other purposes permitted by article 1, section 5, clause 1 and article 1, section 4, clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

"(e) STATE DEFINED.—In this section 'State' means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 401 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21111) is amended by striking "and 303" and inserting "303, and 304".

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and 306; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following:

"Sec. 304. Confirming access for congressional election observers."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. 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 Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 6513.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1500

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 6513, the Confirmation of Congressional Observer Access Act, or COCOA Act.

Ensuring the fairness and accuracy of our elections is of utmost importance for me as chairman of the Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight for our Nation's Federal elections.

The Election Observer Program is one of the key ways the committee has worked to strengthen our election administration practices.

Since 1933 there have been 110 contested election cases considered in the House. This averages to two contests per Congress.

Congressional observers collect on-the-ground factual information for Congress and my committee for these potential election contests.

During the 2020 election cycle, House election observers were deployed to Iowa's Second District to oversee the administration of the election of our now-colleague, Representative

MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS. She went on to win the contested race by only six votes, and trained House election observers were instrumental in gathering the information the committee needed to seat the rightful winner.

The Constitution grants Congress the authority to "be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own Members." It is under this constitutional authority that the House

established the nonpartisan Election Observer Program.

In the 2022 election cycle, observers were deployed to roughly 25 sites across the country. Dozens of offices have already signed up to participate in this year's program for the election that concludes in just 41 days.

With the help of our colleagues in the Senate, this election is now expanded to encompass a Senate program similar to the one we run in the House.

I am working to ensure election observers can be deployed across States as needed. At a recent committee hearing, six secretaries of State from both parties testified they would provide unimpeded access to our Election Observer Program in the upcoming election. I will continue to work to ensure every State and locality across the country will welcome our observers.

Strong election integrity increases confidence and participation in our elections, which is a good thing.

Providing a Federal statutory citation for these election observers to monitor election administration practices will achieve that goal. Elections are partisan, but the administration of our elections should never be partisan.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank my distinguished colleague and friend from Wisconsin, the chair of our committee, Mr. STEIL.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Senate amendment to H.R. 6513. I am proud to say this measure is the byproduct of bipartisan and bicameral agreement.

As was noted, Article I, Section 5, Clause 1 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to "be the judge of the elections, returns, and qualifications of its own Members."

The House of Representatives serves as the final arbiter over any contest to the seating of any Member-elect and is the ultimate authority over who may serve in the Chamber.

This measure, H.R. 6513, confirms Congress' constitutional authority to designate congressional staff to observe election administration procedures in congressional elections. This bill complements our longstanding Election Observer Program, as has been noted.

The program is conducted by the Committee on House Administration, as authorized by House rules and the Federal Contested Elections Act. The role of a congressional observer is to monitor the administration of the election, gather information, and report back to the committee.

Every 2 years, the committee's longstanding practice is to work collaboratively on a bipartisan basis to send observers. There is evidence of the committee sending observers dating back to at least the 99th Congress, 1985 to 1987.

Mr. Speaker, I want to, again, repeat that I am grateful to my colleague and chairman of the committee, Mr. STEIL, as well as another colleague who serves on our committee, Representative MIKE CAREY of Ohio, for sponsoring the bill. This addresses several concerns raised in committee with an earlier version of the text, and I thank them for working with us. I thank the staff on both sides for coming to this agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H.R. 6513, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the ranking member of the Committee on House Administration, for his work on this important legislation, as well as the staffs of both the minority and the majority for coming together in a timely manner to get this across the line as well as our colleagues in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, having no further comments on the bill, I urge everyone to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin.

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

Mr. STEIL. 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.

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR KEY OFFICIALS IN THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISION-MAKING AND EXECUTION FAILURES THROUGHOUT THE WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1486, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1469) ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). Pursuant to House Resolution 1486, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1469

Whereas, throughout the Biden-Harris administration, key White House, National Security Council, Department of State, and Department of Defense officials prioritized the politics and optics of the withdrawal from Afghanistan over the security of United States personnel and civilians on the ground and failed to plan for foreseeable contin-

gencies, causing a chaotic, precipitous withdrawal that resulted in the death of 13 servicemembers and the wounding of 45 servicemembers in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack on August 26, 2021;

Whereas, in 2020, the Trump administration negotiated a conditional plan to withdraw from Afghanistan called "The Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan", commonly known as the Doha Agreement, which required the Taliban to cease terrorist activities, renounce linkages with al Qaeda, reduce violence, establish a ceasefire, and participate in Afghan-to-Afghan negotiations with the Government of Afghanistan;

Whereas the Biden-Harris administration was determined to withdraw from Afghanistan regardless of the Doha Agreement and the costs of withdrawal;

Whereas, in 2021, under the Biden-Harris administration, Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, baselessly asserted the Taliban would honor their commitments and respect basic human rights;

Whereas, in 2021, President Biden selected National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan to conduct an interagency review of the policy of the United States toward Afghanistan, including the Taliban's compliance with the Doha Agreement;

Whereas the review process led by National Security Advisor Sullivan, Deputy National Security Advisor Jonathan Finer, and Homeland Security Advisor Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall completely disregarded the failure of the Taliban to comply with the Doha Agreement, did not seek input from key government officials, and blatantly ignored warnings from senior national security experts and allies of the United States that a complete withdrawal of troops would cause a total unraveling and collapse of the Government of Afghanistan;

Whereas President Biden, supported by Vice President Harris, issued a "go-to-zero order" without any regard for the safety of Americans and without making appropriate plans for noncombatant evacuation operations;

Whereas the Department of State's leadership responsible for the safety of embassy personnel and civilian evacuation plans included Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Deputy Secretary of State Brian McKeon, and Counselor for the Department of State Derek Chollet;

Whereas, during the military withdrawal from April to July 2021, Secretary of State Blinken, Ambassador Ross Wilson, other Department of State officials, and the National Security Council willfully disregarded warnings of the Taliban's imminent takeover in Afghanistan and instead increased the footprint of Embassy Kabul rather than plan for a noncombatant evacuation operation;

Whereas, in early August 2021, as the Taliban made gains across Afghanistan, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Colin Kahl, and other senior officials purportedly advised that positioning United States military forces to assist with a noncombatant evacuation operation was not immediately necessary, contrary to urgent warnings from United States military personnel on the ground;

Whereas Secretary of State Blinken and his State Department did not call for a noncombatant evacuation operation until the Taliban began marching into Kabul on August 15, 2021;

Whereas Secretary of State Blinken and his State Department had not made determinations about who would be eligible for

evacuation, and had not effectuated agreements with third countries to serve as transit points prior to the noncombatant evacuation operation;

Whereas the willful refusal to plan for a timely civilian evacuation caused chaos in Kabul and an untenable security situation at the Hamid Karzai International Airport;

Whereas, on August 26, 2021, the Biden-Harris administration's chaotic, precipitous withdrawal, willful refusal to properly plan for a noncombatant evacuation operation, and decision to rely on the Taliban to run checkpoints surrounding the airport resulted in a terrorist attack by ISIS-K at Abbey Gate that killed 185 people, including 13 United States servicemembers;

Whereas the suicide bomber at Abbey Gate was among thousands of militants released by the Taliban from Afghan prisons as they marched on Kabul;

Whereas, in August 2021, the Biden-Harris administration left behind approximately 1,000 Americans;

Whereas the Biden-Harris administration left behind \$7,000,000,000 worth of United States weapons and up to \$57,000,000 in United States currency that could be used by the Taliban and other terrorist regimes;

Whereas President Biden, Vice President Harris, National Security Advisor Sullivan, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki, White House National Security Communications Advisor, and Defense Department Spokesperson John Kirby, and the Department of State Spokesperson Ned Price repeatedly and materially misrepresented to the people of the United States the state of affairs in Afghanistan and the withdrawal;

Whereas, since the Biden-Harris administration's withdrawal, the Taliban has carried out brutal reprisal killings of Afghan Government officials and individuals who assisted the United States and our allies, and created a safe haven for terrorist groups who seek to harm the United States;

Whereas the Biden administration had been warned the precipitous withdrawal would cause women's rights to "go back to the Stone Age", and since the withdrawal, women's rights have been rescinded and child marriages have skyrocketed;

Whereas the Biden-Harris administration's catastrophic withdrawal has emboldened our adversaries, and once again made the United States vulnerable to terrorist attacks;

Whereas the Biden-Harris administration refuses any accountability for the disastrous withdrawal; instead, Under Secretary of Defense Colin Kahl said "Americans should be immensely proud" and Press Secretary Psaki stated the withdrawal was "a success";

Whereas Vice President Harris said she was the last person in the room before President Biden made the final decision on the withdrawal and was described by an advisor as being "100 percent all in" on the decision; and

Whereas our Nation's most senior leaders, including the President and Vice President, failed in their responsibilities on behalf of the people of the United States and have not been held accountable for the death and destruction their failures caused: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives condemns each of the following individuals for their role in the Biden-Harris administration's withdrawal from Afghanistan and noncombatant evacuation operation, which led to the injury and death of United States servicemembers, injury and death of Afghan civilians, abandonment of American civilians and our Afghan allies, and harm to the national security and international stature of the United States:

(1) Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States.

(2) Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States.

(3) Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor.

(4) Jonathan Finer, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor.

(5) Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Deputy National Security Advisor.

(6) John Kirby, White House National Security Communications Advisor; former Spokesperson, the Department of Defense.

(7) Jen Psaki, Former Press Secretary, White House.

(8) Antony Blinken, Secretary, the Department of State.

(9) Brian McKeon, Former Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, the Department of State.

(10) Ross Wilson, Ambassador and former Chief of Mission to United States Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan, the Department of State.

(11) Zalmay Khalilzad, Ambassador and former United States Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, the Department of State.

(12) Ned Price, Deputy to the United States Representative to the United Nations and former Spokesperson, the Department of State.

(13) Lloyd Austin, Secretary, the Department of Defense.

(14) Derek Chollet Chief of Staff to the Secretary, the Department of Defense; Former Counselor, the Department of State.

(15) Colin Kahl, Former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, the Department of Defense.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution shall be debatable for 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 Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, the world witnessed one of the most devastating foreign policy disasters in American history. The Biden-Harris administration withdrew all U.S. forces from Afghanistan with no plan, no care, and no remorse.

As a result, 13 brave U.S. servicemembers and over 170 Afghan civilians were murdered, and 45 U.S. servicemembers and countless others were injured.

Just this month National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby was asked whether there had been any accountability for the administration's

deadly and chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

He responded: "We've all held ourselves accountable."

That answer, Mr. Speaker, is detached from all reality.

Today, the administration touts that deadly withdrawal as a success, and they have yet to hold a single person accountable for their role in this tragedy. In fact, many of those responsible for this catastrophe have actually been promoted.

If the administration refuses to hold itself accountable, then Congress must.

On April 14, 2021, the President announced the Biden-Harris administration would withdraw all troops from Afghanistan, no matter the cost or the consequence. They ignored the Taliban's violations of the Doha agreement. They ignored objections by our Nation's top military and intelligence experts, and they ignored objections by our NATO allies.

According to the administration's own admission, the Doha agreement was immaterial to that decision.

Following President Biden's go-to-zero order, the Taliban captured province after province in Afghanistan. Afghanistan's collapse was all but set in stone.

Astoundingly, this administration did nothing to plan for an evacuation. Instead, they denied threats to American interests, American citizens, and our decades-long Afghan partners.

On August 15, 2021, after months of Taliban advances, Kabul fell. The administration's utter failure to prepare became painfully clear.

President Biden claimed the very next day that his administration had planned for all contingencies. Nothing could be further from the truth.

At every step, the administration prioritized the optics and the politics of the withdrawal over the security of U.S. personnel and diplomats on the ground.

To protect their partisan aims, they ignored the well-known terrorist threats from ISIS-K and the Taliban to our servicemembers, diplomats, citizens, and allies.

The Biden-Harris administration instead chose to treat the Taliban—the very terrorists that we had been fighting for 20 years—as security partners, for God's sake, security partners during the evacuation.

This administration created the very environment that allowed an ISIS-K terrorist to pass through a Taliban checkpoint, because, Mr. Speaker, we put the Taliban in charge of the checkpoint.

Mr. Speaker, guess who let the suicide bomber through?

It was the Taliban.

The result of that was the deadliest day for American troops in Afghanistan since 2021.

On August 26, 2021, that terrorist detonated a suicide vest, murdering 13 U.S. servicemembers and over 170 Afghan civilians, and injuring 45 U.S.

servicemembers and countless civilians.

Rather than admit their failure, this administration continues to this day to celebrate their deadly evacuation. Never once have they said they are sorry to the Gold Star families.

It took the Speaker of the House at the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony to say: I am sorry for what your government did to you.

Just yesterday, President Biden proclaimed to the world that his withdrawal was “the right decision.”

I believe that is shameful.

When I became chairman, I launched an investigation so that we, the Congress, could work to ensure that what happened in Afghanistan never happens again.

As everyone here knows, you cannot begin to fix a problem without first admitting that there is a problem. That is what accountability is all about.

My 353-page report on this investigation works to provide that accountability. Today, we take the first step in fixing the problem by holding accountable those leaders who were derelict in their duty and are responsible for this disaster.

They are Joseph Biden, President of the United States; KAMALA HARRIS, Vice President of the United States; Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor; Jonathan Finer, Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor; Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Deputy National Security Advisor; John Kirby, National Security Council spokesperson and former Defense Department Spokesperson; Jen Psaki, former White House Press Secretary; Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State; Brian McKeon, former Deputy Secretary of State; Ross Wilson, U.S. Ambassador and former Chief of Mission to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul; Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S. Ambassador and former Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation; Ned Price, Deputy to the U.S. Representative to the United Nations and former State Department Spokesperson; Lloyd Austin, U.S. Secretary of Defense; Derek Chollet, Chief of Staff to Secretary Austin and former Counselor to Secretary Blinken; and, finally, Colin Kahl, former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

□ 1515

The American people, U.S. servicemembers, veterans, and, most importantly, the Gold Star families, deserve this. They deserve transparency, and they deserve, Mr. Speaker, accountability. This measure is the first step toward that, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL T. McCaul,
House Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McCaul: I write concerning H. Res. 1469, a resolution condemning the Biden-Harris Administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions within H. Res. 1469 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services, I agree to forego any further consideration of this resolution so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee on Armed Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H. Res. 1469 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation and that our committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this resolution or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction.

Finally, I ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included by House Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Congressional Record during floor consideration, to memorialize our understanding. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. ROGERS,
Chairman, House Committee
on Armed Services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 24, 2024.

Hon. MIKE ROGERS,
Committee on Armed Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee and agreeing to be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 1469, a resolution condemning the Biden-Harris Administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, so that the measure may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your forgoing further action on this measure does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of your committee, or prejudice its jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

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

MICHAEL T. McCaul,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this resolution, which is clearly just another attempt by Republicans to politicize their investigation. It was not a bipartisan investigation. It was their investigation into the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan. For what purpose? Solely to attack the Biden administration in an election year and deflect the scrutiny of their own partisan claims.

Mr. Speaker, we had a committee markup just yesterday. Why avoid regular order? Well, I will tell my col-

leagues why. If this resolution had gone through committee, we would have been able to go line by line and address either their misleading or outright falsehoods that were made throughout the text.

We could have made clear, for example, how Republicans cherry-picked testimony to reinforce their own predetermined, meaning they made a determination before it was concluded, narrative about the Biden administration while omitting any facts showing that former President Trump initiated the withdrawal; that President Trump's actions undercut U.S. leverage in negotiating with the Taliban; and that President Trump's order to withdraw more and more troops set it into an irreversible motion.

The majority's investigation and this resolution, of course, is not concerned about the facts. What it is really concerned about is the politics.

Why do I say that? That is evidenced by the fact that Republicans released their partisan, misleading report, a report into which, I might say again, Democrats had no input and didn't even see until just hours before Republicans made it public, so it was their secret.

It is evidenced by Republicans' rush yesterday to baselessly hold Secretary Blinken in contempt, even though the Secretary of State, who was with President Biden, engaging in high-level diplomacy with world leaders at the U.N. yesterday, has stated time and time again that he is willing to testify.

Why? What is the rush? What is the urgency? It is not to get answers. It is not to get the facts. The withdrawal was completed more than 3 years ago. Why? The majority wanted to make a spectacle before the November elections. It is clear.

Nothing underscores their partisan theater more than Republicans, get this, naming Vice President HARRIS over 200 times in their report, and we don't know when the majority added it or not, I believe it was at the last second, and 5 times in the resolution. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle put that in there, despite the fact she is mentioned only three times in over 3,000 pages of transcript interviews. She was mentioned three times.

Vice President HARRIS was only mentioned twice in the Republicans' interim report in 2022. I wonder what changed. I wonder why, all of a sudden, the majority wants to put her name in it more. Could it have something to do with the elections that are coming up in less than 45 days?

This did not need to be a partisan exercise. No one has claimed on our side of the aisle, or any party, that the withdrawal was perfect. There are clear lessons to be learned.

The State Department even admitted it. The State Department did its own investigation. However, facts are facts, and witnesses consistently made it clear that the Biden administration developed a plan after the Trump administration failed to do so.

I remind Members that the former President initiated this withdrawal when he went from 14,000 troops, upon his taking office, down to 2,500 troops by the end of his term. Multiple witnesses told us that the former President did not have a plan in place to evacuate our Afghan allies or our American citizens, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't want to talk about that.

Witnesses also told us that the dynamic situation on the ground changed dramatically when Afghan President Ghani fled the country, leading to the collapse of the Afghan Government and the military.

I remind my colleagues that President Ghani was here in Washington, D.C., in a meeting with leaders. I was there, and the Republican leadership was there, where he had said that he and the Afghan Government would stay and that they would be there to monitor things. Just a week later, they fled.

Witnesses of the GOP investigation repeatedly told us that while the situation in Kabul was chaotic, the administration's response was not. Our military and diplomats adapted quickly to facilitate the largest airlift in U.S. history to relocate over 120,000 people, and that is why President Biden said it was a success and pulling out of Afghanistan was the right thing to do.

Despite what my Republican colleagues say, our withdrawal did not begin the moment that President Biden took office, though planning for it did.

It was the Trump administration's flawed deal with the Taliban that Republicans don't want to talk about. It is called the Doha deal. It is the deal that initiated our withdrawal and forced the Afghan Government to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners back into the battlefield, which the Republicans don't want to talk about either. This fundamentally changed the power dynamic in Afghanistan. That is not in their report. They don't want to talk about that.

Testimony reaffirmed that Trump's troop drawdowns were not conditions based, but that he even erratically ordered a full withdrawal in his last days of office, a decision that the military leaders essentially overruled. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't want to talk about that.

Trump had also frozen the SIV program, leaving the Biden administration with a backlog of more than 17,000 cases to start addressing, and they did. That is not in the majority's report. The majority doesn't want to talk about that either.

Republicans are trying desperately to clean up a candidate who clearly has a flawed record, Trump's record, on this withdrawal, but President Trump himself has bragged that the Biden administration couldn't stop the process if they wanted to. In this case, President Trump, a rarity, was accurate.

Witnesses said that if the withdrawal was reversed, then the only condition

in the Doha deal that the Taliban had honored, to stop firing on U.S. troops, would be broken. We would be back at war, and we would have had to send more troops back into Afghanistan.

The President had two options upon taking office: End America's 20-year war in Afghanistan, or massively surge troops for an undeterminable amount of time. As President Biden has said, yes, he made the right decision not to send another generation of Americans to spill blood in Afghanistan. That was the right decision.

Our country owes a deep debt of gratitude to the 2,461 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan, including the 13 servicemembers tragically killed in the ISIS-K attack at Abbey Gate.

They deserve honest oversight of our longest war, which spanned four administrations. An honest oversight would look over all four, as we thought on our side of the aisle, was the appropriate thing to do if we really wanted to get the facts and make sure that we correct things that took place over that long 20-year time.

This resolution and the report it affirms are not oversight or accountability, they are really election season props to use for political gain.

Thankfully, the nonpartisan Afghanistan War Commission will provide that serious oversight that is necessary, and there is legislation that Congress can pass now to move forward with something impartial and something that will have real credibility. It is something that I believe could really console all of the families of those who lost their lives for our great country in Afghanistan.

We reported bipartisan legislation by Representative TITUS to authorize the coordinator for Afghan relocation efforts. I know negotiations continue on legislation by Representative CROW to improve how the State Department responds to crises. It is responsible legislation.

The Afghan Adjustment Act and the Afghan Allies Protection Act, which are longstanding, bipartisan proposals, would keep the faith with the Afghans who fought and worked alongside us. If we are going to do these kinds of reports, they should be bipartisan.

I deeply regret that this is one of the final bills we are likely to take up before election. I don't think it is by accident. We are getting out of here tomorrow. The last thing we are going to be doing is this. I know Republican leadership wanted to make sure of that—politics.

Even before we voted to keep our government open, this is what my colleagues want to do. This is an unfounded, partisan attack. We should be focused on and at least have the vote on the CR to keep this government open. The American people deserve better.

Let's reject this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will address some of the points. I can tell my good friend from New York (Mr. MEEKS) has some prosecutorial background, like myself, and I commend him for his skillful arguments.

I will address the argument that this is all political. The timing of our investigation and this report was not of my making. It was not my timeline. It was deliberately delayed by this administration, I think, in a plan to take it well beyond this election, well beyond this Congress.

□ 1530

Fortunately, we had it done in September, and we invited the Secretary to testify about the report. He declined to show up, saying he had no time for the Congress, not one day in September.

Secondly, they had nothing to do with this report. Every transcribed interview had full participation by Members in the minority. Members on the other side of the aisle. They were full participants.

I would have to say, with respect to the report itself, we have 1,812 citations with a very thorough, historic document. Their report is a 50-page memorandum that doesn't even cite to a single piece of the 20,000 pages the administration presented to us after a threat of holding the Secretary in contempt.

The Dissent Channel and the after-action report were the testimonies of the diplomats themselves on the ground. That is what is in our report. That is not political. It is not opinion based, other than what the generals were thinking on the ground and the diplomats were thinking on the ground at the time of the fall.

What is despicable is that Ambassador Wilson abandoned his own Afghan employees and left them to the mercy of the Taliban, and I am sure many of them were executed, along with many of the diplomats in the Embassy.

There is just so much more that I could talk about, and I am sure we will, but the fact is, I take pride in the work we did. I did it as a Federal prosecutor would, along with my team, who is also a former Federal prosecutor, methodically building our case.

We never threw advanced conclusions out. We never made judgment calls in advance. We didn't do much with press on this. We built our case, and all roads lead to the Secretary of State, Jake Sullivan, and the National Security Council. I believe those are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution ensuring accountability in the Biden-Harris administration.

Sadly, as a student of history, the Biden-Harris administration's failures

in Afghanistan, I believe, have been the most catastrophic ever in American foreign policy and national security.

Thirteen Americans were murdered at Abbey Gate, and three Georgia Army reservists were murdered on January 28 of this year, with dozens of Georgia reservists also suffering permanent traumatic brain injury.

Americans were left behind. Afghan mothers gave up their babies over the wall so that their children could live in freedom. Patriotic Afghans fell from the planes as the Biden administration deserted the people of Afghanistan.

Surrender in Afghanistan, with Afghanistan becoming a safe haven for terrorists, has opened borders for every American family to be at risk of mass murder as we see dictators who have the ability to now come into our country and the potential of mass murder, as has been warned by the FBI.

War criminal Putin has been encouraged, as we see dictators, to conduct the mass murder in Ukraine. The Iranian puppets have slaughtered innocent people in Israel.

The agreements reached in Doha were conditions based, achieved by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. We had testimony before the Foreign Affairs Committee by General Milley and General McKenzie. They testified that the conditions were broken. They were broken from the beginning, and this certainly gave the opportunity for Biden-Harris to change course and not to be slaves of a particular time.

President Donald Trump has affirmed over and over—and I have been with him at different events in the past year—that he would have left a contingent of military allies at Bagram base to deter terrorism worldwide.

President Trump would have achieved peace through strength. He would have achieved maintaining the Bagram base so that we would not have it under the control of Taliban terrorists or the Chinese Communist Party.

Additionally, I especially appreciate the success of Afghan veterans keeping America safe for 20 years, with my youngest son, Lieutenant Hunter Wilson, serving in Afghanistan for a year as an Army engineer. I appreciate that so much.

I am also grateful that my former National Guard unit, the 218th Mechanized Infantry Brigade of the South Carolina Army National Guard, served for a year in Afghanistan. With the leadership of Adjutant General Bob Livingston, they established what they called a brotherhood with their Afghan brothers. They have been heartbroken to know, as Chairman MIKE McCAUL has so correctly stated, that by abandoning so many people in Afghanistan, they have been executed.

We know and hear women can no longer go to school, that they must stay in their homes. I saw with the USAID programs where young girls were being able to go to school, and it was just so inspiring to see this. Now, women are being totally subjugated

due to the Taliban, and this must stop. The way to do that is to never have this occur in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the resolution.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, let me quickly rebut my dear friend before I yield to Mr. SHERMAN.

Number one, it sounds like nothing was done by the administration or anyone else for the last 2, 3 years. The administration has provided over 20,000 pages and made over 15 witnesses available over this entire Congress.

Secretary Blinken has said he did not want to testify. He said he is willing to testify. The first time he was subpoenaed to come was when he was in Egypt negotiating a cease-fire and return of hostages. I think everyone has known that this particular week is U.N. week, so that is not something that is secret. The record is clear on that.

The fact of the matter is, Secretary Blinken has testified over 14 times in Congress to Members of Congress, four of which were in our committee. Delay the investigation? I think not.

Then he is questioning whether or not our memo doesn't cite transcripts. In our memo, 43 of 59 total pages were cut and pasted directly from witnesses' testimony.

What we asked for was transparency for the people, and for some of those transcripts, I had to almost beg for them to be made public. It wasn't automatically made public.

Lastly, Jen Psaki had nothing to do with these decisions. That is just politics.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, a decade ago, we faced a tough situation in Afghanistan. We could have stayed indefinitely at a cost of \$50 billion a year and perhaps a dozen casualties a year, but then Donald Trump promised the American people that we would withdraw and that, at that point, it was no longer a possibility that America would remain indefinitely.

So what was accomplished during the Obama administration in Afghanistan? One important thing: We got bin Laden. What was accomplished during the Biden administration? A very difficult withdrawal, one of the most difficult military maneuvers carried out early in the Biden administration. Not only did we withdraw our troops, but we were able to get out perhaps 100,000 others. It was a difficult maneuver accomplished, but not without casualties.

