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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 semiautomatic 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.

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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 DUYNE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. VAN DUYNE. 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 offensives 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 antihazing 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 sueno 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 violence 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 Tifft 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 rotted 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 Canyondam 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 ''Smokey 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 heartbreaking 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 discernment.

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 opposite: 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 counterproductive. 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 counterproductive 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''; and

(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 Ingwen 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 remediate 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 heartbreaking 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, nonviolent 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 noncriminal 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 nonprofit 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 Democratic 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 sector, 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 tuition 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) though (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 election 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''; 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''; and

(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)''; and

(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 REINTEGRATION 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 TRANSPORT 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'';

(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 responsible 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, nonexistent, 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'' 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 contingencies, 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 Aghanistan;

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 colleagues 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 come 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—itself 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 McCollum
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 expired.

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. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will now resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Senate amendment to H.R. 6513; and
H.R. 9747.

The first electronic vote will be conducted 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 CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVER ACCESS ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion 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, 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. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 1, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 449]

YEAS—413

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
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
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
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
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—1

Rosendale

NOT VOTING—18

Bacon
Blunt Rochester
Bowman
DesJarlais
Evans
Ferguson
Granger
Grijalva
Huffman
Jayapal
Kiggans (VA)
Nehls
Rogers (AL)
Smucker
Steube
Veasey
Weber (TX)
Wittman

□ 1624

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) 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. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9747) making continuing appropriations 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	Espaillat	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	Foxx	Maloy
Balint	Frankel, Lois	Manning
Barr	Franklin, Scott	Mast
Barragán	Frost	Matsui
Beatty	Gallego	McBath
Bentz	Garamendi	McCaul
Bera	Garbarino	McClain
Bergman	García (IL)	McClellan
Beyer	Garcia (TX)	McCollum
Bice	Garcia, Mike	McGarvey
Bishop (GA)	Garcia, Robert	McGovern
Blumenauer	Gimenez	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	Houlahan	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-McCormick	Ivey	Ocasio-Cortez
	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	Pfluger
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
Ellzey	Lee (CA)	Schiff
Emmer	Lee (NV)	Schneider
Scholten	Stefanik	Valadao
Schrier	Steil	Vargas
Scott (VA)	Stevens	Vasquez
Scott, Austin	Strickland	Veasey
Scott, David	Strong	Velázquez
Sessions	Suozzi	Wagner
Sewell	Swalwell	Walberg
Sherman	Sykes	Wasserman Schultz
Sherrill	Takano	Waters
Simpson	Thanedar	Watson Coleman
Slotkin	Thompson (CA)	Wenstrup
Smith (MO)	Thompson (MS)	Wexton
Smith (NE)	Thompson (PA)	Wild
Smith (NJ)	Titus	Williams (GA)
Smith (WA)	Tlaib	Williams (NY)
Smucker	Tokuda	Wilson (FL)
Sorensen	Tonko	Wilson (SC)
Soto	Torres (CA)	Wittman
Spanberger	Torres (NY)	Womack
Stansbury	Trahan	Zinke
Stanton	Trone	
Stauber	Turner	
Steel	Underwood	

NAYS—82

Baird	Gaetz	Mooney
Balderson	Gonzales, Tony	Moore (AL)
Banks	Good (VA)	Moran
Bean (FL)	Gooden (TX)	Norman
Biggs	Gosar	Ogles
Bilirakis	Greene (GA)	Palmer
Bishop (NC)	Griffith	Perry
Boebert	Guest	Posey
Bost	Hageman	Rose
Brecheen	Harris	Rosendale
Burchett	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Burlison	Jordan	Schweikert
Cammack	Joyce (PA)	Self
Cloud	Kelly (MS)	Spartz
Clyde	LaHood	Tenney
Collins	Lee (FL)	Tiffany
Crane	Lesko	Timmons
Curtis	Lopez	Van Drew
Davidson	Luna	Van Duyne
Donalds	Luttrell	Van Orden
Duncan	Mace	Waltz
Estes	Mann	Weber (TX)
Ezell	Massie	Webster (FL)
Feenstra	McClintock	Westerman
Finstad	McCormick	Williams (TX)
Fischbach	Miller (IL)	Yakym
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-McCormick	Doggett
Beyer		Donalds
Bice	Chu	Duarte
Biggs	Ciscomani	Duncan
Bilirakis	Clark (MA)	Dunn (FL)
Bishop (GA)	Clarke (NY)	Edwards
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Ellzey
Blunt Rochester	Cline	Emmer
Boebert	Cloud	Escobar
Bonamici	Clyburn	Eshoo
Bost	Clyde	Espaillat
Boyle (PA)	Cohen	Estes
Brecheen	Cole	Ezell
Brown	Collins	Fallon
Brownley	Comer	Feenstra
Buchanan	Connolly	Finstad
Bucshon	Costa	Fischbach

Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Garbarino
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
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
Houlahan
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
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Moylan
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Norton
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—18

Bishop (NC)
Bowman
Correa
DesJarlais
Evans
Ferguson
Gallego
Garamendi
González-Colón
Granger
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Nehls
Radewagen
Sablan
Spartz
Steube
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 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, 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 ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The 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. Pursuant 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 device, 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
Carl
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)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Mrvan
Murphy
Newhouse
Nickel
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pettersen
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Scalise
Scholten
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Strong
Suozzi
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wild
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

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

Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lieu
Lofgren
Magaziner
Manning
Massie
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Pelosi
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—15

Beatty
Bishop (NC)
Bowman
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Evans
Ferguson
Gallego
Garamendi
Granger
Grijalva
Nehls
Spartz
Steube
Tlaib

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1645

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KEEPING VIOLENT OFFENDERS OFF OUR STREETS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on 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, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 212, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 453]

YEAS—206

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

NAYS—212

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

NOT VOTING—14

Bishop (NC)
Bowman
DesJarlais
Evans
Ferguson
Gallego
Garamendi
Gosar
Granger
Grijalva
Nehls
Spartz
Steube
Tlaib

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1652

Ms. PETTERSEN changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 255, nays 161, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 454]

YEAS—255

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess

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
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Morelle
Mrvan
Murphy
Newhouse
Nickel
Norman
Nunn (IA)
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
Suozzi
Tenney
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wild
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

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
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Crockett
Crow
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Espaillat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
García (IL)
García (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Hoyer
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
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
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Pelosi
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
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
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—16

Bishop (NC)
Bowman
DesJarlais
Evans
Ferguson
Gallego
Garamendi
Gosar
Granger
Grijalva
Hunt
Lee (CA)
Nehls
Spartz
Steube
Tlaib

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 DECISIONMAKING 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:

[Roll No. 455]

YEAS—219

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
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
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
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 (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
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)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—194

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (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
Espaillat
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
García (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)	Mrvan	Stansbury
Huffman	Nadler	Stanton
Ivey	Napolitano	Stevens
Jackson (IL)	Neal	Strickland
Jacobs	Neguse	Suozzi
Jayapal	Nickel	Swalwell
Jeffries	Norcross	Sykes
Johnson (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Takano
Kamlager-Dove	Omar	Thanedar
Kaptur	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Keating	Panetta	Thompson (MS)
Kelly (IL)	Pappas	Titus
Kennedy	Pelosi	Tokuda
Khanna	Peters	Tonko
Kildee	Pettersen	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 Schultz
Levin	Ruppersberger	Waters
Lieu	Ryan	Watson Coleman
Lofgren	Salinas	Wexton
Lynch	Sánchez	Wild
Magaziner	Sarbanes	Williams (GA)
Manning	Scanlon	Wilson (FL)
Matsui	Schakowsky	
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 ''slapstick 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.

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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 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

Alexzandria 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 Sundy 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 recognizance 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 Sacramento 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, NVEHC.

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.

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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 changemaker, 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.

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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 Azltan, 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 contributions 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 Mariduena, 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 Mariduena 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 representation 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. CARDENAS. 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 spewing 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 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 nondefense 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 REMEMBRANCE 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 effects 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 Masonic 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 were 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 entries 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 annual 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 because 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 ⅛? 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 heartbreaking.

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 extreme 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, National 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 authorized 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. PETTERSEN, 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. PETTERSEN, 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. PETTERSEN, 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. OGLES, 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 nondisclosure 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. PETTERSEN (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. SABLAN, 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. DEGETTE, 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. PETTERSEN, 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. DELUZIO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. MENG, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, 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. KRISHNAMOORTHI, 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. PETTERSEN):

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. KRISHNAMOORTHI, 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. TLAIB, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILD, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ):

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. PETTERSEN, 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. DELUZIO, 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.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. 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 Consitution

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:

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 1, 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. DELUZIO:

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. DELUZIO:

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:

Articice 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. I), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I 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. PETTERSEN:

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. DELUZIO.
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. PETTERSEN, 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.

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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, who rules the raging of the sea in a world facing hurt and pain, help us also to see the beauty of Your creative power. Enable the Members of this body to sense the transcendence in the beauty of the Earth and the glory of the skies.

Lord, help our Senators to hear Your music in the symphony of the seasons, in the whispering of the wind, and in the constellations of the night. May the sounds of nature's music lead our lawmakers to place greater trust in the movement of Your prevailing providence.

Lord, give them spiritual power so that they will do your will on Earth even as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 25, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, ''I am prepared to get rid of the filibuster to pass a Green New Deal.''

''I think we should eliminate the filibuster for Roe.''

These are the words of the Vice President of the United States and the Democratic nominee for President.

Her willingness to shatter the institution of the Senate is not unique. Nearly every single one of our Democratic colleagues was willing to do it 2 years ago, and they would have succeeded had two Members of their own caucus not stood in breach.

Nor is this campaign to rip up precious safeguards for political minorities confined here to the Senate. From a sitting President all the way down to grassroots activists, Democrats have made smashing institutions a core pillar of their party's platform.

The Vice President's latest comments are not novel, but they are shocking, no less so than the votes our colleagues cast here on January 19, 2022. There is nothing normal or rational about blowing up the dam holding back simple majority rule, and the fact that a major political party has welcomed this shortsighted radicalism into the mainstream will be to their eternal shame.

To lean on today's ''fill in the blank'' justification is to miss entirely what is at stake. The Senate's protections against the vacillations of simple majority rule are bigger than Washington Democrats' policy preferences. They are bigger than my own. A Senate that can steamroll a legislative minority to codify Roe v. Wade or enshrine the lunacy of the Green New Deal into law is a Senate that will drive a stake through liberal hopes as soon as the political winds change.

To gamble the guardrails that make the Senate what it is—to short-circuit the process by which dissenting views are guaranteed a hearing—ought to be disqualifying by itself. Then again, so should the Vice President's record on these issues. In November, the Democratic nominee will own the worst border crisis in American history and the broken policies that invited it. She will own the worst inflation in 40 years and the reckless spending and tie-breaking votes that enabled it.

The American people may well worry, like I do, about the future of an

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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institution designed to be the world's greatest deliberative body, but, more than that, they worry about keeping their families safe and putting food on the table, and I expect they will vote accordingly.

CHINA

Mr. President, on another matter, I have spoken frequently about the welcome signs that America's European allies are waking up to the strategic challenge posed by the PRC and to the dangers of predatory Chinese influence in their own backyards.

Like America, our allies are watching the flaws of the Chinese statist economic model laid bare. They are increasingly wary to hitch their wagons to a totalitarian system that stifles innovation, discourages free thought, and complicates free enterprise.

They are hesitant to take risks in a system where the rule of law is trampled by the whims of the State and assets are subject to expropriation by the regime.

Encouraging progress, like a German security strategy that explicitly recognizes the Chinese threat, and efforts across the EU to reduce reliance on Chinese technologies, presents opportunities for the West to work closer together to secure supply chains and to lower barriers to cooperation among allies.

Unfortunately, this progress is not across-the-board. China may not be a safe business partner, but it is still an enticing one for far too many in economies, including, believe it or not, within the NATO alliance.

I have spoken before about Hungary's decade-long drift into the orbit of the West's most determined adversaries. It is an alarming trend. And nobody—certainly not the American conservatives who increasingly form a cult of personality around Prime Minister Viktor Orban—can pretend not to see it. Hungary's leaders are cozying up to Moscow, Beijing, and Tehran in private. They are doing it publicly and vocally as well.

The Orban government has welcomed China's view of a ''European bridgehead'' in Hungary as the perfect complement to its own declared policy of an ''opening to the East,'' and it hasn't been shy about turning words into actions.

When Chinese state enterprise has said jump, Hungarian officials have asked, how high?

As European allies began to heed warnings from the Trump administration to reduce reliance on Chinese industry and technology, Budapest repeatedly blocked EU progress and welcomed a geyser—a literal geyser—of the Chinese Belt and Road investment. Included in the torrent of PRC influence was 500 million euros from a Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer to build a new facility on Hungarian soil and another 7 billion euro investment in a new EV battery plant.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of a former vassal of Russian communism has nothing but praise for the neo-Soviet imperialist responsible for the first major land war in Europe since 1945.

Viktor Orban describes the regime that has sacrificed tens, if not hundreds of thousands, of Russian lives and more than $200 billion in military force for its unprovoked—and thus far unsuccessful—aggression against Ukraine as ''hyper-rational.'' But this NATO Prime Minister doesn't just admire Putin, he helps him. His government runs interference for Moscow, gumming up European and trans-Atlantic efforts to combat Russia's unlawful aggression at every turn.

European allies are providing more assistance to Ukraine than the United States is, but Americans who complain the EU isn't doing more to help Ukraine should look no further than to Budapest's efforts to block additional EU assistance for the answer.

Then there is Budapest's relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Hungary's Foreign Minister has bemoaned that ongoing international sanctions make it ''really challenging to build effective economic and trade cooperation'' with the world's most active state sponsor of terror.

I have little sympathy for Hungarian companies that struggle to profit from their ties to the genocidal regime in Tehran. Of course, that hasn't stopped Hungarian firms from committing tens of millions of dollars to financing joint nuclear projects with Iran.

It didn't stop a national Hungarian university from inviting a former Iranian President to a conference on—listen to this—''common values in the global environment.''

''Common values'' with Tehran? And here I thought it was American conservatives who claimed shared values with Hungary's ruling party. Has the Orban government forgotten its adoring fans on this side of the Atlantic?

No, Hungary's leaders have made no secret of their conviction that the future is one of American decline. The future is one of American decline—that is the Hungarian view. They are not hiding the ways they are preparing for American weakness and betting on our failure.

There is nothing tough about bowing to autocrats, and there is nothing for American leaders to gain by praising those who do. Subservience to revanchist powers is not an American value. But far more importantly, it is not in America's interests.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have good news this morning. Before the day is done, the Senate will pass a temporary extension of government funding, avoiding a painful and unnecessary shutdown next week. The agreement we locked in last night allows for no poison pill amendments.

Americans can breathe easy that because both sides have chosen bipartisanship, Congress is getting the job done. We will keep the government open. We will prevent vital government services from needlessly coming to a halt. We will give appropriators more time to fully fund the government before the end of the year. And I am especially pleased we are getting the job done with some time to spare.

Now, none of this would have happened without bipartisan cooperation.

For the information of my colleagues, later today, the House is expected to take up the CR and pass it on suspension. Once the Senate receives the House bill, we will immediately move to its consideration. We hope to vote early this evening, with final passage set at 60 votes. So if all goes well in the House, the Senate should be sending President Biden a bill before the end of today.

This is a good outcome for the country. There will be no shutdown because, finally, at the end of the day, our colleagues in the House decided to work with us.

So thank you to my colleagues on both sides for their work. We aren't quite done, but we are now on a clear glidepath to getting the CR across the finish line.

I hope the House will have learned its lesson that, once again, listening to the hard right on these vital issues, funding the government, avoiding default, cannot lead to anything that is useful or constructive. In fact, I hope this positive outcome of bipartisanship can set the tone for more constructive bipartisan work when we return in the fall.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. President, now on the Senate session, a little over a month from now, the American people will exercise the most precious right that could ever exist in a free society. I will not get into the back-and-forth of campaigns here on the Senate floor, but as we prepare to depart for October, let us take a moment to look back at the work of the Senate these last few months and these last few years—last 2 years.