What did we get under the Trump administration? Nothing, except he was able to sign a surrender agreement toward the end of his administration that he could have signed at the beginning of his administration.

This resolution is entirely appropriate if you change one thing: Condemn not that list of people to which they added HARRIS at the end; condemn one man, Donald J. Trump.

During his Presidency, 63 Americans died in Afghanistan, 57 of them returned to dignified return ceremonies that Donald Trump was too busy to attend. He was busy golfing instead.

During his Presidency, his golf handicap did not suffer, but 57 American widows and fathers and mothers and families suffered as they saw the coffins brought back to America and a President too busy to be there.

What did we accomplish for the \$200 billion that Donald Trump spent for the 63 who died? We signed a surrender document.

Now, I know they will say there are all kinds of wonderful things in the document. It is nothing but meaningless promises with no enforcement provisions, but don't take my word for it.

Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster, Trump's National Security Advisor said, our Secretary of State, Mr. Pompeo, signed a surrender agreement with the Taliban.

Why surrender after you lose the 63 lives? Why not surrender in 2017? That is because withdrawals are difficult; surrender documents easier. Trump signed the surrender document and then left it to his successor to accomplish the withdrawal.

So we are told, oh, well, Donald Trump somehow would have enforced these meaningless conditions all without enforcement provisions. That is not what he would have done.

What does John Bolton, Donald Trump's other National Security Advisor, say. He said, had Donald Trump been reelected, he would have been doing the same thing on the question of withdrawal from Afghanistan.

But don't trust his staff. What did Donald Trump say? Donald Trump said in October of 2020, after the 5,000 Taliban fighters had been released because of Donald Trump's decision, he said, without any of the conditions having been met, that he would have all those troops home by Christmas 2020.

Those conditions were meaningless. They were meaningless to Donald Trump. They were meaningless to his National Security Advisor. They had no enforcement provisions in them.

Why did we stay in Afghanistan past 2017? So that Donald Trump didn't have to accomplish the withdrawal that was so difficult and for which he produced no plan.

We lost \$200 billion, we lost 63 lives, we sent over \$10 billion worth of our equipment that was spread all over Afghanistan with no prospect of recovering it, knowing that the Taliban would get it. We did all that during the Trump administration.

Now, we are having a partisan resolution as to who is at fault? The man who keeps our troops there, has 63 casualties, spends \$200 billion, signs a surrender agreement, announces he is not going to enforce the provisions, and now we have this.

The Speaker pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from California.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. We were in error. The gentleman from New York has 9 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 16 minutes remaining.

The gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

□ 1545

Mr. SHERMAN. At least Mr. Trump was able to golf and didn't have to go to the return ceremonies.

I would say that once you force the release of 5,000 Taliban fighters, it is very difficult to say things are condition-based because at that point, the Taliban has those 5,000 fighters and is able to inflict hundreds and hundreds of casualties on our forces unless they withdraw.

This was not a condition-based document. It was, in the words of General McMaster, a surrender, and the surrender was in the fourth year of the Trump administration.

Mr. Speaker, 63 of our finest died. Let us have a resolution condemning the one man who should be condemned: Donald J. Trump.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I love this argument. This is all Donald Trump's fault.

I would submit to you: Who made the decision to go to zero? You know what that means? Go to zero means withdraw all troops, withdraw all air cover, and withdraw all contractors.

That is precisely why Afghanistan imploded as fast as it did and why President Ghani, like a coward, left his people behind.

All of this talk about Doha is immaterial. Don't take my word for that. That is exactly what the White House said.

The Doha agreement was immaterial to the President's political decision, which, by the way, was going to happen on September 11. What an insult to the victims' families of 9/11.

The fact is, Donald Trump left troops in Afghanistan after his advisers told him that the Doha agreement was being violated by the Taliban.

They didn't cut their ties to al-Qaida. They did hit our troops. As a result, Donald Trump kept 2,500 American troops in Afghanistan and 6,500 NATO troops.

They will tell you that wasn't sufficient. Don't take my word again. Take the word of his top military generals: Milley, McKenzie, and Miller.

Ask for investigations. What did they do when they were in charge?

They had one hearing and no investigation. You talk about political, to cover up the tracks of this administration's disastrous withdrawal.

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

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

let me just say this because I heard this at the hearing the other day.

When we were in charge, we held the first hearing after the withdrawal for a Cabinet Secretary on September 21. Who was that witness? Tony Blinken. The administration sent several Cabinet officials to Congress to discuss the withdrawal. We held hearings with Members because our position was trying to work in a bipartisan way and trying to make sure that we were going to get to the facts and understand so that we would never have this situation again after 20 years.

What did we do? We had hearings with people from the Bush administration, from the Obama administration, and from the Trump administration to look at the entire 20-year period of time, not playing politics, not looking at a month or two because they all were interconnected. It wasn't about politics for us.

As clearly stated here, there was no delay. The administration was cooperative. The fact of the matter is, this Congress, the 118th Congress, doesn't end until December 31.

If it is about the facts, if it is about learning the lessons, the Secretary has already said he is willing to testify.

He didn't want to turn his back on his responsibility as the Secretary of State, where he is now in a meeting, unfortunately.

I know maybe some of my Republican colleagues don't want him to talk to President Zelenskyy about what is going on in Ukraine and Russia's invasion into Ukraine. That is what he is doing. Maybe some of my Republican colleagues don't want him to have that discussion.

Well, I think my side of the aisle wants him to have that discussion because that is his job; to have a discussion to try to have a cease-fire and return of hostages, to talk to our allies in the Indo-Pacific and NATO that is now stronger than ever because of Joe Biden. That is his job. That is what he is doing. Maybe some don't want him to do that.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, some say that we should have left Americans there for this or that reason or the Taliban are doing this or the Taliban are doing that.

They are saying that Biden should have left those Americans there to die at the hands of the 5,000 Taliban fighters that Donald Trump had released.

How many hundreds would have died if they had stayed there? I don't know. Once you put 5,000 fighting Taliban into Kabul, I think at that point, it is hard to insist on conditions.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the first question in closing is the decision that had to be made because of what the Trump administration had done, was whether to withdraw, as Mr. SHERMAN has indicated, or to escalate or to stay or to try to bring in more troops. As the generals have testified, if we were going to stay, we were going to need more than the 2,500 that were there.

How long would we stay there?

How many more lives would we lose?

Because the fighting, the generals did say, would resume after the deadline. Yes, Joe Biden decided no more American lives are we going to lose. He made the right decision.

This resolution, as I have said all along, is nothing more than political theater designed to score cheap points rather than address the real issues at hand, the real issues.

It is a distortion of the facts and a disservice to the American people, a disservice to our servicemembers, a disservice to our diplomats, all of whom put their lives on the line during our 20-year war effort there, and their sacrifices should not be used as a political football.

We should be working on real solutions, supporting our Afghan allies, ensuring that we learn the right lessons, and providing accountability that is based on truth, not partisan narratives. There is time for us to still do that.

I urge my colleagues to reject this resolution. Reject it, but let's commit to the American people. Let's commit to those servicemembers and the Gold Star families who have lost their loved ones.

Let's commit to them that today, we are going to work together in a meaningful way that honors their sacrifice, that honors those who serve and uphold the values that we all stand for.

Let us commit to them with a real report, not a partisan one. We can do that. We can do that today. We can stand together today on behalf of the people of the United States of America and those great soldiers.

How do I know that we can do that?

Because the United States of America is the greatest country that this planet has ever seen. It is that when we do things together.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a partial minority staff report.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2024.

DEAR DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am transmitting the attached memorandum prepared by Committee minority staff summarizing the findings of the Committee on Foreign Affairs' investigation in the 118th Congress into the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

I have long voiced my concerns about Republican attempts to politicize the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. In keeping with the partisan tenor of this investigation, Committee Republicans have indicated they will soon release a partisan, majority report

on the Afghanistan withdrawal. The Majority did not involve the Minority in this report, nor have they even provided a draft copy to us. This comes on the heels of former President Trump using a ceremony to honor 13 American servicemembers killed in an ISIS-K terrorist attack as a campaign event to call the Biden-Harris Administration culpable, though Republicans knew for months that the attack was not preventable and that, even though a witness told our Committee he thought he had the ISIS-K bomber in his sights, he did not. And it follows the Chairman's subpoena to Secretary of State Blinken this week compelling testimony Secretary Blinken has already provided to us, including as the first cabinet official to publicly testify about the withdrawal in September 2021. The majority has also threatened to subpoena National Security Advisor Sullivan after baselessly accusing him of misconduct and, for months, has cherry-picked witness testimony to exclude anything unhelpful to a predetermined, partisan narrative about the Afghanistan withdrawal.

The Republican majority has taken particular pains to avoid facts involving former President Trump—including his committing the United States to a full, date-specific withdrawal in a deal he negotiated with the Taliban that excluded the Afghan government or any reference to the rights of Afghan women and girls; his unilateral announcements to withdraw troops, often a surprise to many of his own senior officials, which undercut U.S. leverage because those announcements were divorced from Taliban compliance with the deal; and his forcing the Afghan government to release 5,000 Taliban fighters back to the battlefield before a final Taliban offensive ultimately took Kabul. When former President Trump took office, there were approximately 14,000 American troops in Afghanistan. Days before leaving office, the former President ordered a further reduction to 2,500. President Trump initiated a withdrawal that was irreversible without sending significantly more American troops to Afghanistan to face renewed combat with the Taliban. All witnesses who testified on this issue agreed that the United States would have faced renewed combat with the Taliban had we not continued the withdrawal. Rather than send more Americans to fight a war in Afghanistan, President Biden decided to end it.

Republicans' partisan attempts to garner headlines rather than acknowledge the full facts and substance of their investigation have only increased with the heat of an election season, and after recent public criticisms about the investigation from former majority staff. With the ascendance of Vice President Kamala Harris to the top of the Democratic presidential ticket, the GOP performance has reached a crescendo—Republicans now claim she was the architect of the U.S. withdrawal though she is referenced only three times in 3,288 pages of the Committee's interview transcripts.

American taxpayers have funded this Committee's oversight, and American people deserve the truth. We owe it to them to highlight the facts elicited in this investigation without undue spin and with respect for the seriousness of the subject and the witnesses who have voluntarily testified to us about it. If information we receive is hidden, twisted, or used as a political cudgel it will undermine the Committee's ability to undertake credible oversight going forward. This is why I pressed the Chairman during a November 2023 hearing to release all closed-door interview transcripts from this investigation—five of which remain unreleased—and why I am now transmitting the attached memorandum to complete the picture on what this investigation has yielded.

In the September 2021 Committee hearing I referenced with Secretary Blinken following the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, I called to mind some numbers to help us find perspective on the work we were undertaking then and now:

800,000—the number of Americans who served with the U.S. military in Afghanistan since 2001.

2,461—the number of American military personnel who died in Afghanistan, including the 13 brave Americans who were killed by ISIS-K as they facilitated the evacuation of more than 120,000 people from Afghanistan over the course of 17 days.

66,000—the number of Afghan National Security Forces killed in the conflict.

47,245—the number of Afghan civilians killed since 2001.

And finally, 20—the number of years we sent our brave men and women to fight a war in Afghanistan, from which disentangling ourselves was never going to be easy.

It strikes me now as it did during that hearing that many of those critical of withdrawal effort simply have a fundamental objection to President Biden fulfilling his pledge to be the last Commander-in-Chief to preside over the war in Afghanistan. They are masking their displeasure with criticisms but have failed to offer feasible alternatives. We must continue to wrestle with these matters not to rewrite the past or assign partisan blame, but to identify lessons that can help us better fight and end wars in the future.

Sincerely,

GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Ranking Member.

[From the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Sept. 9, 2024]

MINORITY STAFF MEMORANDUM ON THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION IN THE 118TH CONGRESS INTO THE UNITED STATES' WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For two decades after the heinous attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States military fought valiantly in Afghanistan to degrade Al Qaeda, decimate its leadership, and deny the use of Afghan territory to conduct terrorist operations against the United States. Over that same time, United States diplomats and development professionals worked assiduously to help the Afghan government and people establish good governance; respect human rights, particularly of women and girls; and foster independent media, civil society, and economic development. The United States spent approximately 2 trillion dollars in Afghanistan from 2001–2021. That expenditure reinforced—but could not substitute for—the work of millions of Afghans to push back against corrupt and violent actors and define their own future.

After achieving our core security objectives, the United States increasingly risked continuing its war in Afghanistan as an untenable, and unnecessary, end in itself. This risk spurred both former President Donald Trump and President Joe Biden to take actions during their respective administrations to fully withdraw the U.S. military from Afghanistan. President Biden completed that objective and ended the United States' so-called “forever war” in Afghanistan.

During the course of the Committee's investigation into this U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, witness testimony reinforced—with remarkable consistency—the following chronology of facts:

Amidst a steady, multi-year surge in Taliban territorial gains across Afghanistan, the Trump Administration initiated a deal with the Taliban—signed in Doha in February 2020—that committed the United States to a full withdrawal of military personnel and contractors by May 1, 2021 and laid out brief conditions to which both sides agreed in order to complete the withdrawal. The deal required the Taliban to cease threatening the security of the United States or its allies, but nothing in it required the Taliban to respect the rights of women and girls or the Afghan constitution. The agreement also compelled the Afghan government—itsself not a party to the deal—to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners, which fundamentally altered the power balance in the country.

President Trump ordered a drawdown to 8,600 U.S. troops within 135 days of the signing of the so-called “Doha Deal,” as the agreement stipulated. He then unilaterally ordered further drawdowns—to 4,500 troops by September 2020 and, after tweeting on October 7, 2020 his intent to have all U.S. troops home by Christmas, to 2,500 troops by January 2021—despite the Taliban's lack of full compliance with the Doha Deal. Trump's own lead negotiator and U.S. diplomatic and military personnel testified to their uncertainty and surprise around these unilateral troop drawdowns and a lack of any commensurate interagency withdrawal planning process.

Upon taking office on January 20, 2021 after a delayed presidential transition, President Biden ordered a comprehensive interagency review of Afghanistan policy to determine whether and how to complete the U.S. troop withdrawal set into motion by his predecessor. Top U.S. military officials recommended keeping a small force of at least 2,500 troops in country until an indefinite time when conditions on the ground might improve, but U.S. civilian and military officials agreed that the Taliban would resume attacks on U.S. forces—the one Doha Deal term the Taliban had largely respected—if the withdrawal stopped or reversed. On April 14, President Biden announced the United States would complete its troop withdrawal by September 11, 2021.

In doing so, President Biden directed his Administration to undertake deliberate withdrawal preparations, refine counterterrorism efforts to prevent the reemergence of threats, and determine the nature of a continued U.S. diplomatic presence in Afghanistan—all of which, according to witnesses, agencies subsequently did. Throughout 2021, the Biden Administration dramatically accelerated processing of Afghan Special Immigrant Visas (SIV), which had come to a virtual halt by the end of the Trump Administration. The Biden Administration also launched civilian evacuation flights in July 2021 under Operation Allies Refuge to facilitate departures of SIV applicants wanting to leave. State Department officials noted that, despite more than 19 specific warnings from March–August 2021 telling American citizens to leave Afghanistan and offers to help, including financial assistance for plane tickets, many Americans in Afghanistan were uncertain or unwilling to leave, and that there was no mechanism to track their whereabouts if they did not volunteer that information.

Throughout late spring and summer of 2021, the Taliban launched attacks on several provincial capitals in Afghanistan, which fell in what U.S. officials described as unexpectedly rapid succession as Afghan security forces surrendered or fled. On August 15, the U.S. Chargé d' Affaires in Kabul, in line with standard operating procedure and plans in place, asked the Department of Defense to

initiate a non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) and moved U.S. embassy operations to the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. Senior military officials had pressed for closing the U.S. embassy and starting a NEO sooner, but State Department leadership emphasized the risk these actions could have on U.S. interests and an already precarious Afghan government. Proving State Department officials' point, on the same day the Department initiated the NEO, Afghan president Ashraf Ghani fled the country despite earlier pledges he would not. His departure triggered the collapse of the Afghan government and security services.

The acute shift in power in Kabul prompted a chaotic security situation and spike in demand from Afghan allies, SIV applicants, and Americans living in Afghanistan to leave. From August 15–31, 2021, U.S. military and diplomatic personnel worked shoulder-to-shoulder during the NEO to contact Americans and Afghan partners seeking to leave, negotiate with the Taliban on safe passage through territory it controlled, and facilitate the departure of more than 120,000 people. Consular processing by State Department officials occurred virtually nonstop throughout—unless the U.S. military closed the gates for security reasons—and resumed within minutes of the August 26 ISIS-K bombing at Abbey Gate that tragically killed 13 U.S. servicemembers and approximately 170 Afghans. By the early hours of August 31, the Biden Administration had facilitated the largest humanitarian airlift in U.S. history and ended the United States' longest war.

Key findings underpinning this chronological narrative, the number of witnesses who testified to these facts, and illustrative examples of their testimony are included in this memorandum, along with further background on the investigation itself. But it is important to underscore at the outset what this factual narrative yielded in this investigation is *not*. First, it is not new—it comports with what Administration officials, the State Department's own After-Action Review on Afghanistan (AAR), and extensive press reporting have already said repeatedly over years about the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. This narrative is also not without points of debate—such as over whether to retain a small force in Afghanistan, whether U.S. analysts should have better anticipated the fall of the Afghan government and rapid speed of the Taliban's takeover, or the precise timing of shifting from civilian-led evacuation flights to a NEO—but no thorough policy process would be, nor do any Commander-in-Chief's decisions satisfy everyone. Finally, since it places the start of the withdrawal in the Trump Administration, this narrative is not a neat political tool with which to assail the Biden Administration.

As such, Committee Republicans have regrettably—and repeatedly—attempted to downplay or twist the facts they have heard in their own investigation, seeking instead to perpetuate a narrative of “the Biden-Harris withdrawal” as an “unmitigated disaster of epic proportions” for which the current Administration is singularly responsible. These attempts lack intellectual rigor and do not comport with the facts gleaned from witness testimony. But the testimony speaks for itself—and helps form a critical body of knowledge, along with the findings and recommendations in the State Department's After-Action Review and the ongoing work of the Congressionally-mandated Afghanistan War Commission, to help ensure that the United States can effectively prosecute—and responsibly end—wars in support of our national interests.

INVESTIGATION BACKGROUND

In a January 12, 2023 letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul signaled his intent to investigate what he described as the Biden Administration's “catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan” in the 118th Congress and issued a request for extensive documents and information on the withdrawal, the bulk of which was keyed to a timeframe beginning in January 2021. On January 18, 2023, the State Department confirmed in writing its intent to cooperate with the Chairman's investigation and to produce responsive documents and information to the Committee.

The Department subsequently made 59 separate document productions to the Committee, totaling 19,778 pages of both unclassified and classified content. The productions include underlying files to the Department's own Afghanistan After Action Review (AAR). After Chairman McCaul threatened to hold Secretary Blinken in contempt, the Department also made available to Committee members, *in camera*, a July 2021 Afghanistan dissent channel cable in what it characterized as an extraordinary accommodation, given the internal and carefully regulated nature of the Department's dissent channel to protect dissent cable drafters.

In addition, the Chairman requested closed-door transcribed interviews (TIs) with multiple current and former State Department officials—these requests comprised both career officials and Biden Administration political appointees, but only one non-career political appointee from the Trump Administration (Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad) who President Biden retained in his role as Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation. The Department subsequently facilitated transcribed interviews with all of these individuals. Separately, one former State Department officer (Samuel Aronson) agreed directly to be interviewed in response to a request from the Chairman. Additionally, one former U.S. military official (General Austin “Scott” Miller) and one former White House official (Jen Psaki) sat for transcribed interviews requested by the Chairman without obstruction from the current Administration.

Since June 2023, bipartisan Committee staff conducted a total of 18 TIs in unclassified and classified settings. The TIs have often lasted as long as 10 hours, spanning multiple issue areas. Department staff and, in some instances, private counsels have participated in the TIs per the wishes of the interviewee, all of whom have appeared voluntarily. Interviewees by title relevant to the withdrawal and/or evacuation and date of interview are below:

Former Deputy to Ambassador John Bass in Kabul, James (“Jim”) DeHart, June 16, 2023.

Former Acting Chief of Staff to Ambassador Carol Perez, Jonathan Mennuti, July 20, 2023.

Former Consular Affairs Lead in Kabul, Jayne Howell, July 28, 2023.

Former Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Afghanistan, Mark Evans, August 23, 2023.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, this is a link to the full report summarizing the findings of the Committee on Foreign Affairs' investigation in the 118th Congress into the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. https://democrats-foreignaffairs.house.gov/cache/files/a/0/a05d09c4_4b27-4382_9818_0227a0156896/70CCFC2998DF868322F60057FF59079D.hfac-democratic-staff-memo-afghanistan-investigation-final-for-posting.pdf.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. Let me just say to my good friend for whom I have tremendous respect, we work together on many bipartisan things, and when we don't agree, we do so civilly. However, I cannot disagree with you more than I do today.

One of the byproducts of Bagram falling is 7,000 ISIS were released from Bagram prisons. Some of them have found their way into the United States.

What happened in Afghanistan is a tragedy, one of the worst foreign policy failures in our Nation's history.

Who could ever forget the harrowing images of Afghans falling off the planes and babies being flung over barbed wire in a desperate attempt by mothers to save their children and escape Afghanistan under Taliban rule?

The women that Mr. Wilson referred to, left behind along with American citizens, are now enslaved under Taliban Sharia law. We are the United States of America. You can't tell me we couldn't have safely evacuated U.S. personnel, Americans, and our brave Afghan allies.

My report shows the administration had the information and the opportunity to do so, but every step of the way, they chose political optics over the safety of Americans. Their deadly and chaotic withdrawal started a chain of events that have led to a world on fire.

We are witnessing the largest land invasion in Europe since World War II with Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the CCP has become emboldened and more belligerent in their aggression toward Taiwan, and there is a war raging in the Middle East. Mr. Speaker, with the Ayatollah now rearing his ugly head.

That didn't happen by accident. It happened by design, and it started with the fall of Afghanistan. When you project weakness on the world stage, this is what you get: a world on fire inviting aggression from our adversaries.

Our U.S. national security is degraded, America's credibility on the world stage is damaged, and the moral injury to the American veterans and servicemembers is a stain, an ugly stain, on this administration's legacy.

□ 1600

I close, Mr. Speaker, with a reminder of the consequences of the actions of those named in this resolution, and it is the 13 heroic U.S. servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice. I have met with their loved ones, and they live with pain every single day. They wake up to it every single day.

These servicemembers paid with their lives because of this administration's failure on August 26, 2021, and I, for one, in this Chamber, in this House, say I am sorry for what your government did to you.

In their honor, I will read their names:

Marine Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza

Marine Sergeant Nicole Gee
Marine Staff Sergeant Taylor Hoover
Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Christian
Knauss

Marine Corporal Hunter Lopez
Marine Lance Corporal Rylee McCol-
lum

Marine Lance Corporal Dylan Merola
Marine Lance Corporal Kareem
Nikoui

Marine Sergeant Johanny Rosario
Pichardo

Marine Corporal Humberto Sanchez
Marine Lance Corporal Jared
Schmitz

Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak
Marine Corporal Daegan William-
Tyeler Page

Nothing will bring their lives back.
Nothing will bring these children back
to their parents, but we can hold those
responsible accountable, and that is
what this resolution does.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.
OBERNOLTE). All time for debate has ex-
pired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1486,
the previous question is ordered on the
resolution and the preamble.

The question is on adoption of the
resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-
ceedings on this question are post-
poned.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pro-
ceedings will now resume on motions
to suspend the rules previously post-
poned. Votes will be taken in the fol-
lowing order:

Senate amendment to H.R. 6513; and
H.R. 9747.

The first electronic vote will be con-
ducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant
to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining
electronic vote will be conducted as a
5-minute vote.

CONFIRMATION OF CONGRES- SIONAL OBSERVER ACCESS ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The un-
finished business is the vote on the mo-
tion to suspend the rules and concur in
the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R.
6513) to amend the Help America Vote
Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement
that States allow access to designated
congressional election observers to ob-
serve the election administration pro-
cedures in congressional elections, on
which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr.
STEL) that the House suspend the
rules and concur in the Senate amend-
ment.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—yeas 413, nays 1,
not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 449]

YEAS—413

Adams	Cuellar	Hoyer
Aderholt	Curtis	Hoyle (OR)
Aguilar	D'Esposito	Hudson
Alford	Davidson	Huizenga
Allen	Davis (KS)	Hunt
Allred	Davis (IL)	Issa
Amo	Davis (NC)	Ivey
Amodei	De La Cruz	Jackson (IL)
Armstrong	Dean (PA)	Jackson (NC)
Arrington	DeGette	Jackson (TX)
Auchincloss	DeLauro	Jacobs
Babin	DelBene	James
Baird	Deluzio	Jeffries
Balderson	DeSaulnier	Johnson (GA)
Balint	Diaz-Balart	Johnson (LA)
Banks	Dingell	Johnson (SD)
Barr	Doggett	Jordan
Barragán	Donalds	Joyce (OH)
Bean (FL)	Duarte	Joyce (PA)
Beatty	Duncan	Kamlager-Dove
Bentz	Dunn (FL)	Kaptur
Bera	Edwards	Kean (NJ)
Bergman	Ellzey	Keating
Beyer	Emmer	Kelly (IL)
Bice	Escobar	Kelly (MS)
Biggs	Eshoo	Kelly (PA)
Bilirakis	Españillat	Kennedy
Bishop (GA)	Estes	Khanna
Bishop (NC)	Ezell	Kildee
Blumenauer	Fallon	Kiley
Boebert	Feenstra	Kilmer
Bonamici	Finstad	Kim (CA)
Bost	Fischbach	Kim (NJ)
Boyle (PA)	Fitzgerald	Krishnamoorthi
Brecheen	Fitzpatrick	Kuster
Brown	Fleischmann	Kustoff
Brownley	Fletcher	LaHood
Buchanan	Flood	LaLota
Bucshon	Fong	LaMalfa
Budzinski	Foster	Lamborn
Burchett	Foushee	Landsman
Burgess	Fox	Langworthy
Burlison	Frankel, Lois	Larsen (WA)
Bush	Franklin, Scott	Larson (CT)
Calvert	Frost	Latta
Cammack	Fry	LaTurner
Caraveo	Fulcher	Lawler
Carbajal	Gaetz	Lee (CA)
Cárdenas	Galleo	Lee (FL)
Carey	Garamendi	Lee (NV)
Carl	Garbarino	Lee (PA)
Carson	Garcia (IL)	Leger Fernandez
Carter (GA)	Garcia (TX)	Lesko
Carter (LA)	Garcia, Mike	Letlow
Carter (TX)	Garcia, Robert	Levin
Cartwright	Gimenez	Lieu
Casar	Golden (ME)	Lofgren
Case	Goldman (NY)	Lopez
Casten	Gomez	Loudermilk
Castor (FL)	Gonzales, Tony	Lucas
Castro (TX)	Gonzalez, V.	Luetkemeyer
Chavez-DeRemer	Good (VA)	Luna
Cherfilus-	Gooden (TX)	Luttrell
McCormick	Gosar	Lynch
Chu	Gottheimer	Mace
Ciscomani	Graves (LA)	Magaziner
Clark (MA)	Graves (MO)	Malliotakis
Clarke (NY)	Green (TN)	Maloy
Cleaver	Green, Al (TX)	Mann
Cline	Greene (GA)	Manning
Cloud	Griffith	Massie
Clyburn	Grothman	Mast
Clyde	Guest	Matsui
Cohen	Guthrie	McBath
Cole	Hageman	McCaul
Collins	Harder (CA)	McClain
Comer	Harris	McClellan
Connolly	Harshbarger	McClintock
Correa	Hayes	McCollum
Costa	Hern	McCormick
Courtney	Higgins (LA)	McGarvey
Craig	Hill	McGovern
Crane	Himes	McHenry
Crawford	Hinson	McIver
Crenshaw	Horsford	Meeks
Crockett	Houchin	Menendez
Crow	Houlahan	Meng

Meuser	Quigley	Strickland
Mfume	Ramirez	Strong
Miller (IL)	Raskin	Suozi
Miller (OH)	Reschenthaler	Swalwell
Miller (WV)	Rodgers (WA)	Sykes
Miller-Meeks	Rogers (KY)	Takano
Mills	Rose	Tenney
Molinaro	Ross	Thanedar
Moolenaar	Rouzer	Thompson (CA)
Mooney	Roy	Thompson (MS)
Moore (AL)	Ruiz	Thompson (PA)
Moore (UT)	Rulli	Tiffany
Moore (WI)	Ruppersberger	Timmons
Moran	Rutherford	Titus
Morelle	Ryan	Tlaib
Moskowitz	Salazar	Tokuda
Moulton	Salinas	Tonko
Mrvan	Sánchez	Torres (CA)
Mullin	Sarbanes	Torres (NY)
Murphy	Scalise	Torres
Nadler	Scanlon	Trahan
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Trone
Neal	Schiff	Turner
Neguse	Schneider	Underwood
Newhouse	Scholten	Valadao
Nickel	Schrier	Van Drew
Norcross	Schweikert	Van Dуйne
Norman	Scott (VA)	Van Orden
Nunn (IA)	Scott, Austin	Vargas
Obermorte	Scott, David	Vasquez
Ocasio-Cortez	Self	Velázquez
Ogles	Sessions	Wagner
Omar	Sewell	Walberg
Owens	Sherman	Waltz
Pallone	Sherrill	Wasserman
Palmer	Simpson	Schultz
Panetta	Slotkin	Waters
Pappas	Smith (MO)	Watson Coleman
Pelosi	Smith (NE)	Webster (FL)
Peltola	Smith (NJ)	Wenstrup
Pence	Smith (WA)	Westerman
Perez	Sorensen	Wexton
Perry	Soto	Wild
Peters	Spanberger	Williams (GA)
Pettersen	Spartz	Williams (NY)
Pfleger	Stansbury	Williams (TX)
Phillips	Stanton	Wilson (FL)
Pingree	Stauber	Wilson (SC)
Pocan	Steel	Womack
Porter	Stefanik	Yakym
Posey	Stell	Zinke
Pressley	Stevens	

NAYS—1

Rosendale
NOT VOTING—18

Bacon	Granger	Rogers (AL)
Blunt Rochester	Grijalva	Smucker
Bowman	Huffman	Steube
DesJarlais	Jayapal	Veasey
Evans	Kiggans (VA)	Weber (TX)
Ferguson	Nehls	Wittman

□ 1624

So (two-thirds being in the affirma-
tive) the rules were suspended and the
Senate amendment was concurred in.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfin-
ished business is the vote on the mo-
tion to suspend the rules and pass the
bill (H.R. 9747) making continuing ap-
propriations and extensions for fiscal
year 2025, and for other purposes, on
which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
question is on the motion offered by
the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr.
COLE) that the House suspend the rules
and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 341, nays 82, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 450]

YEAS—341

Adams	Escobar	Lee (PA)
Aderholt	Eshoo	Leger Fernandez
Aguilar	Espallat	Letlow
Alford	Fallon	Levin
Allen	Fitzgerald	Lieu
Allred	Fitzpatrick	Lofgren
Amo	Fleischmann	Loudermilk
Amodei	Fletcher	Lucas
Armstrong	Flood	Luetkemeyer
Arrington	Fong	Lynch
Auchincloss	Foster	Magaziner
Babin	Foushee	Malliotakis
Bacon	Fox	Maloy
Balint	Frankel, Lois	Manning
Barr	Franklin, Scott	Mast
Barragán	Frost	Matsui
Beatty	Gallego	McBath
Bentz	Garamendi	McCaul
Bera	Garbarino	McClain
Bergman	Garcia (IL)	McClellan
Beyer	Garcia (TX)	McCollum
Bice	Garcia, Mike	McGarvey
Bishop (GA)	Garcia, Robert	McGovern
Blumenauer	Jimenez	McHenry
Blunt Rochester	Golden (ME)	McIver
Bonamici	Goldman (NY)	Meeks
Boyle (PA)	Gomez	Menendez
Brown	Gonzalez, V.	Meng
Brownley	Gottheimer	Meuser
Buchanan	Graves (LA)	Mfume
Bucshon	Graves (MO)	Miller (WV)
Budzinski	Green (TN)	Miller-Meeks
Burgess	Green, Al (TX)	Molinaro
Bush	Grothman	Moolenaar
Calvert	Guthrie	Moore (UT)
Caraveo	Harder (CA)	Moore (WI)
Carbajal	Harshbarger	Morelle
Cárdenas	Hayes	Moskowitz
Carey	Hern	Moulton
Carl	Hill	Mrvan
Carson	Himes	Mullin
Carter (GA)	Hinson	Murphy
Carter (LA)	Horsford	Nadler
Carter (TX)	Houchin	Napolitano
Cartwright	Houlihan	Neal
Casar	Hoyer	Neguse
Case	Hoyle (OR)	Newhouse
Casten	Hudson	Nickel
Castor (FL)	Huffman	Norcross
Castro (TX)	Huizenga	Nunn (IA)
Chavez-DeRemer	Issa	Obernolte
Cherfilus-	Ivey	Ocasio-Cortez
McCormick	Jackson (IL)	Omar
Chu	Jackson (NC)	Owens
Ciscomani	Jackson (TX)	Pallone
Clark (MA)	Jacobs	Panetta
Clarke (NY)	James	Pappas
Cleaver	Jayapal	Pelosi
Cline	Jeffries	Peltola
Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Pence
Cohen	Johnson (LA)	Perez
Cole	Johnson (SD)	Peters
Comer	Joyce (OH)	Pettersen
Connolly	Kamlager-Dove	Pfuger
Correa	Kaptur	Phillips
Costa	Kean (NJ)	Pingree
Courtney	Keating	Pocan
Craig	Kelly (IL)	Porter
Crawford	Kelly (PA)	Pressley
Crenshaw	Kennedy	Quigley
Crockett	Khanna	Ramirez
Crow	Kiggans (VA)	Raskin
Cuellar	Kildee	Reschenthaler
D'Esposito	Kiley	Rodgers (WA)
Davids (KS)	Kilmer	Rogers (AL)
Davis (IL)	Kim (CA)	Rogers (KY)
Davis (NC)	Kim (NJ)	Ross
De La Cruz	Krishnamoorthi	Rouzer
Dean (PA)	Kuster	Ruiz
DeGette	Kustoff	Rulli
DeLauro	LaLota	Ruppersberger
DelBene	LaMalfa	Rutherford
Deluzio	Lamborn	Ryan
DeSaulnier	Landsman	Salazar
Diaz-Balart	Langworthy	Salinas
Dingell	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez
Doggett	Larson (CT)	Sarbanes
Duarte	Latta	Scalise
Dunn (FL)	LaTurner	Scanlon
Edwards	Lawler	Schakowsky
Elizy	Lee (CA)	Schiff
Emmer	Lee (NV)	Schneider

Scholten	Stefanik
Schrier	Steil
Scott (VA)	Stevens
Scott, Austin	Strickland
Scott, David	Strong
Sessions	Suozzi
Sewell	Swalwell
Sherman	Sykes
Sherrill	Takano
Simpson	Thanedar
Slotkin	Thompson (CA)
Smith (MO)	Thompson (MS)
Smith (NE)	Thompson (PA)
Smith (NJ)	Titus
Smith (WA)	Tlaib
Smucker	Tokuda
Sorensen	Tonko
Soto	Torres (CA)
Spanberger	Torres (NY)
Stansbury	Trahan
Stanton	Trone
Stauber	Turner
Steel	Underwood

NAYS—82

Baird	Gaetz
Balderson	Gonzales, Tony
Banks	Good (VA)
Bean (FL)	Gooden (TX)
Biggs	Gosar
Bilirakis	Greene (GA)
Bishop (NC)	Griffith
Boebert	Guest
Bost	Hageman
Brecheen	Harris
Burchett	Higgins (LA)
Burlison	Jordan
Cammack	Joyce (PA)
Cloud	Kelly (MS)
Clyde	LaHood
Collins	Lee (FL)
Crane	Lesko
Curtis	Lopez
Davidson	Luna
Donalds	Luttrell
Duncan	Mace
Estes	Mann
Ezell	Massie
Feenstra	McClintock
Finstad	McCormick
Fischbach	Miller (IL)
Fry	Miller (OH)
Fulcher	Mills

NOT VOTING—9

Bowman	Ferguson	Hunt
DesJarlais	Granger	Nehls
Evans	Grijalva	Steube

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1631

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. HUNT. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 450.

SANCTIONING TYRANNICAL AND OPPRESSIVE PEOPLE WITHIN THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1486 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. 3334.

Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) kindly take the chair.

□ 1634

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. 3334) to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, with Mr. ALFORD (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 118-705 offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) had disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

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 118-705, offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 419, noes 1, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 451]

AYES—419

Adams	Budzinski	Courtney
Aderholt	Burchett	Craig
Aguilar	Burgess	Crane
Alford	Burlison	Crawford
Allen	Bush	Crenshaw
Allred	Calvert	Crockett
Amo	Cammack	Crow
Amodei	Caraveo	Cuellar
Armstrong	Carbajal	Curtis
Arrington	Cárdenas	D'Esposito
Auchincloss	Carey	Davids (KS)
Babin	Carl	Davidson
Bacon	Carson	Davis (IL)
Baird	Carter (GA)	Davis (NC)
Balderson	Carter (LA)	De La Cruz
Balint	Carter (TX)	Dean (PA)
Banks	Cartwright	DeGette
Barr	Casar	DeLauro
Barragán	Case	DelBene
Bean (FL)	Casten	Deluzio
Beatty	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier
Bentz	Castro (TX)	Diaz-Balart
Bera	Chavez-DeRemer	Dingell
Bergman	Cherfilus-	Doggett
Beyer	McCormick	Donalds
Bice	Chu	Duarte
Biggs	Ciscomani	Duncan
Bilirakis	Clark (MA)	Dunn (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Edwards
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Elizy
Blunt Rochester	Cline	Emmer
Boebert	Cloud	Escobar
Bonamici	Clyburn	Eshoo
Bost	Clyde	Espallat
Boyle (PA)	Cohen	Estes
Brecheen	Cole	Ezell
Brown	Collins	Fallon
Brownley	Comer	Feenstra
Buchanan	Connolly	Finstad
Bucshon	Costa	Fischbach

Fitzgerald LaTurner Reschenthaler
 Fitzpatrick Lawler Rodgers (WA)
 Fleischmann Lee (CA) Rogers (AL)
 Fletcher Lee (FL) Rogers (KY)
 Flood Lee (NV) Rose
 Fong Lee (PA) Rosendale
 Foster Leger Fernandez Ross
 Foushee Lesko Rouzer
 Foxx Letlow Roy
 Frankel, Lois Ruiz
 Franklin, Scott Lieu Rulli
 Frost Lofgren Ruppertsberger
 Fry Lopez Rutherford
 Fulcher Loudermilk Ryan
 Gaetz Lucas Salazar
 Garbarino Luetkemeyer Salinas
 Garcia (IL) Luna Sánchez
 Garcia (TX) Luttrell Sarbanes
 Garcia, Mike Lynch Scalise
 Garcia, Robert Mace Scanlon
 Gimenez Magaziner Schakowsky
 Golden (ME) Malliotakis Schiff
 Goldman (NY) Maloy Schneider
 Gomez Mann Scholten
 Gonzales, Tony Manning Schrier
 Gonzalez, V. Mast Schweikert
 Good (VA) Matsui Scott (VA)
 Gooden (TX) McBeth Scott, Austin
 Gosar McCaul Scott, David
 Gottheimer McClain Self
 Graves (LA) McClellan Sessions
 Graves (MO) McClintock Sewell
 Green (TN) McCollum Sherman
 Green, Al (TX) McCormick Sherrill
 Greene (GA) McGarvey Simpson
 Griffith McGovern Slotkin
 Grothman McHenry Smith (MO)
 Guest McIver Smith (NE)
 Guthrie Meeks Smith (NJ)
 Hageman Menendez Smith (WA)
 Harris Meng Smucker
 Harshbarger Meuser Sorensen
 Hayes Mfume
 Hern Miller (IL) Soto
 Higgins (LA) Miller (OH) Spanberger
 Hill Miller (WV) Stansbury
 Himes Miller-Meeks Stanton
 Hinson Mills Stauber
 Horsford Molinaro Steel
 Houchin Moolenaar Stefanik
 Houlihan Mooney Steil
 Hoyer Moore (AL) Stevens
 Hoyle (OR) Moore (UT) Strickland
 Hudson Moore (WI) Strong
 Huffman Moran Suozzi
 Huizenga Morelle Swalwell
 Hunt Moskowitz Sykes
 Issa Moulton Takano
 Ivey Moylan Tenney
 Jackson (IL) Mirvan Thanedar
 Jackson (NC) Mullin Thompson (CA)
 Jackson (TX) Murphy Thompson (MS)
 Jacobs Nadler Thompson (PA)
 James Napolitano Tiffany
 Jayapal Neal Timmons
 Jeffries Neguse Titus
 Johnson (GA) Newhouse Tokuda
 Johnson (LA) Nickel Torres (CA)
 Johnson (SD) Norcross Torres (NY)
 Jordan Norman Trahan
 Joyce (OH) Norton Trone
 Joyce (PA) Nunn (IA) Turner
 Kamlager-Dove Obernolte Underwood
 Kaptur Ocasio-Cortez Valadao
 Kean (NJ) Ogles Van Drew
 Keating Omar Van Druyne
 Kelly (IL) Owens Van Orden
 Kelly (MS) Pallone Vargas
 Kelly (PA) Palmer Vasquez
 Kennedy Panetta Veasey
 Khanna Pappas Velázquez
 Kiggans (VA) Pelosi Wagner
 Kildee Peltola Walberg
 Kiley Pence Perez
 Kilmer Perry
 Kim (CA) Peters Waltz
 Kim (NJ) Peters Wasserman
 Krishnamoorthi Petterson Schultz
 Kuster Pfluger Waters
 Kustoff Phillips Watson Coleman
 LaHood Pingree Weber (TX)
 LaLota Webster (FL)
 LaMalfa Pocan Wenstrup
 Lamborn Porter Westerman
 Landsman Posey Wexton
 Langworthy Pressley Wild
 Larsen (WA) Quigley Williams (GA)
 Larson (CT) Ramirez Williams (NY)
 Latta Raskin Williams (TX)

Wilson (FL) Wittman Yakym
 Wilson (SC) Womack Zinke

NOES—1

Messie
 NOT VOTING—18

Bishop (NC) Gallego Nehls
 Bowman Garamendi Radewagen
 Correa González-Colón Sablan
 DesJarlais Granger Spartz
 Evans Grijalva Steube
 Ferguson Harder (CA) Tlaib

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

□ 1637

Mr. THANEDAR changed his vote
 from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced
 as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no
 further amendment, under the rule, the
 Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose;
 and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr.
 OBERNOLTE) having assumed the chair,
 Mr. ALFORD, Acting Chair of the Com-
 mittee of the Whole House on the state
 of the Union, reported that that Com-
 mittee, having had under consideration
 the bill (H.R. 3334) to provide for the
 imposition of sanctions on members of
 the National Communist Party Con-
 gress of the People's Republic of China,
 and for other purposes, and, pursuant
 to House Resolution 1486, 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 or-
 dered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any
 amendment reported from the Com-
 mittee of the Whole? If not, the Chair
 will put them en gros.

The question is on the amendments.

The amendments were agreed to.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
 question is on passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursu-
 ant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-
 minute vote on passage of H.R. 3334
 will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

The motion to recommit H.R. 8205;
 Passage of H.R. 8205, if ordered; and
 Adoption of H. Res. 1469.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
 vice, and there were—yeas 243, nays
 174, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 452]

YEAS—243

Aderholt
 Alford
 Allen
 Allred
 Amodei
 Armstrong
 Arrington
 Babin
 Bacon
 Baird
 Balderson
 Banks
 Barr
 Bean (FL)
 Bentz
 Bergman
 Bice
 Biggs
 Bilirakis
 Boebert
 Bost
 Boyle (PA)
 Brecheen
 Buchanan
 Bucshon
 Burchett
 Burgess
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Cammack
 Caraveo
 Carey
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Cartwright
 Chavez-DeRemer
 Ciscomani
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Cole
 Collins
 Comer
 Craig
 Crane
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Cuellar
 Curtis
 D'Esposito
 Davidson
 Davis (NC)
 De La Cruz
 Donalds
 Duarte
 Duncan
 Dunn (FL)
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Estes
 Ezell
 Fallon
 Feenstra
 Finstad
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Flood
 Fong
 Foxx
 Franklin, Scott
 Fry
 Fulcher
 Gaetz
 Garbarino
 Garcia, Mike
 Gimenez
 Golden (ME)

Gonzales, Tony
 Gonzalez, V.
 Good (VA)
 Gooden (TX)
 Gosar
 Gottheimer
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)
 Green, Al (TX)
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Harris
 Harshbarger
 Hayes
 Hern
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill
 Himes
 Hinson
 Horsford
 Houchin
 Houlihan
 Hoyer
 Hoyle (OR)
 Hudson
 Huffman
 Huizenga
 Hunt
 Issa
 Ivey
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson (NC)
 Jackson (TX)
 Jacobs
 James
 Jayapal
 Jeffries
 Johnson (GA)
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kamlager-Dove
 Kaptur
 Kean (NJ)
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kennedy
 Khanna
 Kiggans (VA)
 Kildee
 Kiley
 Kilmer
 Kim (CA)
 Kim (NJ)
 Krishnamoorthi
 Kuster
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Landsman
 Langworthy
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta

Mooney
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (UT)
 Moran
 Mrvan
 Murphy
 Graves (LA)
 Newhouse
 Graves (MO)
 Nickel
 Norman
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Harder (CA)
 Harris
 Harshbarger
 Hern
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill
 Hinson
 Houchin
 Huizenga
 Issa
 Jackson (NC)
 Jackson (TX)
 James
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kaptur
 Kean (NJ)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kim (CA)
 Kim (NJ)
 Kuster
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Landsman
 Langworthy
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta

Mooney
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (UT)
 Moran
 Mrvan
 Murphy
 Graves (LA)
 Newhouse
 Graves (MO)
 Nickel
 Norman
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Harder (CA)
 Harris
 Harshbarger
 Hern
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill
 Hinson
 Houchin
 Huizenga
 Issa
 Jackson (NC)
 Jackson (TX)
 James
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Joyce (PA)
 Kaptur
 Kean (NJ)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kim (CA)
 Kim (NJ)
 Kuster
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Landsman
 Langworthy
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latta

NAYS—174

Adams
 Aguilar
 Amo
 Auchincloss
 Balint
 Barragán
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop (GA)
 Blumenauer
 Blunt Rochester
 Bonamici
 Brown

Brownley
 Budzinski
 Bush
 Carbajal
 Cárdenas
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Casar
 Case
 Casten
 Castor (FL)
 Castro (TX)

Cherfilus-
 McCormick
 Chu
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Cleaver
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crockett

Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Eshoo
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger

NAYS—161

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)

Casar
Case
Casten
Castro (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Crockett
Crow
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro

Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Phillips
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Scalise
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Spanberger
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Strong
Suoizzi
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wild
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Norman
Zinke

Hoyer
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (SD)
Kamlager-Dove
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver

NOT VOTING—16

Bishop (NC)
Bowman
DesJarlais
Evans
Ferguson
Gallego

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1658

Mses. KAPTUR and HOULAHAN changed their 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.

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR KEY OFFICIALS IN THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISION-MAKING AND EXECUTION FAILURES THROUGHOUT THE WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 1469) ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 219, nays 194, not voting 19, as follows:

Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Smith (WA)
Soto
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (MS)
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velazquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

Nehls
Spartz
Steube
Tlaib

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Billirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Hudson
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher

[Roll No. 455]
YEAS—219

Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (VA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Meuser
Miller (IL)

NAYS—194

Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castro (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garcia (IL)

Garcia (TX)	McCollum	Scholten
Garcia, Robert	McGarvey	Schrier
Goldman (NY)	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Gomez	McIver	Scott, David
Gottheimer	Meeks	Sewell
Green, Al (TX)	Menendez	Sherman
Harder (CA)	Meng	Sherrill
Hayes	Mfume	Slotkin
Himes	Moore (WI)	Smith (WA)
Horsford	Morelle	Sorensen
Houlahan	Moskowitz	Soto
Hoyer	Moulton	Spanberger
Hoyle (OR)	Mirman	Stansbury
Huffman	Nadler	Stanton
Ivey	Napolitano	Stevens
Jackson (IL)	Neal	Strickland
Jacobs	Neguse	Suozi
Jayapal	Nickel	Swalwell
Jeffries	Norcross	Sykes
Johnson (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Takano
Kamliager-Dove	Omar	Thanedar
Kaptur	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Keating	Panetta	Thompson (MS)
Kelly (IL)	Pappas	Titus
Kennedy	Pelosi	Tokuda
Khanna	Peters	Tonko
Kildee	Petterson	Torres (CA)
Kilmer	Phillips	Torres (NY)
Kim (NJ)	Pingree	Trahan
Krishnamoorthi	Pocan	Trone
Kuster	Porter	Underwood
Larsen (WA)	Pressley	Vargas
Larson (CT)	Ramirez	Vasquez
Lee (CA)	Raskin	Veasey
Lee (PA)	Ross	Velázquez
Leger Fernandez	Ruiz	Wasserman
Levin	Ruppersberger	Schultz
Lieu	Ryan	Waters
Lofgren	Salinas	Watson Coleman
Lynch	Sánchez	Wexton
Magaziner	Sarbanes	Wild
Manning	Scanlon	Williams (GA)
Matsui	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
McBath	Schiff	
McClellan	Schneider	

NOT VOTING—19

Bishop (NC)	Gosar	Nehls
Bowman	Granger	Quigley
DesJarlais	Grijalva	Spartz
Evans	Issa	Steube
Ferguson	LaMalfa	Tlaib
Gallego	McHenry	
Garamendi	Mullin	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1710

So the resolution was agreed to.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
 A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CENSURING OF REPRESENTATIVE CLAY HIGGINS

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, objection.
 The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard. The gentleman will suspend.
 Mr. CLYDE. Withdrawn.
 The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has withdrawn the objection. The gentleman will continue.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, earlier today a gentleman from Louisiana posted on his official X account: “LOL. These Haitians are wild. Eating pets, vudu, nastiest country in the Western Hemisphere, cults, slapstick gangsters, but damned if they don’t feel all sophisticated now, filing charges against our President and VP. All these thugs

better get their mind right and their ass out of our country before January 20th.”

Mr. Speaker, under rule XXIII, the Code of Official Conduct for the 118th Congress states that a Member shall behave at all times in a manner that reflects credibly on the House.

These words on an official post do not reflect credibly on the House.

In fact, they are inciting hate. They are inciting fear. Because of that, it is time for this body to stand with one voice and to ensure that there is accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I move to refer this matter to the Committee on Ethics and that we bring this Member up for censure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman yield back?

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I made a motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There is no motion pending before the House.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I made a motion based on rule XXIII—point of parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not stating a proper motion at this time.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire under rule XXIII whether this is a violation of the official Code of Conduct before the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not made an inquiry relevant to any pending proceedings.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, may I ask of the Parliamentarian whether these—the rule XXIII Code of Conduct applies against the gentleman from Louisiana.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will not provide an advisory opinion on this matter.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, point of inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, is it appropriate for a Member to use their official equipment in violation of rule XXIII?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is not a proper parliamentary inquiry. Does the gentleman have a parliamentary inquiry?

Mr. HORSFORD. Yes.
 The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HORSFORD. My parliamentary inquiry is: Is a Member allowed to use their official equipment of the House of Representatives and platform in violation of rule XXIII?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Sir, this is not an issue that the Chair is prepared to advise on at this time. This is a matter for the House to determine.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, that is why I made the motion to refer this matter to the Committee on Ethics so that they can fully deliberate and determine whether the gentleman from

Louisiana violated rule XXIII of the Code of Conduct of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Sir, that is not a proper motion.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of order.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, what is the proper motion for me to refer this matter to the Committee on Ethics?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Sir, the Chair will not issue an advisory opinion, and the gentleman is not stating a point of order.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am not asking for you to make a determination of an advisory opinion. I am asking for the matter to be referred to the Committee on Ethics based on the violation of rule XXIII Code of Conduct before the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Sir, the Chair has advised that the motion is not in order at this time.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, at what time would it be in order? After someone—there are children who are feeling threatened in this moment, based on the actions of the Member from Louisiana.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair advises the Member to pursue this matter through the proper channels under rule IX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. For what purpose does the gentlewoman seek recognition?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I make a motion to overrule the ruling of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has not issued a ruling, and the gentlewoman is not stating a proper motion.