We had lots of obstacles to getting things done this year. The Republican House was replete with disarray throughout the last 2 years, almost paralyzed. And there was much Republican intransigence in both Houses on issue after issue that prevented many good proposals from moving forward, despite our offers for compromise. Despite that, there is still a good amount we have gotten done.

First, Senate Democrats continue to bring balance back to the Federal

bench by confirming over 210 judges to lifetime appointments. These judges are the most diverse group of nominees the bench has ever seen. Nearly two-thirds are women, two-thirds are people of color. And we have confirmed more Hispanic, Asian, and Native women and more LBGTQ judges to the Federal bench than under any other President's full time in office.

These judges come with many backgrounds, not just partners in big law firms or prosecutors—as worthy as those professions may be. They come with civil rights backgrounds, public defender backgrounds, and more.

We also passed a landmark national security supplemental package to protect America's interests around the world, to stand up to Putin in Ukraine, to help Israel defend itself, and to provide humanitarian assistance for innocent civilians around the world.

The Senate provided this historic funding to help Ukraine defend their homeland with more ammo and javelins and stinger missiles and more equipment for training. And we made clear to the world that in the fight between freedom and autocracy, America will never forget where she stands—on the side of freedom.

Despite, again, a lot of standing in the way because of extraneous amendments proposed by some of our Republican colleagues, it took longer than it should have, but the most important fact is that it got done.

I am proud that the Senate stepped up at this historic moment and thank Leader MCCONNELL for joining me in that regard.

Tomorrow, Leader MCCONNELL and I will proudly welcome Ukrainian's President Zelenskyy to a meeting here at the U.S. Capitol to reaffirm our support and hear from him what his country may need in the future.

Separately, we also worked to keep our kids safe online by passing KOSA and COPPA with overwhelming bipartisan support. I thank my Republican colleagues for working with us on these landmark bills. They would be the first major updates to kids' safety on the internet in decades, and I am proud to have joined with parents and families of deceased loved ones to get it done. I urge Speaker JOHNSON in the House to get KOSA and COPPA done as soon as possible.

Finally, despite the hard right's intransigence, we prevented the government from defaulting last year. That would have been catastrophic. And then several times this year, as well as last, we prevented the government from shutting down, as I said, despite rightwing wishes that it happen.

And on the nonlegislative front, we have continued implementing our accomplishments of the last 2 years to help lower costs. This isn't legislation but rather working with executive Agencies to implement our policies, and that has continued to lower costs. Democrats in the Senate caucus spent a lot of time with Cabinet Secretaries and others making sure that the bills have been implemented, and they are showing great results from one end of the country to the other.

Around the country, Senate Democrats have been hard at work turning our bills into action, implementing our agenda through new bridges in States like Pennsylvania and Ohio, high-speed rail in Nevada, and never-before-seen investments in chip manufacturing in New York, Arizona, Ohio, and elsewhere. These are creating jobs. These are lowering costs. These are helping America get prosperous.

Now, there are a lot of things we tried to get done this year but couldn't because of Republican intransigence, such as protecting a woman's right to choose and reproductive freedoms, securing our southern border, and expanding the child tax credit. So we will keep working when we return. It has been a difficult road in divided government, but progress is possible. We have made that clear again and again and again throughout this 118th Congress.

BUFFALO NITE

Mr. President, now, another thing: Buffalo Nite. Tonight is one of my favorite nights on Capitol Hill—Buffalo Nite, when Western New York comes to share wings, beef on weck, sponge candies, and, of course, especially after Monday night, nonstop talk about the Buffalo Bills. But this year is special. Tonight, we will honor Buffalo News's own Jerry Zremski with the Charging Buffalo Award.

I have known Jerry for decades. Rain or shine, tragedy or triumph, Jerry has been through it all with Western New York. Jerry's reporting and investigative journalism has touched the lives of tens of thousands in Western New York and millions across America. His work has shaped legislation, exposed wrongdoing, and given a voice to the voiceless.

It is no secret that I know a lot of reporters. So trust me when I say that Jerry Zremski has always been one of the best in the business. What a great guy. And he is such a decent, caring human being as well.

Western New York can be very proud to call Jerry one of their own, and I am very proud to have gotten to know Jerry over the many years. Jerry's indelible legacy is sewn into the very fabric of New York, and we are all eternally grateful for his great work.

I look forward to celebrating Buffalo Nite with Jerry and so many others from Western New York this evening.

Finally, and most importantly: ''Go Bills!'' Maybe we will win the Super Bowl this year.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when the history of the Biden-Harris administration is written, I suspect it will be defined by the historic inflation crisis that has characterized almost all 4 years of this Presidency. And it started almost right away. Eager to begin implementing their big spending visions, Democrats seized on COVID as an excuse for a massive, partisan $1.9 trillion spending spree, the so-called American Rescue Plan Act.

Democrats were warned by Democratic economists that their bill ran the risk of setting off ''inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation.'' But they proceeded anyway. Vice President HARRIS cast the deciding, tie-breaking vote in the Senate to ensure that this massive government boondoggle would become law.

And within weeks of its passage, inflation began climbing—and kept climbing and climbed more and more. By 2022, inflation had reached its highest level in 40 years—40 years—and Americans felt the consequences. As the price of everything from gas to groceries shot up, Americans dipped into their savings to make ends meet or put essential items on their credit cards. They took on second jobs. They visited food banks. They put off home repairs or family vacations. They skipped necessary medical care.

And even as the rate of inflation has finally—and I say ''finally''—slowed, Americans continue to suffer as prices remain elevated. Today, Americans are paying 21 percent more for groceries than they were when President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office. They are paying 37 percent more for energy, 45 percent more for gasoline, 22 percent more for shelter—and the list goes on.

Today, a typical family needs to spend an additional $13,202 per year to maintain the same standard of living it enjoyed when President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office—$13,202 per year. Just think about that for a minute. How many lower and middle-income families do you know that can easily absorb an extra $13,000 a year? How many families out there have had to lower their standard of living as a result of the Biden-Harris administration's policies? How many missed vacations or missed braces or missed extracurricular activities or missed car repairs or home projects does that $13,000 represent?

And in addition to the staggering price hikes of the past few years, Americans have had to contend with additional economic pain as a result of the rate hikes the Federal Reserve was forced to impose to deal with the Biden-Harris inflation crisis. Those rate hikes drove up credit card interest rates. They drove up rates for car loans. They drove up mortgage rates. And so Americans who, for example, have had to charge things to their credit cards to deal with high food or energy prices are now facing increased challenges in paying off that debt.

A September Wall Street Journal article noted:

Around 9.1% of credit-card balances turned delinquent over the past year, the highest rate in over a decade, according to an August report from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Other Americans are finding the American dream of owning your own home to be increasingly out of their reach as they face elevated mortgage rates on top of staggering housing prices.

President Biden has talked a lot about building an economy from the bottom up and the middle out, but it is lower and middle-income Americans who have suffered the most in the Biden-Harris economy. And if Vice President HARRIS becomes President and Democrats take control of Congress, the next few years aren't likely to look too good for lower and middle-income Americans either.

It has already become clear that Vice President HARRIS intends to continue with the tax-and-spend agenda that she and President Biden have worked to impose. And if she is elected, Americans should brace for more economic pain.

The need is great. Costs are still high. Gas prices are high. Owning a home is a struggle. Every time I look at my bank account, it's always going down.

That is what one American had to say about the economic situation earlier this year, and it has been the story for too many Americans in the Biden-Harris economy. We can only hope that they don't have to deal with another 4 years of it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LULU'S LAW

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, Lulu Gribbin, a 15-year-old from Mountain Brook, AL—that is who I am here to talk about today.

She is a high school student who loves basketball, volleyball, and golf. She is one of four siblings. She is actually a twin. Lulu loves to spend time at the lake with her brothers and sisters. Her favorite color is purple.

On June 7, her life changed forever. That was the day she was on the beach enjoying the best of summer with her family and friends. She was looking for sand dollars in the ocean with a friend, and that is when a shark attacked.

What happened next is nothing short of a miracle. It was a miracle because on that day, by the grace of God, there were doctors, nurses, EMTs, and other Good Samaritans who were there on that same beach who immediately jumped into action to help Lulu. These incredible men and women undoubtedly saved her life. But Lulu's resiliency and strength certainly was a dominating factor, not just in her survival but in her incredible recovery.

Though the shark took her left hand and her right leg, it did nothing but strengthen her spirit. When Lulu woke up from surgery and got taken off the ventilator, do you know what her first words were?

I made it.

As a mom, I can't even begin to imagine how powerful that moment was for her parents, how incredible it was to hear her say those words:

I made it.

The road home was not easy for Lulu, with surgeries and rehabilitation, but 3 months after the shark attack, y'all, she is already back home. In fact, she is back in action, showing up other golfers on the driving range.

Lulu is an inspiration. She shows all of us that when you get knocked down, you don't wait to get pulled back up. You fight, and you fight with a resolve and a determination that will carry you through even the hardest of moments.

Her grace, her faith, her strength, her perseverance, all in the face of the unimaginable, make her a hero to all of us. It is sometimes hard to remember that she is just 15 years old. Her story is hard to tell, not just because I can't imagine having to see a child go through that but also to think that there is something that could have prevented her from having to go through this tremendous fight.

Ninety minutes before Lulu was attacked and only a few miles away, another woman was attacked by a shark. Elisabeth Foley, a mother of three from Virginia, tragically lost her left hand in a shark attack.

After I heard Lulu's story and about the prior attack, I immediately thought, what could have been done differently? It turns out Lulu's parents were thinking the exact same thing. There has to be a better way to get information into the hands of beachgoers, of parents, of families if a shark attack has happened in their vicinity. That is why I introduced Lulu's Law.

This is a bipartisan bill which Congressman GARY PALMER is leading in the House, and I am so proud that everyone in the Alabama delegation has signed on. It would give local authorities the confidence that they are authorized to issue a wireless emergency alert to warn beachgoers of potential shark attacks. This doesn't impose any kind of mandate on local officials; it simply empowers them to help beachgoers stay safe through the existing wireless emergency alert system.

Although this is a small change in statute, it would enable local leaders to put information into the hands of families faster, which, as we can see, could make a world of difference.

This is the kind of commonsense work I came to do in the U.S. Senate. My priority has always been fighting for children and families from the great State of Alabama and across this Nation and protecting children and their families from harm. That is an important part of it.

With Lulu's Law, we can empower beachgoers with information that will ultimately keep them safe.

To Lulu's parents Joe and Anne Blair Gribbin, the strength that you have shown and the way you have galvanized not just Alabama but people across our entire country to rally behind your daughter is nothing short of amazing.

To Lulu, I want to thank you for your bravery and determination. You are truly an inspiration. I wish you could see this because we have Senate pages down here shaking their heads. We are so proud of you, and we look forward to turning this bill into law to protect kids and honor the extraordinary person that you are.

To my colleagues watching from the Cloakroom, the Chamber, or back in your office, now is the time to act. Let's get this done, and let's deliver a win for the American people, for Alabama, and for Lulu. Add your name to the cosponsor list, and help us get this done. This is clearly something all of us can rally behind. Let's do it for Lulu. Let's do it for her legacy. Let's keep others safe, and let's inspire others with Lulu's story.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I applaud my fellow Senator from Alabama on this very important legislation that we need to work not just for the State of Alabama but all over the country.

Thank you very much.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the unwinnable war in Ukraine, which has already cost American taxpayers billions of dollars.

Anyone who dares question the uniparty's narrative on the war in Ukraine is obviously going to get criticized. That is OK. The media has been complicit in pushing this narrative. Think about it. When was the last time you saw live footage on the ground in Ukraine? It is rare because Ukraine is losing and it is losing badly. This comes after we just gave Ukraine $60 billion more of taxpayer money earlier this year to prolong this war.

I see President Zelenskyy—a uniparty puppet—is here begging—begging—for more money on the campaign trail with KAMALA HARRIS. It feels like he is here every other month, demanding more and more taxpayer money. That is because he knows that the money spigot will cut off if KAMALA HARRIS doesn't win in November.

Look, this subject is too important to go unaddressed. Over the last several months, I have asked multiple high-ranking members of the Biden-Harris administration to articulate

what it is trying to accomplish in Ukraine. Just tell us. Tell us what it will cost and how we plan to achieve these results. Basically, I am asking, what is our game plan? Not one official in this administration has answered my questions clearly—not one.

One of the most interesting responses I received was from Secretary Austin himself, Secretary of Defense. He said:

[W]e want to see Ukraine remain a sovereign, independent, and democratic state, that has the ability to defend its . . . territory and deter aggression.

OK.

Secretary Austin continued, stating that it is the administration's goal to bring Ukraine into NATO, while simultaneously blaming Russia for NATO's past expansion.

Here is when the DC establishment really, really gets upset. I am going to review a few undeniable facts about NATO's history. Predictably, the uniparty will accuse me of spewing Russian propaganda, but these are the facts, and that is what we have to go by. We can't shy away from them.

NATO was formed 75 years ago, in 1949, as a defensive alliance to counter the communist Soviet Union. It was wildly successful in that it maintained peace through deterrence throughout the Cold War. NATO helped us win the Cold War and dissolve communist Soviet Union.

When the Cold War ended in 1991, Ukraine instantly became the world's third largest nuclear power—Ukraine. Following a series of negotiations, Ukrainians agreed to give up their nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees from both Russia and NATO—territorial integrity and political independence.

These efforts were successful because they included assurances by many, many heads of state, including our own, that no eastward expansion of NATO toward Russia would ever happen. It was over. At that time, there were 16 NATO members. Today, 33 years later, after this agreement, there are 32 NATO members, even though in 1991 we agreed to no more eastward expansion. We broke the agreement—we—NATO and the United States.

NATO has expanded eastward seven times since that agreement in 1991. The largest expansion in 2004 included two countries that share a border with Russia—Estonia and Latvia. Today, NATO includes three countries that border Russia. Six NATO members are former Warsaw Pact members. The bulk of this expansion happened before Russia annexed Crimea and invaded part of Ukraine in 2014.

Again, these are all the facts. All play a part in the NATO story and Russia's response to it.

Here is another fact: NATO's expansion was on NATO's terms, separate and apart from any Russian input or activity. Let me read that again. NATO's expansion was on NATO's terms, separate and apart from any Russian input or activity—contrary to Secretary Austin's claims.

Ask yourself, how would the United States react if China or Russia entered a mutual defense organization with Mexico or Canada? How would we react? What if they started basing troops or participating in military exercises just miles from our homeland?

Having covered a brief history of NATO, let's ask logical followup questions that we should always ask before involving ourselves in any armed conflict.

First, how far are we willing to take this proxy war with Russia? How far are we? Did we think about that before we got into this? Are we committed to winning, as Russia's President is, Vladimir Putin? Are we committed to winning? What happens if the momentum turns? What happens if it turns against Ukraine and Russia starts making real gains, as it appears is happening today? Will the United States send more taxpayer money? more weapons? Will NATO send troops? Will the United States send troops? What is the plan?

War is a serious business. We should understand that by now. You don't half-ass your way into one, and you certainly don't half-ass your way getting out of one. That doesn't seem to resonate around here.

Since the Russian offensive began, we have sent more than $174 billion taxpayer dollars to Ukraine—one of the most corrupt countries in the world.

Recently, the Biden-Harris administration announced their intent to send an additional $700 million taxpayer dollars to Ukraine in cash. Are you kidding me? Why on Earth would we give cash to the most corrupt country on the face of the planet?

So after all that, after the last 2½ years of funding billions of taxpayer dollars, getting hundreds of thousands of people killed, what do we have to show for it? The war has only gotten worse. Hundreds of thousands are dead. Ukraine is becoming more desperate as its forces are experiencing widespread insubordination and even mass desertion. We don't hear that on TV. We don't hear that in this propaganda media. Over 6 million Ukrainians have fled the country, have run, have left their country.