POINT OF ORDER

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I make a point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will state her point of order.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, you have made a ruling that the gentleman’s motion is not in order, and I object and disagree with that ruling. I would like to make a motion to overrule the decision of the Chair.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair advises the gentlewoman that there was no valid motion made and, therefore, no ruling made that can be appealed.

The Chair again advises Members of the availability of rule IX.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I make a motion that this gentleman’s words be stricken from the official record that he used by using official property and platform of the U.S. House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Sir, that is not a valid motion under the House rules.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, point of inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point of inquiry.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, so the gentleman from Louisiana, had he stood on the floor of the House of Representatives and said these words on the House floor, the body would have been able to remove his words from the RECORD? Is that not correct, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Sir, the Chair cannot respond to a hypothetical inquiry.

Does the gentleman yield back?

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that on the last day of this body's work on behalf of the people, after we came together just last week in a bipartisan way to protect and to provide dignitary protection for our national party candidates, that we have a Member who is choosing to use an official platform, and therefore, it is my intention to bring to this body a motion of censure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, therefore, I move to censure Representative CLAY HIGGINS for violating rule IX by bringing discredit and disgrace to the House of Representatives, and I am submitting this motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not made a proper motion.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I move to censure—I am entering this as a resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Again, the Chair reminds Members of rule IX.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting by resolution a motion to censure Representative CLAY HIGGINS for violating rule IX by bringing discredit and disgrace to the House of Representatives.

There is an official motion, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman attempting to give notice under rule IX?

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I am attempting to give notice that I intend to bring a censure resolution upon return to this House of Representatives, and I would hope that every Member of this body understands that no person, particularly those who contribute to communities, who are entrepreneurial, who give to our communities by being nurses and first responders and teachers, that those individuals, those children, no longer have to live in fear or intimidation because of any words or posts that come from Members of this body, that it is time to end hate and the rhetoric of hate, and that it is not becoming of any Member to continue to push this type of rhetoric on any platform, let alone from the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to accept my motion to censure Representative CLAY HIGGINS for violating rule IX by bringing discredit and disgrace to the House of Representatives.

Mr. SCALISE. I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. An objection is heard.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, the tweet has been deleted already and removed, but I object to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, if we want to go through every comment and tweet from the other side, we will be happy to do it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized.

Does the gentleman seek recognition?

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I object to the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The objection has been heard.

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 5 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1752

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE) at 5 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 25, 2024.

I hereby designate the period from Wednesday, September 25, 2024, through Monday, November 11, 2024, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice of my intent to offer a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 1500, censuring Representative GLEN CLAY HIGGINS of the Third Congressional District of Louisiana.

Whereas on September 25, 2025, Representative HIGGINS used his official account on X to publicly slander, insult, and demean all Haitians and Haitian Americans in an overtly racist post, referring to Haiti as the "nastiest country in the Western Hemisphere," falsely accusing Haitians of "eating pets," denigrating Haitians as "slap-

stick gangsters" and "thugs" and threatening Haitians to "get their mind right and their ass out of our country before January 20."

Resolved, that—

The House of Representatives censures GLEN CLAY HIGGINS, Representative from the Third Congressional District of Louisiana;

Representative GLEN CLAY HIGGINS will forthwith present himself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure; and Representative GLEN CLAY HIGGINS will be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Nevada will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

KEEPING VIOLENT OFFENDERS OFF OUR STREETS ACT

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FITZGERALD

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the title of H.R. 8205 at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit fraud in connection with posting bail."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the amendment to the title is agreed to.

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1719

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1719, a bill originally introduced by Representative PASCRELL of New Jersey, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

HONORING EDWARD ROSS NEWTON

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

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Ross Newton, a remarkable Utahn who served his country with distinction and honor during the Vietnam war.

Ed was raised in a small tight-knit community of Juab County. With love for his country, he traded the peaceful farm fields of Utah for the battlefields of Vietnam.

While serving as a rifleman in the 82nd Airborne Division, Ed and his fellow soldiers were engaged in a search operation in the jungles of Vietnam when they suddenly came under direct enemy fire.

Ed witnessed his platoon leader and medic fall under a hail of bullets and instantly sprang into action. He rushed the enemy position, enabling a medic to administer aid to the wounded.

Though seriously injured, his actions saved the lives of several of his comrades.

For his actions, Ed was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with a V for valor. He was also honored with a Purple Heart.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Ross Newton's story is a powerful reminder of the values that define our Nation, an unwavering commitment to protect and serve others, even at great personal cost.

May God bless Edward Ross Newton, his family, and all those who serve our great Nation.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. During this month, I celebrate the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Hispanic community, particularly in my home of the Virgin Islands. This always includes Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day, where we recognize our deep-rooted connections and the unity shared between our islands and culture.

The Virgin Islands Hispanic community has long contributed to the success of our territory and our country through public service and the enrichment of our heritage and culture. This time gives us the opportunity to take pride in their achievements and impacts that have shaped our Nation. I honor individuals like the iconic Senator Alicia "Chucky" Hansen; Senators Sammuel Sanes and Nellie Rivera-O'Reilly; the third elected Governor of the Virgin Islands, Juan Francisco Luis; and the list goes on.

Happy Hispanic Heritage Month to all Virgin Islanders. Happy Virgin Islands-Puerto Rico Friendship Day.

□ 1800

QUESTIONING FAA LEADERSHIP

(Mr. KILEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, yesterday, FAA Administrator Michael Whitaker testified before the House Aviation Subcommittee.

In response to my questions about his agency's fines and the delays they have imposed on SpaceX, he made a number of statements that appear to be completely false.

For example, he said that SpaceX launched without a license. That is simply not true. There are two possibilities. Either, number one, he doesn't know what is going on at his own agency, or number two, he deliberately deceived a congressional committee. Either possibility raises serious questions about his fitness to lead the FAA.

I have sent a letter along with questions for the record to Administrator Whitaker, which he is compelled to answer to explain his false testimony.

Madam Speaker, I implore him to look at this chart: Objects launched into space over time. The point where the United States breaks away from Russia and China and sees absolutely exponential growth is when SpaceX started launching rockets.

This company and the broader commercial space industry are tremendous national assets, and those seeking to hold back their progress for, at best, arbitrary bureaucratic reasons are acting directly against our national interests.

RELEASE THE HOSTAGES

(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. Madam Speaker, nearly 1 year ago today, I was awoken by sirens in my Tel Aviv hotel and quickly sheltered in a stairwell as rockets from a terrorist organization intent on destroying Israel and all Jewish people flew toward my family and me. My kids are still struggling from that traumatic day.

It has now been 354 days since that terrorist group, Hamas, launched the most barbaric, genocidal, and murderous sneak attack on Israel in its history, killing 1,200 people, including more than 40 Americans.

It has been 354 days since more than 250 people were brutally and illegally captured and taken hostage in the tunnels of Gaza, where four American citizens remain today, as well as approximately 100 more.

The violence in Gaza could end today—today—if Hamas would simply release the hostages they illegally hold. The path toward peace and prosperity for both Israelis and Palestinians begins with the immediate return of the hostages. Bring them all home now.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GOODWILL OF ORANGE COUNTY

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Speaker, October 5 marks the 100th anniversary of Goodwill Industries of Orange County.

Goodwill OC was founded in 1924 by Reverend John Winterbourne, first in his home and later moving to a rented house on Logan Street in Santa Ana.

Over the past century, Goodwill OC has established a legacy of not just finding value in secondhand goods but also providing meaningful employment opportunities.

Goodwill OC has fostered a vibrant workforce and a caring, connected community by helping individuals find and retain employment and offering training and career coaching.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate them on this amazing milestone and wish them many more years to come.

HONORING JUDGE L. CLIFFORD DAVIS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the upcoming 100th birthday of Judge Clifford Davis, who is a legend in Fort Worth.

Judge Davis graduated from high school in Arkansas and applied in 1945 to go to the law school at the University of Arkansas, and he was accepted. When they found out he was Black, they did not let him attend law school, so he graduated from Howard University in 1949.

Judge Davis would go on to move to Fort Worth and married the love of his life, Ethel, and raised his two daughters there.

The thing that he did that was legendary was that he integrated the Mansfield Independent School District. Judge Davis received threats. They hung an effigy of his image up in the school that stayed there for an entire year.

He received so much hate mail and threatening mail, but he went on to have a distinguished career. He helped desegregate the Fort Worth Independent School District and has had a successful law practice for a long time.

He just retired a couple of years ago. He is truly a legend who deserves all the honor that he is going to receive at his birthday next month.

Madam Speaker, I thank Judge Clifford Davis for all that he has done over the years to make the north Texas community better, for the risks he and his family took to help make this country better. We congratulate him on his 100th birthday.

HONORING RESPONDERS OF ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN FIRE

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank the many responders, agencies, organizations, and volunteers who worked tirelessly to respond to the Alexander Mountain Fire, which last month ravaged 9,600 acres near Loveland, Colorado, and destroyed more than 50 structures, including 26 homes.

As with previous disasters, these people and organizations, such as Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, Thompson Valley EMS, Windsor-Severance Fire Protection District, Larimer County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management, and many others, rose to the challenge and kept the tragedy from being much worse.

We know from experience that when faced with adversity, the people will come together in the spirit of community during and after an emergency to respond vigorously and recover profoundly. We owe first responders and the families that support them a huge debt of gratitude.

Madam Speaker, we recognize these amazing efforts and know that if and when great challenges come before us in the future, we will conquer them and emerge stronger because that is what we can expect from the great people of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING DR. CEDRIC DARK

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

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of Dr. Cedric Dark, a board-certified emergency physician who serves people across Houston in a trauma center and who has just written his first book, "Under the Gun: An ER Doctor's Cure for America's Gun Epidemic," published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

As an emergency physician, Dr. Dark has witnessed the devastating impacts of gun violence in our community, and his experiences in the emergency room have motivated him to work to find policy solutions to reduce gun violence. "Under the Gun" reminds us that making public policy and keeping our communities safe are collaborative efforts that benefit from the wisdom, experience, and participation of many.

While some people tell our doctors to stay in their lane, through this insightful and compelling work, Dr. Dark demonstrates that gun violence prevention is and must be all of our lane.

SUPPORTING UAW MEMBERS

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

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, 1 year ago, UAW members across the country went on strike and won a historic victory by securing agreements with the Big Three auto manufacturers. That included an agreement with Stellantis to retool and reopen the Chrysler assembly plant in Belvidere, Illinois.

Thanks to the solidarity of UAW members across the country, Stellantis agreed to not only reopen the Belvidere plant but to also build a brand-new battery factory there and an automobile parts distribution center.

That agreement was only possible because of strong Federal and State incentives put in place to secure a bright economic future for places like Belvidere.

Nearly a year later, Stellantis has yet to follow through on the commitments they made, leaving hundreds of workers in limbo and delaying the promised investments.

One cannot but wonder if they are waiting until after the election to see if Trump's Project 2025 will destroy those investments and, with it, the future of Belvidere.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to reiterate my support to the UAW workers who fought hard for this contract, and I call on Stellantis to honor the agreement they made.

SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES' KIDS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues who voted in support of the Care for Military Kids Act, vital legislation Congresswoman JENNIFER KIGGANS and I introduced together.

The bipartisan Care for Military Kids Act ensures servicemembers can maintain critical healthcare coverage and medical services for their children, no matter where their service takes them.

Relocation is a fact of life for many of our servicemen and -women, and this can lead to uncertainty around Medicaid and CHIP coverage for their children due to these services being handled at the State level.

Our legislation will save military families from facing this added burden of healthcare insecurity by establishing streamlined Medicaid plans. This clarity and consistency ensure that no child of a servicemember will go without essential medical services.

I look forward to the Senate's passage. Let us stand together in full support of our military families' kids and send this legislation to the President's desk to be signed into law.

Madam Speaker, I thank all the Members who supported us in this endeavor.

HONORING CAPTAIN PAUL BUCHA

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, Captain Paul Bucha, a Medal of Honor recipient and a longtime resident of Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Captain Bucha was the son of a World War II veteran, attended West Point, and ultimately earned a master's degree from Stanford University. He was deployed to Vietnam in 1967 and assumed his first command after only 2 months in country.

In March 1968, Captain Bucha and his men encountered a North Vietnamese force more than 10 times the size of their own. Outgunned and outmanned, Captain Bucha rallied his troops, commanding a vigorous all-night defense that deceived the 1,500 enemy combatants into believing that his own force of 89 was much larger.

He personally eliminated a fortified enemy position and directed the medical evacuation of his wounded men, all while coping with his own shrapnel wounds.

President Nixon bestowed the Medal of Honor upon Captain Bucha 2 years after his courageous actions, citing his "extraordinary heroism, inspirational example, outstanding leadership, and professional competence."

At the time of his death, he held the distinction of being Connecticut's only living Medal of Honor recipient. Captain Paul Bucha passed away in July 2024 and is survived by his wife, Cynthia, his four children, and his nine grandchildren.

A true American hero, may he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOOD SERVICE EMPLOYEE DAY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Food Service Employee Day.

The food service workers at hospitals and care facilities across Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District work each and every day to ensure that patients are fed the healthy and nutritious meals that they need.

Last month, I had the honor to meet the food service staff at the Conemaugh Miners Medical Center in Cambria County. Each and every one of them showed their firm commitment to the patients at the hospital, and it is unparalleled. Far too often, their work goes unrecognized.

Today, please join me in recognizing these men and women for their work and for their compassion for the sick and the injured as they heal. Their outstanding public service should not go unnoted.

SPOOKY STORIES

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

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, since we will not be together on Halloween, I thought I would share some spooky stories with you, and these spooky stories are all real, verbatim, and lifted directly from the Republican Party's playbook, Project 2025.

The Department of Education should be eliminated. Eliminate the Head Start program.

The Department of Labor should amend its hazard order regulations to permit teenage workers access to work. In other words, back to the mine, Timmy.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration should be broken up and downsized. No more weather forecasts.

Finally, no public education employee shall use a name to address a student other than the name listed on a student's birth certificate.

This, of course, will be a problem for James Donald Bowman, James David Hamel, J.D. Hamel, or, as they now identify, J.D. VANCE.

This is truly scary because it is a real plan, but Madam Speaker, I hope you and all Americans' fears are only imaginary in 2025.

ANNIVERSARY OF 10/7

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

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, October 7, 2023, was supposed to be a day of joy. Jewish communities around the world, including many in my Queens district, were gathering to celebrate a holiday, but instead, it was and forever will be a day of agony.

October 7 was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas terrorists invaded Israel, murdered over 1,200 people, took more than 251 hostages, and destroyed entire communities.

I will never forget going to shuls in Queens that night to share the news of the attack with my constituents.

Madam Speaker, 1 year later, our hearts remain heavy as we pray for all remaining hostages to be returned home safely. Our souls remain shattered as we see the rise in anti-Semitism at home and abroad.

The sacred bond between the U.S. and Israel will not be broken, and our commitment to Israel's security and countering the Iranian threat will not waver.

May the memories of all those murdered that day be a blessing, and may we continue working to achieve peace.

RECOGNIZING RHODE ISLAND FIRE CHIEFS HONOR FLIGHT HUB

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

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rhode Island Fire Chiefs Honor Flight Hub.

My constituent, U.S. Army Lieutenant John Wolf, is scheduled to participate in Honor Flight "High Voltage" on September 29.

I had the privilege of writing him a letter as part of the mail call portion of the program.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my letter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, September 5, 2024.

DEAR LT. JOHN WOLF, It is with deep gratitude and respect that we honor you today on this special Honor Flight. Today, not only do we gather to celebrate and commemorate your service, but we also come together to recognize your incredible legacy both on and off the battlefield.

Your courage and dedication as a Lieutenant in the United States Army during the Vietnam War are truly commendable. Receiving the Bronze Star is a testament not only to your bravery, but to your selflessness as well, especially in the face of unimaginable challenges. Your service has not only made a significant impact on the lives of those you served with, but also your fellow Americans.

Your contributions extend far beyond your military service. For 20 years, you have inspired and educated the next generation of leaders as a social studies teacher in the East Providence School District. Your commitment to shaping young minds and fostering a love for learning is a gift that I am confident has had a lasting influence on countless students. Your impact in the classroom mirrors the dedication you demonstrated in your military service.

Your legacy of service continues to be an example for us all. Your unwavering commitment to your country and your students serves as an inspiration and a reminder of the values that bind us together.

Today, as you embark on this Honor Flight, know that you carry with you the admiration and gratitude of all those who have been touched by your service and dedication. We are honored to be a part of this journey and to celebrate the extraordinary contributions you've made to our country and our community.

Thank you, Lt. John Wolf, for your bravery, your service, and your enduring impact. You are a true hero, and today we celebrate you with the honor and respect you so richly deserve.

Sincerely,

GABE AMO,
Member of Congress.

Mr. AMO. Madam Speaker, Lieutenant Wolf served our local community for more than 20 years as a social studies teacher in the East Providence School District. Before that, he courageously wore our Nation's uniform in Vietnam, earning a Bronze Star for his service.

Madam Speaker, we must do more to support veterans like Lieutenant Wolf. We can and should build on the PACT Act, which expanded presumptive benefits for Vietnam veterans and has helped nearly 3,000 veterans in Rhode Island.

Madam Speaker, today, I am proud to stand on the House floor and thank Lieutenant Wolf and all who have served our country.

FOCUS ON CRIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). 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. Madam 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. Madam Speaker, House Republicans are addressing the most important issues facing Americans across the country, and this week we will focus on crime.

Over the past 3 years, violent crime has surged under the Biden-Harris administration. Its soft-on-crime policies coupled with bail reform, open borders, and the defund the police movement has put every American in danger and threatened our Nation's security.

That is why House Republicans have brought to the floor the Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act, to fight back against Democrats' woke agenda and give our law enforcement the tools they need to defend public safety in our communities.

Last week, House Republicans passed the Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act to ensure that illegal immigrants convicted of sex offenses or other crimes involving stalking, child abuse, and neglect are inadmissible or deportable from the United States.

This legislation now waits to be voted on the Senate floor.

Republicans are the party of law and order, and we will continue to fight for the safety of our Nation's communities.

I am grateful to my colleagues for joining me this evening to talk about the importance of supporting our law enforcement and implementing robust crime policies.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

HONORING RICHARD TELFORD

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, I thank the vice chair of our Conference, BLAKE MOORE, for yielding me the time.

I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and service of Chautauqua County Undersheriff Richard Telford, a dedicated public servant who spent over three decades protecting and serving the people of our community.

Rich's passing is a profound loss for Chautauqua County. Those who had the honor of knowing him say that they knew they could always count on Rich. In remembering him, Sheriff Jim Quattrone said: "Rich was a man of integrity. He could always be counted on to do the right thing."

Throughout his service, Rich's sense of duty and commitment to the community he grew up in ran very deep.

After graduating from Jamestown High School and studying criminal justice at Jamestown Community College, Rich began his law enforcement career in 1991 with the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office. He quickly rose through the ranks, serving as a deputy, a sergeant overseeing the county's 911 center, a lieutenant, and later a supervisor for court security.

Rich's hard work and his leadership were undeniable. In 2021 he was appointed undersheriff of Chautauqua County, a role in which he continued to lead by strong example.

Rich's dedication to the community wasn't limited to his badge. He is remembered as a loving family man, devoted to his wife Amanda and their three children Katelynn, Andrew, and Alex.

Throughout his career, Rich embodied the qualities that we look for in public servants: integrity, courage, and respect. His actions over 33 years spoke louder than any words. Whether it was investigating fires with the department's fire investigation team or attending the prestigious FBI National Academy, Rich never stopped pushing himself to be better for his community.

Madam Speaker, our hearts are heavy today, but we are filled with gratitude for the life and the legacy of Rich Telford. His dedication and his service to Chautauqua County will not be forgotten.

Your family is in our prayers, Rich, and, Rich, you will be missed, but your contributions will live on through the many lives that you have touched.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his comments on such a dedicated public servant.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

CONGRATULATING 2024 WEST POINT GRADUATES

Mr. JAMES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the West Point class of 2024 on their graduation this past spring and for their continued commitment to service. It is no small feat, and the country is indebted to them for their immense willingness to sacrifice.

I hesitate because I myself am a West Point grad of 2004, and I know what they are signing up for. I know how serious it is, and I am very proud of them. It is the greatest service academy in all the land, and I know that each of them will be looked at as leaders not just now but for the rest of their lives.

So I ask them all to lead with the West Point motto in mind: "Duty, Honor, Country." It is something that is ingrained into every cadet. It is something that is part of The Long Gray Line. They are our Nation's best and brightest, and I cannot wait to see what they and the class of 2024 does for our great Nation.

I also briefly want to congratulate them all on going 3-1 in their 4 years against Navy. They are winners.

On a more serious note, the country will be better off because of their sacrifice and determination.

I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the following 24 grads of the 2024 class from Michigan:

Kathryn Cornett of Muskegon
Dominic Curti of Bloomfield Hills, who is a fantastic intern, by the way
Lucas Dickerson of Sterling Heights
Colton Dougherty of Garden City
William Drake of Bloomfield Hills
Jason Fargo of Portage
Alexandria Goss of St. Clair Shores, in my district

Aiden Griggs of Traverse City
Shane Haener of Brownstown
Joseph Hickson of Orchard Lake
Timmy Kipfmiller of Freeland
Brandon Liu of Northville
Brennan McAlister of Chesterfield
Titus McClary of Detroit
Mark Miller of Grand Blanc
Eamon Mott of Bloomfield Township
Andrew Przekora of Metamora
Alexander Roos of Hackensack
Atef Sikazwe of Novi
Dawson Stec of Canton
Chelsea Tene-Kuate of Macomb also in my district

Emily Vanderploeg of Hudsonville
Kyle Wallace of Brownstown
And the son of my sponsors when I was a West Point cadet, Second Lieutenant Robert Sundry of St. Joseph.

The class of 2024's service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. God bless them all and Godspeed to them.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his comments.

I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) to address the House.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for leading this Special Order tonight as we certainly have plenty of things to talk about and what Congress and our Federal Government should be doing.

The topic I am going to hit on is the crime situation.

Now, you will hear different things reported in the news on how crime is in the U.S. Well, I think normal people, regular everyday Americans see that it is a problem, but the way it is reported or the way it is spoken about under the Biden-Harris administration is like, oh, crime is not a problem, crime is down.

Tell that to the people or the storefront owners in various blue cities where you see these massive break-ins by hordes of people smashing their way in and smashing the countertops and all that, taking cell phones and jewelry and whatever else might be on their minds.

Where do they come up with the statistics like crime is somehow down?

Well, we are seeing more and more evidence that perhaps the mayors of these blue cities, perhaps other leaders, are telling their people to not report

them. If the police departments—and many jurisdictions around this country are underreporting what is really going on. I guess that is how you can skew the statistics to look like they are better, and that crime is somehow down.

I tell you, theft is up, breaking and entering is up, violent crime is up, and it is due to lax policies.

As a Member from California here, it is very acute in some of our large cities, as well as we have these soft-on-crime recent efforts being made by the Newsom administration and others that have basically made it almost a free-for-all in my home State.

For example, the dollar amount got bumped up several years ago via one of the propositions fooling the voters as to what the proposition was actually doing on crime. Prop 47, which is one of the big problems, was known generically as the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, yet all it did was relax the level of felonies down to misdemeanors to the level of \$949. That means you can steal \$949 of stuff out of the store and still have it just be a misdemeanor instead of a felony as it should be.

People go in sometimes with calculators and add up how much they can steal and brazenly carry it out the door because there are not enough police around, and, of course, the retailers, especially the large corporate box retailers say, oh, don't dare go and try and impede them, don't go talk to them, don't even go out in the parking lot and take a picture of their car or their license plate because we don't want to offend them or we don't want to incur that somebody might get injured.

Well, I tell you, people are getting injured by this happening. The price of everything in the stores—I mean, look how many stores are closing around the country as it is, and then tell that to the mom-and-pop stores that only have one or maybe two markets that they deal with and they are not supposed to do anything about this rampant crime, the rampant stealing happening in their stores?

So this was put in place in my home State by legislation called AB 109, which is supposed to be trying to help empty overcrowded prisons, as they termed it at the time.

Now, I don't know that the prisons are overcrowded, I actually had a chance to visit them, and thankfully they let me out of them when I was done with the visit, but you see, prisons are designed with two bunks in them, and they were only keeping one person in there due to somebody's idea of how that would be crowded.

So what else happens?

When the Federal court ruled that California had overcrowding, they started trying to release prisoners to meet a number. Also, the State had several out-of-State prisons it was contracting with to take some of its extra prisoners.

What do they do first thing?

They bring those back. They bring them back from out of State, which

they are actually getting a good deal on the cost of keeping them in those out-of-State prisons. They actually brought them back home so they could crowd them even more and have even more to release.

Does that make an ounce of sense to anybody?

Crime is up in California because they are releasing more.

Under AB 109 called “realignment” it pushed more and more hardened criminals down to the county jail level, which means now the county jails have to deal with them when they have got more normal neighborhood crimes or even something up to the level of assault or stealing a car or things like that, there is no room for them.

□ 1830

They are releasing people. Normally, Madam Speaker, you would have a local county jail on their own recognition or on a small amount of bail or what have you. Now, they get rid of bail, as well.

They keep pushing the problem down, and now, we have chaos at the local level for what our sheriffs, jailers, and district attorneys have to deal with locally. It all starts at the top on this.

The crime wave we saw during the riots that one summer in Portland, Seattle, and Minneapolis—especially I want to underline Minneapolis here, where the Biden-Harris administration wants to claim crime is down—Madam Speaker, you saw KAMALA HARRIS actually advocating for people to send in money so they could bail out the people who were arrested for all the chaos, damage, vandalism, and burning of Minneapolis. Let’s chip in to help get them out, because she thought that was some form of justice.

In this campaign, she seems to want to run away from all that, changing her spots to some other, as a political chameleon would do.

There is no lack of crime. There is no lack of prisoners. My home State, again, is bringing the ones back from private or other prisons out of State to crowd ours even more and then closing down more and more prisons. Gavin Newsom has in mind closing down four more.

I keep telling people: It is not as if the population of our State and country are running out of bad guys. Our population of the State and our country increases anyway, so you think the number of prisoners and the number of criminals is going to increase probably commensurately with that, especially in these times when we are encouraging people to do it with lax laws.

We had AB109. We had Proposition 47 fooling the voters by saying it was somehow a safe neighborhoods, streets, and schools act. Indeed, it just lowered the level.

Then Proposition 57 came in, and it had some horrific crimes it made into misdemeanors or less, including some forms of date rape and things like that. It is horrific.

Those three things have helped put California in this mess, and a lot of times this body here tries to emulate what California does. Certainly, the White House does, bringing a lot of Californians in when they came into power. To emulate what California does isn’t good for the country.

What we have in California, for example, is to counteract a lot of Proposition 47. One currently on the ballot is called Proposition 36, which will restore some of the jail sentence lengths and some of the crime classifications back up to what really should be a penalty and doing other things that are going to tighten up the idea that crime is so far paying in California because they can walk away and get away with it.

We are seeing more and more people go into these markets, stores, and big-box stores. When they are catching somebody coming out, obviously with armloads of stuff they haven’t paid for—they are disguising themselves, et cetera—this is someone stealing. We are seeing more citizens stepping up and saying: No, I am not going to watch this happen.

They are detaining because the store won’t do it. I consider that kind of heroic actually, but some on the corporate level might say they shouldn’t do that because someone might get injured or whatever.

The buyers and consumers see that their prices go up because they can’t keep insurance anymore. They go into a large-box retailer and find everything is locked up. I don’t if it is this way all around the country, but the retailers, many of them in my home State, are locking up a whole bunch of the items.

Madam Speaker, you have to go ask the clerk to come open it up so you can get into the make-up counter or some of the medicine counter. I hear even socks and underwear in some cases are being locked up behind glass, or the tool section. We have to have people come help us get these items because it is going to walk out of there otherwise.

Crime is down? I don’t think so because we are seeing those effects.

Madam Speaker, you are seeing it in places like San Francisco, more and more corner markets and drugstores. They might have quite a few of a particular chain of drugstore in downtown, but they are closing several of them because of the rampant conditions of theft and other things going on in the city.

Why are they promoting this? Why are their city leaders allowing this? It is a mystery to me.

It does start at the top, and when we get the signal being sent from the White House and even Congress of soft on crime, then this is what the results are going to be.

Again, in my home State, voters have an opportunity with Proposition 36 to turn back that tide at least somewhat. Even the retailers were behind it there, which generally they are kind of afraid to upset the applecart in Sac-

ramento because of the three-to-one Democratic majority there, and they don’t want to make them mad.

So far, they are sticking with it, which is actually admirable, for a change.

Fentanyl and drug charges that have been made weaker during this time would actually be increased and put back in place in prop 36. We are not talking about the guy being caught with a little bit of marijuana that Kamala Harris has made famous. We are talking about serious drugs and serious amounts of them being dealt out there that is going to be curtailed, at least in part, by Proposition 36.

I hear it is polling quite well, and I hear Governor Newsom has given up on it, too. He went so far to say that with all the support for Proposition 36, because the people are speaking back with their initiative process, that they are tired of the crime and tired of the inaction by the government, he says: I don’t know what State I am in.

Well, Governor, I think I agree with you because I don’t know that you know what State you are in either.

It is pathetic, and he doesn’t seem to care much about neighborhoods and regular folks who have to deal with this stuff.

Lastly, this crime extends to our border, and we are talking about this Biden-Harris administration, the czar, Vice President HARRIS, allowing 530,000 illegal immigrants to be flown in on aircraft into our country and then turned loose because we can’t possibly process them.

Madam Speaker, they are ending up in your neighborhoods, and they are overwhelming some of these neighborhoods. They are overwhelming the school system. They are overwhelming the other services, hospitals and all that, because they are just flying them in for an unknown reason.

They will try to float themselves on the idea that they are helping refugees or something, but it is way beyond that, especially when we find, talking to the Border Patrol, that a high ratio of them is coming from China. These are likely going to be agents of China’s efforts to undermine the United States.

We are expecting also maybe another 800,000 of them are going to be attempted to be brought in by the HARRIS czar situation.

They get 2 years of the humanitarian parole and work permits, but they are not even tracked. They are completely blowing the idea of what asylum is as a temporary respite for people in a bad situation in another country. We are still sympathetic toward that, but there are no holds barred on how it is being abused, especially in this last 3½ years.

ICE officers are overwhelmed by the work they are having to do at the border and with the expectations of parole that they have to deal with. Madam Speaker, 8 million illegal immigrants have come into this country under this administration—8 million. That is

more than the size of several States, but they go on, push the Border Patrol out of the way, take their jobs, and really demean them. Morale is as low as it has ever been.

The last kicker on top of this is when the administration orders the Border Patrol agents to underreport, to skew the statistics, and to basically be forced into lies about how many people are coming in, especially those on the terrorist watch list.

We have a serious problem. People need to be brought up on charges for that, not the Border Patrol guys who are trying to execute their plan, but people in the administration who are telling them to lie about it. How pathetic. How deranged.

We have a lot of choices to be making in the next few months here. The American people are tired of the crime, and they are tired of the sieve at the border. They can make some very clear choices if they want to improve this.

In my home State of California, Proposition 36 will go that way, but also demanding from their politicians that they care about them, their communities, their storefronts, and their ability to do normal business like the United States used to until this administration has made such a farce of our borders and fighting crime.

Americans must pay attention this fall and ongoing.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I will quickly reiterate that I appreciate my colleagues for not only tonight but the last several months in communicating some of the reality that we see on the ground.

Policy matters. Policy leads directly to good or bad outcomes back home in our districts. We need to be recognizing what is going to create better outcomes and, if we have made mistakes, be willing to own it and move forward and find better ways to address the issues that our Nation faces.

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

HONORING KIMBERLY WYARD ON HER RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with deep gratitude to honor a remarkable woman and extraordinary leader, Kimberly Wyard, who is retiring after 50 years of service at Northeast Valley Health Corporation, NEVHC.

Kim's tireless dedication has transformed NEVHC into a lifeline for countless families and individuals, particularly those in our most vulnerable communities.

Kim joined NEVHC in 1974, just a year after the organization opened its

very first health center in the city of San Fernando. In the five decades since, her vision and leadership have guided NEVHC's growth to 18 health centers, providing over 300,000 medical, dental, and behavioral health visits every year, as well as nine WIC sites serving more than 38,000 participants.

What started as a single clinic has evolved into a vital network under Kim's unwavering commitment to providing care where it is needed most.

As CEO since 1996, Kim has embodied the spirit of service, ensuring that low-income families, immigrants, and underserved communities have access to quality healthcare. Her leadership, compassion, and relentless drive have changed lives by giving hope and health to those who might otherwise go without.

However, Kim's service wasn't limited to her role as CEO. She worked her way up from positions like director of the adolescent health program and clinic administrator, and she represented our community at the local and national levels, always advocating for more equitable healthcare access. Her heart has always been with the people she serves, and that love for her community has been the driving force behind any of NEVHC's success.

Today, as she steps into a well-earned retirement, I thank Kim Wyard on behalf of so many for her lifetime of service. She has built a legacy that will continue to enrich the lives of people in our community long after her work is done.

I thank Kim for everything she has done for the Northeast Valley Health Corporation and for the thousands of families whose lives she has touched. Her dedication, compassion, and leadership will forever be remembered.

When I was a little boy, my family—my 11 brothers and sisters, my mother, and my father—used to go to NEVHC. That is where we got our healthcare.

How the world turns and how it flows. I used to go visit NEVHC, and Kim was one of the people to receive me. Now that I am a Congressman and she has advocated not only for NEVHC but for healthcare for all, she has been someone who comes to my office to visit with me.

I am grateful for Kim. May she retire and have a wonderful future in whatever she chooses to do.

HONORING RICHARD ALATORRE

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, on this important day of Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise to honor my friend, my colleague, and a true pioneer of Latino empowerment, Richard Alatorre.

Richard Alatorre was born on May 15, 1943, in Boyle Heights, California, the son of Joe Alatorre, of El Paso, Texas, a repairman at a stove factory, and Mary Alatorre, of Arizona, a beautician. Richard and his sister, Cecilia, were brought up in East Los Angeles.

Richard found his passion for politics and civil service very early in his life when he was class president at Garfield

High School and volunteering on John F. Kennedy's Presidential campaign.

Richard would also volunteer for Leopold Sanchez, who became the first Latino judge elected in California.

Richard attended Cal State-Los Angeles, where he earned a B.A. degree in sociology. He would go on to earn his master's in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Richard was a man of many hats and roles. He was a professor at Cal State-Los Angeles and UC-Irvine. He taught night courses at the Federal prison on Terminal Island, and he was the western regional district director for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

During the 1968 Chicano walkouts and the 1970 moratorium, Richard fundraised bail money and advocated to the judges on behalf of the protesters who were arrested for a fairer bail arrangement.

□ 1845

What do all these roles have in common? Richard had a gift to uplift the voiceless and the defenseless.

Soon enough, Richard's community would see his ability and power grow, even more as he embarked on a career of elected public service. In 1972, at the age of 29, Richard Alatorre was elected to the California State Assembly, where he quickly moved up the ranks and became the Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means.

During his time in Sacramento, he fought for farmworkers' rights, increased educational opportunities for migrant families, childcare for children with special needs, and the desperately needed prison reforms.

Looking around the halls of Sacramento, Richard noticed that not a lot of people looked like him. He knew that the State's Latino community was immense, yet their representation in Sacramento was very minimal.

Richard cofounded and was the first chair of the California Latino Legislative Caucus, which at the time had only five members. Today, because of his vision, we can proudly say we have 37 Latino State assembly members and State senators in Sacramento, California.

He took it upon himself to increase Latino representation throughout all of California. When then-Speaker Willie Brown appointed Richard as chair of the 1980 election and reapportionment committee, Richard was able to gain an expertise on the Voting Rights Act. Richard set out to combat the discrimination in the halls of government, and he wanted to ensure Latino voices were heard through elected offices.

He was responsible in overseeing the reapportionment of California legislative and congressional districts. Today, the State of California has 15 Congressional Hispanic Caucus members in Washington, and this is attributed to the foundation Richard Alatorre built. Richard had the foresight to believe in

Latino representation, and he accomplished this in his own right.

In 1985, Richard Alatorre made history once again when he was elected to represent the 14th District in the Los Angeles City Council. He would be the first Latino in nearly a quarter century to be elected to the city council.

For his first task, he wanted to ensure there would be more Latino representation during the reapportionment process on the Los Angeles City Council. Richard Alatorre can be credited with increasing the number of two predominantly Latino districts that existed during his time, to the current five Latino district seats that the community has today.

In addition, Richard ensured that Black representation was also present during his time, and he worked to strengthen the three council districts for the Black community. His work extended beyond just diversifying elected positions and districts.

On the Los Angeles City Council, Alatorre was successful in diversifying the city's workforce, especially the Los Angeles fire and police departments, expanded city support for antigang programs, ensured Los Angeles County metro projects, such as the gold line, were started.

He mentored countless people, not just in the east side of Los Angeles, but throughout California and the United States. Richard's unvarnished manner in expressing himself represented the authenticity and passion needed to push for Latino families in these halls of power.

We unfortunately lost Richard last month on August 14, 2024. Richard was a man of the people. His funeral at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Los Angeles was attended by hundreds, from elected officials to businessowners, from members of academia to the working-class people from the east side he once proudly represented.

As it was said by one of his former staffers at his funeral service: "Richard didn't just see our potential, he nurtured it."

This is who Richard Alatorre was: someone who saw our people's potential and moved mountains to help reach our full promise. These are powerful words for a powerful man. Richard deserves our recognition and our eternal gratitude.

Assembly Member and Councilman Richard Alatorre is survived by his beautiful wife of 33 years, Angie; by their sons Derrick and Darrell; by their daughter Melinda; granddaughters Gabriela, Mariela, Daniela, and Kaycee; his sister, Cecilia; son-in-law, Patrick; daughter-in-law, Dayana; and his faithful Black Lab, Reggie.

Gracias, Richard Alatorre, for being a mentor, a teacher, and, most importantly, a friend to so many of us.

HONORING CHAMPIONS IN SERVICE

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of a great organization in my hometown of Pacoima, California, Champions in

Service, and honor them today as "valley fighters," "valley luchadores."

This organization is run by two incredible community leaders, whose tireless work has transformed countless lives in the San Fernando Valley and beyond, William "Blinky" Rodriguez and Bobby Arias. Together, they have embodied the essence of leadership and dedicated their lives to promoting peace, hope, and opportunity for the most vulnerable among us.

In 1990, tragedy struck Blinky Rodriguez' family when his 17-year-old son, Sonny, was killed in gang-related violence. Faced with this devastating loss, Blinky could have turned inward. Instead, he channeled his grief into a powerful mission of peace.

With unwavering faith and determination, Blinky helped broker the Valley Unity Peace Treaty, an agreement that significantly reduced gang violence in the San Fernando Valley, and he gained international recognition for it.

In the years that followed, Blinky teamed up with Bobby Arias, an athletic director and educator with a deep passion for helping young people. Together, they founded Champions in Service, an organization committed to preventing gang violence, fostering community engagement, and creating opportunities for those caught in cycles of violence and poverty.

Since 1993, Champions in Service has been a beacon of hope. Their street intervention team, made up of dedicated community intervention workers, is on the front lines of violence prevention. These individuals, many of whom have lived experience within the communities, mediate conflicts, reduce gang retaliation, and offer critical services, such as court advocacy, tattoo removal, and job assistance. These efforts have not only saved lives, but have given countless individuals a second chance.

The work of Champions in Service goes beyond street intervention. Their comprehensive reentry program supports formerly incarcerated individuals as they reintegrate into society, providing everything from housing and employment assistance to educational opportunities and expungement support. They offer mentorship, job readiness programs, and vital mental health services, all aimed at breaking the cycle of violence and incarceration.

Mr. Speaker, Bobby Arias, Blinky Rodriguez, and their entire staff are the very definition of Champions in Service. Their commitment to uplifting those who have been marginalized by poverty, addiction, and trauma is an inspiration.

They understand that every individual, no matter their past, deserves the chance to rewrite their future. Through their work, they have helped countless individuals turn away from violence and toward a path of hope, education, and empowerment.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I honor the juvenile justice work of Champions in Service.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ARMIDA ORNELAS

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary leader in education, Dr. Armida Ornelas, the president of the Los Angeles Mission College, as a "valley fighter," "valley luchadora."

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Ornelas has been a tireless advocate for educational equity, ensuring that community college students, particularly from disenfranchised communities, have access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed.

Dr. Ornelas' journey is a testament to the transformative power of education. Raised in east Los Angeles by immigrant parents from Jalisco, Mexico, she grew up understanding the value of hard work and perseverance.

A proud graduate of Garfield High School, Dr. Ornelas went on to pursue her undergraduate studies at UCLA, earning a double major in chicana and chicano studies and sociology.

She continued her academic journey with a master's degree in public policy studies from the University of Chicago and later earned her doctorate from UCLA School of Education.

Dr. Ornelas has had a successful and enduring career in Los Angeles' community college district. Dr. Ornelas served as a faculty member in political science and then served as the vice president of instruction at East Los Angeles College before becoming President at Los Angeles Mission College 3 years ago.

Dr. Ornelas' leadership at Los Angeles Mission College has been pivotal. Her vision for the college goes beyond providing quality instruction. She understands that education is a tool that can transform lives and uplift entire communities.

Under her guidance, the college has expanded its programs and services to ensure that students not only succeed academically, but are also prepared for the workforce and empowered to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Her dedication to economic and educational opportunities extends beyond the classroom. Dr. Ornelas serves on the boards of the Valley Economic Alliance and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, where she continues to champion initiatives that improve access to education and job opportunities for low-income and underrepresented individuals.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Armida Ornelas' work has touched the lives of countless students and families, giving them the tools to achieve their full potential. It is my honor to pay tribute to Dr. Ornelas for her tireless efforts in advancing education and recognize her as a "fighter," "luchadora" during this Hispanic Heritage Month.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHELLE FUENTES MIRANDA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an extraordinary community leader, advocate, and change-maker, Michelle Fuentes Miranda, as a "valley fighter," "valley luchadora."

As the founder and CEO of the Alliance for Community Empowerment, ACE, Michelle has dedicated over 30 years of her life to transforming the futures of at-risk youth and adults. Her unwavering commitment to justice, empowerment, and community building has made a profound impact not only in Los Angeles, but across California.

Michelle's story is one of resilience and dedication. As a granddaughter of migrant farmworkers who became successful businessowners and community leaders in California's Central Valley, she was inspired by her family's legacy of service.

She channeled that inspiration into her life's work, founding ACE in 2013 with a clear mission: to provide leadership development, education, and supportive services to high-barrier youth in some of the most underserved communities.

Through Michelle's visionary leadership, ACE has grown to become essential in the San Fernando Valley, offering programs that change lives. One of her hallmark achievements is the YouthBuild leadership development program, which provides opportunity for younger individuals with hands-on vocational training and support services.

ACE's innovative approach empowers young people to create meaningful change in their lives and their communities, breaking the cycles of poverty and violence that too often define their experiences.

In 2023, recognizing a growing gap in housing for formerly incarcerated individuals, Michelle launched House of RUTH, which stands for resilience, unity, transformation, and hope. It is a transitional reentry house that provides a fresh start for those reentering society after incarceration.

Her commitment to providing pathways to success for justice-impacted individuals through education, workforce development, and trauma-informed care has been a lifeline for many.

Madam Speaker, Michelle Fuentes Miranda is a tireless advocate for justice, and her impact reaches far beyond the walls of ACE. As vice chair of the Cares First Community Investment Council, she advises Los Angeles County on alternatives to incarceration. Her expertise is also sought on the California DOJ Reentry Roundtable, where she continues to shape policies that promote rehabilitation and community resilience.

Michelle's work has been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally. She has received numerous awards, including Woman of the Year in the 45th district of the California State Assembly, and the Human Rights Award from the California Association of Human Rights Organizations.

Madam Speaker, Michelle Fuentes Miranda has dedicated her life to lifting others up while continuing to inspire generations to come. It is my

honor to recognize her for her incredible community service during Hispanic Heritage Month.

□ 1900

HONORING TIA CHUCHA'S CENTRO CULTURAL AND BOOKSTORE

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a cultural gem in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural and Bookstore.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, it is fitting that we recognize the profound impact this institution has had on the arts, literacy, and cultural empowerment in our community.

For over 23 years, Tia Chucha's has been a transformative force, providing a space where ancestral knowledge and creative expression intersect to enrich lives and foster growth in my district.

Founded by renowned author Luis J. Rodriguez, cultural bearer Trini Rodriguez, and community activist Enrique Sanchez, Tia Chucha's emerged from a vision to address the neglect of a historically marginalized community. At a time when the Northeast Valley had no bookstores, art galleries, or cultural spaces, these three visionaries created a sanctuary for wellness, artistic expression, and empowerment.

Inspired by the spirit and creativity of Luis Rodriguez's aunt, Maria de Jesus, affectionately known as Tia Chucha, this center has become a home for artists, activists, and community members alike.

Tia Chucha's provides a wide range of free to low-cost programs, including visual arts, music, dance, creative writing, Mexica indigenous language and cosmology, healing arts, and more. Their intergenerational and bilingual programming is a lifeline for so many, offering opportunities to connect with culture, art, and community.

Tia Chucha's is more than a bookstore; it is a source of inspiration and transformation for many. Their independent bookstore and small cross-cultural press, Tia Chucha's Press, continues to promote social activism and amplify voices that have been historically marginalized. Their commitment to making culturally relevant books accessible, representing stories by people of color, and supporting local authors is nothing short of remarkable.

The mission of Tia Chucha's is deeply rooted in the belief that art and creativity are essential to the growth and healing of individuals and communities. By fostering a space where everyone can imagine, create, and express themselves, Tia Chucha's is improving the quality of life for future generations to come.

As we honor the legacy and ongoing contributions of Tia Chucha's during Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize that they are more than just a cultural center. They are Valley Luchadores for the arts, champions of social justice, and a testament to the power of creativity in bringing about positive change.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural and Bookstore on nearly 23 years of transformative work. I thank them for their continued dedication to the arts, literacy, and community empowerment.

HONORING LIFELONG LEADER AND ADVOCATE FOR COMMUNITY PROGRESS, RUBEN RODRIGUEZ

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong leader and advocate for community progress, Ruben Rodriguez, executive director of Pueblo y Salud, Inc., as a Valley Luchador.

Mr. Rodriguez has been a steadfast advocate for more than 32 years, working to improve the social conditions of the Northeast San Fernando Valley and beyond.

As the founding board president and current executive director of Pueblo y Salud, known affectionately as PyS, Mr. Rodriguez has been instrumental in shaping the organization's mission to address alcohol, drug, and tobacco abuse prevention, while also focusing on education and community strength.

Headquartered in the Northeast San Fernando Valley, PyS has become a guiding force for those seeking better health policies, grassroots involvement, and social justice.

Under his leadership, the organization has grown its reach, partnering with local hospitals and community organizations to tackle critical issues like COVID-19 mitigation, youth education, and environmental justice.

Mr. Rodriguez's work goes far beyond the walls of Pueblo y Salud. He has been a founding member of the Los Angeles Drug and Alcohol Policy Alliance and the California Alcohol Policy Alliance. His leadership in these coalitions has been vital in shaping alcohol and drug prevention policies throughout California. He has also served as a member and board president of Alcohol Justice, an organization dedicated to holding the alcohol industry accountable for its impacts on our communities.

In addition to his work in substance abuse prevention, Mr. Rodriguez has been an enduring advocate for social justice. He has spent decades fighting for better wages, equal access to education, Latino political representation, comprehensive immigration reform, and the removal of harmful substances from minority communities. His dedication to these issues has inspired countless individuals to join him in the fight for a more just and equitable society.

As a proud husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Mr. Rodriguez has also made it his personal mission to raise a family of social activists. His daughter, Celeste Rodriguez, has followed in his footsteps, serving as the mayor of the city of San Fernando, further extending the legacy of community service and leadership that Mr. Rodriguez has cultivated.

Madam Speaker, I have known Mr. Rodriguez since childhood and our families share decades of friendship. This

connection has only strengthened our commitment to advancing the well-being of the people of the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

As we honor Ruben Rodriguez during Hispanic Heritage Month, we recognize his lasting dedication to our community. His leadership at Pueblo y Salud, his advocacy for social justice, and his commitment to the health and well-being of our neighborhoods have earned him the title of a true Valley Luchador for community progress.

Madam Speaker, I, once again, thank Ruben Rodriguez for his tireless work and for motivating future generations. HONORING THE REMARKABLE SUCCESS STORY OF VALLARTA SUPERMARKETS AND THE GONZALEZ FAMILY

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable success story of Vallarta Supermarkets and the Gonzalez family, whose dedication and hard work have shaped this grocery store into a cornerstone of the Hispanic community throughout California.

The Vallarta family's story begins in Jalostotitlan, Jalisco, Mexico, where Enrique Gonzalez, Sr., and his four brothers grew up on a small farm. Raised with a strong work ethic and a deep sense of family, they immigrated to the United States in the 1960s, seeking the opportunities this country promised.

They worked in restaurants, from bussing tables to cooking, and saved every dollar they could with the hope of one day achieving the American Dream.

That dream began to take shape in 1985 when Enrique Sr. opened the first Vallarta Supermarket in Van Nuys, California. What started as a modest 1,000-square-foot *carniceria*, with a small staff and weekly sales of only about \$3,500, has since grown into a thriving supermarket chain with 53 supermarket locations across California and nearly 8,000 employees.

From the very beginning, Vallarta Supermarkets distinguished itself by offering fresh, authentic Latin foods, catering to the growing Hispanic community that was often overlooked by larger grocery chains.

The success of Vallarta Supermarkets reflects their family's commitment to service, integrity, and community. What began as a small family-run business is now a vital resource for thousands of families, offering not only groceries but also employment opportunities, career advancement, and community support.

The Gonzalez family never forgot their roots or the values that brought them here, and they continue to give back to the community they serve. Through charitable donations, school partnerships, and support for local organizations, Vallarta has become a pillar of empowerment for those they serve.

Madam Speaker, the Vallarta Supermarkets legacy is an inspiring testament to the strength of the Hispanic

community and the power of perseverance. As Vallarta Supermarkets approaches its 40th anniversary, the family's dedication to customer service and quality products remains unwavering. Their continued commitment to enriching the lives of those in their communities is a shining example of the American Dream in action.

It is with great pride that we honor the Gonzalez family and Vallarta Supermarkets as Valley Luchadores during Hispanic Heritage Month. Their journey is a reminder of the extraordinary contributions that Latino Americans have made and continue to make throughout our Nation.

HONORING JAMES ACEVEDO AS A VALLEY LUCHADOR

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and mentor, James Acevedo, as a Valley Luchador.

James Acevedo is a dedicated champion of civic engagement and a relentless advocate for the political and economic empowerment of Chicanos and Latinos.

Born in East Los Angeles to Elvira and Edward Acevedo in 1952, James grew up witnessing the deep socioeconomic disparities affecting his community.

From an early age, he recognized the need for Latino representation and empowerment, both politically and economically. His journey began in East Los Angeles College, where he met Cesar Chavez and became involved in the grape boycotts and the Chicano Moratorium, joining movements that protested both the Vietnam war and the social inequities facing Chicanos at home.

At Cal State Los Angeles, Mr. Acevedo continued his activism, becoming chair of MEChA, the *Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán*, where he organized events that brought together community members and Chicano leaders to celebrate their culture and push for progress.

His educational pursuits did not stop there. He went on to earn his master's degree and was selected for the prestigious CORO Fellowship in public affairs.

During his time at CORO, he further developed his leadership skills under the mentorship of political icons such as Gloria Molina and corporate leaders, all while continuing his graduate studies at USC.

Throughout his storied career, James Acevedo has left a legacy as a political strategist and consultant, playing a critical role in more than 100 successful campaigns across the Western United States. His work with figures such as Mayor Tom Bradley, Mayor Richard Riordan, then-Council President ALEX PADILLA, and many others helped shape the political landscape of Los Angeles and beyond, ensuring that Latino voices were heard and represented at every level of government.

In addition to his political work, Mr. Acevedo has also made significant con-

tributions to the healthcare field and real estate development. As CEO of American Health Care, he managed hospitals across southeastern Los Angeles and was appointed to President Clinton's Health Care Reform Initiative, advocating for better healthcare for the middle class. His leadership extended to the redevelopment of areas hardest hit by the 1994 earthquake, where he founded Neighborhood Empowerment and Economic Development to build affordable housing in the San Fernando Valley.