Ukraine is playing with fire, now seeking to conduct offensive operations deep inside Russia. Why? You can't win.

Most recently, Ukraine launched a drone attack that struck in Moscow. What are we trying to do—start World War III? Most recently, Ukraine launched a drone attack that struck several other office buildings in Moscow.

Adding to the uncertainty of this situation, this administration's current policy towards Ukraine has all the hallmarks of every Biden-Harris foreign policy decision that has preceded it—weak planning, disastrous results, zero leadership.

This administration never considered the consequences of Ukraine losing. How can that ever happen? This is really sad. It is sad for the United States of America, it is sad for the taxpayers, it is sad for our military, it is sad for our allies, and it is sad for NATO.

Some of his Democratic colleagues have said that Joe Biden never made a correct decision on foreign policy in 40 years. Well, he hasn't broken that.

The Biden-Harris administration has dumped billions of dollars also into the lap of Iran; removed the ''terrorist'' designation from the Houthis, who, by the way, we are fighting against right now, but they are not terrorists; alienated one of our most important friends, Saudi Arabia; and executed a disastrous Afghanistan withdrawal that unnecessarily cost the lives of Americans.

All this weakness was a direct signal to our adversaries: Now is the time to make your move.

And that is exactly what our adversaries—China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea—are doing.

China, today, is testing another ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean. They are preparing.

Russia now has pounced on Ukraine. Whatever you hear in the media is not true. It is a slaughter.

Iran has released its proxies and terrorized the Middle East.

Our ally Israel is fighting for its life against Hamas, following the gruesome October 7 attack, almost a year ago.

The Houthis—the Houthis are a bunch of people that live in the mountains—have been emboldened to attack ships, which has negatively impacted global trade.

We can't even beat the Houthis, and we are trying to create more wars.

China stepped up its aggression in the China Sea.

We are losing influence across the globe, especially in South America and Africa, where the Chinese and the Russians are taking over. We are leaving leaps and bounds.

So let's be very clear. Despite the administration's incompetence, I still believe Putin was wrong to invade Ukraine. I think we all do. He should have withdrawn his forces immediately after it started. Putin is responsible for his actions, and he has made no secret of the fact that he sees Ukraine as, historically, a part of Russia.

At the same time, I do not think that Ukraine's border is more important than ours, not even close, which we have been completely neglecting and neglecting the last 3½ years. We have been overrun—the southern border, the northern border, and from airplanes all over the world flying into our cities. It is an embarrassment.

We do not need the administration to enable Ukraine to use offensive weapons and strike deep into Russia. That cannot happen. We are on the cusp of a nuclear war. Nobody seems concerned. It won't happen.

Yes, it will happen. Putin has told us: It will happen if you continue this.

This would only escalate this conflict to an entirely—entirely—new level

that none of us can ever imagine. Do you think this offensive would convince Putin to come to the table and negotiate a peace agreement? Well, I would hope that we would go, but we do not seem to want to make a peace agreement. We had better, and we had better do it in the very near future.

This will provoke him to even more deadly weapons if they continue to attack them within their borders, costing more and more lives. NATO and the United States would be forced to respond as a result.

We are trying to create a war. We must consider these questions thoroughly before we involve ourselves in another one of these crazy conflicts that should never happen.

Improvising won't cut it. Now is the time for the United States to lead and negotiate a peace to the end of this bloody war.

I keep hearing people say: Well, we are building equipment for our military—yes, right—or our men and women are not losing their lives.

We are getting close to it. We are getting very close.

Now, look, I come from a military State in the State of Alabama. We build everything. We have thousands of troops. I want it to be well funded and well equipped if we ever have to fight a war. We need a lethal killing machine to deter other aggression. That is what a military is about.

This is not about defunding our military. I want our military laser-focused on protecting Americans and not woke DEI initiatives.

And it is not about abandoning our allies either. We need to support our allies.

It is about this administration's funding a proxy war with no plan—zero—no plan on how to stop it or how to win it.

The Biden-Harris administration needs to negotiate a peace agreement now, immediately, or there will be huge disastrous consequences coming in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, it is good that the Senate and the House are working on a bipartisan basis to pass a short-term spending bill to keep the government open. But make no mistake, our work is not over, because, once again, we are leaving town, for a long period of time, not having passed disaster aid to help survivors on Maui and elsewhere.

Over the past 13 months, since tragic fires tore down the town of Lahaina and claimed 102 lives, I have been here on the floor repeatedly pressing for urgent disaster relief, and in that time, more disasters have devastated communities all over the country.

So many people on Maui and in Texas and Vermont and New Mexico and California and Iowa and Florida and in 20 States total and, unfortunately, rising—they are waiting for help, and the Federal Government has not come to their aid yet. They have lost loved ones. They have lost homes. They have lost businesses. They have lost livelihoods. And all they want is help and a little bit of hope to get their lives back to something close to normal.

What are we doing as a Congress if we can't even deliver help to our fellow Americans when disaster strikes?

So when we return in November, passing disaster aid has to be the top priority of the U.S. Congress. There is no excuse not to do this.

What is being asked of us is what Congress always does. We simply need to do the thing that we have always done, which is to show up for disaster survivors and get them the help that they need.

And if you are a Member that represents any of the 20-odd States that need this help, we need your help. And if you are a Member from one of the other 30 States, there but for the grace of God go I. It will always come around. Everyone needs disaster help. So consider it your priority, even if your State, thank God, hasn't been hit this year or last—even if you don't have 20 or 30,000 victims waiting for help.

This is an American priority, and we cannot close up shop for this Congress, leaving all these Americans behind.

TRIBUTE TO DABNEY HEGG

Mr. President, this week caps a remarkable 28-year run in the U.S. Senate for Dabney Hegg, the Democratic clerk and staff director for the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, which I chair.

A career in public service spanning nearly three decades is extraordinary by any measure, but it is all the more impressive considering its trajectory, which began when Dabney was an intern in the office of her home State Senator, the late Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina. She worked her way up in his office to become a legislative assistant and went on to serve him and my great and heroic predecessor Senator Daniel K. Inouye on the Commerce Committee.

She ultimately joined the Appropriations Committee in 2010 and has been the Democratic clerk of the T-HUD Subcommittee for nearly a decade, beginning under the leadership of Senator JACK REED.

Dabney is everything you want in a public servant—smart, relentless, passionate, and loyal—and she is an appropriator's appropriator. What does that mean? She always gets to yes, and she always gets everyone else to yes. And the reason for that is evident from the first interaction with her. She is clear about what is important, and she is not afraid to fight for it.

As appropriators, we are the ones that are supposed to cut deals and shake hands, but, on some level, that is the easy part. Then it is on the clerks, like Dabney, to scrap it out down to the last dime and get the bill written and over the finish line.

And they do it away from the spotlight and without much fanfare, burying themselves in spreadsheets and statutes, toiling over every last digit and decimal, and rising above the partisan bickering to deliver more homes and better roads and safer transportation.

Dabney has had a hand in just about every major funding accomplishment in recent memory. Through appropriations, she has helped deliver record funding for Native housing and Tribal transportation, as well as our first-of-its-kind ''Yes In My Backyard'' grant program to get more homes built across the country.

And beyond that, she has been a key partner in advancing priorities through major bills like the IIJA, the American Rescue Plan, and even the FAA reauthorization.

For Hawaii, Dabney has always been a friend and an advocate, helping to secure funding for the HART rail system and the Honoapiilani Highway realignment, among many other projects.

And this past year, after the devastating fires on Maui, she made it her mission to get survivors relief, much as she has done for so many communities struck by disaster.

But that is just who she is. She understands that behind the numbers and the estimates and the stipulations that we deal with every day, there are real people and real communities whose lives stand to be materially improved by the work that we do. And that is a valuable reminder for all of us, whether you have worked here for 30 years or 3 months.

And so I want to sincerely thank Dabney for her years of partnership and her decades of service to the Senate, to the country, and the State of Hawaii.

We all wish her and her family nothing but the best in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

ANNIVERSARY OF ROUTE 91 HARVEST FESTIVAL SHOOTING

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, this year will mark 7 years since my community of Las Vegas was forever changed on October 1, 2017.

On that night, we experienced a tragedy on a scale far worse than anyone could have ever imagined. Ten minutes—10 minutes—is all it took for a gunman to open fire on an unsuspecting crowd at a music festival, killing 58 innocent lives, injuring thousands, and leaving a permanent scar on our State.

Sadly, in the years since, two more victims of that night's attack died because of injuries they received during the shooting, bringing the death toll to 60. It remains the deadliest mass shooting in American history.

The families of the victims of that tragedy had their world shattered that day, their lives forever changed—the

families who didn't get to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, holidays; and the families who never got to say goodbye to their loved ones.

That night also changed the lives in our city—people who were attending or working at the Route 91 Harvest Festival, the first responders who ran toward danger to save lives. And in the following days, we saw lines of people, lines of people around entire blocks willing to donate blood, willing to help in any way they could.

This kind of selflessness embodies the incredible spirit of our community. It showed the country why we are Vegas Strong. And as we remember and as we reflect on this tragedy, we must also commit ourselves to action so that no community has to experience the pain and suffering like we did.

The 1 October shooter was able to inflict as much pain and carnage as he did by using bump stocks. This dangerous modification allowed his weapon to fire more bullets faster as a way to inflict the most amount of pain on our city. Over 1,000 bullets—1,000 bullets—in just a matter of minutes.

And it was in response to this carnage that then-President Donald Trump issued a Federal rule banning bump stocks. It helped save lives from these deadly modifications.

But, unfortunately, the Supreme Court overturned this commonsense Federal ban, allowing bump stocks to flow into our streets once again. This shameful decision—shameful decision—by the Supreme Court will put more lives at risk, which is why I joined bipartisan legislation to restore this commonsense Federal ban on bump stocks.

And when Members of this Chamber tried to pass this bipartisan legislation, extremists in this body, what did they do? They blocked us. And some even had the audacity to say: This legislation was trying to solve a fake problem—a fake problem.

Should we tell the families who lost a loved one at the hands of a firearm using a bump stock on October 1 that it is a fake problem? A fake problem that they are sad at every holiday and every meal and every Thanksgiving table that their loved one is missing? A fake problem? Their grief is real; their loss is real; and their loss is forever. This is not a fake problem; it is a very real problem. And there are real solutions. But once again, Congress has failed year after year to act.

Las Vegas knows what the real threat of bump stocks are and why we must act. And as we approach the seventh anniversary of this unthinkable tragedy, I ask all my colleagues in this Chamber to remember and to honor the memories of the victims, to honor their families, to honor everyone whose lives are forever changed from the night and the shooting on October 1, 2017.

I also ask that we come together, Republicans and Democrats, in a bipartisan way to save lives by just passing commonsense legislation to ban bump stocks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague from Nevada Senator JACKY ROSEN to commemorate 7 years since the deadliest mass shooting in America's recent history. And as you can see from her previous comments, she is always, always fighting for Nevadans, working to protect our families in Nevada. And I am just so proud to be able to work alongside her representing the great State of Nevada.

As you have heard, 7 years ago, people from across the country gathered in Las Vegas for the Route 91 Harvest music festival. These were 3 days of live performances and dancing and fun. My niece was there. And October 1, what was supposed to be a joyous conclusion to the festival turned into a complete nightmare. In just 10 minutes from the window of a nearby hotel, a gunman fired more than 1,000 shots into the festival crowd.

Mr. President, 58 people were killed, and 2 more died later from their injuries. More than 800 were wounded, and thousands of families were forever changed.

Now, I remember sitting with some of them at the reunification center, hoping and praying that their loved ones would return to them. I will tell you what, though, some prayers were never answered, and that was heartbreaking.

But as the city of Las Vegas mourned, we also came together. Neighbors reached out to one another and helped each other heal. Programs were created to help our city cope and move forward. We were resilient because we are ''Vegas Strong.''

Out of tragedy and suffering, there was hope. Let me tell you about something that gives me hope: 3 weeks after the events of October 1, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada and Clark County set up the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center as a resource for the survivors of the Route 91 Harvest festival and their families.

After a tragedy like a mass shooting, the families, the victims, and survivors alike have to adjust to a new normal. Imagine living through the horrors of that October night and learning to heal from those injuries or grieving the loss of a loved one whose life was taken so suddenly by a senseless act of violence.

Then imagine, after you have been left with all of that trauma, that you are now faced with the complexity of paying medical bills or dealing with insurance companies. It is overwhelming. And where do you even begin? How are you going to navigate it all through your own emotional stress?

The Vegas Strong Resiliency Center was designed to ensure that families didn't have to go through that process alone. The center brought community partners with different resources to the table to deliver anything that the survivors might need from support groups, to mental health services, to financial advice.

And I have seen some of their great work myself. Their incredible executive director Tennille Pereira shared this story of a survivor of October 1, who, after recovering from being shot that night, could no longer make her way up the stairs to reach her apartment. In response to that, her landlord threatened to evict her. So she got in touch with Vegas Strong Resiliency Center. The center contacted her landlord, got the landlord to back down, and then helped her move to another apartment that was accessible to her.

This is what happens when the community comes together to help each other. The Resiliency Center connected survivors with the resources they need right when they need them. It gave survivors hope, and it helped them find light in the darkness.

In the 7 years since its establishment, the center not only helped survivors of the Route 91 Harvest Festival, but through the lessons learned from that crisis, it actually improved services for victims of violent crime throughout Southern Nevada, and that includes human trafficking survivors, domestic abuse survivors, and even first responders who have post-traumatic stress.

And when Las Vegas was struck by another tragedy last year after a gunman killed three people at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the staff at the Resiliency Center were able to immediately respond, providing resources and programs for students, families, faculty, and staff.

In January of this year, the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center was renamed the Resiliency and Justice Center, and its mission expanded to serve all survivors of violent crime in Southern Nevada.

They are continuing to grow their staff and their resources, and they are even getting ready to expand their offices. I am so proud to support the work of the Resiliency and Justice Center. At a time when our city was truly shaken to its core, they were there to help us get back on our feet, to help us remember that life goes on after loss, to help us find the strength to rebuild as a community.

And now as we mark 7 years since that terrible evening at the Route 91 Harvest Festival, we also mark 7 years of hope and resilience in the city of Las Vegas.

We hold the victims and their families in our hearts forever, and we remain Vegas Strong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

MOTION TO PROCEED—S. CON. RES. 41

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to modify the order of September 24 so that following my allotted time, Senator WHITEHOUSE be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by myself for an additional 5 minutes, prior to being recognized to

make the motion to proceed to S. Con. Res. 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, this year the United States will spend over $6 trillion while only bringing in $4 trillion in revenue. That is a profound gap; $2 trillion will be borrowed this year.

To add insult to injury, Congress spends like drunken sailors without even bothering to pass a budget. There is no budget. The Democrats have passed no budget in the Senate, and the Republicans have passed no budget in the House.

We are going to spend $6 trillion without anybody even thinking about where the money comes from out of budget to afford a $6 trillion government.

In fact, over the past 20 years, Congress has passed a budget less than half of the time. So today, I will attempt to do what both parties have failed to do; and that is, pass a budget.

They didn't ask me to do this. In fact, they would probably prefer I not introduce a budget because it embarrasses the status quo of both parties.

I am only allowed to introduce this budget because they didn't do their job, and once upon a time, someone wrote privileged rules into the Senate that say: If the parties fail to produce a budget, anyone can. So I have leapt at the chance because I think the American people would like to see us do something responsible, like balancing our budget.

The penny plan that I offer today will balance the budget in 5 years. The Federal Government passed an ignominious landmark this year. Our national debt now stands at $35 trillion and grows with each passing second.

To put that in perspective, each taxpayer's share of the debt is about $270,000. The government now spends more on interest to service our Federal debt than it spends on our national defense.