James Acevedo's civic engagement did not end with his professional achievements. He founded Grapevine Development, where he continues to develop commercial and multifamily projects across California, always advocating for community stakeholders to have a voice in the development of their neighborhoods.

James Acevedo has spent his life dedicated to creating opportunities for the Latino community, from his days organizing protests and voter outreach to his work as a political consultant and developer. His tireless commitment to civic engagement, social justice, and community empowerment has made him a true Valley Luchador for civic engagement.

Madam Speaker, I personally also thank James Acevedo for taking an entire 6 months to never accept my answer of: "No, I am not running for office." After 6 months of him approaching me and convincing me that I needed to be the first person from my community to be elected to high office, I went home to my wife, Norma—she didn't know any better—and she said: "Yes. Why don't you do that?"

Twenty-eight years later, I was able to achieve that opportunity then, in 1996, to be the first State assemblyman Latino to represent the San Fernando Valley and then to join the city council, along with my good friend, now United States Senator ALEX PADILLA, and now I get to serve for 12 years in the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I thank James Acevedo for not taking no for an answer. I thank him so much for helping so many of us to achieve what we did not see for ourselves, but what he saw in us to make sure that we can give back to our community. He deserves this recognition and much, much more.

HONORING XOLO MARIDUENA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Xolo Mariduená, a rising star and proud representative of the Latino community in the world of entertainment.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, it is crucial to recognize the trailblazers who are breaking barriers and inspiring future generations, and Xolo Mariduená is one such individual.

Through his talent, dedication, and commitment to representing his cultural heritage, Xolo has become a shining example of what it means to be a true Valley Luchador for entertainment.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, California, Xolo comes from a rich cultural background, with roots in Mexico, Cuba, and Ecuador.

□ 1915

His journey to stardom is a testament to the power of perseverance and the importance of authentic representation in the entertainment industry.

From an early age, Xolo embraced his heritage and the values instilled by his family, and he has used his platform to proudly showcase Latino culture in his work.

Xolo Mariduena first captured the public's attention with his role as Miguel Diaz in "Cobra Kai," the sequel series to the iconic "Karate Kid" films.

At just 16 years old, Xolo brought depth and nuance to the character, earning widespread praise and solidifying his place as a major talent in Hollywood.

His portrayal of Miguel, a young man navigating the challenges of life and martial arts, resonated with audiences worldwide, particularly within the Latino community.

In 2023, Xolo took his career to new heights with his leading role as Jaime Reyes in "Blue Beetle," marking the first time a Latino superhero has been featured in a live action film.

This role is a significant milestone for Latino representation in Hollywood, and Xolo has embraced it with pride, fully aware of the impact it has on young Latinos seeing themselves reflected in a superhero on the big screen.

His commitment to authenticity in portraying Jaime, a character deeply connected to his Mexican-American roots, brings a powerful cultural resonance to the film, showcasing the importance of family, tradition, and community.

Beyond his on-screen work, Xolo has ventured into music with the release of his debut single "On My Way" and cohosts the Lone Lobos podcast with fellow actor Jacob Bertrand.

His diverse talents and ventures speak to his passion for storytelling and connecting with audiences in multiple ways.

He continues to push boundaries and challenges the norms in the entertainment industry, showing that Latino stories and experiences are not only valid but essential.

Xolo's journey is one of inspiration for the next generation of Latino artists and actors. His ability to navigate the challenges of Hollywood while staying true to his roots is a testament to his character and resilience.

By embracing his cultural identity and using his platform to advocate for representation, Xolo is paving the way for a more inclusive and diverse entertainment landscape.

Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Xolo Mariduena as a Valley Luchador for Entertainment. His accomplishments as an actor, musician, and advocate for Latino represen-

tation makes him a source of pride for the entire Latino community.

We are excited to see what the future holds for Xolo as he continues to break barriers and inspire us all.

RECOGNIZING EVA LONGORIA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eva Longoria, a trailblazing Latina who has made indelible contributions to the world of entertainment, philanthropy, and advocacy as a Valley Luchadora.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, Eva Longoria grew up as the youngest of four daughters in a Tejano family. Her early life experiences in south Texas shaped her deep understanding of the socioeconomic disparities that Latinos face.

Longoria's pursuit of education led her to earn a bachelor of science in kinesiology from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and later a master's degree in Chicano studies from California State University Northridge in California.

Her academic journey reflects her deep commitment to understanding and advocating for the Latino community, especially Latina women in STEM careers.

Eva Longoria's breakout role as Gabrielle Solis on "Desperate Housewives" brought her international recognition, earning her multiple awards, including a Golden Globe nomination and multiple Screen Actors Guild awards, but her career in entertainment extends far beyond acting.

As a producer and director, she has used her platform to bring diverse stories to the forefront, most notably through her production company, UnbeliEVable, with an emphasis on Eva, Entertainment.

Her directorial debut with "Flamin' Hot" garnered critical acclaim and highlighted her versatility and skill in the industry.

In addition to her entertainment career, Ms. Longoria has been a successful businesswoman, launching her own fashion and perfume lines and co-owning Angel City FC, a national women's soccer league team.

Her influence reaches far beyond Hollywood as she continually advocates for more representation of Latinos in all sectors of society.

One of the most impressive aspects of Eva Longoria's career is her commitment to philanthropy. Through her Eva Longoria Foundation, she focuses on closing the educational gap for Latinas and supporting Latina entrepreneurs.

She is also the founder of Eva's Heroes, a not-for-profit organization that helps young adults with developmental disabilities, and she serves as a national spokesperson for PADRES Contra El Cancer. Her dedication to these causes has earned her the admiration and respect of communities across the country.

Beyond her work in the arts and business, Eva Longoria has played an instrumental role in persevering and

showcasing the rich history of Latino contributions to the United States.

In recognition of her commitment to promoting Latino heritage, she was appointed by President Obama as a commissioner to the National Museum of the American Latino Commission.

This prestigious appointment highlights her dedication to ensuring that the stories, artifacts, and experiences of Latinos over the past 500 years are preserved and shared with future generations.

The National Museum of the American Latino will provide a permanent home for the vibrant cultural legacy of Latinos, and Eva's involvement is a testament to her deep connection to her heritage and community.

Throughout her life, Eva Longoria has used her voice to advocate for issues that matter most to the Latino community, including immigration reform, voter engagement, and education.

She continues to be a beacon of strength and leadership, motivating countless Latinos to pursue their dreams and create lasting change for all.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Eva Longoria as a true Valley Luchadora for Entertainment. Her contributions to the arts, her unwavering dedication to philanthropy, and her advocacy for Latino empowerment have made her a symbol of pride and inspiration for the entire Latino community.

We are grateful for her continued efforts to uplift and transform lives through her work, and we look forward to all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING JESSICA ALANA SANCHEZ

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate and memorialize a fellow Californian who passed away recently at the young age of 38, Jessica Alana Sanchez.

Jessica was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Her family's first home was located about 1 mile from the international border with Mexico.

Her parents, Jose Luis Sanchez and Estela Mora, instilled in her a beautiful faith, the love of service, and a duty of working toward justice.

Her early life experience helped shape her world view. Her perspective was binational. She had family in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, and felt at home there as much as she did in El Paso.

Jessica was not constricted by physical walls or political boundaries. Rather, she was inspired by building bridges of understanding and by creating community.

Although she was a Texan through and through, she made her mark in California. Jessica dreamed of attending Stanford University.

Even though others cautioned her about the school's competitive admittance process, she was undeterred. In 2004 she applied and was accepted.

It was at Stanford University where she met the love of her life, Rolando

Manzo. After completing her undergraduate studies and internships at Stanford, Jessica and Rolando moved to Boston in 2009 where Jessica attended Boston University School of Law, graduating with a Juris Doctor degree in 2012.

In 2013, Jessica was admitted to the State bar of California. Her first job was with a corporate law firm, but she realized that her true calling would be to use her profession in service to others.

In 2016, Jessica began working for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles, otherwise known as CHIRLA.

There, she championed social justice and advocated on behalf of migrants and refugees. Her calling was public service, but her love and passion was her family.

As her professional career was taking off, Jessica and her husband, Rolando, embarked on their most important adventure, one that would give new meaning to their lives, becoming parents to Leila Itzel.

Sadly, in 2020, Jessica was diagnosed with cancer. For 4 years, she courageously battled. She didn't waste any time.

Jessica was constantly surrounded by those she loved most. She hugged and kissed her beloved daughter, Leila, every chance she got.

Jessica passed away on June 24, 2024. She was taken from us too soon. Yet, she left us with some important lessons: to live our lives in service to others and to take advantage of every waking moment we have with those we love.

Jessica Alana Sanchez is survived by her daughter, Leila Itzel Manzo; her husband, Rolando Manzo; her sister, Jacqueline Sanchez; her mother, Estela Mora; and her father, Jose Luis Sanchez.

I extend my deepest condolences to Jessica's loved ones. We will continue to keep them all in our prayers, and we will continue to honor her achievements and her legacy.

"Rest in peace, Jessica," "Descansa en paz."

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, today I have taken the opportunity to use the privilege and the honor that has been bestowed upon me by the voters of the 29th District of California to share stories and recognition of people in my district and people throughout California who have given so much of themselves.

Some of them have passed, and some of them are still with us, but one of the themes of today's recognitions is that they are all Latinos.

They are Latinos at heart but true American citizens, true Americans, people who give of themselves every single day and appreciate this country oh, so much.

It pains me to hear anyone in this great country cast aspersions upon people who appear to be immigrants or who are, in fact, immigrants.

The fact of the matter is that the United States of America was built on the backs of immigrants, some who were brought here against their will, and others who found this great country to be their new home because they were forced to leave their country for whatever atrocities, and in many cases, fleeing for their lives.

Asylum seekers, Madam Speaker, are people who come to some other place to seek the opportunity to live. That is what an asylum seeker is.

Today, on this planet, we have more people leaving their homes, leaving their home country to go to someplace where they hope and pray they can find safety and a new life.

The United States of America has been that beacon, that place where people from Europe, from Africa, from the Americas, from all over this planet, have always found the beautiful, open arms of Americans to say, welcome. It pains me to hear people say anything other than that, and they call themselves true Americans.

To me, the United States of America truly is at its best when we give of ourselves, and we welcome others to do the same, as best they can in their new life.

□ 1930

Not everybody who flees their country comes to the United States. Some do. Not every country welcomes them with open arms.

It is painful to me when I hear or see people call themselves real Americans and disparage people who come to this country to give of themselves, to give the best of themselves, and some people say you are not welcome. That is disgraceful. That is un-American.

Some people may look at me and assume that I wasn't born here. I was born here, and I am so proud to call myself an American citizen. Some people may look at my parents, who have now passed away, and look at them and hear their voice or their accent or hear them speak in Spanish and assume that they don't belong here. I am sorry. They came here. They belonged here, and they gave this country their best, just like millions and millions and millions of immigrants who have come to this country for centuries now.

It is my prerogative to share what I believe is true about our country. It is my prerogative to stand here in the well of the House of Representatives and speak the truth about our country and the truth about people who don't all look alike, people who don't all speak perfect English, and people who don't look like some people who believe that if you don't look like them, you don't belong here.

I say this because I hope and pray that that bigotry, that xenophobia stops. I pray that people learn to exude the best of themselves instead of spew-

ing hate and vitriolic words toward their neighbors, toward people who are here to give the best of themselves. Regardless of their country of origin, regardless of their accent, regardless of how well or not that they may speak English, they belong here. This is my country. This is their country. This country isn't just made for you. It is made for you and me.

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

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 9106. An act to direct the Director of the United States Secret Service to apply the same standards for determining the number of agents required to protect Presidents, Vice Presidents, and major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, and for other purposes.

H.R. 9747. An act making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 5009. An act to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 815. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

TAKE DEMOGRAPHICS SERIOUSLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, we have 30 minutes here, and I am trying to do sort of a wrap-up. As folks know, the House actually passed a continuing resolution. I personally wish we had battled it out and stayed and just tried to see if we could get the Senate to do some of the work.

I have been trying to find ways to get this place and the U.S. Senate, but also voters and, Heaven knows, the Presidential candidates to take seriously the demographics and what is going on in our country but also the world. We are not the only one.

I am going to bring, as I often do, the boards, but let's try to put this in a type of perspective. This article says that the world has now surpassed its record of debt. Believe it or not, it was during the Napoleonic wars that the amount of debt in the world actually skyrocketed.

Congratulations. Right now, I think world governments are \$312 trillion in debt. Why is that important?

Well, the burn rate of the United States, we are burning right now—remember, this is a fairly decent economy, and we are borrowing about \$70,000 a second, every day, \$70,000 a second. I am going to show you some boards to sort of walk through this.

Do you think there is this ocean of capital in the United States and around the world that is really excited to keep buying U.S. bonds and just keep buying them and keep buying them?

When you read the stories about how many Americans are struggling right now and struggling with their own debt, how much liquidity is there to keep consuming our bonds?

One of my pitches I keep trying to sell here is if we keep up what is going on right now, where we are borrowing in a good year a couple trillion dollars—we will borrow a couple trillion dollars this year—Congress has made the decision that those who will really run this government, those who really run this country will be called the bond market.

If you need to refinance, like we did this year, you are subject to the fragility of the bond market. This fiscal year we have refinanced about \$8 trillion and bring to market an additional 2, so you are basically sitting on \$10 trillion. That is not even counting the short term where it was a 30 day and 6 months, and those things that had to be rolled. Refinancing makes you subject to the fragility of the bond market and what interest rate and how much liquidity and how many idiots like me come behind these microphones and try to explain the world debt markets to you.

Take it seriously. It is not a game. The United States is now number 14 on the credit stack. That means there are 13 other countries today that can sell a 10-year bond cheaper than us. Greece today can sell a 10-year bond cheaper than the United States. Think about that.

I am starting to pick up the first warnings in some of the financial press. Now, this is sort of the deep bond articles and those things. When Moody's is starting to allow their people to leak out information saying, yes, last November we actually put the United States on a negative watch. Remember, we are still an AAA negative watch. That is what they did to us a year ago.

Stories are starting to circulate, if the United States doesn't look and act like we are taking our debt seriously, we are going to get a downgrade. Now, you go, well, who cares? You are the reserve currency.

Guess what? There are 13 other countries with better credit ratings than the United States. If you get the downgrade, if two of the three major rating agencies were to downgrade the United States and no longer it is all AAA, you know actually in our own statutes and

a number of State statutes, they wouldn't be allowed to buy U.S. sovereign debt.

Are you ready for the interest rate? The Federal Reserve starts lowering our interest rates. Actually have you noticed? Has anyone been paying attention? Just go on the bond market. Have you noticed that U.S. sovereigns aren't going down the way—I mean, the yield curve is starting to look normal again, semi-normal. Why aren't they going down? I am going to argue our voracious appetite for debt and consumption because this place won't tell you the truth.

Once again, I am going to do this a little bit backwards. For every dollar this year we take in, how much do we spend? Come on. Let's make this a play-at-home game. Figure in your own head: When we take in a dollar, what is spent? If you said \$1.39 for every dollar of tax receipts we take in, you would be right. You have got to understand, this will get dramatically worse in a decade because the Social Security trust fund will be depleted. Medicare part A covers, what, 38 or 40 percent of Medicare? The rest is really coming out of the general fund, which will be depleted. In 10 years, we will have 22, 23 percent of Americans 65 and up ready for their earned benefits, and we have got to figure out a way to finance it.

Let's sort of make a point here. I typically used to start with this board, trying to say: Do you see the blue area? This is defense. This is nondefense. That is what you, as a Member of Congress, get to vote on. Every dime you as a Member of Congress get to vote on is borrowed.

Understand, the borrowing is actually bigger than the blue here because that is 1.8 trillion. This year we are going to borrow \$2 trillion. If you want to put in the interest and money we are paying back to the trust fund, it is, what, 1.2 trillion, 1.3 trillion—\$2.3 trillion.

What that means is every dime of defense is borrowed, every dime of non-defense discretionary is borrowed, and let's call it \$400 billion of your favorite earned benefit. Let's call it Medicare because that is easy.

I know this place loves to come behind these mikes and speechify—I am going to cut so-and-so's salary because they are a crap administrator. Great. You just took an hour of our time that if we are borrowing \$70,000 a second, did you help us? We seem incapable of doing things that are serious. Hell, we are incapable of telling voters the truth.

This weekend, I had a wonderful woman come, if we would just get rid of foreign aid, we would be fine. Then you show her that every dime of foreign aid, where the money actually goes, is a week, a week and a half of borrowing at most, and that is every dime. Most of it is extra money that comes back because they buy our stuff. A week of borrowing. She just looked at me with these daggers because she

had a text message from someone she never knew basically telling her if you got rid of foreign aid, you could balance the budget. No, it is about a week.

Get rid of congressional salaries. I did this math. It is like six seconds of borrowing every day.

Please stop bathing in the clown show. This is for Members and staff and the public. We need to be educated. You need a well-educated electorate to pay attention because we are going to have to do some very difficult and complicated things.

If you think there is a simple solution—when every dime a Member of Congress votes on is borrowed, if you think that is a simple solution, it turns out you have got to revolutionize the cost of healthcare. You can disrupt it with technology, with other processes. You can adopt technology to crash the price of government. You are going to have a discussion about talent-based immigration.

Remember, in 15 years, the United States has more deaths than births. I believe we are about to have the fifth year in a row where prime-age males are dying younger. In the last six years, 390,000 Americans have died of fentanyl. It turns out next year, we might have a fentanyl vaccine. You go, oh, I don't like that. In 6 years, 390,000 people have died. You are not willing to deal with the moral imperative of saving our brothers and sisters? We need to think differently.

The fact of the matter is, you are living in a time of miracles. We can cure hepatitis C. We can cure hemophilia. There are things that are coming out, there is the Vertex experiments that look like they are about to cure type 1 diabetes. If diabetes is 33 percent of all U.S. healthcare spending, what is the morality but what is also the amazing economics if we would fixate in the farm bill, nutrition support in the way we deliver healthcare to get our brothers and sisters healthier?

It turns out the single biggest thing you can do for stabilizing U.S. debt is making America healthier. How many people have you heard come behind these microphones in the last year be willing to say that? You upset the lobbyists walking up and down the hallways that need people who are sick.

Look, we will do better, we are working hard on this chart. I swear if there was someone out there, if someone out there knows where I can find it, call my office, but we are trying to actually build a chart that shows all the outlays because I keep getting people saying, well, if you just cut this, cut that, and I am trying to show you, oh, that is great, you just got rid of 3 days of borrowing, 2 days of borrowing.

We actually did a little contest earlier in the year and we added up everything, and it was about 3 weeks. We published that. "Oh, it can't be," I was told that it is just waste and fraud or, as Democrats say, we don't tax rich people enough.

Once again, I have done multiple presentations on this. I have actually

brought the boards and did all that. Every tax that has truly been proposed—so it is written out—where you tax income, you tax capital gains all up and down for people \$400,000 and up, when you did the economic effects, you got 1½ percent of GDP.

If all discretionary is like \$860 billion, could you get rid of a quarter of it? Could you get rid of a third of it? Okay, let's pretend you can get \$300 billion of it. All the things we have truly talked about cutting, all the Democrats' tax hikes, all of our cuts, you get 2½ percent of GDP.

We are going to borrow in a good economic year. The reality is that tax receipts are pretty good this year. We are still going to borrow almost just a little less than 7 percent of GDP. Think of that. What the hell? Excuse me.

□ 1945

What happens if there is another pandemic? If there is a war? If there is a recession? We would barely have the capacity now to cover our current spending.

Part of the reason for a chart like this—and I know it is unreadable from a distance—but we have been trying to put in that the Department of Agriculture is 1 point, this energy program is 0.12, trying to basically explain that the theatrics of this place don't come close to adding up.

Mr. Speaker, 100 percent of borrowing from today through the next 30 years—this doesn't mean that you don't revolutionize government every way you can, but the big number says every dime of borrowing today through the next 30 years, 75 percent of it is healthcare, mostly Medicare. We got older.

In 9, 10 years, when the Social Security trust fund has been depleted, are we going to reach into the general fund and backfill it? How are we going to cover that? Are we going to allow the doubling of poverty of seniors in America? We already have a crisis right now of the number of senior baby boomers that are ending up on the street. This is really screwed up.

Yet, this place, when you say we engage in this theater—"Well, I am going to cut this program. I just got rid of 15 seconds of borrowing." Okay, maybe we should do that, but don't think you actually accomplished something because, in the time of that debate, we have often borrowed more than the debate would have saved.

Now for a couple of the punch lines. I am going to do this three or four ways because I am trying to get it to burn in.

Remember I was telling you for every \$1 we receive in taxation in the Federal Government, we spend \$1.39? Here is one of the punch lines you need to have burned into your consciousness: About 18 cents of that \$1.39 borrowing is just interest. What did the interest buy?

Look, there are some economists that say you put on interest, someone got a rate of return, so they are going

to spend it, but in many ways, it is not money that went to build a healthier military, dealt with poverty. It is going to continue to grow and continue to grow.

You try to help folks understand if we are borrowing \$1.39 for every \$1 we receive and then try to show a little dotted line here is basically—let's call it the break-even line.

If you are in the orange, that is mandatory spending. We don't get to vote on it. It is a formula, and many of those formulas haven't been looked at in decades. Do you see the blue? That is interest. That is a huge part of the growth, interest and that healthcare. See the gray up here? That is all discretionary. All we actually debate around here is a fraction of this gray.

You look at it and you get over here so even when you get away from the pandemic and start to look into the future—now, I don't know if you notice the tiny improvement right here in 2025. That is where we are still banking on no recession, no slowdown.

In '26, it will get also a tiny bit better because working people are going to pay about \$400 billion in additional taxes.

Remember, a whole portion of the 2017 tax reform expires and some of my friends who are running for office on the other side and made it clear they do not support anything from that tax reform in 2017. Just be prepared.

I have a higher income and very well-educated district. Look, I am blessed. We calculate it is an almost \$3,000 per family tax hike if we don't fix this next year.

This isn't a game. Can you imagine what the economic impacts are going to be if you do that to working people? Yet, you continue to show chart after chart.

I want to make a point. I have done presentations here where you show, here is years—75 years, here is years where we had very high marginal tax rates. We get about 17, 18 percent of the economy in taxes. Here is where we have had low marginal tax rates. We get about 17, 18 percent of the economy. Your solution, if you actually wanted facts in economics and not political rhetoric, is adopt regulatory policies, tax policies, trade policies that maximize economic growth.

Do you want more tax receipts? If you actually care about the debt, stop living in this fantasy that we are just going to tax rich people and that takes care of everything. If you look at some of these proposals, they have already spent the money three or four times.

I keep trying to present over and over that when you start to realize the amount of our spending, and by the end of the decade—think of this, 10 years from now, if you add in the debt, we will owe to the trust funds or what is left of them—we are at \$56 trillion. What happens if interest rates move against us? Remember, interest today is the second biggest expenditure in this government—Social Security and

then behind that is interest, then Medicare, then defense. Defense is now the fourth expenditure of this government. Social Security and then behind that is interest.

You try over and over. So you see right here 2024, '25, you see the little, tiny movement we get in '26 and a couple years after that? Boom. This here is because the tax hikes that are coming—they are already in statute. They are coming. It is not a vote. We are not going to take a vote and say we are going to raise these taxes. It is called tax expirations. It is already coming. It is math.

After 3, 4 years, you are back and the curve is back in. We don't want to tell the truth. It is demographics. Starting in 1990, we started having fewer children. Why can't we start to tell the truth that here is what we are going to do in our regulatory code, our tax code, to promote investments and things that make us more productive?

We are going to do things that actually close income inequality. Turns out, we have datasets that say the key driver to income inequality in America is actually health. Then think what we do in our nutrition policy, ag policy, other things. I mean, we are killing ourselves.

Mr. Speaker pro tempore, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GROTHMAN). The gentleman from Arizona has 9½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, for everyone's sanity, I promise to use only a couple minutes of it.

Mr. Speaker, this is 2024. We functionally are going to take in \$4,898,000,000,000. We are going to spend \$6,880,000,000,000. Anyone see the math problem?

Then, if you want to tell the truth about actual debt and actual budgets, where you actually say, okay, here is the interest we have to pay back to the Social Security trust fund, here is the Medicaid trust fund, the other things, you are functionally looking at a \$2 trillion, \$2.2 trillion deficit in a year that things are good.

The other point back to this board, how many Members of Congress will stand in front of you and say: Do you understand every dime—so like my friend, Mr. GREEN, and I get to vote on—every dime we vote on is borrowed.

When 14.1 percent of all Federal spending is just interest, it turns out the most powerful thing you and I can do to stabilize borrowing—I have done hours on this floor trying to present it. Am I just an idiot for trying? Showing debt can't come from tax hikes—okay. Fine. Do that, but it is marginal.

Many of the things we want to cut—I actually believe government is dramatically too big and too intrusive. Cut them. Unless you tell the truth about the primary drivers of U.S. debt, which is demographics, healthcare.

Are we going to change the rules so technology, so cures are moral? Fixate

on those things. Turns out, those are what you do to bend the debt curve. Yet, I will give this speech over and over, and maybe it just doesn't satiate the dopamine hits. Maybe it is just not trite and easy enough because it turns out doing some of this will be really hard, but it is doable. There is a path.

My 2-year-old is running around here somewhere. Yes, I have a 2-year-old and an 8-year-old, and my wife is exactly my age. Yes, I am pathologically optimistic. I always think that is funny.

My little boy, when he turns 21, 22, every tax in the United States has to be doubled. Every tax has to be doubled just to maintain baseline spending. Absolutely immoral what we are doing. We have set up the first generation in U.S. history to be poorer than their parents. Doesn't have to be that way, but this place needs revolution in the way it thinks because you can't keep being absolute dumb—you can't keep doing it the way we are doing it.

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

COMMEMORATING HISTORIC PRINCE HALL SLAVERY REMEM- BRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, and I am proud to stand before you tonight to speak about a historic event that took place here in the Nation's Capitol on August 10, 2024.

This event took place in the Capitol Visitor Center Auditorium, and it was an event that featured the Prince Hall Freemasons. I am going to present a proclamation commemorating the historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program with the theme: We are the dream and hope of the enslaved.

Before going through the proclamation, I would like to say just a few words about Prince Hall. I think that he is probably one of the most underrepresented, in the sense of being noted in history, most underrepresented persons who fought for freedom for the Africans who are in America and enslaved at the time. This is from PBS.