While we spend about 850 billion on the military, we will spend about 890 billion on interest.

We should heed this fact as a warning. As historian Niall Ferguson points out that ''any great power that spends more on debt service than on defense will not stay great for . . . long.''

We must act now if America is to once again be a rising nation.

Well, we are currently on a path toward decline. Right now, we spend nearly $2 trillion more per year than we bring in in revenue. This level of spending imposes a tax on every American. This tax is called inflation. When we borrow $2 trillion, somebody has got to buy it. Someone buys the debt.

When the Federal Reserve buys the debt, they create currency, create new money, out of thin air, which, when it begins to circulate, causes your prices to rise. This is the tax of inflation.

And Americans have felt the pain of inflation tax significantly over the last 4 years. Every day for the last 4 years, American people's purchasing power has decreased for even the most basic items. Since this administration took office, prices have risen nearly 22 percent, and feeding and providing for a family has become more expensive. For example, the price of bacon and eggs increased by nearly 30 percent. If you would like some toast with your breakfast, bread will cost you 11 percent more since the Biden-Harris administration took office. The price of butter is up by 30 percent. When Biden and Harris took office, a gallon of milk cost on average $3.25; today, the price has increased by 25 percent and costs just under $4. Gas prices have risen 22 percent.

And what kind of answer do you get from the administration? What type of answer do you get from the other side of the aisle? They say: Greed is causing prices to rise; that the grocery stores are greedy and are raising the prices; and we must have government come in and fix the prices.

Even on CNN, the mouthpiece for the Democrat party, economists appear to say: My goodness, have they not heard of Venezuela? Have they not seen what price controls do in Venezuela? They lead to shortages and famine. What they did to the Soviet Union, what they did to Communist China. And yet that is what they are proposing here because they misinterpret why the prices are going up.

It isn't that things are more precious; it is that your dollar is losing its value. Your dollar loses the value through inflation because we run a $2 trillion debt.

It is a Ponzi scheme. It is a bait and switch. The politicians come to you and say: Here, we will give you this for free. It is free. It won't cost you anything. We will give you free college. We will give you $25,000 for a house. It is free. There is no cost.

But it is a lie—the lie, the trick, the ruse. It is a lie on the American people because it is paid for through borrowing. And when we borrow, the Federal Reserve will buy the debt, and you will get inflation. So you are going to pay for it through inflation. There is no free lunch. You can't get anything for free. Something for nothing is a charade played on the American people by politicians who just want to gain power over your lives.

Americans will pay dearly for Congress's insatiable appetite for more and more spending. The high level of spending that is currently crushing the American family is just the beginning. If we continue down this unsustainable path, American families will be forced to deal with even higher inflation, confiscatory tax rates, rising interest rates, and a weak economy. It will be harder to find a job and provide for a family because the deals made in the Halls of Congress will always stick the taxpayer with the bill.

Right now, the average American family—their paycheck buys a thousand dollars less of stuff. You have lost a thousand dollars. If you make the same income you made 4 years ago, you are a thousand dollars poorer because of inflation.

Inflation came from these politicians offering you something for nothing. We have to wake up. As spending under the Biden-Harris administration weakened, every American family's purchasing power is also less. At $35 trillion, the Federal debt is nearly twice what it was 10 years ago. That is larger than the entire $25 trillion economy of America—the next five largest economies combined. So you take America's GDP, and you add the next five countries, it still doesn't equal our debt. Our debt is bigger than our economy, plus five more countries.

Whose fault is it? Well, really, frankly, both parties. During the previous administration—during the Trump administration—$8 trillion in debt was added. During the Biden administration—Biden-Harris administration—about $8 trillion is going to be added. It is going to be almost exactly the same when you compare 4 years of a Republican administration to 4 years of a Democratic administration.

So really, there is blame that goes around. But there are alternatives. I am offering an end to the inflation, an end to the debt, and a gradual balance to the budget over 5 years.

How much is $35 trillion? How do you even get your mind around it? Well, to put it in more tangible terms, $35 trillion is enough to fill 34 NFL stadiums with hundred dollar bills. So you take hundred dollar bills, and you just keep piling them into an NFL stadium until you reach the brim; and then if you fill 34 of those NFL stadiums, that would be 35 trillion.

Government spending is so out of control that even if President Biden emptied the bank account of every individual in the United States, it would only cover half of the debt.

Think about that: $35 trillion debt and then all of the savings of all of America—if you took all of their savings, which I am not proposing—but if you took it all, you only pay for half of the debt.

This is an unsustainable course, and many smart people have been saying this. We are headed for a calamity if we don't do something. Yet both parties just keep plowing on. They call what we are going forward with a continuing resolution. I will have none of it.

It is continuing the status quo. It is continuing to borrow $2 trillion a year. We have had a couple of periods in the last year where we borrowed a trillion dollars in a 3-month period. This is alarming, and it is out of control.

America is in a historic state of financial disarray. Right after the end of World War II—the world's most expensive war—our cumulative Federal debt was 18 percent larger than the GDP, the entire economy.

Now, in a period of relative peace, the debt is 22 percent larger. There are no excuses for this. Our debt now is

worse than it has been at any time as a percentage of GDP.

Are we certain that if a crisis erupts—if there were a war that we were participating in, another pandemic, God forbid, or some other catastrophe—that we will be able to borrow enough to meet the challenge? Without a drastic change of course, fiscal ruin is only a matter of time.

America's leading financial minds have already sounded the alarm. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve said that Federal spending is on an unsustainable path, and it is past time for Congress to correct it.

The CEO of JPMorganChase—America's largest bank—warned that the Federal Reserve must reduce its deficits before lenders finally say enough is enough and stop loaning the government money.

Now, you ask: How will this occur? Will it occur suddenly or gradually? Will we gradually lose our dominance? Will we gradually no longer be the reserve currency of the world or will we show up on a Friday to sell the debt and no one buys it?

The Federal Reserve will always buy it. The people say: The Federal Reserve will buy it. If the Federal Reserve buys all the debt, interest rates will go through the roof and so will inflation.

Even the head of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office cautioned that our financial situation is unprecedented and suggested the United States is now on an alarmingly weak fiscal footing.

As interest payments on the national debt crowd out the rest of the government's budget, tax increases, inflation, and eventual default on the debt are what lie ahead for the American economy.

Unfortunately, a debt crisis will not just stop with our economy. A threat to our financial security is also a threat to our national security.

We must remember that the surest path to peace is leaving no doubt in your adversary's mind about your ability to respond to aggression. With increasingly dubious financial health and a large share of resources devoted to interest payments, the United States is sending the opposite message, a message of weakness. Yet Congress has repeatedly chosen to ignore the deficit, raise the debt ceiling, fund foreign wars we can't afford—just put it on our tab.

That is what will happen today. They will vote on my budget to balance within 5 years, but there won't be enough votes. They will go merrily along with no budget, but they will also go merrily along at a spending clip that will borrow $2 trillion. And it will be all of the Democrats and about half of the Republicans who will go along with continuing to spend at this clip.

Since entering the Senate, I have introduced several proposals to balance the budget. In 2017, I introduced a budget that would have simply frozen spending for 5 years. And it balanced because, as the economy grew and revenue grew, you didn't even have to cut spending. All you had to do was agree not to spend more than you spent last year. Most American people would tolerate that. But not in Washington, no. Republicans and Democrats said: No way will we ever freeze spending.

What does a business do when they are short of money? They freeze spending. They downsize. They do whatever it takes to stay afloat so they can make their payments. But not in Washington.

So they didn't pass my budget in 2017 to freeze spending. They kept doing the same: borrow and spend, borrow and spend.

In 2018, I offered another plan to balance the budget. But by this time, a spending freeze no longer balanced it in 5 years because the spending had continued to increase. So I offered a one penny plan, cut 1 percent across the board. You can probably just cut waste and malfeasance and cut 1 percent. Cut 1 percent across the board, and it would still balance. That was the penny plan in 2018. But as things have gotten worse, as we got to the craziness of the COVID hysteria, where, once again, Republicans and Democrats shut the economy down and then said: Hey, you don't have to suffer. You don't have to work. We will just send you a check.

This was one of the worst decisions that had been made in recent history: no work, free checks. It was all borrowed. So the spending grew at an alarming rate through the COVID years, through the Trump administration.

And then we finally got beyond the urgency of it—people were no longer dying in significant numbers—and the Biden administration said that we are going to pave every road in the land, and we are going to borrow more money.

So we borrowed $8 trillion under Trump. We borrowed another $8 trillion under Biden. And now you can't balance the budget with freezing spending over 5 years. You can't balance the budget with cutting one penny; you actually have to cut six pennies. You have to do a 6-percent cut over 5 years to balance the budget.

Even the Biden-Harris administration's own Treasury has admitted that the current path is unsustainable. The math is clear. And I urge my colleagues, do not get in an argument with math. You will lose.

It is plainly wrong to stick our children and our grandchildren with the bill for our reckless spending. Thankfully, America is still home to the world's most dynamic economy and resilient individuals.

With revenue still expected to rise in the next 10 years, we are not beyond hope. The six penny plan that I am producing and introducing today will create conditions for growth and avert economic ruin. Right now, our interest payments eat away at our funds that are available for defense spending, and the budget leaves no room for emergencies.

Our current trajectory weakens our national security and drains productivity from the economy. History will remember those who had the courage to make the hard choices now and who chose to leave their children with less of the burden.

For just six pennies on the dollar, we can reverse this dismal trajectory. In just 5 years, we can restore trust in the U.S. dollar, the U.S. economy, and walk the U.S. Government off the fiscal cliff.

Vote yes on this plan. Vote yes on restoring fiscal sanity. Vote yes on securing a future for our country.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I speak in opposition today to the budget resolution put forward by my colleague from Kentucky.

Last year, President Biden and then-Speaker McCarthy came to an agreement on top-line appropriations levels for the current fiscal year as well as the fiscal year beginning on October 1. This bipartisan agreement, which included a 2-year budget deal, was passed by bipartisan votes in both Houses and was signed into law by the President. So, as of June 3, 2023, we have had a bipartisan budget deal that is good for 2 years—until September 30, 2025.

Just days before a government shutdown, House Republicans have spent most of this month trying to figure out how much of the deal they could renege on to get votes from their fractured caucus. Here in the Senate, this proposal also breaks the agreement, proposing $20 trillion in Federal spending cuts over 10 years but not a single detail about where it would cut.

Republicans are not happy to disclose where cuts would be because the American people would not be happy about the likely results—cuts, for instance, to Medicare, veterans programs, border security, national parks, law enforcement, transportation safety, affordable housing, education, and Medicaid. And, of course, the ''drill, baby, drill'' climate deniers would cut climate and clean air and water programs. If adopted, in its final year, this budget would cut all of those programs by 35 percent.

While this budget attacks basic Federal programs in the name of fiscal responsibility, Republicans simultaneously plan to blow up the deficit by cutting taxes for their billionaire mega-donors and big corporations. Under one hat, Republicans act fiscally conservatively and seek to cut programs to reduce the national debt. Under their other hat, they pursue more Trump tax cuts for the wealthy, increasing the debt by $4.6 trillion.

Last year, I asked CBO if it were mathematically possible to balance the budget within 10 years, extend the Trump tax cuts, and fully fund Social Security and Medicare, defense, and veterans programs. The answer from

CBO: No. The math simply doesn't add up. So that budget exists in fiscal fantasy land.

My Republican colleagues don't want to hear it, but more than a third of our national debt stems not from deficits but from economic shocks—the 2008 financial crisis and COVID. As we have heard over and over again in the Budget Committee, the economic shocks from climate change will likely dwarf those we experienced during the financial crisis—for instance, one caused by a climate-driven insurance crisis that crashes mortgage markets and property values nationwide. We have heard those warnings from everywhere from the chief economist of Freddie Mac to the front page of The Economist magazine.

What we should do, in bipartisan fashion, is decorrupt the Tax Code so that big corporations and billionaires are no longer a favored, free-riding elite. The Bush and Trump tax cuts skewed to the wealthy and big corporations are another third—$10 trillion of the national debt. Without those tax cuts, the debt-to-GDP ratio, which is our best fiscal safety metric, would be declining in perpetuity.

Helping the wealthy avoid taxes is such an infatuation that House Republicans brought the United States to the brink of default in trying to prevent the IRS from cracking down on wealthy tax cheats.

If we want to address the national debt, preventing massive economic shocks, decorrupting the Tax Code and getting serious about healthcare reform are the ways to go about it. This is not.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, it has been proposed that there is no place to cut, that all of this spending is being used in such a noble fashion. I would propose that there are a couple of areas we might all agree on.

We spend about $1 million studying Japanese quail to see if they are more sexually promiscuous on cocaine. Hmm. It seems like we could have just polled the audience on that one. It seems pretty clear. But we can't even cut things like that—$1 million studying Japanese quail on cocaine to see if they are more sexually promiscuous.

We spend $2 million studying whether, when you go to Luby's and you go to the cafeteria and someone sneezes in front of you on the food, you are more or less likely to take that food. Could we not cut that?

We spend about three-quarters of a million dollars studying selfies. If you take a selfie of yourself smiling and look at it later in the day, does it make you happy?

One of my favorites comes from 40 or 50 years ago, but the organization still exists and still keeps getting more money. This was from a conservative Democrat. This was a long time ago when they existed. William Proxmire used to do the Golden Fleece Award. One of his favorites was, they wanted to determine which made you more aggressive—tequila or gin—so they got a group of fish, and they fed a group of fish gin, and then they fed the other group of fish tequila. I scratch my head and say: Well, gosh, everybody knows, right? It has to be tequila.

So, I mean, the thing is, is there anyplace to cut? Sure, there is. Most of these things come from the National Science Foundation. I have been harping on them for years. Do you know what they did last year? Every Democrat and half of my Republicans, who are our fellow travelers, doubled the amount of money they give to the National Science Foundation. So when they say, ''Oh, well, that ludicrous thing? I would cut that,'' well, they are not going to cut it if you give them twice as much money.

So there are lots of ways. There is lots of fat. There are improper payments to the tune of billions and billions of dollars. They write a check to the wrong person. They write a check to dead people. I came to the floor and tried to get unanimous consent to quit sending checks to dead people. When we had the pandemic and they sent all the free checks, a lot of them went to dead people, for goodness' sake.

Do we ever cut any of the spending? Is there ever any remote slowdown in the spending? Every year, it goes up because they care about people, and they want to give you free stuff, but it is not free. There is going to be a $2 trillion deficit, and you are going to pay for it through inflation.

There is no mystery to inflation. The Federal Reserve buys our debt. When they do and the new money enters the circulation, it dilutes the value of the currency. Instead, what do you hear from the other side? Oh, the grocery store owners are greedy. We must put price controls on.

Well, they should remember the story from the Soviet bloc countries. A man goes into the store, and he says: Are you the store that doesn't have any butter?

The guy behind the counter says: No. We are the store that doesn't have any toilet paper.

That was an old joke of the Soviet bloc countries. That is what you get with price controls. That is what you get when you misunderstand what causes inflation. That is what you get when you want to pattern yourself after the phenomenon of disaster which is Venezuela.

So what I am asking is, we should spend what comes in. It is what every American family does. It is what most States do. It is what most cities do and what most counties do—spend what comes in—even over half of the European Union. We think of them as socialist countries, and some border on it. But, guess what, they spend what comes in. Half of the European Union balances their annual budget.

They are destroying this country by giving you free stuff. The stuff they are giving you is not free. There is no free lunch. You can't have free college. Somebody has to pay for it. There is no money up here. They are not giving you somebody else's money. They are not even taxing the rich. They are just borrowing it. It is all borrowed. They borrow to send it to Ukraine. They borrow to give it to you for free school. They will give you free cars. They will give you free houses. None of it is free. It is what causes inflation.

When you go to the grocery store, think of these people masquerading as Santa Claus. They are the ones who have caused the price of your steak to double, the price of milk to go up, the price of gas to go up. It is not the greedy grocery store owner; it is the shrinking dollar and the politicians masquerading as Santa Claus who are causing this economic havoc and ruin.

I recommend a ''yes'' vote on the only budget that will be presented this year because both parties have abdicated their roles. My budget balances it in 5 years. It is what we should do for the strength of America.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Kentucky.

SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2034—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 502, S. Con. Res. 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 502, S. Con. Res. 41, a bill setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays are requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 39, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Leg.]

YEAS—39

Barrasso	Fischer	Moran
Blackburn	Graham	Mullin
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Cassidy	Johnson	Rubio
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cramer	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tillis
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville

NAYS—56

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rounds
Bennet	Helmy	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Butler	Kelly	Sinema
Cantwell	King	Smith
Capito	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cardin	Luján	Tester
Carper	Markey	Van Hollen
Casey	Merkley	Warner
Collins	Murkowski	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Padilla	Wicker
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	Young
Hawley	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Manchin	Vance
Cotton	Scott (FL)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 39, the nays are 56. The motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 787, Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Luján, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Braun	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Johnson	Shaheen
Butler	Kaine	Sinema
Cantwell	Kelly	Smith
Capito	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Luján	Tillis
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Cramer	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Mullin	
Grassley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Schatz	Vance
Cotton	Scott (FL)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELMY). On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 37.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Delaware.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, the Office of Government Ethics is an Agency that independently works to oversee the executive branch's ethics program. The Director serves a term of 5 years in this instance, leading work that prevents financial conflicts of interest and ensures that the executive branch, regardless of political party, holds itself to the highest ethical standards.

Our Nation has been without a Senate-confirmed Director to this critical Agency for more than a year. I will say that again: more than a year. But, fortunately, we have a highly qualified nominee for this post, one who has received support from both Democrat and Republican Senators, including Senators on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which I used to chair.

Since 2016, David Huitema has served as the Assistant Legal Adviser for Ethics and Financial Disclosure at the Department of State. In this role, he has the responsibility of managing the Department's ethics program. Previously, he served as an attorney-adviser at the Department of State, worked in private practice for several years, and completed a clerkship at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

Mr. Huitema has a deep and thorough knowledge of the law and of ethics compliance in addition to his range of experience at the State Department and in private practice. I have no doubt that his skills and his experience will enable him to effectively lead the Office of Government Ethics.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 620, David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, directing the Office of Government Ethics is an important position due to the Office's role in aiding the President with the nominations process and assistance to the Senate in evaluating potential conflicts of interest for Presidential nominations.

This point was, of course, made clear in Mr. Huitema's HSGAC hearing, as he testified to the committee that nominee vetting would be not just a priority but priority one for the Office of Government Ethics and would dominate the next year, meaning the year that is about to arrive.

Given the fact that this position serves, once confirmed, for a 5-year term, it is also important for us to remember that we are now just a few weeks away from a Presidential election, a Presidential election that will determine who will serve as President of the United States for the next 4 years. So in light of that, we should wait to see who is elected before confirming this person to a 5-year term.

It is concerning to me that during his hearing before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Mr. Huitema left open the possibility of supporting a partisan policy, a partisan approach, from a nonpartisan position, one that can be used as a means of further weaponizing our government against officials who might be appointed, should President Trump win, in a Republican administration. Individuals responsible with directing the Office of Government Ethics must not engage, promote, or tolerate partisan lawfare.

Particularly in the midst of unprecedented lawfare and political weaponization of the U.S. Government against Donald Trump by the Biden-Harris administration, I have got grave

concerns that have led me to oppose their partisan nominees and policies considered in this Chamber, particularly between now and the election. The Biden-Harris administration forfeited that courtesy when they decided that they wanted to govern more like a banana republic than the United States of America.

Now, after these two assassination attempts that we have seen so far on Donald Trump, continued lawfare by Democrats at both State and national levels and unacceptable rhetoric from Vice President HARRIS, who has brought foreign leaders to campaign for her in a key battleground State, it is clear that they have changed their tune. And so I am not going to change my tune.

We have to remember that the President of the United States, at any given moment, for constitutional purposes, is the executive branch, is the living embodiment of the executive branch. This is an office that really ought to be filled at least with Members being allowed to take into account the outcome of a coming Presidential election. With that Presidential election just weeks away, there is no reason this has to be done today. In fact, there are very, very good reasons for us not to do it today.

Let's take this up after the Presidential election. That is the appropriate time to raise this. If Mr. Huitema is willing to further clarify his position and the next sitting President appoints him to fill the position, I am happy to revisit this question. Until then, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Michigan.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, shortly, I will ask for unanimous consent to confirm Rahkel Bouchet and John Truong to be associate judges for the District of Columbia Superior Court. The DC Superior Court functions as the State-level trial court in the Nation's Capital. Vacancies on the superior court bench have been straining the court, delaying justice for individuals and families all across the District.

Judge Bouchet and Mr. Truong each have the expertise and the temperament needed to serve on the superior court and are committed to serving the people of the District of Columbia.

Judge Bouchet has served as a magistrate judge for the District of Columbia's Superior Court since 2016 and is currently the deputy presiding magistrate judge. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Bouchet served as a clinical law professor and spent over 15 years in private practice, focusing on family and criminal law.

Mr. Truong is currently a Deputy Chief in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where he has served since 2013. He previously served as assistant U.S. attorney in the office's Criminal Division, where he prosecuted misdemeanor and felony crimes in the DC Superior Court.

Mr. President, these are not controversial nominees. They were vetted and recommended to the President by an independent local commission and received bipartisan support in my committee. In fact, former President Trump has also nominated Judge Bouchet and Mr. Truong to serve on the DC Superior Court.

The people of the District deserve to have the empty seats on the superior court filled by qualified judges, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these nominees.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 770, Rahkel Bouchet, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 771, John Cuong Truong, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I object. Reserving the right to object, this summer, several of us made clear that, given the unprecedented lawfare by the Biden-Harris administration against President Trump, we will not consent to fast-tracking any judicial nominees before the coming election, and we are keeping our word on that.

If Democrats truly want these nominees confirmed, Senator SCHUMER can schedule them for votes. The truth is, they don't care enough about these nominations to do that so they are trying to confirm them this way, with the fast-track process.

Look, I have firsthand experience with this process. In 2017, Senate Democrats forced floor votes and 30 hours of postcloture time on my confirmation to be U.S. Ambassador to Japan under President Trump. So I am not standing in the way of confirmation. As promised, though, I will not fast-track judicial confirmations before the election, when the American people will get a chance to reject the politicized administration of justice that is occurring here in America right now. We clearly stated this position, and now we are following through on it. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Michigan.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, shortly, I will ask for unanimous consent to confirm Ann Fisher and Ashley Poling to serve as Commissioners on the Postal Regulatory Commission, or the PRC.

The PRC is an independent Agency that serves as the Postal Services regulator, providing oversight as well as accountability. This bipartisan Commission is most effective with a full complement of Commissioners who have diverse perspectives but who are all committed to ensuring the transparency and accountability of the Postal Service.

Ann Fisher and Ashley Poling have both served as PRC Commissioners since 2019, and they have both demonstrated their commitment to robust oversight of the Postal Service. These are not controversial nominees. They are both dedicated public servants with deep expertise of the Postal Service. Both were previously nominated to the PRC by former President Trump, and they were unanimously confirmed by the Senate. They also received strong bipartisan support in my committee for their renominations, and I would urge my colleagues to join me in confirming these well-qualified nominees.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc for the Postal Regulatory Commission: Calendar No. 772, Ann C. Fisher, and Calendar No. 773, Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Ann C. Fisher, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2030 (Reappointment), and Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2030 (Reappointment)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 8281

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, the Democrats' talking points against the SAVE

Act are being proven wrong day after day after day.

We heard them say repeatedly: Noncitizens, including illegal aliens, don't vote because they can't vote. That is to say, they don't vote because they are not allowed to vote because Federal law prohibits noncitizens from voting in U.S. elections. But they do. They have. And existing laws make it, unfortunately, far too easy for them to do so.

In fact, Oregon officials, to cite just one example, admitted just recently an error of the State's automatic voter enrollment problem. And they acknowledged that it was much more significant an error than they previously thought, having registered 1,259 possible noncitizens just since 2021 alone. Some of the mistakenly enrolled noncitizens, thereafter, went on to cast a ballot, according to Oregon's secretary of state.

This enrollment error in Oregon was first unearthed earlier this month with officials admitting to wrongly registering around 300 voters through an Oregon DMV program that registers legal citizens when they obtain a driver's license or a State ID. But this week, the DMV and the secretary of state's office said a complete review showed 1,259 people who didn't provide proof of U.S. citizenship were added to Oregon's voter rolls, a number four times the previously acknowledged and reported figure.

Unfortunately, Oregon is not unique in this regard. There are other States that have acknowledged problems—a long list of them—including States like Texas and Virginia, each clearing thousands of noncitizens from their existing voter registration rolls.

Yet Democrats say this isn't happening. They continue to dismiss the need for the SAVE Act, citing an existing law under which noncitizens are, in fact, already barred from voting in Federal elections, as well they should be. They are barred; but the fact that they are barred doesn't mean that a combination of circumstances based on existing law makes it far, far too easy for noncitizens to vote. As I said a moment ago, they do, even though they are prohibited from doing it; and in many circumstances, they have.

But we are seeing it happen in realtime.

This is our final chance to address this issue before what I think most of us would acknowledge is going to be one of the most consequential elections of our lifetimes. If Democrats truly believe, as most Americans do, that voting in U.S. elections should be reserved for American citizens, then they must agree to pass the SAVE Act.

This is not too heavy a lift. This is something that just makes it possible for us to enforce existing law—existing law that, to my knowledge, nobody in this Chamber or the other legislative Chamber down the hall has suggested we change. That is all this does. That is all the SAVE Act is about.

This is, in fact, the last chance to prove that they care about election integrity in order for it to matter in enough time that it can make a difference between now and the November general election. After all, since the Biden-Harris inauguration, over 10 million undocumented immigrants entered the United States illegally. This figure—just that figure of 10 million who came into the country illegally in the last 3½ years alone—that figure exceeds the population of most of our States—36, in fact. A supermajority of all of our States have populations smaller than the population of illegal immigrants that have come through unlawfully under the Biden-Harris watch.

With millions of unauthorized people on U.S. soil—a total of 30 million noncitizens living in the United States—the potential for election fraud through ineligible voting is not a hypothetical risk. This means the foundational principles that underpinned our republic—or any republic, for that matter—are under attack. It is under attack because President Biden, Secretary Mayorkas, and ''Border Czar'' Vice President KAMALA HARRIS refuse to enforce the law.

With the influx of illegal aliens under this administration, if even a fraction—let's just say, 1 in 100—were to vote, this could translate into hundreds of thousands of votes. Depending on where they are located and concentrated, this could be far more than enough to sway many of our most tightly-contested elections and alter their outcomes, especially in the case of the Presidential election.

So make no mistake: This matters. It has consequences. And what we do or choose not to do will make a difference.

This is concerning considering a recent study. And in that study, we found that noncitizens have ample openings and significant opportunities, repeatedly, to vote unlawfully. This study found that anywhere from 10 to 27 percent of noncitizens in the U.S. are, in fact, today registered to vote. And anywhere from 5 percent to 13 percent of noncitizens in the United States currently do vote in Presidential elections.

So, no, don't tell me this doesn't happen. Don't tell me it is already unlawful so we don't need to do anything about it. We know that existing law, while it prohibits noncitizen voting in Federal elections, existing law makes it far too easy to do. And that is what we want to do in America with our elections. We want to make it easy to vote; hard to cheat. The last thing we want to do is make it easy to vote for those who will cheat—who do cheat by virtue of their voting because they are not entitled to do it.

It is what it means to be a citizen in a republic. It is what it means to be a country and to have a vote. You are stealing other people's votes. You are diluting their votes. You are, in fact, disenfranchising legitimate votes when you participate unlawfully, fraudulently, feloniously, but in a way that current law makes far too possible.

Across the Nation, instances abound where States have inadvertently, apparently, facilitated this crisis. Who knows to what degree of inadvertence this was, but it is always referred to as an inadvertent error. And unless or until we can prove otherwise, we have to deal with it.

But regardless of the degree of awareness and intentionality that went into it, these things did, in fact, happen, everything from unsolicited voter registration forms being mailed directly to the addresses of noncitizens and driver's licenses being issued without adequate checks, relying merely on the honesty of illegal aliens as they complete forms. All of these practices have opened up the floodgates to voter fraud.

Now, there is no law in place telling the States, as they process voter registration forms under the 1993 National Voter Registration Act, or NVRA—this is the so-called Motor Voter law. It is a law that allows people, when they apply for a driver's license, to simultaneously register to vote in Federal elections simply by checking a box and signing their name. Nothing in the NVRA or in any other current provision of Federal law tells the States exactly how or what they must do in order to verify the citizenship of voters who plan to participate in Federal elections.

Regrettably, a few years ago, the Supreme Court of the United States interpreted the NVRA, based on the fact that it doesn't instruct the States on how to verify citizenship, as somehow precluding, prohibiting the States from asking for proof of identification verifying citizenship at the time someone registers to vote under the NVRA in a Federal election.

This really was wrong, in my opinion. It was a majority opinion of the Supreme Court, and I believe they got it wrong. It is the Court's ruling, nonetheless, and it stands. It was issued over the strong dissent of Justice Alito, who pointed out the reasons why it shouldn't have been interpreted that way, but that ruling stands nonetheless, and the States have to abide by that order.

So, to be clear, under the law as it now stands, somebody going into a State and applying for a driver's license—as you are allowed to do, by the way, as a noncitizen, in all 50 States. You can apply for a driver's license in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. If you check the box on the attached NVRA form saying you want to register to vote and then sign your name saying ''Yeah, I am eligible to do this,'' that is it. The State isn't even allowed to ask you for any kind of identification. That is the end of the matter. A mere check of a box and a signature is all it takes, with little to no risk of being caught. In fact, noncitizens are being encouraged to vote

and not warned of the consequences of doing so.

The fact that the Supreme Court wrongly interpreted Federal law to ban States from requiring proof of citizenship when registering voters via Federal forms makes it all the more urgent and important for us to do this. This signals loudly and clearly that this is how you get around this thing. We have to fill this gap.

An increasing number of localities permit noncitizens to vote in local elections. Now, that is their decision. I think it is a terrible decision on their part, but it is a decision over which we as Congress, we as the lawmaking branch of the U.S. Government, have no control. But what we do have control over is who may vote in Federal elections. That part is our business.

Prominent Democrats have openly discussed these tactics as beneficial to their agenda—''these tactics'' meaning deliberately bringing about the registration to vote in Federal elections by noncitizens and participating in Federal elections and casting ballots unlawfully as noncitizens.

Only months ago, every Senate Democrat voted to count illegal aliens in the census to help them shore up more seats in Congress and more votes in the electoral college. This cannot continue.

It is one thing to do that in the context of the decennial apportionment count—the part of the census that is used to distribute seats in Congress and in the House of Representatives and in the electoral college; it is quite another thing to let them actually vote. No sane republic would or should do that—certainly not this Republic.

The American people agree overwhelmingly on this. If you are an American citizen, you can vote in Federal elections; if you are not, you can't, and you shouldn't be able to.

It is our responsibility, it is our imperative to close these gates—these gates that have been left wide open as a result of a combination of circumstances, including the NVRA, the wrong interpretation of it by the Supreme Court a few years ago, and then the 10 million-plus illegal aliens coming in in the last 3½ years alone and the total of 30 million-plus noncitizens living in the United States today, coupled with the fact that it has never been easier to apply for a driver's license in all 50 States and the District of Columbia even if you are a noncitizen.

My bill, called the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or the SAVE Act, would be a vital step in securing the electoral process, ensuring that every vote cast must be legitimate, that every vote cast must be cast by a U.S. citizen, and that every voter be duly and lawfully registered.