Prince Hall was a prominent African-American abolitionist and teacher in Boston's Free Black community during the American Revolution, most notably known for founding Prince Hall Freemasonry by establishing the first African Lodge of Masons in the United States, which allowed Black men to join the Masonic fraternity at a time when they were excluded from White lodges.

He actively advocated for civil rights and education for African Americans through his lodge and petitions to the government. The founder of Black Freemasonry, Hall is considered the

founder of Prince Hall Freemasonry, a branch of Freemasonry specifically for African-American men, which stemmed from his efforts to establish the African Lodge No. 1 in Boston.

□ 2000

As an abolitionist, he was a vocal advocate for the abolition of slavery and used his platform within the Masonic lodge to promote social change for the Black community. He petitioned for rights. Hall was one of the first to use the language of the Declaration of Independence to petition the Massachusetts legislature for the emancipation of enslaved people.

There is limited information about his early life. While his exact date of birth and place are uncertain it is believed that he was born around 1735 and gained his freedom in Boston.

Let me step aside from the article just to note that he was not born a free person. He became a free person, and he used his freedom to do all that he could to liberate others.

Prince Hall is recognized as a significant figure in African-American history for his efforts to create a space for Black men to organize and advocate for their rights within a predominantly White society. Hence, Prince Hall is mentioned on this day because he was the founder of the organization that cooperated and collaborated with me to have this Slavery Remembrance Day program with the theme: "We Are the Dream and Hope of the Enslaved."

The theme was chosen because we believed that on the day that we were there it should have been something very special not just to us but to all Americans because the very facility that we were in, some portions of it, this complex as it were, some portions of it were actually built by enslaved people. As a result we thought that at some point in their lives some of them dreamed and hoped that as free people, their ancestors, their descendants, their descendants would walk into the places that we have an opportunity now to walk in freely, and they hoped and dreamed that one day there would be enough freedom for us to advocate for the respect due them that they never received in life.

The dream and hope of the enslaved. I am a part of that dream, and I am proud to say I am also a Prince Hall Mason. This occurred, as I indicated, in the United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., on August 10, 2024.

This is the declaration that is a part of the proclamation commemorating the historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program.

"Declared: August 20th annually marks the observance of Slavery Remembrance Day, dedicated to the memory of those who suffered under the transatlantic slave trade and to acknowledge the enduring impact of slavery on our Nation;

"Declared: August 20th serves as a solemn reminder of the historical injustices of slavery and its lasting ef-

fects on the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the United States and aims to foster reflection, dialogue, and education to promote healing and reconciliation.

"Declared: The United States Congress, in recognizing the significance of Slavery Remembrance Day, resolved that it supports the designation of a 'Slavery Remembrance Day' to serve as a reminder of the evils of slavery, condemns slavery and its evil progenies and encourages all to acknowledge the importance of slavery remembrance.

"Declared: The Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc. (COGM), under the leadership of president Eugene Anderson, Jr., Vice President Jeffrey G. Jones, Executive Secretary Emanuel J. Stanley, and Executive Treasurer Kevin L. Bell, alongside the Sovereign Grand Commander Southern Jurisdiction Dr. Corey D. Hawkins, Sr., and Sovereign Grand Commander Northern Jurisdiction, Dr. Melvin J. Bazemore, the host Grand Master Glenn N. Ruffin and each of the 46 member jurisdictions of the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., namely"—and I shall now for the record have each jurisdiction mentioned—"MWPHGL-Alabama; MWPHGL-Alaska; MWPHGL-Alberta, Canada; MWPHGL-Arkansas; MWPHGL-Bahamas; MWPHGL-California; MWPHGL-Caribbean; MWPHGL-Colorado; MWPHGL-Connecticut; MWPHGL-Cote d'Ivoire; MWPHGL-Delaware; MWPHGL-D.C.; MWUGL-Florida; MWPHGL-Georgia; MWPHGL-Hawaii; MWPHGL; MWPHGL-Indiana; MWPHGL-Iowa; MWPHGL-Kansas; MWPHGL-Kentucky; MWPHGL-Liberia; MWPHGL-Maryland; MWPHGL-Massachusetts; MWPHGL-Michigan; MWPHGL-Minnesota; MWSGL-Mississippi; MWPHGL-Missouri; MWPHGL-Nebraska; MWPHGL-New Jersey; MWPHGL-New Mexico; MWPHGL-New York; MWPHGL-Nevada; MWPHGL-North Carolina; MWPHGL-Ohio; MWPHGL-Oklahoma; MWPHGL-Ontario, Canada; MWPHGL-Oregon; MWPHGL-Pennsylvania; MWPHGL-Rhode Island; MWPHGL-South Carolina; MWPHGL-Tennessee; MWPHGL-Texas; MWPHGL-Virginia; MWPHGL-Washington; MWPHGL-West Virginia; MWPHGL-Wisconsin. . . ."

These are the jurisdictions referenced in this commemoration document.

"Declared: The collaboration between the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., the United States Supreme Councils, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern and Northern Jurisdictions Prince Hall Affiliation (PHA), and Texas Prince Hall Mason and the progenitor of Slavery Remembrance Day, Congressman AL GREEN, in organizing the Historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program underscores the importance of partnership in addressing historical wrongs and fostering communal unity;

PROCLAMATIONS OF COMMEMORATION

“Proclaimed: That the United States House of Representatives, having recognized August 20th as Slavery Remembrance Day—we the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., the United Supreme Councils, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern and Northern Jurisdictions Prince Hall Affiliation (PHA), and Progenitor/Congressman AL GREEN hereby commemorate the Historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program on this day, August 10, 2024, and reaffirm our dedication to commemorating the memory of those who suffered under slavery by; educating future generations, as well as promoting social justice and equity;

“Faithfully Proclaimed: That this be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the archives of the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., the United Supreme Council Southern Jurisdiction PHA, the United Supreme Council Northern Jurisdiction PHA, and each of the 46 member jurisdictions that comprise the Conference of Grand Masters Prince Hall Masons, Inc., as a testament to the enduring significance of Slavery Remembrance Day and as a pledge to continue Slavery Remembrance Day programs annually on or near August 20th in the pursuit of truth, reconciliation, and equality for all.”

This document is also a part of the archives for my office. I have concluded that it is important for us to maintain records, something that has not been done, generally speaking, for African Americans, and as a result, much of our history has been either lost, ignored, or simply discounted.

This is important to people of African ancestry. This date, August 20th, is the date that the White Lion docked in the area known as Norfolk, Virginia, now in 1619 and the White Lion had the first 20 persons of African ancestry that were enslaved in the colonies.

This was a seminal moment in history in the life of this country because that moment has impacted all of the time since that time up to this very second in time. But we have not acknowledged properly the persons who were enslaved. We have not acknowledged them some more than 10 million. Estimates reached as high as 12 million. We have not acknowledged them for what they did to help develop and build this country.

□ 2015

They were the persons who planted the seeds and harvested the crops; they fed the Nation. They built the roads and bridges, and they helped to construct the Capitol and the White House. They literally were sacrificed for some 246 years, but they have not been given the recognition that many others who have been recognized and not sacrificed for nearly as long and who have suffered much less but were still honored.

There will be a day, hopefully within my lifetime, when I will stand here and

say that these economic foundational mothers and fathers of the country, I say economic foundational mothers and fathers because literally they gave our country that I love, our country, the United States of America now, a head start in that it had 246 years of free labor, saving what it cost to manage and care for the people who were sacrificed.

I hope that one day in my lifetime I will be able to stand here and say that our country now recognizes the sacrifices that were made.

In 1956 we recognized the Confederate soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal. It just seems to me that if we can recognize Confederate soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal, then surely we can recognize the enslaved. However, not so.

Unfortunately, there are people who prefer not to recall slavery. They prefer to give it a new title. There are some who would call it involuntary relocation. It was more than involuntary relocation, Madam Speaker. It was 246 years of sacrifice.

My desire is to see the day, in fact, I live today to live to see the day, that my ancestors, who were sacrificed to make America great, receive a Congressional Gold Medal.

I would hope that we would, by and through the President, present them with a Presidential Medal of Freedom. It is something that has been accorded a good many people. I am not suggesting that we deny anybody anything that they have received, but I am saying that there are people who are deserving who have not received similar recognition. I live today to live to see the day that this will occur.

Finally, I thank the members of the Masonic order for joining with me to have this first Historic Prince Hall Slavery Remembrance Day program here in the Nation's Capitol. Next year, we will have the second historic program, and we hope to continue to do this each year until we have accomplished the recognition that our ancestors deserve, and then beyond it, to make sure that future generations will know that the greatness of America includes people whose lives were sacrificed these 246 years.

I am grateful to the men of the Prince Hall Masonic order. They have made a pledge to be here next year in the month of August. I have made a pledge to be with them, and next year we hope to have the auditorium with standing room only. We believe that we will have at least enough to fill all the seats and then have the overflow areas consumed as well.

Our goal in terms of producing this annual event is to eventually have it in Emancipation Hall. What a wonderful thing, to have Slavery Remembrance Day in Emancipation Hall. We are not there yet, but the appeal is being made to have it happen.

So I thank all of the persons who have made this program possible. I have mentioned the men of the Ma-

sonic order, but there were others. The leadership in the House and the leadership in the Senate have granted permission for us to have use of the facility. I thank the leadership. There were persons associated with the technology necessary to produce the program, I thank them. We had persons there to take photographs so that we can have within our archives actual representations of who the people were and how they were dressed in their regalia. The men of the Masonic order had on their regalia, and then the Eastern Stars were there as well.

I thank the people who helped us promote the program to get the word out. It is not easy to get the word out about Slavery Remembrance Day. It is more difficult than one might think, but there were people who helped us, and we did have a good representation.

Finally, I am wanting to just say thank you for giving me the strength to continue with this effort. I thank the creator of all of creation for the strength I have been given. I plan to use this strength to my very last breath to bring justice to the some 12 million people who suffered for 246 years to make America great.

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

FEDERAL BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, there are several things that we ought to be commenting on here.

Earlier this week, the House passed the Senate companion to my legislation, the Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act. This important piece of legislation will improve the ability of the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, to carry out its responsibilities to the legislative branch and, by extension, to the American people.

Under current law, the Budget Act authorized the CBO to collect information and data directly from Federal agencies. This data is critical as it allows the CBO to perform accurate and timely analysis and propose legislation, including calculating the cost of bills and assessing their long-term fiscal impact on our Federal budget.

CBO's role in providing this budgetary and economic analysis is fundamental to informed decisionmaking in Congress, particularly as we tackle the challenges of fiscal discipline and responsible spending that the Congressman spoke about from this dais about one-half hour ago.

However, despite the statutory authorization for CBO to access agency data, we have seen far too many instances where Federal agencies delay or restrict the CBO's access to the information necessary to perform its duties. Such delays and limitations can significantly hamper the CBO's ability to

produce accurate cost estimates or deliver reports in a timely manner.

This results in inefficient legislative processes and, ultimately worse, undermines our ability to make well-informed decisions for the American public.

One of the primary reasons that agencies limit or delay provision of data to the CBO is the Privacy Act, which governs how agencies manage and share personal data. Currently the Privacy Act represents a significant obstacle for the CBO, even though it is already authorized to handle the same data under stringent confidentiality requirements.

The CBO Data Access Act addresses the problem by granting the CBO the same Privacy Act exemptions already extended to other legislative branch entities such as the Government Accountability Office and Congress itself.

Let me emphasize: this bill does not diminish the protections in place for sensitive information. CBO will remain subject to the same rigorous confidentiality standards as the agencies providing the data.

By extending this exemption, we are simply ensuring that the CBO's authority is brought in line with that of other legislative branch entities and that it has the data access it needs to continue providing high-quality, independent, nonpartisan analysis to Congress.

Furthermore, the need for the CBO to have timely access to data is especially pressing in today's legislative environment.

Congress is tasked with evaluating the budgetary impact of increasingly complex policies, whether it be in healthcare, infrastructure, national defense, or tax reform. These areas require detailed analysis, and without access to accurate, comprehensive, and timely data from other Federal agencies, the CBO could not fulfill its role.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to have introduced the House version of the CBO Data Access Act along with my colleague, Representative MFUME. I would also like to thank Senators PETERS and COLLINS for their work on this legislation. This bicameral and bipartisan effort demonstrates the shared recognition across party lines of the importance of ensuring the CBO has the tools it needs to provide Congress with the best data available.

THE SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to discuss a few of the issues that the press should be covering in the next 6 weeks leading up to the election but probably will not.

The first one, one more time, is the border. We are waiting right now for the results to come in from the number of people who have crossed the border in August.

However, we already know, despite what we hear from other people, that we have an all-time record number of people crossing into the southwest border in the first 11 months of the year

compared to any year previously. That is 2.7 million people in 11 months.

This is a dramatic increase not only over past years but over prior administrations.

Before COVID, it was not unusual under the Trump administration to have 11,000 people cross the border, that is the difference between 11,000 and what worked its way up to 350,000. We had 243,000 this February, and even after the Biden administration weighed in and are bragging about something they finally did as we headed into the election, we were still at 154,000 in August, way more than what we saw, say, in a month in 2020 before COVID of 11,000. So we are already in the 15-times increase.

The cost of this is, of course, monetarily high, although that is not the major concern, but whether it is paying for schools, paying for medical treatment, or paying for housing for people who right now do not have a job to pay for themselves is huge.

At a time when the budget is so wildly out of whack and we are going so wildly, deeply into debt, the idea of having such a huge cost put upon us is intolerable.

Not only that, this open-borders policy which continues is resulting in the loss of life of about 100,000 people every year from fentanyl. That is before we get into the number of people who died crossing the border, be it drowning in the Rio Grande, drowning in the Pacific Ocean, or dehydrating in the Arizona desert, and before we talk about the huge number of sexual assaults that are taking place on women who try to cross the southern border because the southern border today is controlled by the brutal Mexican drug cartels.

We had a hearing on this topic earlier today, and some members of the Democratic Party, and sometimes they confuse the public on this, wonder what other way, why don't we solve the problem and find a way to let these people come in the country?

What they are not telling you, Madam Speaker, is every year in this country, 850,000 people approximately are sworn in as new American citizens, 850,000. Historically, if you break it down into 3-year increments, and it goes up and down by year, but if you break it down into 3-year increments, that is right now at the all-time high. Nobody should get confused and think there is no way to come into this country legally or no way to become a citizen legally. Every year 850,000 people find a way to come into this country legally.

□ 2030

This dwarfs, by the way, the number of people who are coming here, say, in the 1950s or 1960s, when I was growing up. We are doing more than our share of allowing people to come into our country.

I encourage the press to dig into these numbers, to publicize the new an-

nual number that is going to be released sometime in September. I hope we also do a good job of publicizing the huge number of people who are dying because of drugs at the border.

I think one way for the American people to understand it is that, every year in this country, about twice as many people die from illegal drugs as died in 12 years in Vietnam. If you are like me and can remember the Vietnam war, you remember all the protests, all the coverage in Newsweek and Time magazine about the huge number of Americans dying there, every year in this country, twice as many people die of illegal drug abuse as died in 12 years in Vietnam.

By the way, when I talk about this, the number of people crossing the border, I should remind Americans that our enemies—and we always pass a large defense budget here and prepare for a military war—Nikita Khrushchev, the Russian President in the early 1960s and late 1950s, said that he was going to take over and conquer America. He still, I think, spoke for his successors as being a Socialist leader in the world at that time.

I mention that because I think there are several ways in which we can lose our country that does not involve being attacked by the military, and one of those is at the border.

Obviously new people are coming here who do not necessarily understand our Constitution, have bought into our culture. It is the reason why we are generous and let more people here, but we cannot let unlimited people here. That would be the end of the United States as we know it.

The second way that I think our enemies are able to cause the United States to collapse is the crisis of the family. In the middle 1960s, there were—I believe it is the 1960s, I don't think the 1950s—about 5 percent of the births in the country were to a woman who did not have a husband at home.

That slowly worked its way up to 40 percent after what, in my opinion, was the worst President in this country's history, Lyndon Johnson, started the Great Society in which he bribed women to have children out of wedlock and gave them things, some very costly, provided they didn't marry a man with a job.

You can go through many programs. There are about 78 programs that are handed out with a significant marriage penalty. In other words, it is very difficult to get it if a woman is married to a guy with an income, easy to get if she does not have much of an income—be it low-income housing, be it SNAP, be it the earned-income tax credit, be it the WIC, be it the SSDI, be it the Medicaid program, be it the Pell grants, be it the daycare. You can easily get hypotheticals, and it varies from person to person, of up to \$30,000 a year in bribes not to get married.

This, of course, is the dream of the hard left. For whatever reason, Marxism holds a sway over a lot of people in

academia. This is something the Marxists would want. The breakdown of the American family is something that the feminists have wanted, particularly in the 1960s. It is something that Angela Davis, who was a large Black militant, wanted. It is something that the Marxists who founded Black Lives Matter wanted.

They wanted to break down what they refer to as the Western-prescribed nuclear family. Of course, we had nuclear families all over the world. That, by itself, is a very racist statement, but the thing the American people ought to remember about this is there have been people who wanted to destroy the family for the last 200-plus years.

It actually goes back before Marx. It includes the people who participated in the horrid French Revolution. They all wanted a world free of God, free of commandments in the Bible, and they felt it would be a lot more fun to live life if they didn't have any marital obligations.

It is not surprising, in the crowning achievement of the left in my lifetime, the Great Society, that that program was designed to clearly bribe people not to get married.

It is not a surprise that, in his current budget, President Biden is putting more moneys in these programs. By putting more money in the program, he wants to increase the incentive not to be married.

I am going to direct people to one author, which I think is why I came to realize that the Great Society and the current American welfare system was almost, by design, trying to destroy the family. There is an author by the name of George Gilder, a great guy who is still alive.

George Gilder did studies as long back as the 1970s, and he followed people around in low-income areas, and what he found surprised him. When a young girl who wasn't married got pregnant, he had thought, like throughout most of history, that was cause of concern, that we better get married, that we have to scramble and get money to support her.

Instead, what he found, in certain areas where there wasn't a lot of money in the first place, it was a sign for glee because the woman and her boyfriend went around from office to office getting the then-called food stamps, getting the low-income housing, getting the WIC, getting the predecessor of the Medicaid. All of a sudden, they had it made in the shade because she got pregnant out of wedlock.

Hence, George Gilder pointed out, first of all, that this was bad for the child. He also pointed out something I wouldn't have thought about on my own. It was bad for the men because usually man's purpose in life is to take care of his family. If the government is going to weigh in and give all of these things to a woman and her child, it kind of takes away the purpose of a guy working, so they don't have a purpose in life.

In any event, I think the overly generous Great Society programs have led to the breakdown in the family, and they are one more example of what Nikita Khrushchev talked about, that being that they will cause America to collapse from within as we pay people to raise children not in the traditional, nuclear family environment.

There is a third way that I hope the press would begin to cover in which we are trying to chip away at America. It was actually touched upon briefly by the Democrats, of all people, though I don't think they realized what they were saying in a committee that I was at earlier this week.

Beginning in 1965, also under Lyndon Johnson, they began to create racial preferences in this country, and sexual preferences. At the time, the so-called minority population was much smaller than it is now. Nevertheless, they began to categorize people by where their great-great-great-great-grandparents lived, and we had Black Americans and Hispanic Americans and Pacific Islander Americans and Native Americans and Asian Americans. Recently, we have added to the bunch under the Biden administration because we want everybody to think of themselves as a hyphenated group, the Middle Eastern and North African Americans.

The Supreme Court has struck down college admissions, but they have turned every hiring decision in a company that does a decent amount of business with the Federal Government and every contracting decision into a decision not based on merit, but a decision based on race.

This is one way to destroy America. America has done such a good job under its first 200 years of causing people to view themselves as individuals, as Americans. The hard left, doing all they can, is trying to get Americans to view themselves as a small subgroup, and not only view themselves as a subgroup, but to ask for something on behalf of that subgroup.

I recently read a book about this topic, and the rationale for this is what I had feared it was all along, but this was laid out in the book. There was an important Communist sort of person, Socialist person by the name of Herbert Marcuse, who had a great deal of power over the radical—the radicals of the 1960s. Of course, at the time, in the 1960s and early 1970s, it was the goal of these radicals to destroy the United States.

They had hoped to destroy the United States by breaking the United States into the wealthy versus the average guy. They thought the average guy would spring up, declare war on the wealthy, and we would sink the United States. That, of course, didn't happen.

America is a deeply religious country, which I think is one reason why the hard left hasn't succeeded in taking over America. America is also not the type of country who is jealous be-

cause somebody has a mansion or something. They failed. This kind of made Herbert Marcuse unhappy, and it made his disciples in Europe and the United States unhappy.

At the time, he laid out a plan to weaken the United States and take over the United States, and that is he was going to set one racial group against the other racial group. He felt that is how we could destroy America and eventually cause it to break down.

That is exactly what is going on today. They have succeeded in persuading even ethnic groups here sometimes to take advantage of set-asides based on background. It is particularly unusual when you look at all the subgroups in this country that are actually doing much better than the Americans who were here all along, Indian Americans, Chinese American, Filipino Americans, Cuban Americans, all doing better than the Native-born Americans, but never the left because they want to divide America and destroy America, these people have been told that we have a horrible country and they need the government to help them, and we will see what we can do to help them.

This is surely another way to try to destroy America, and the American public should know it is not just GLENN GROTHMAN saying it. Herbert Marcuse, well-known Communist from the 1960s and 1970s, himself laid out this racial identification as a way to destroy America.

I have some questions that perhaps the press should look into but don't. In so far as they don't tell the real reason for these preferences, which is to destroy America, they say we are giving these preferences to make up for past prejudice or for current prejudice in our country. Like I said, I don't think it makes a lot of sense because the immigrant groups or many immigrant groups are perceived or succeed largely beyond what the Native-born do.

In any event, I think we ought to have a discussion. In order to get preferences, should you be born in America, or should you have to be born in America, or can you come here, say, straight from the Gaza Strip, come to the United States because of some family preference, and immediately be given preferences in government contracting or government hiring?

Is there a requirement for an individual to be considered a member of a group? Should it be ½, should it be ¼, should it be ⅓? Right now, you self-identify, and how that works out as a practical matter is something that should be discussed. Should we distinguish an immigrant between people who just show up here or have been here over a period of years?

I think it is odd, but one of the things that is true is, right now, if you are born in Spain, you are considered European and not eligible for preferences, but if your ancestors came from Spain and spent a few generations in Cuba, you are considered a person

who is a victim of prejudice and gets preferences.

In any event, this is another way that I think we are chipping away at America.

□ 2045

There are two more ways that I think our enemies from within are trying to chip away at the United States and destroy it.

One is their attack on law enforcement. President Biden was an expert at standing in this Chamber and implying that the police, law enforcement of this country, was racist.

So many studies have been done showing that is not true, but if you are a hard left-winger and want to divide America, I suppose you could make up stories and say that. Because maybe one group is more in prison than another group, it must be because of racism. You should walk around with a chip on your shoulder, and you should blame your plight not on what you have done but on racism.

I think it is important that the studies that are out there showing there is not a racist problem with police in this country should be disseminated, so that when it is implied to young people in college or young people in high school that they should disrespect the police because of all this prejudice, the young people have the ammunition to ignore what their teacher or college professor is telling them.

The final thing that I think is going on that is weakening America is this transgender revolution. In August, like many Congressmen, I spent it in my district and rang some doorbells. There were two doorbells that were particularly disappointing to me and heart-breaking.

In both cases, the door was answered by a grandma, and in both cases, the grandma—seems a strange thing to tell her Congressman—was upset because, in one case, a granddaughter and, in one case, a grandson had gone down the transgender route.

Studies will show that the vast number of people here are going to back out of this lifestyle, but today, our government is doing what they can to try to normalize this lifestyle. I think some of these people are going to go down the path of being transgender their whole life, but some may go down 10 or 15 years. They may never have children of their own, and I really felt sorry for the grandparents whose, I think, children were victims of this transgender ideology.

For one, it was her only grandchild, and of course, it is not surprising where it comes from. At least some of it comes from the fact that the current administration is threatening to withhold funds from local school districts unless they go all in and have to allow like transgender boys into the girls' bathroom and such. In other words, they are trying to normalize transgenderism.

If you read a little bit about the history of feminism, this is what the ex-

treme feminists want. They want no difference at all between men and women, and what would be a better way to get their utopia than have boys become girls and girls become boys.

In any event, it is disappointing to see that the current administration is pushing people into this lifestyle, and at least from what I have seen from meetings I have held in this building, you are going to wind up with a lot of very unhappy people who didn't have to be that unhappy.

In any event, these are five ways I think the hard left is trying to chip away at our great country, and I hope these are things that the press corps publicizes over the next couple of months as we head into this election.

They should talk more about what is going on at the southern border, with record numbers of people flowing here.

They should talk more about the continued push to provide material benefits that will cause less families to have both a mother and father at home.

We should talk more about this attack on law enforcement and publicize studies showing that law enforcement is not racist.

We should talk more about this revolution that would have been unheard of when I was a child, this transgender thing, which is causing people to adapt a lifestyle which is a very sad lifestyle. It will obviously, in many cases, result in people not having children.

We should talk a little bit more about this artificial racial divide that the left seems so determined to push on the American public. Again, I mentioned all the subgroups. The Biden administration this year has added another group, Middle Eastern and North Africans, even though people from Iran are doing fantastically well in this country. There is no evidence of prejudice, but the Biden administration still wants to add more people to the heap because, in part, they want to give something to people to buy their votes, but in part, they want to create more division.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, September 27, 2024.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, September 27, 2024, at 10 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-5457. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Semi-Annual report to Congress on

the Joint Safety Council, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 185(c)(1)(B)(v); Added by Public Law 117-81, div. A, title III, Sec. 372(a); (135 Stat. 1664); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5458. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting an Audit of the Exchange Stabilization Fund's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2023 and 2022, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 5302(c)(2); Jan. 30, 1934, ch. 6, Sec. 10 (as amended by Public Law 97-258, Sec. 5302(c)(2)); (96 Stat. 994); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5459. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to India, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-5460. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5461. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5462. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination under Sec. 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5463. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT Case 24-10407, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d)(3) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-5464. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's FY 2023 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-5465. A letter from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting five notifications of a vacancy, a designation of acting officer, a nomination, and a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-5466. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2019-2020 Commercial Trip Limit Reduction for Spanish Mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone [Docket No.: 140819687-5583-02; RTID 0648-XS020] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5467. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2019-2020 Commercial Trip Limit Reduction for Spanish Mackerel in the Atlantic Southern Zone [Docket No.: 140819687-5583-02] (RTID: 0648-XS022) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5468. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 180831813-9170-02; RTID 0648-XY057] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5469. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 180713633-9174-02; RTID 0648-XY061] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5470. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 180713633-9174-02] (RTID 0648-XY017) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5471. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2020 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts [Docket No.: 180831813-9170-02; RTID 0648-XY058] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5472. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of quota transfer — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From VA to NY [Docket No.: 190312234-9412-01] (RTID 0648-XX036) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5473. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Closure of the Regular B Days-at-Sea Program for the Remainder of Fishing Year 2019 [Docket No.: 151211999-6343-02; RTID 0648-XX021] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5474. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, Na-

tional Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Inseason Adjustment to the Southern Red Hake Possession Limit [Docket No.: 180209147-8509-02; RTID 0648-XX039] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5475. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2019 Commercial and Recreational Accountability Measure and Closures for Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper [Docket No.: 100217097-1757-02; RTID 0648-XS019] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5476. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; 2024 Specifications and Management Measures; Correction [Docket No.: 240621-0173] (RIN: 0648-BM47) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5477. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Federal Salmon Regulations for Overfished Species Rebuilding Plans [Docket No.: 240425-0119] (RIN: 0648-BM53) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5478. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Greater Amberjack Emergency Management Measures [Docket No.: 231212-0300] (RIN: 0648-BM73) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5479. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From NC to NY [Docket No.: 221223-0282; RTID 0648-XD616] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5480. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From MA to RI [Docket No.: 221223-0282; RTID 0648-XD611] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5481. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable

Fisheries, NMFS, 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 September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5482. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Bluefin Tuna General Category Effort Controls and Related Regulations [Docket No.: 240522-0143] (RIN: 0648-BM66) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5483. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Golden Crab Fishery of the South Atlantic Region; Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic; Acceptable Biological Catch Control Rules [Docket No.: 231222-0315] (RIN: 0648-BL98) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5484. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Island Fisheries; Annual Catch Limit and Accountability Measure for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Bottomfish in 2024-2025 [Docket No.: 240725-0204] (RIN: 0648-BM76) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5485. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Dusky Rockfish in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 240227-0061; RTID 0648-XE006] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5486. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries off West Coast States; Tribal Usual and Accustomed Fishing Areas [Docket No.: 240716-0196] (RIN: 0648-BN09) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5487. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2024 Commercial Accountability Measure and Catch Limit Reduction for Gag in the South Atlantic [Docket No.: 140819686-5999-02; RTID 0648-XD760] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5488. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's inseason modification of 2023-2024 management measures — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Modification of the West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Actions #32 Through #35 [Docket No.: 230508-0124; RTID 0648-XD952] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5489. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Cook Inlet Salmon; Amendment 16; Correction [Docket No.: 240417-0111] (RIN: 0648-BM42) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5490. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 240227-0061; RTID 0648-XE004] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5491. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From North Carolina to New Jersey [Docket No.: 231215-0305; RTID 0648-XE011] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5492. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 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; Inseason Adjustments [Docket No.: 180625576-8999-02] (RIN: 0648-BJ43) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5493. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's inseason reapportionment — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019 Tribal Fishery Allocations for Pacific Whiting; Reapportionment Between Tribal and Non-Tribal Sectors [Docket No.: 181218999-9402-02] (RIN: 0648-XW015) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5494. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders [RTID: 0648-XW014] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5495. A letter from the Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, 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; Inseason Adjustments; Correction [Docket No.: 180625576-8999-02] (RIN: 0648-BJ43) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5496. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From Virginia to Massachusetts [Docket No.: 231215-0305; RTID 0648-XE107] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5497. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From North Carolina to Connecticut [Docket No.: 221223-0282; RTID 0648-XD631] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5498. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Fishing Year 2024 Recreational Management Measures [Docket No.: 240719-0200] (RIN: 0648-BM90) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5499. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — SER, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; Amendment 52 [Docket No.: 231101-0256] (RIN: 0648-BM12) received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5500. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — SERO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; Partial Holdback of Commercial Quota for Gag in the Gulf of Mexico [Docket No.: 230427-0115; RTID 0648-XD523] received September 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-5501. A letter from the Office of Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting a judgement from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in the case of Nuziard v. Minority Bus. Dev. Agency, No.23-cv-278 (N.D. Tex.), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 530D(a)(1); Public Law 107-273, Sec. 202(a); (116 Stat. 1771); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5502. A letter from the Executive Director of the Build America Bureau, Office of the Secretary, Build America Bureau, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's 2024 Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act 1998 report, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 609(a); Public Law 105-178, Sec. 1503(a) (amended by Public Law 114-94, Sec. 2001(h)); (129 Stat. 1444); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEAL, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 9794. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide grants to producers to carry out climate-smart conversion projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 9795. A bill to authorize a pilot program for the making of 90-year, zero interest loans for the purchase of real estate to be used for agricultural production for 90 years; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 9796. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to jointly award grants for the purposes of improving access to, developing, or expanding services that provide an individual with transportation to or from substance use disorder treatment or supportive services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. ALFORD:

H.R. 9797. A bill to require Federal agencies with an SBIR or STTR program to enhance their outreach to rural communities with respect to such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 9798. A bill to provide a short title for the law commonly referred to as the "Inflation Reduction Act"; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Financial Services, Science, Space, and Technology, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 9799. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for certain overtime payments; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 9800. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for certain amounts received as a bonus; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 9801. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reform the interconnection queue process for the prioritization and approval of certain projects; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:

H.R. 9802. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to verify whether a health care provider is licensed in good standing before issuing the provider a unique health identifier, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 9803. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the integrity of hospice care furnished under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK):

H.R. 9804. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish headstones and markers for certain veterans for whom urns were previously furnished when such veterans are interred with other eligible individual, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUCSHON (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 9805. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a process to expand access to claims data under certain Federal health plans in order to facilitate research and quality improvement; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BUDZINSKI (for herself and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 9806. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Office of Veterans Experience, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. PELTOLA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. PETERSEN, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 9807. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a grant program to provide surge capacity for providers faced with increased unmet need for contraceptive care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 9808. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a voluntary food climate labeling program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 9809. A bill to amend the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 to expand opportunities for families living in areas of high

flood risk to access Federal assistance for voluntary relocation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. PETERSEN, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 9810. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out an early childhood educator loan assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. PETERSEN, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 9811. A bill to provide assistance with respect to child care infrastructure; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COMER (for himself and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 9812. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States to establish, increase the availability of, and improve access to, qualified health care programs to increase and strengthen the health care workforce in such States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 9813. A bill to require the head of each agency to establish a plan relating to the safety of Federal employees and contractors physically present at certain worksites during a nationwide public health emergency declared for an infectious disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 9814. A bill to amend the Housing Act of 1949 to permit the assumption of loans under the Doug Bereuter Section 502 Single Family Housing Loan Guarantee Program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 9815. A bill to direct the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to establish a pilot program to help State prisons and local jails improve the documentation of incarcerated veterans; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 9816. A bill to revise the dollar amount limitations for rural housing repair loans under section 504 of the Housing Act of 1949, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 9817. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to update and clarify its rule on substances generally recognized as safe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr.

ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 9818. A bill to prohibit the intimidation of election officials and election workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LANDSMAN):

H.R. 9819. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 9820. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide that any mandatory predispute or coerced postdispute arbitration clause, class action waiver, representation waiver, or discretionary clause with respect to a plan is unenforceable, to prohibit any such clause or waiver from being included in a plan document or other agreement with plan participants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. MAST):

H.R. 9821. A bill to improve the management of forage fish; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS):

H.R. 9822. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to extend eligibility for grants to elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 9823. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive certain distance requirements for certain hospitals electing to be designated as critical access hospitals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 9824. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program for skills-for-success courses for all first-year students enrolled at certain institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 9825. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to include TANF, SSI, SNAP, WIC, and federal housing assistance as eligible public assistance; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 9826. A bill to modify the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:

H.R. 9827. A bill to impose additional duties on imports of goods into the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. CRANE, Mr. NEHLS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. OGLER, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MILLS, Mr. ROY, Mr. SELF, Ms. MACE, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas):

H.R. 9828. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to end the liability shield

for vaccine manufacturers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 9829. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a community service technical assistance reservation and to increase the percentage of funds used for compensation of students participating in Federal work-study programs who are employed in community service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 9830. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports containing adverse items of information about a consumer that resulted from that consumer being unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 9831. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain dependent income when calculating modified adjusted gross income for the purposes of eligibility for premium tax credits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. IVEY (for himself, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mrs. BEATTY):

H.R. 9832. A bill to make improvements to Federal contracting practices for disadvantaged small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACOBS (for herself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 9833. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the treatment of non-disclosure agreements with respect to privatized military housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 9834. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TRONE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 9835. A bill to authorize grants for emotional support services for incarcerated victims of sexual abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 9836. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to require the establishment of the Center of Expertise in Indo-Pacific Maritime Governance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 9837. A bill to exclude from gross income certain emergency assistance provided to farmers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BUSH, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. JACKSON of

Illinois, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. FROST, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 9838. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an end date for the credit for certain qualified carbon oxide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LATURNER:

H.R. 9839. A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to modernize the Postal Service regulations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 9840. A bill to prohibit life insurance providers from discriminating based on a person's status as a living kidney donor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 9841. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide re-entry entrepreneurship counseling and training services for formerly incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 9842. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to maintain the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 9843. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to incentivize the divestiture of certain securities connected to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 9844. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the standard charitable mileage rate for delivery of meals to elderly, disabled, frail, and at-risk individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 9845. A bill to authorize competitive grants for the establishment of HOPE Accounts Pilot Projects and HOPE Action Plans Pilot Projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 9846. A bill to amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the President to automatically waive certain critical document fees for individuals and households affected by major disasters for which assistance is provided under the Individuals and Households Program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. PETERSEN (for herself and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 9847. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the knowledge and skills of principals and school leaders regarding early childhood education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 9848. A bill to require the global systemically important bank holding companies

to provide annual reports to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 9849. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to address the shortage of medical laboratory personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 9850. A bill to protect and promote American values abroad, including the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of expression enshrined in the United States Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, through the use of foreign assistance and by assuring U.S. law enforcement does not cooperate in censorship abroad; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SORENSEN (for himself, Mr. MOLINARO, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. BACON, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 9851. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to establish a Hydrogen Technologies for Heavy Industry Demonstration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. STEEL:

H.R. 9852. A bill to establish an open season for enrollment in the Survivor Benefit Plan under subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 10, United States Code; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. STEEL:

H.R. 9853. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to support the creation and implementation of State policies, as well as the expansion of existing State policies, for improving the quality and affordability of charter school facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. STEEL (for herself, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 9854. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of monthly housing stipend received by parents pursuing a program of education through distance learning using Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. SABLON, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CARSON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KEATING, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. PORTER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. DEGLETTE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BACON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. FOSTER, Ms.

BALINT, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. HOYER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. AMO, Ms. WILD, Mr. DELUZZO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. MENG, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LIEU, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. CHU, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 9855. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 9856. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an exception to the volume cap for certain bonds to finance the preservation, improvement, or development of affordable rental housing buildings; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H.R. 9857. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education, as a condition of participation in programs under title IV of such Act, to establish a policy to award posthumous degrees to certain deceased students, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. OWENS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 9858. A bill to strengthen the rights of crime victims, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PALMER (for himself and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.J. Res. 208. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.J. Res. 209. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Registration for Index-Linked Annuities and Registered Market Value Adjustment Annuities; Amendments To Form N-4 for Index-Linked Annuities, Registered Market Value Adjustment Annuities, and Variable Annuities; Other Technical Amendments"; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PORTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CHU, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. RUIZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. CARSON, Mr.

GOMEZ, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H. Con. Res. 131. Concurrent resolution recognizing the significance of equal pay and the disparity in wages paid to Latina women in comparison to White, non-Hispanic men; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. BROWN, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. FROST, Mr. AMO, Ms. OMAR, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. WATERS, Ms. BUSH, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. BOWMAN):

H. Res. 1500. A resolution censuring Representative Glen Clay Higgins of the 3rd Congressional District of Louisiana; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Ms. BALINT:

H. Res. 1501. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2024, to October 31, 2024, as "Bat Week"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H. Res. 1502. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 1, 2024, as "National Latino Physician Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H. Res. 1503. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2024 as "National Youth Justice Action Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BERA, Ms. CHU, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. VARGAS):

H. Res. 1504. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2024 as Filipino American History Month and celebrating the history and culture of Filipino Americans and their immense contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H. Res. 1505. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2024 as "National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Month", and raising awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CORREA (for himself and Ms. TLAIB):

H. Res. 1506. A resolution expressing profound sorrow over the death of Alexander Michel Odeh; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. PETERSEN):

H. Res. 1507. A resolution recognizing the importance of diapers to infant health and family well-being, and expressing support for the designation of the week of September 23-29, 2024, as "National Diaper Need Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. BACON):

H. Res. 1508. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2024 as "National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BACON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. OGLES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SELF, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ISSA, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. ROSENDALE):

H. Res. 1509. A resolution supporting the designation of the week beginning November 11, 2024, as "National Pregnancy Center Week" to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SHERRILL, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. BUDZINSKI):

H. Res. 1510. A resolution expressing support for "Military Sexual Trauma Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUNT:

H. Res. 1511. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2024 as "National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. CAREY):

H. Res. 1512. A resolution establishing the Congressional Modernization Competition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H. Res. 1513. A resolution affirming the term "woke" and its historical connection to Black history, Black liberation movements, and social justice; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Ms. CHU):

H. Res. 1514. A resolution recognizing that cancer patients have the right to receive care that ensures effective prevention, early diagnosis, improved outcomes, optimal patient rehabilitation, and affordable health care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms.

TITUS, Ms. TLAI, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILD, and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H. Res. 1515. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 1, 2024, as "National Animal Rescue Day" to create awareness of the importance of animal adoption, to educate on the importance of spaying and neutering animals, and to encourage animal adoptions throughout the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BACON, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. AMO, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H. Res. 1516. A resolution commending Big Brothers-Big Sisters of America, the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States, on its 120th anniversary and the role it has played in empowering millions of young people on a path to graduate with a plan for their future through mentorship that will last a lifetime; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H. Res. 1517. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 7 through October 12, 2024, as "National 4-H Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. VALADAO (for himself, Mr. FONG, Mr. COSTA, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. ROSE, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. CLINE):

H. Res. 1518. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. DELUZO, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. MOULTON):

H. Res. 1519. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 23 through September 29, 2024, as "See Tracks? Think Train! Week" in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of reducing highway-rail grade crossing-related incidents, fatalities, and injuries; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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 Ms. ADAMS:
H.R. 9794.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
to establish a grant program within the Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

By Ms. PEREZ:
H.R. 9795.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Agriculture

By Ms. BONAMICI:
H.R. 9796.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to jointly award grants for the purposes of improving access to, developing, or expanding services that provide an individual with transportation to or from substance use disorder treatment or supportive services.

By Mr. ALFORD:
H.R. 9797.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 "The Congress shall have power to . . . provide for the . . . general welfare of the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Administrator of the SBA shall include in any policy directive of the SBIR/STTR programs that each participating agency includes a special emphasis on rural communities when agencies conduct outreach related to the SBIR/STTR program.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:
H.R. 9798.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide a short title for the law commonly referred to as the "Inflation Reduction Act".

By Mr. BACON:
H.R. 9799.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Tax

By Mr. BACON:
H.R. 9800.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Tax

By Mr. BALDERSON:
H.R. 9801.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Electric Grid Reliability

By Mr. BEAN of Florida:
H.R. 9802.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to verify whether a health care provider is licensed in good standing before issuing the provider a unique health identifier.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 9803.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Hospice

By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H.R. 9804.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Servicemembers

By Mr. BUCSHON:
H.R. 9805.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Health

By Ms. BUDZINSKI:
H.R. 9806.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill would codify the Veterans Experience Office within the VA and allow it to continue providing veteran-centered care and important data collection from veterans themselves to improve all VA services.

By Ms. CARAVEO:
H.R. 9807.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all other powers vested by this Constitution in

The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a grant program to provide surge capacity for providers faced with increased unmet need for contraceptive care.

By Mr. CASTEN:
H.R. 9808.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:
To direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a voluntary food climate labeling program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CASTEN:
H.R. 9809.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Improving the efficiency of the National Flood Insurance Program.

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:
H.R. 9810.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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-

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:
Child care

By Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 9811.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:
Child care

By Mr. COMER:

H.R. 9812.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Addressing healthcare workforce needs

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 9813.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the head of each agency to establish a plan relating to the safety of Federal employees and contractors physically present at certain worksites during a nationwide public health emergency declared for an infectious disease, and for other purposes.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 9814.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Housing

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 9815.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill directs the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to establish a pilot program to help State prisons and local jails improve the documentation of incarcerated veterans.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 9816.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3; to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Commerce

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 9817.

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 legislation would overhaul the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) process for determining the safety of chemicals used in the food supply by requiring the FDA to close the so-called GRAS loophole and make the industry's chemical food additives subject to FDA approval and oversight.

By Mr. DELUZZIO:

H.R. 9818.

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:
Election Security

By Mr. DELUZZIO:

H.R. 9819.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:
Veterans Affairs

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 9820.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide that any mandatory predispute or coerced postdispute arbitration clause, class action waiver, representation waiver, or discretionary clause with respect to a plan is unenforceable, and to prohibit any such clause or waiver from being included in a plan document or other agreement with plan participants

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 9821.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve the management of Forage Fish

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 9822.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Amends Title V of the Public Health Service Act to extend eligibility for grants to elementary and secondary schools.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 9823.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive certain distance requirements for certain hospitals electing to be designated as critical access hospitals.

By Mrs. FOUSHEE:

H.R. 9824.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 9825.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Head Start Act to include TANF, SSI, SNAP, WIC, and federal housing assistance as eligible public assistance.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 9826.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3, clause 2

The single subject of this legislation is:

To modify the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:

H.R. 9827.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To impose additional duties on imports of goods into the United States.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 9828.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Vaccines

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 9829.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To increase the community service set-aside under the Federal Work Study program.

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 9830.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Credit reports for American hostages and wrongful detainees

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 9831.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health Care

By Mr. IVEY:

H.R. 9832.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, clauses 1, 14, and 18 of the United States Constitution and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal government contracting

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 9833.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the treatment of nondisclosure agreements with respect to privatized military housing, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 9834.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study for constructing a project to supply water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 9835.

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:

To authorize grants for the emotional support services for incarcerated victims of sexual abuse.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 9836.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11

The single subject of this legislation is:

Maritime

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:
H.R. 9837.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
Tax

By Mr. KHANNA:
H.R. 9838.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section I.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Energy

By Mr. LATURNER:
H.R. 9839.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To update and reform to the postal regulatory process.

By Mr. LAWLER:
H.R. 9840.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
To prohibit life insurance providers from discriminating based on a person's status as a living kidney donor, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MCGARVEY:
H.R. 9841.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Small Business

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:
H.R. 9842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
health care

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:
H.R. 9843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution of the United States of America

The single subject of this legislation is:
To tax capital gains and dividends made from investing in the PRC at the same rate as ordinary income, following a 1-year divestment period.

By Mr. MORELLE:
H.R. 9844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Tax

By Mr. MORELLE:
H.R. 9845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Social Welfare

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 9846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Waive document replacement fees after a disaster.

By Ms. PETERSEN:
H.R. 9847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:
Amends Title II of the Higher Education Act by requiring school leadership programs receiving federal Teacher Quality Partnership grants to include training on early childhood development.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 9848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill will enhance oversight and transparency of the largest banks in the U.S..

By Ms. ROSS:
H.R. 9849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1 (Taxing and Spending Clause)

The single subject of this legislation is:
To improve and build the workforce comprised of medical laboratory personnel.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:
H.R. 9850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Freedom of Speech

By Mr. SORENSEN:
H.R. 9851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
Energy

By Mrs. STEEL:
H.R. 9852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Veterans

By Mrs. STEEL:
H.R. 9853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Education

By Mrs. STEEL:
H.R. 9854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Veterans' Affairs

By Mr. TAKANO:
H.R. 9855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
This legislation would ensure VA's Title 38

healthcare professionals have the same workplace rights currently granted to other VA clinicians and federal employees.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 9856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Volume Cap Exception

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:
H.R. 9857.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:
H.R. 9858.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 9
The single subject of this legislation is:
To strengthen crime victims' rights.

By Mr. PALMER:
H.J. Res. 208.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To disapprove of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Lime Manufacturing Plants Technology Review".

By Mr. PALMER:
H.J. Res. 209.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To disapprove of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Registration for Index-Linked Annuities and Registered Market Value Adjustment Annuities; Amendments To Form N-4 for Index-Linked Annuities, Registered Market Value Adjustment Annuities, and Variable Annuities; Other Technical Amendments."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 621: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 645: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 670: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 681: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 724: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 743: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 827: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 913: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 1045: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1062: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 1083: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1092: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1269: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 1330: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1347: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 1477: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1572: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 1591: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 1668: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 1763: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
H.R. 1815: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2414: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2442: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2474: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 2496: Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 2539: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 2630: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 2725: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2923: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 3169: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3240: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 3244: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 3413: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 3443: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 3589: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3651: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 3850: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 3882: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. FINSTAD.

- H.R. 3962: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
 H.R. 4020: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 4122: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 4303: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 4356: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 4418: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H.R. 4663: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 4682: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 5012: Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 5041: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
 H.R. 5163: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H.R. 5305: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 5371: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 5399: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
 H.R. 5685: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
 H.R. 5819: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 5997: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 6012: Mr. BENTZ.
 H.R. 6078: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. LALOTA.
 H.R. 6371: Mr. MEUSER and Ms. TENNEY.
 H.R. 6373: Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. MAST, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 6672: Mr. TAKANO and Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 6727: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
 H.R. 6747: Ms. SHERRILL.
 H.R. 6751: Ms. WEXTON, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CARL, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. COLE, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
 H.R. 6773: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
 H.R. 6790: Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. KILMER, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. SOTO.
 H.R. 6860: Mr. MORELLE.
 H.R. 6892: Mr. BEYER.
 H.R. 7039: Ms. HOULAHAN.
 H.R. 7087: Ms. McCLELLAN.
 H.R. 7132: Ms. MANNING and Mrs. RAMIREZ.
 H.R. 7149: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 7214: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
 H.R. 7258: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. THANEDAR.
 H.R. 7288: Ms. McCLELLAN and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
 H.R. 7311: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 7380: Mr. RULLI.
 H.R. 7384: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
 H.R. 7429: Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 7468: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 7577: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
 H.R. 7596: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
 H.R. 7597: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
 H.R. 7766: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 7770: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 7771: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 7862: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
 H.R. 7868: Mr. CRENSHAW.
 H.R. 7894: Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 7936: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 7944: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 8028: Ms. BROWNLEY.
 H.R. 8047: Mr. TONKO and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 8061: Ms. OMAR, Mrs. SYKES, and Ms. LETLOW.
 H.R. 8117: Mr. CUELLAR.
 H.R. 8119: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 8147: Mr. BURLISON.
 H.R. 8164: Mr. TAKANO and Ms. CARAVEO.
 H.R. 8213: Mr. RASKIN.
 H.R. 8231: Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 8331: Mr. MURPHY.
 H.R. 8340: Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 8353: Mr. BERA and Mr. THANEDAR.
 H.R. 8358: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 8371: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
 H.R. 8383: Mr. VALADAO.
 H.R. 8398: Mr. CURTIS.
 H.R. 8400: Mr. CASE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MOLINARO, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 8411: Mr. SELF.
 H.R. 8419: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 8505: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 8537: Mrs. SYKES.
 H.R. 8572: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 8622: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 8651: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 8702: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. DELUZZIO.
 H.R. 8714: Ms. BROWN.
 H.R. 8715: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
 H.R. 8959: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 9001: Mr. BERA.
 H.R. 9017: Mr. LOPEZ.
 H.R. 9067: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 9101: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H.R. 9109: Ms. LETLOW, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 9131: Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 9134: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 9157: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 9160: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
 H.R. 9188: Mr. WALTZ.
 H.R. 9215: Ms. ESHOO, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. BERA, and Mr. BEYER.
 H.R. 9229: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 9263: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. EVANS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
 H.R. 9268: Ms. GRANGER.
 H.R. 9274: Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. CARL, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
 H.R. 9324: Mr. CALVERT.
 H.R. 9360: Mr. DESJARLAIS and Mr. KUSTOFF.
 H.R. 9382: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MOONEY, and Mr. BAIRD.
 H.R. 9394: Mr. LALOTA and Mr. SUOZZI.
 H.R. 9402: Mr. BEYER.
 H.R. 9517: Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 9531: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
 H.R. 9535: Mr. GOMEZ.
 H.R. 9544: Mr. LYNCH.
 H.R. 9599: Mrs. FLETCHER.
 H.R. 9624: Ms. LEE of Nevada and Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 9625: Mr. TORRES of New York.
 H.R. 9662: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 9666: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
 H.R. 9668: Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. GUEST.
 H.R. 9685: Mr. CLYDE.
 H.R. 9693: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 9717: Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 9722: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 9731: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. GUEST.
 H.R. 9739: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 9740: Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 9741: Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 9748: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 9749: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 9752: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 9763: Mr. BUCHANAN.
 H.R. 9774: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.J. Res. 65: Mr. WALTZ and Mrs. HAYES.
 H.J. Res. 163: Mr. ELLZEY.
 H.J. Res. 193: Mrs. FLETCHER and Mr. NEAL.
 H. Con. Res. 68: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. McCORMICK.
 H. Con. Res. 99: Ms. NORTON, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. LEE of California.
 H. Con. Res. 128: Mr. FITZGERALD.
 H. Con. Res. 129: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
 H. Con. Res. 130: Mr. MORELLE and Ms. STANSBURY.
 H. Res. 154: Mrs. TORRES of California.
 H. Res. 439: Ms. CARAVEO.
 H. Res. 616: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H. Res. 758: Mr. RULLI.
 H. Res. 1272: Mr. FINSTAD.
 H. Res. 1348: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H. Res. 1423: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H. Res. 1437: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. BOWMAN.
 H. Res. 1447: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
 H. Res. 1469: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MAST, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. SELF, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. ISSA.
 H. Res. 1473: Mrs. TORRES of California and Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H. Res. 1478: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H. Res. 1485: Mrs. HARSHBARGER and Mr. JAMES.
 H. Res. 1487: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H. Res. 1491: Ms. NORTON, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. DINGELL.
 H. Res. 1498: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.