The SAVE Act amends the National Voter Registration Act so that States can ensure that only U.S. citizens may participate in Federal elections. The SAVE Act requires States to obtain concrete documentary proof of citizenship at the time of voter registration. It specifies that acceptable documentation must be provided, and it explains what kind of documentation. It also requires States to establish alternative verification processes for those rare cases where standard documents might be unavailable.

In that respect, the SAVE Act is far easier to comply with than other examples we can identify under existing Federal law where Americans routinely can be and are required to produce proof of citizenship in order to do a certain thing.

The most common of these instances of Federal law requiring proof of citizenship involve the submission of the form known as the I–9. If you are not familiar with that, I can guarantee, if you are a U.S. citizen and you have ever had a job, you filled one out.

The I–9 is the form that you have to present whenever you start new employment. If you are starting as an employee, you have to fill out the I–9. Attached to the I–9 has to be proof of citizenship. Typically, it is most easily satisfied if you have a U.S. passport. If you don't have a U.S. passport, you have to show a U.S. birth certificate and then, I think, a couple of forms, a government-issued photo ID, to prove that you are the person identified on that birth certificate, and then you are good.

The SAVE Act is even more flexible than that. That is not too onerous by itself, but recognizing that the right to vote is at stake and that some people might not have or might have lost some of these documents, it provides myriad other avenues by which they may prove their citizenship. This is not too onerous.

It also requires the States that set up these verification processes to make sure that they can get this done. It provides incredibly expansive ways to prove citizenship, and if you don't have any documented proof, you can do it.

This will in no way make it hard for any U.S. citizens to vote, not even the poorest or the least fastidious about recordkeeping among us. Every one of them will be able to vote if they are U.S. citizens. Indeed, it will prevent their votes from being canceled by foreign actors trying to bring about what really amounts to foreign interference with U.S. elections, which is something we all claim to care about and be opposed to aggressively.

Furthermore, the SAVE Act compels States to proactively remove noncitizens from voter rolls and introduces severe Federal penalties for those individuals who knowingly register noncitizens to vote.

The bill echoes the sentiments of the American people themselves, from coast to coast, from north to southeast to west. It transcends political affiliations and speaks directly to the core of what makes our country great: fair, free, and secure elections.

There is a lot that divides us here, that sets Democrats against Republicans and that can result in us disagreeing on the basis of a genuine disagreement among our voters, among our constituents. Republicans and Democrats, voters and Senators alike, often just disagree depending on our political alignment. But in this particular instance, it is the Senators who are opposed to each other, not reflected in the way the American people feel. Among the American people, this is like an 80-percent issue. Like 80 percent of Americans believe that we should be doing this. In fact, they feel like it is absolutely crazy to not do it.

This is about transcending those political affiliations and going back to what is so important about being a U.S. citizen and casting our vote. Your vote doesn't mean much if it can be canceled out by somebody else who is not entitled to be here.

There is not a corporation in America that would allow nonshareholders to participate in a shareholder election. They wouldn't let a nonshareholder vote if the whole point of the vote was to let shareholders vote.

If I were to wander into the Senate Democratic caucus as they are holding their leadership elections or any other important deliberation where they have to vote, they wouldn't in a million years let me vote in there because I am not a Senate Democrat.

When I arrived in the U.S. Senate, each of the three times I have been sworn in as a U.S. Senator, I had to produce documentary proof that I had, in fact, been elected in Utah. I had to produce an election certificate issued by the chief election official in the State of Utah, the Lieutenant Governor, who indicated that I won my elections—first in 2010, then in 2016, then in 2022. Without being able to prove that I was entitled to be here and to cast a vote here, I would never have been allowed to vote, nor should I be. It is no less true with U.S. elections. We cannot let those who are not entitled under the law to do it because they are not citizens, to vote in our elections.

This is about protecting our elections from foreign interference—something my Democratic colleagues claim to care immensely about. Every day that we delay, the foundation of our electoral processes erodes a little more. We can't wait for this administration to enforce the law.

This bill will make it harder to cheat in elections and ensure the integrity of every single ballot that gets cast. There is really no valid argument against it, so heretofore people opposed to it have just been throwing out red herrings like ''It is already illegal,'' which, for reasons I explained a minute ago, means nothing if there is no way to enforce the law, and existing law makes it far too easy to cheat without getting caught or, alternatively, just ignoring it altogether. But there is no valid argument against this bill. That is why you don't hear any valid argument against this bill—it doesn't exist.

The only reason to oppose this bill would be if you need or are counting on

illegal votes to win elections, if you want to rely on them—perhaps in the first instance or as backup; I don't know. But there is no valid, legitimate reason to oppose it.

By passing the SAVE Act, we would send a clear message that in the United States, voting is not just a privilege of citizenship but also a protected and cherished right, one that we need to protect.

As debates about election integrity rage, the SAVE Act stands out by guaranteeing that only American citizens will have a say in our elections. American elections must be decided by Americans, by American citizens. Without that, without them, we have no right to be here. We have no right to pass laws on behalf of the people without those people being citizens. So we have to make sure that those people determining who is here, who is in the Chamber down the hall, and who sits in the White House, are, in fact, U.S. citizens.

I acknowledge the presence of my friend and colleague, the distinguished Senator from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I sure am honored to be here on the Senate floor fighting to defend our democratic process with my friend and colleague from the great State of Utah.

Free, safe, secure, and fair elections are integral to the survival of our Republic. Without election integrity, the voice of American citizens—the foundation of our Republic—is at risk of being silenced.

Unfortunately, millions of Americans have lost confidence in the security of our elections. They question whether their vote truly matters or if their vote is being diluted by noncitizens. We must ensure that the outcome of our elections is determined by our own citizens, uninfluenced by illegal ballots. The heart of our democracy depends upon this.

Ensuring that only U.S. citizens vote in our elections isn't just necessary, it is common sense. I am proud to support the SAVE Act, which will protect our elections by requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote and an ID at the time of voting.

This shouldn't be a divisive issue. Nearly 80 percent of Americans—Democrats, Republicans, Independents—all agree on this simple requirement—80 percent.

Now, again, this is common sense. You need an ID to drive. You need an ID to board a plane. You need an ID to get a fishing license. But voting is a sacred right with an even higher value than those other examples. Voting should demand the same standard. Protecting this right isn't controversial. It is common sense.

Right now, due to the crisis of our open southern border, at least 11 million illegal immigrants are in the United States today. That number alone could replace the population of 36 States, almost 4 times the population of Kansas. Imagine what that could do to our electoral process if left unchecked.

You know, friends back home—I just did a telephone townhall. They asked me the same question: Why do my colleagues across the aisle refuse to support a policy that 80 percent of Americans agree upon; that would make our elections freer, safer, more secure?

Well, let me tell you why. It is because they spent years courting illegal immigrants, ushering them into our country, ushering in over 12 million, hoping to tip the scales in key States. But we cannot let them highjack our elections.

Now, look, noncitizen voting is real. This isn't hypothetical. In Texas, Virginia, and Oregon, noncitizens have been found on the voting rosters. Additionally, California, Maryland, Vermont, and Washington, DC, already allow noncitizens to vote in local elections.

This is an immediate threat to the future of our democracy, and it demands action. This is a nonpartisan American issue. It is about protecting our country. Just as we reject foreign interference in our elections, we must reject noncitizen voting with equal seriousness.

And this is why Congress must act, and they can act today. This has already been passed in the House. We could pass this today. The President could sign it tomorrow, and away we go.

With the SAVE Act, we can restore faith in our elections. We are only 40 days away from the most consequential election in our lifetime. Time is running out. Our Republic depends on it. So let's act.

I would like to yield the floor back to my colleague from Utah.

Mr. LEE. I recognize the presence of my friend and colleague the senior Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank my colleague from Utah.

Madam President, thank you for the time and recognition.

I want to say thank you to him for bringing this issue forward.

As I am out and about in Tennessee, I hear a lot about this. People are concerned about what would happen if those who are illegally in the country get a vote, if they exercise the rights of citizenship, because so many people in Tennessee talk about that, in America, there is nothing more fundamental than guarding our God-given freedoms, approaching the ballot boxes as equal citizens for fair and open elections.

And they are quite disturbed because, for the last more than 3 years, what they have seen is that the Biden-Harris administration has waged a war on this sacred institution by working overtime to make illegal immigration legal.

Now, you have heard reference to the numbers of illegal aliens—and, by the way, that is the statutory term that is used—and about the numbers that have come into this country. We know it is north of 10 million illegal aliens. The Senator from Kansas referenced this. And the size is larger—the number, the population number—larger than 36 of our States, and the impact that that can have.

And as my colleague from Utah pointed out, when someone comes here illegally, and they go into a State like Minnesota that gives those that are illegally in the country a driver's license, and then that individual goes to another State, through the motor voter law, they can check that box, and they can register to vote. They can get that driver's license. They can register to vote. And we know that this has occurred, and we have seen it occur in voter rolls all across this country—from Massachusetts to Arizona and everywhere in between.

Now, recently, the State of Virginia went through their voter rolls, and they discovered that they had more than 6,000 that were on their voter rolls who had entered the country illegally.

And this becomes such a problem when you look at the number of States that do not require voter ID when they vote. We have got 14 States across this country where you do not have to show an ID when you go to vote at the polls. You show up, and you vote.

Now, one thing is clear. While it is against the law for illegal aliens to vote in Federal elections, many States and jurisdictions lack the proper safeguards to enforce this law. It is already illegal. It is already illegal. But they broke the law coming into the country illegally. They have broken the law by checking that box and registering to vote.

And the risk is higher than ever because of what has transpired at the open border, but the SAVE Act, which the gentleman from Utah has brought to the floor today, would solve this problem because it would require proof of U.S. citizenship to vote in an election, and you would have to provide that proof in person.

I will tell you, there are many people that are surprised that we don't require that proof—that you prove that you are who you say you are.

The SAVE Act also has provisions to restore our election integrity. It would require States to establish a program to remove those that are illegally in the country from the voter rolls, and it would also allow citizens to sue election officials who fail to uphold requirements for proof of citizenship.

Now, the House did pass this in July, and it had been sitting over here for the last couple of months. And so I would ask my Democratic colleagues: What in this bill do you oppose? What do you oppose? Why is it that you would want to open the door to allow individuals that have illegally entered the country to actually vote in a Federal election? Do you want to encourage them to vote in our elections?

This is why we need to protect the integrity of each citizen, each person—one person, one vote.

Now, my colleague from North Carolina has also come to the floor, and I want to say a word about his Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act, which would also be helpful. His bill, which I support, would block President Biden's Executive order that forces—not allows, but commands—it forces Federal Agencies to work with outside partisan groups to mobilize voters.

And guess what. The taxpayers got to pay for this. Talk about wanting to federalize elections. Talk about the Federal Government wanting to throw their weight. This is it.

And, of course, the Executive order excludes any information about how the Biden-Harris administration would go about approving or selecting groups.

So I commend my colleague from North Carolina for the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act. I commend my colleague from Utah for the SAVE Act.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 439, H.R. 8281, the SAVE Act; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, reserving the right to object, today marks the third time that I have come down to the floor to object to this bill—not the first time, not the second time, three times.

Madam President, in this particular case, the third time is not the charm. But I grant my colleague one thing. He says that things have changed since the last time he tried to bring this bill up for a vote or approval on unanimous consent.

What has changed, you might ask? Well, this bill actually failed to pass the Republican-controlled House of Representatives just last week. Republicans attached this bill to a must-pass government funding bill, and they still couldn't find the votes, not even with the votes that they have on their side of the aisle.

So it does beg the question: What the heck are we doing here?

This is not a serious attempt to protect our elections. The only thing that this bill does—and the discussion of it does—is stoking fear that our elections may not be secure, and it creates mistrust in the outcome of elections.

So I feel compelled to take a moment to, once again, reassure all Americans that are listening today: There is no credible evidence of massive voter fraud or a massive number of noncitizens voting in our elections—no evidence, none. Let me be clear: no evidence, none.

In fact, it is already illegal for noncitizens to vote in Federal elections, no matter what State they live in.

In some of the conversation from some of the Senators, over the last several minutes, there has been reference to what the Federal Government may be doing to federalize elections. I will make specific reference to the motor voter law that was approved by Congress on a bipartisan basis; that, yes, directs States to do what they can to encourage civic participation and to utilize their department of motor vehicles to engage eligible voters. Since they are already interfacing with government, let's take that moment of their time—as they are already sharing name, address, date of birth, other personal information—and in addition to applying for a driver's license or a State ID, if they are eligible, to register them to vote in the process or update their registration.

And, yes, there are States in the country that do allow a noncitizen or undocumented immigrant, even, to obtain a driver's license. But I can tell you, as a former chief elections officer for the State of California—not just on behalf of California but of my colleagues across the country that I have worked with—protocols are in place. If you are a noncitizen applying for a special type of driver's license or an undocumented immigrant applying for a special type of driver's license, you go through one process. If you are a citizen, you go through another that includes that opportunity to register to vote.

Let me come back to the bottom line here again: no evidence of massive voter fraud—no evidence the last time this bill came up, no evidence today. And I doubt there will be any evidence between now and November 5—or even after November 5—because of the integrity of elections administration in the country.

Now, I have to speak to the timing. We stand here today, 41 days before this November's election. The election is already happening. For those who are familiar, ballots have already been mailed out to members of the military and other overseas voters.

In many States, the vote-by-mail ballot process has already begun. In some States, early voting is beginning. The election is happening.

But again, I sense the real motive for bringing this bill up today is an attempt to continue to inject fear and uncertainty in the minds of voters at a time where, frankly, we need calm; we need understanding; we need truth.

So, as I have in the previous objections, I will extend my invitation again today: Let's work together in a thoughtful, responsible, bipartisan manner to ensure more eligible Americans can easily register to vote, stay registered to vote, and cast their ballots. But until I am taken up on that offer, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The senior Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, my distinguished friend and colleague the Senator from California makes an impassioned plea that we not pass this bill. I appreciate his thoughtfulness and care and consideration that he routinely gives to matters pending before the Senate. I wish I could say that always translates into accurate statements.

Today, it didn't. He made several statements that are just not accurate. First and foremost, he suggested—not just suggested, he said that this bill—the SAVE Act, which I am trying to pass right here, right now—failed to pass in the House of Representatives; that even in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives it couldn't get the votes to pass.

That is not true. It is 100 percent false. In fact, this has passed the House of Representatives. It passed the House of Representatives not only with the Republicans voting for it but they picked up five Democrats along the way. So they passed it. They passed it with a bipartisan vote.

Now, he may be referring to the fact that there was another vote—another vote cast last week in which they attached the SAVE Act to a spending bill. It was the spending bill that caused the combined measure to fail. But, in fact, the SAVE Act has been passed by the House of Representatives.

It was passed with a bipartisan vote because even these Democrats, who joined with all the Republicans over in the House of Representatives, acknowledged that this is a problem. The problem has been created by a combination of Federal laws that have grown too loose, that have been further loosened by the Supreme Court of the United States in its interpretation of it, and that the need for it has, in fact, escalated.

Point No. 2 that he makes—this is the third time—sounding, I think, a little frustrated by the fact that we tried to do this multiple times. Well, forgive me, but the case for it has continued to build. It has continued to build steadily, even at the same time that the House of Representatives has now passed it.

This does matter. So he is mistaken here in that nothing has changed.

He says that there is no evidence of this. That is not true. That is news to me, given that the world learned yesterday of this evidence that just came out from the secretary of state's office in Oregon showing that complete review revealed 1,259 people in that State who didn't provide proof of U.S. citizenship, and they had been added to Oregon's voter registration rolls a number of—four times the previously reported figure.

That is also news to States like Texas and Virginia, just to state a couple. There are more that have been going through their voter registration rolls and discovered a lot of noncitizens. I mean, you add them all up, and we are talking about thousands of noncitizens registering to vote.

Then he pivots a little bit, and he says that there is no evidence of massive voter fraud. If thousands of illegally registered voters—people who illegally register to vote in Federal elections—if that is not massive, I don't know what is.

Now, as to the next point that he makes: Ballots have already been mailed out. I don't dispute that. I am absolutely certain that that is the case. That is in no way, shape, or form an argument against the SAVE Act, nor is it an argument against passing this now.

In fact, there is no reason not to pass this now. There is good reason to pass it now, given that in fully 22 States in the United States of America—fully 22 States allow voter registration up to and including the day of the Presidential election. So in addition to the thousands of persons who are noncitizens and therefore may not lawfully register to vote or vote in a Federal election who have already registered to vote, many of whom have been shown in past elections to have voted illegally—we don't even know what the total number is. We don't even know what the total number of people is who might register to vote and then vote unlawfully between now and the 5th of November when the election is held. Yet in addition to the 22 States where you can register to vote, up to and including the day of the Presidential election, there are a whole lot of others who allow it, to varying degrees, at some point between now and election day.

Then he goes back to the fact that this is not a serious proposal. I don't know what that means, other than Democrats don't like it. And I understand that they don't like it. It is serious. I assure you, Madam President, and I assure my colleagues, this is a very serious matter when people register to vote and vote illegally. That disenfranchises actual U.S. citizens.

Finally, I do take exception to something. I take exception to the suggestion as to motive, suggesting that the reason I am here to do this is to disingenuously plow what he refers to as ''fear and uncertainty'' as to the legitimacy of our elections.

Not only is this kind of speech uncalled for and prohibited under rule XIX of the Senate rules where you are not supposed to characterize somebody's motive as something devious like this, if I were out here deliberately trying, just for kicks and giggles, to undermine the legitimacy in the outcome of the election, that would be inappropriate. That is not accurate. There is not a scintilla of proof for that. And there is a mountain of proof that we have darned good reason to bring this about.

I am deeply disappointed that we can't pass this. This is not a heavy lift. It is not too much to ask that we put something in place, putting teeth into existing law that has been on the books for decades that Americans overwhelmingly agree with and says you can't vote in a U.S. election unless you are a U.S. citizen.

The House passed it; we could pass it today. This could make a difference. We should pass it. It is inexcusable that we are not.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1398

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, Americans should be able to trust our electoral process. But the Biden-Harris administration is undermining the system. And this is rightly causing millions of Americans to doubt the integrity of their vote.

That is why my colleague from Utah Senator LEE has worked so hard to pass the SAVE Act. It is a commonsense bill to make sure that only American citizens vote in American elections.

Now, this would address one of the most pressing threats to the electoral system. But there is also another serious threat to the integrity of our elections: the use of taxpayer dollars for partisan political activity.

During the first 100 days of the Biden-Harris administration, President Biden signed an Executive order directing the head of every Federal Agency—every Federal Agency—to submit a plan for their Agency to ''promote voter registration and voter participation.''

Now, on the surface, this seems like a harmless order simply designed to increase the number of Americans who vote. And I believe—we probably all believe—that is a laudable goal.

The problem is that the order also mandates that all Federal Agencies partner with approved third-party organizations to provide these services on Federal Agency property and using your taxpayer dollars.

So big questions remain, less than 2 months before a general election: Which third-party organizations are approved; who approves them; and what criteria are required?

All of this information is conveniently missing from this order.

Now, Congress has attempted to provide some and conduct some oversight on this, and citizens have rightly filed the Freedom of Information Act lawsuits.

The Biden-Harris administration has released only a tiny fraction of these Agency plans. Now, in at least one instance, the administration redacted every single paragraph of an Agency plan, leaving only vague headers.

I have one of these. I have 8 pages of redaction. That is how they responded to what American citizens are entitled to in regard of Freedom of Information. That is how the Biden-Harris—KAMALA HARRIS—administration responded.

So it begs the question: What does the Biden-Harris administration have to hide? I am concerned that this administration is writing their own rules and using taxpayer money to partner with liberal get-out-the-vote organizations. For example, a few months after this order was issued, the Biden-Harris administration hosted a listening session to discuss the implementation of this order.

Now, about 50 leftwing organizations attended this meeting, and every representative attending was either registered as a Democrat or donated to Democrats, with the exception of one member of the Green Party.

According to notes from a Department of Justice attorney documenting this meeting, their talking points focused on expanding Democrat voter blocs and espousing extreme liberal views. Remember, this is everyone's taxpayer dollars doing this.

Now, as a matter of principle, I don't believe the Federal Government should be using those taxpayer resources to advance their partisan politics and policies. That is a principle that should be commonly shared across the aisle.

But more than that, the prospect of a blanket Federal Agency mandate to engage in electioneering on the taxpayers' dime raises serious ethical and legal concerns.

Now, I don't think you can draw any conclusion other than to say that this Executive order is another example of the weaponization of Federal Government.

Congress should shut down this ethically and legally dubious scheme to help restore faith in our elections. That is why I stand here today to propose that the Senate pass the Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act. The bill is simple and straightforward. It would prohibit Federal Agencies from using your taxpayer dollars to enter agreements with partisan organizations that conduct voter mobilization activities.

The Biden-Harris administration's sweeping directive is inherently political and directed primarily at groups expected to vote for one party over another. And when the American people ask for information on it, this is what they get. This order must not be allowed to stand.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration of S. 1398 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. PADILLA. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to a bill introduced by my colleague from North Carolina. Let me start by saying this: The Senator from North Carolina says the Federal Government should not use official taxpayer resources—no taxpayer dollars—to advance partisan politics.

You will be happy to know that I agree 100 percent. And I would venture to say that all of my Democratic colleagues agree 100 percent. But let's also be clear the Executive order referenced isn't that.

And my colleague's attempt to attribute some scheme behind informing eligible citizens of their right to vote and facilitating their voter registration and participation is simply without merit.

As I mentioned a few minutes ago, when debating the SAVE Act, we are now less than 6 weeks until the November election. And while there may be disagreement on policy with my colleagues, we should certainly agree that it is crucial to make sure every eligible American can participate in the political process—again, without any unnecessary barriers or obstacles and certainly without intimidation.

As I referenced a few minutes ago, I once served as California's secretary of state and as the chief elections officer, and I am proud of the reforms that we implemented in making it easier for eligible citizens to register to vote, to stay registered to vote—because that is not easy in some States—and to cast their ballots in the elections.

I want to emphasize that these reforms were put in place for all citizens regardless of political party, regardless of political leanings. We wanted to make sure that every eligible Californian could exercise their right to vote, and that is what should be our business here today—to make sure that every eligible American can exercise their right to vote.

That is exactly why President Biden first issued this Executive order, which builds on decades of what, once upon a time, was bipartisan efforts to expand voter registration. What could be more patriotic than performing your civic duty? The bipartisan history of Congress in promoting voter participation includes the bipartisan passage of the National Voter Registration Act once upon a time.

President Biden issued the Executive order to bring the weight of the Federal Government to help Americans register to vote. It strikes me as perfectly reasonable that when Americans are already interacting with the government, that we should take that opportunity to securely get more eligible Americans registered to vote and ready to participate in the elections. The Executive order that we are debating here is simply fulfilling the mandates that Congress created with the bipartisan passage of the National Voter Registration Act.

I couldn't help but notice in the debate—in the presentation, in the arguments—that there has been a failure to point to any partisan language either in statute or in the Executive order. So I am disappointed that these efforts continue. What we should be doing is working together to facilitate civic participation and combating misinformation and disinformation surrounding the 2024 election that only risks confusing or discouraging people to participate.

For those and other reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The junior Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I really do appreciate my colleague's comments, especially the part on agreeing 100 percent with me.

You know, it is very easy for my Democrat colleagues to wax poetic about wanting more Americans to want to register to vote. After all, it could be that the program I am discussing here is designed only to help his party, especially when I go back to what I referenced earlier about a Department of Justice attorney documenting this meeting and noticing that all the points were focused on expanding Democrat voter blocs and that there were 50 leftwing organizations that attended the meeting except for the one member of the Green Party.

When we asked for details on this, of course, he said it wasn't that, but I do look at the top of this document from the Biden-Harris administration, referred to as the interim ''Strategic Plan for the Implementation of Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting,'' and this is what the American people get from the Biden-Harris administration.

I would hope, at the very least, that my colleague, while waxing poetic, would agree about this program, like all Federal programs, that it should not be about oversight and transparency, but that is the case at the present time.

And I do want to make thing one thing perfectly clear: We need as many people as possible to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans support the idea that you need a photo ID to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans support the idea that you should be a U.S. citizen to vote. Republicans and the vast majority of Americans do not support the use of Federal taxpayer funds—your dollars—for partisan political activity.

Opposing these measures makes it clear that my Democrat colleagues simply aren't valuing election integrity, especially when we ask for details, and this is what the Biden-Harris administration shows the American people regarding ''Executive Order 14019, Promoting Access to Voting.'' Republicans value election integrity. At least you can tell by our efforts here.

Folks, we just want it to be easy to vote and hard to cheat. I hope the American people are watching.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF BYRON B. CONWAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Byron B. Conway to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Born in Green Bay, WI, Mr. Conway earned his B.A. from Santa Clara University in 1998 and his J.D. from Marquette University Law School in 2002.

After graduating from law school, he worked as an associate at Gimbel Reilly Guerin & Brown LLP in Milwaukee from 2002 to 2006. There, Mr. Conway handled a variety of cases including misdemeanor and felony criminal matters involving drug offenses, battery, burglary, and white-collar crimes.

Since 2006, Mr. Conway has worked at Habush Habush & Rottier S.C. (Habush), first as an associate and most recently as a shareholder. His practice at Habush has been devoted primarily to civil litigation, the majority of which has centered on personal injury claims. Mr. Conway's cases have involved, among other things: explosions, environmental contamination, product defects, workplace accidents, workers' compensation, motor vehicle accidents, nursing home neglect, premises liability, and insurance coverage disputes. Throughout his 22-year legal career, he has tried 20 jury cases.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Conway as ''qualified,'' and his nomination is strongly supported by his home State Senators, Ms. BALDWIN and Mr. JOHNSON.

With deep ties to Wisconsin and significant litigation experience, Mr. Conway is prepared to serve honorably as a district judge on the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

I am proud to support his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Byron Conway's nomination to serve as a judge for the district court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Senator JOHNSON and I have worked to set up the bipartisan Wisconsin Federal Nominating Commission to provide us with recommendations for qualified candidates for open Federal judicial and U.S. attorney positions. This commission has identified and put forward highly qualified, experienced candidates such as Mr. Conway, and I am pleased to see the Senate moving forward with his nomination.

As I shared with the Judiciary Committee, in addition to being an exceptional judicial candidate, Byron Conway is Wisconsin through and through. He was raised in Green Bay, WI, and attended Notre Dame Academy. He went on to receive a bachelor's degree from Santa Clara University before coming back home to earn his law degree from Marquette University Law School.

After being admitted to the Wisconsin bar, Mr. Conway practiced in the Milwaukee area before moving to Green Bay to practice civil litigation. Mr. Conway has experience with a wide variety of cases, including misdemeanor and felony criminal matters, employment discrimination cases, and personal injury cases. I am certain that his prior litigation experience will

serve him well as a judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

Mr. Conway is a very active member of his local community, having served as president of the Brown County Bar Association, as the Brown County District Representative to the State Bar Board of Governors, and as the vice president of the board of directors for the Brain Center of Green Bay, which offers resources to individuals with cognitive deficits and neurological disorders. Byron Conway has both the experience and the temperament necessary to serve Wisconsin's Eastern District with fairness and impartiality.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Chair DURBIN; Ranking Member GRAHAM; and the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for advancing Mr. Conway's nomination out of the committee with bipartisan support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Mr. Conway's nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from Rhode Island.

VOTE ON CONWAY NOMINATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Conway nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 254 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Braun	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Johnson	Schumer
Butler	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Capito	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Luján	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Cramer	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Mullin	
Grassley	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Coons	Scott (FL)	Vance
Cotton	Tillis	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Vermont.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE TO CERTIFY THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE REFUSAL OF DR. RALPH DE LA TORRE TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, over 4 months ago, Steward Health Care and the more than 30 hospitals it owns in 8 States declared bankruptcy, with some $9 billion in debt. This bankruptcy has caused devastating harm to patients, healthcare workers, and entire communities from Massachusetts to Arizona.

In July, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, which I chair, voted to authorize a bipartisan investigation into the financial mismanagement of Steward Health Care. On that same day, the HELP Committee also voted to subpoena Dr. Ralph de la Torre, the CEO of Steward Health Care, to testify at a hearing on this very important issue on September 12.

Sadly, Dr. de la Torre made the unfortunate and unacceptable decision not to show up at this hearing in defiance of a congressional subpoena. So last week, the HELP Committee voted 20 to 0 on two resolutions to hold Dr. de la Torre accountable for his failure to appear at this hearing.

The first resolution instructs Senate legal counsel to bring a civil suit in the District Court for the District of Columbia to require Dr. de la Torre's compliance with the subpoena and his testimony before the HELP Committee.

The second resolution would refer this matter to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia to criminally prosecute Dr. de la Torre for failing to comply with the subpoena.

In a few moments, I will be asking unanimous consent to pass the second resolution, which seeks to hold Dr. de la Torre in criminal contempt for failing to comply with the congressional subpoena.

But before I do that, let me take a moment to briefly explain why the HELP Committee believed it was so important for Dr. de la Torre to testify before Congress.

First, we wanted Dr. de la Torre to explain to us how it could happen that at least 15 patients at hospitals owned by his company died—died—as a result of a lack of medical equipment or staffing shortages, and why at least 2,000 other patients were put in immediate peril, according to Federal regulators.

That is something that the American people deserve to know. But perhaps most importantly, we wanted to know how it could happen that while thousands of patients and healthcare workers suffered and communities around the country have been devastated as a result of Steward Health Care's financial mismanagement, Dr. de la Torre and the companies he owned were able to receive at least $250 million in total compensation over the past 4 years.

For months, Senator CASSIDY, the ranking member of the HELP Committee; Senator MARKEY, the chair of our healthcare subcommittee; and I have asked Dr. de la Torre to testify before our committee to answer these questions. And time after time, he has arrogantly refused, and that is simply not acceptable.

So, today, I will ask the Senate to unanimously adopt this resolution seeking to hold Dr. de la Torre in contempt of Congress.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Ranking Member CASSIDY and his staff for working with me and my staff on this very important issue. The passage of this resolution by the full Senate will make clear that, even though Dr. de la Torre may be worth hundreds of millions of dollars, even though he may be able to buy fancy yachts and private jets and luxurious accommodations throughout the world, even though he may be able to afford some of the most expensive lawyers in America, no, Dr. de la Torre is not above the law. If you defy a congressional subpoena, you will be held accountable no matter who you are or how well connected you may be.

The goal of the HELP Committee throughout this entire process has been to make sure not only that we have a complete understanding of the financial chicanery surrounding Steward Health Care but to do everything that we can to make sure that such a travesty never occurs again.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that two letters be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, one from Dr. de la Torre's attorneys to the committee and, secondly, a response letter from Ranking Member CASSIDY and myself.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024.

Re Senate HELP Committee Subpoena to Dr. Ralph de la Torre.

Hon. BERNIE SANDERS,
Chairman, Committee on Health Education, Labor, and Pensions, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SANDERS: We write to follow up on our September 4, 2024 letter (''Letter'') to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee (the ''Committee'') and the Committee's recent announcement that it intends to vote this week on two contempt resolutions regarding the July 25, 2024 subpoena issued to Dr. de la Torre, in his capacity as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Steward Health Care System LLC (''Steward''), for testimony at the Committee's September 12, 2024 hearing titled ''Examining the Bankruptcy of Steward Health Care: How Management Decisions Have Impacted Patient Care'' (the ''Hearing'').

As we underscored in our Letter, Dr. de la Torre lacks the authority to speak on behalf of Steward with respect to the ongoing bankruptcy proceedings and he is prohibited by a federal court order from doing so. Despite these valid objections, however, the Committee moved forward with the Hearing without meaningfully considering the issues that Dr. de la Torre raised and without attempting to reschedule the Hearing. What is more, the Committee's disregard for Dr. de la Torre's request to reschedule the Hearing in light of these legal restrictions substantiated our concern that the true purpose of the Hearing was not to gather facts within the Committee's constitutional and congressional remit, but instead a pseudo-criminal proceeding with the goal of convicting Dr. de la Torre in a court of public opinion.

Our concerns that the Hearing would be used to ambush Dr. de la Torre in a pseudo-criminal proceeding were on full display last week, with the Committee soliciting testimony from witnesses calling Dr. de la Torre and Steward executives ''health care terrorists'' and advocating for Dr. de la Torre's imprisonment, all while the Committee refused to even acknowledge or aid the bankruptcy settlement that would ensure continuity of services in all but two Steward hospitals across the nation.

Dr. de la Torre cannot be permitted to provide sworn testimony at this time, given that the Hearing was seemingly designed as a vehicle to violate Dr. de la Torre's constitutional rights, including his Fifth Amendment rights. The U.S. Constitution affords Dr. de la Torre inalienable rights against being compelled by the government to provide sworn testimony that is specifically (yet baselessly) sought to frame Dr. de la Torre as a criminal scapegoat for the systemic failures in Massachusetts' health care system. Accordingly, on the advice of counsel, Dr. de la Torre invokes his procedural and substantive rights under the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, including the privilege to refrain from testifying at the Committee's Hearing. See *Quinn v. United States*. 349 U.S. 155, 161 (1955). (''Still further limitations on [Congress's] power to investigate are found in the specific individual guarantees of the Bill of Rights, such as the Fifth Amendment's privilege . . .'').

If the Committee had any concern for the hospitals affected by Steward's bankruptcy proceedings it would, consistent with Dr. de la Torre's request to postpone the hearing for a more appropriate time, permit the bankruptcy resolution to move forward and focus its actions on tackling legitimate questions in the best interests of Steward patients, hospitals, and communities.

Sincerely,

ALEXANDER J. MERTON.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.

Alexander J. Merton,
Partner, Quinn Emanual, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MERTON: We write in response to your letter of September 18, 2024. As explained in our letter of September 5, 2024, your client, Dr. Ralph de la Torre, had a legal duty to attend the hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on September 12, 2024, as commanded by the duly authorized Committee testimonial subpoena issued to him on July 25, 2024, for which you accepted service on his behalf and indicated his availability.

As further explained in our September 5, 2024, letter, had Dr. de la Torre appeared to testify, he would have had a full opportunity to assert his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in response to questions posed to him by members of the Committee that implicated that right. Having elected not to appear, Dr. de la Torre willfully placed himself in default of the Committee's subpoena. Your effort to assert the Fifth Amendment, on your client's behalf, after the fact, and generally rather than in response to specific questions, is untimely and inadequate and does not cure your client's default.

In response to Dr. de la Torre's failure to appear, the Committee convened an executive session on September 19, 2024, and voted to report two resolutions to the Senate for further consideration. The first directs Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action to enforce the Committee's subpoena and the second authorizes the President of the Senate to certify a Committee report regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia for criminal prosecution. Both resolutions were agreed to and favorably reported by the Committee.

Sincerely,

BERNARD SANDERS,
CHAIRMAN,
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
BILL CASSIDY, M.D,
RANKING MEMBER,
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. SANDERS. With that, Madam President, I would be happy to yield to the ranking member of the committee who has done an excellent job on this issue, Senator CASSIDY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, for months the HELP Committee, on a bipartisan basis, has investigated the financial mismanagement of Steward Health Care and the impact on the delivery of care at its hospitals.

Steward's mismanagement has nationwide implications, affecting patient care in more than 30 hospitals across 8 States, including one in my home State, Glenwood Regional Medical Center in West Monroe, LA.

Because of Steward's management decisions resulting in limited resources at Glenwood, the State had to force the hospital to operate at one-third capacity. One patient reportedly died waiting for transfer to another hospital because Glenwood did not have the necessary resources to treat.

According to a report from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a doctor at Glenwood told a Louisiana State inspector that the hospital was performing ''third-world medicine.''

Now, the problems at Glenwood are not unique. The HELP Committee heard testimony that because of understaffing at a Steward-owned St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Boston, patients at the hospital waited in the emergency room for hours and sometimes days.

We have also heard testimony that Steward neglected to pay the vendors for essential hospital services. At St. Elizabeth's, there is a report that when newborn babies died, nurses had to put their bodies into cardboard shipping boxes because Steward did not pay for proper bereavement boxes.

A new mother who experienced a hemorrhage, or a bleed, during childbirth died because a basic piece of medical equipment required to save her life to stop the bleeding had been repossessed because Steward did not pay its bills.

Through the committee's investigation, it became evident that a thorough review of Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ralph de la Torre's management decisions was essential to understand Steward's financial problems and its failure to serve its patients.

To better understand and hopefully prevent this from happening again, we sought testimony from Dr. de la Torre, frankly, giving him the opportunity to present his side. It is possible that there is something that we didn't understand. And if he presented it, that understanding would have given us a different perspective.

Unfortunately, Dr. de la Torre refused to testify voluntarily. As a result, the committee issued a subpoena in July. And up until September 4, his lawyers indicated he intended to comply with the subpoena and to testify. However, 8 days before the scheduled hearing, Dr. de la Torre informed the committee he would not comply with the subpoena.

We responded to Dr. De la Torre explaining why his objections to the committee subpoena had no merit, directing him to comply.

Unfortunately, Dr. De la Torre ultimately defied the subpoena, refusing to appear before the committee.

Now, a witness cannot disregard and evade a duly authorized subpoena. That is why today the Senate will be voting on a resolution to hold Dr. de la Torre in criminal contempt for defying the subpoena.

I think it is unfortunate that we are here. But if someone shows contempt for the American people by defying a subpoena and refusing to provide answers, that is a contemptible thing. Congress has a responsibility to act.

I urge my colleagues to approve this resolution and to hold Dr. de la Torre in contempt.

And with that, I yield to my colleague.

Mr. SANDERS. Senator MARKEY has played a leadership role in the investigation of this whole process. I would like to yield to Senator MARKEY.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. Thank you for your great leadership on this issue. Thanks to Senator CASSIDY. We have made this bipartisan from the very beginning in order to ensure that the American public can completely understand what has happened to this Steward Health Care chain, and I thank him for the leadership in holding Dr. Ralph de la Torre accountable for his greed and shining a light on the deadly consequences that result from the involvement of for-profit forces in our healthcare system.

Steward Health Care declared bankruptcy in May. It was a culmination of a financial tragedy. Over the past decade, Steward, led by its founder and CEO, Dr. Ralph de la Torre, and his corporate enablers, looted hospitals across the country for their own profit. And while they got rich, workers, patients, and communities suffered.

Nurses paid out of pocket for cardboard bereavement boxes for the babies to help grieving parents who had just lost a newborn. Hospital beds collapsed underneath patients. Patients died alone in hallways.

The Boston Globe Spotlight team has laid out the details in eye-watering fashion.

Meanwhile, Ralph de la Torre and his corporate cronies got just what they wanted: hundreds of millions of dollars in profit, yachts, private jets, luxury vacations. They used hospitals to fund their own episode of ''Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous.'' And its star is CEO Dr. Ralph de la Torre.

Today, we are here because Dr. de la Torre has yet to answer for what he has perpetrated. I asked him to appear before my Primary Health and Retirement Subcommittee in April in Boston. He declined. He refused.

Senators SANDERS and CASSIDY invited Dr. de la Torre to testify in July here in Washington. He declined. He refused.

On July 25, the committee issued a legal order for him to appear. He ignored it. He refused.

Dr. de la Torre is using his bloodsoaked gains to hide behind corporate lawyers instead of responding to the U.S. Senate's demand for actions.

But while he tries to run and hide, Dr. de la Torre is revealing himself for what he truly is: a physician who placed personal gain over his duty to do no harm.

The Senate has not made a criminal contempt referral in more than 50 years, since 1971. It is a rare move for the rare degree of callousness, cruelty, and cowardliness that Dr. de la Torre has demonstrated.

In the face of all of the mismanagement, health workers fulfill their sacred responsibility to their patients and to their communities. They cared for young and old, held grieving families' hands, and responded in people's greatest moments of fear and vulnerability.

And now workers and communities will spend years cleaning up Ralph de la Torre's disaster all in order to ensure that they will be protecting patient care.

The rich don't need to use communities as a safety net for their wealth, but that is how Dr. de la Torre used these hospitals and communities—including in Massachusetts—and sacrificed community health in the process. They are rightly outraged in those communities, and I am outraged for them.

For them and for everyone who has suffered due to Ralph de la Torre's greed and Steward's collapse, I hope the Department of Justice will move swiftly to bring charges against him.

To Dr. de la Torre, you cannot use your millions to shield yourself from accountability to the American people.

I urge the Senate to hold Dr. Ralph de la Torre, CEO of Steward, in criminal contempt.

And I thank, once again, Chairman SANDERS and Ranking Member CASSIDY for their great leadership on this issue.

Mr. SANDERS. Senator MARKEY, thank you for your leadership on this.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 522, S. Res. 837.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 837) authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SANDERS. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 837) was agreed to.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 23, 2024, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Maine.

NATIONAL LOBSTER DAY

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, before I begin my remarks on the continuing resolution to fund the government, I do have to take just a moment to note that today is National Lobster Day, and that is extremely important to the State of Maine.

Just last week, I treated the Members of my caucus to a wonderful lobster lunch, complete also with Maine potatoes and Maine wild blueberry pie. That should be an incentive for people to become Republicans, I would think, to get that annual lobster lunch. But it is an iconic industry in my State. If you ask people about the State of Maine, lobster always comes up.

So I do want to acknowledge that Senator KING and I have once again this year noted that September 25 is National Lobster Day, and we appreciate the support of our colleagues.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Now, Madam President, I rise to urge passage of the government funding measure that was approved by the House of Representatives earlier today. The bill, which is known as a continuing resolution, or a CR, is straightforward. Most important of all, it prevents a government shutdown.

Government shutdowns are inherently a failure to govern effectively. They have negative consequences all across government. They require certain essential government employees, such as Border Patrol agents or members of our military or air traffic controllers, to report to work but with no certainty that they will be paid. We simply cannot allow that to occur.

Other harmful impacts have been outlined by the Secretary of Defense and all of the service Secretaries who point out that new defense programs cannot be started when there is a government shutdown—that inevitably increases costs to the taxpayers—and programs that should be terminated or trimmed are continuing to be funded at current levels. So we can't have—or stopped altogether, as people cannot do their work—so we cannot have a government shutdown.

This continuing resolution is not perfect, but it is an effort to extend current year program levels through December 20, with limited exceptions aimed primarily at preventing program disruptions and preparing for the Presidential transition and inaugural activities.

I would also note that this temporary funding bill includes $231 million for the Secret Service's immediate protection operations following the two recent assassination attempts on the life of former President Trump. All of us are aware that there also is a plot by the Iranian Government to assassinate President Trump. So we need to make sure we are providing robust protection.

While the first attempt on President Trump's life, the Secret Service has conceded, was due to poor communication and other failures, the Secret Service has also asked for this additional funding. It is absolutely essential as they deal with the increased threat environment and ensure that our current President and Vice President and Presidential candidates are all fully protected.

As I mentioned, the Secret Service has acknowledged that the security failure on July 13 was not a result of a

lack of resources. The additional funding in this bill will help to surge support to meet emergent personnel, equipment, and logistical needs. It will also allow for the Department of Defense to be reimbursed for the activities that it provides and will now resume for former President Trump.

The continuing resolution also allows the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, immediate access to more than $20 billion for its Disaster Relief Fund to sustain disaster assistance during the period covered by this CR.

This funding resolution is the product of bipartisan, bicameral negotiations. It is essential that it be adopted in order to prevent a government shutdown, and I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I am very pleased that we now have a straightforward, bipartisan compromise to fund the government and avoid a pointless, devastating shutdown. I hope every single one of my colleagues will join us in voting to pass this bill.

Our work does not end here. My hope is that now we can get going in earnest on hammering out bipartisan full-year funding bills, including providing long overdue disaster assistance.

It is time for Democrats and Republicans to negotiate those bills together instead of House Republicans just following the loudest voices on the far right, because it is getting a little exhausting to watch some House Republicans push again and again for the most extreme, partisan cuts and policies—stuff that is not realistic at all—before learning the same lessons the hard way yet again.

You cannot strike a deal to govern with people who do not really want to govern. You can't avoid a shutdown trying to placate the people who want a shutdown. But here is the important thing: You do not have to waste time trying. If you are serious about governing, you do not have to let a few extreme House Republicans set the agenda or let Donald Trump call the shots.

There is a better way, and I know because it is the path that we have been following here in the Senate. Vice Chair COLLINS and I passed 11 funding bills out of our committee with overwhelming bipartisan support. We negotiated strong bills that could actually be signed into law and would make a real difference for folks back at home.

We did it by listening to each other, by listening to folks back home, rejecting partisan policies, and focusing on how we set our Nation and families up for success. That is the same approach I hope we can now take now that this CR gives us the time we need to negotiate bipartisan, bicameral full-year bills.

I know compromise takes time, and it takes a lot of hard work. I have hammered out with my colleague many tough deals here in my time, but I think we have proven in this Congress, many times over, that the path to bipartisanship is far easier and far more productive than the dead-end MAGA extremism House Republicans keep making their very first priority.

So let's all vote to pass this CR, and then let's get to work, in a serious bipartisan way, on our full-year funding bills and on meeting the long overdue disaster relief needs of so many of our States and our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I do think it is important to point out that the House passed this bill by an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand the Senate has received H.R. 9747 from the House, and I ask the Chair to execute the order of September 24 with respect to the bill.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to legislative session.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2025

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9747) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tonight, the American people can sleep easier knowing we have avoided an unnecessary government shutdown at the end of the month. It is a relief for the country that, once again, bipartisanship prevailed to stop another shutdown threat. It took much longer than it should have, but because House Republicans finally, finally chose to work with us in the end, Congress is getting the job done tonight.

Because bipartisanship ultimately prevailed, the government will stay open. Vital government services will not be halted. Appropriators will have more time to fully fund the government before the end of the year. This bipartisanship is a good outcome for America, and I hope it sets the tone for more constructive bipartisan work when we return later in the fall.

Thanks to Speaker Johnson for working with me on the agreement, and thanks to Leader MCCONNELL and Leader JEFFRIES for helping make it happen—and a special thanks to our appropriators, particularly Chair MURRAY and Vice Chair COLLINS, for setting an excellent example of bipartisanship.

I urge everyone to vote yes, and I urge us to vote now.

I yield back all time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce the Senator from Delaware (MR. COONS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 78, nays 18, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 255 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Helmy	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Sanders
Butler	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	Kennedy	Sinema
Carper	King	Smith
Casey	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Collins	Luján	Tester
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young

NAYS—18

Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Johnson	Risch
Budd	Lee	Schmitt
Crapo	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Fischer	Mullin	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—4

Coons	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Vance

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 78, the nays are 18.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this bill, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 9747) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume executive session and resume consideration of the Perry nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

TRIBUTE TO CINDY HERRLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for 2 weeks now, I have come to the floor to continue thanking my staff in the Republican leader office publicly for their outstanding and ongoing work.

Over the years, I have been very fortunate to have so many tremendously talented individuals helping me tend to the duties of the leader. But just as I am grateful that so many have decided to join our team, I am even more gratified by how few have decided to leave.

Since I became leader, my office here in the Capitol has been steered by just two chiefs of staff. We have had just two communication directors, two national security advisers, three legal counsels—just to name a few examples. It has been a bit like managing a baseball team with a franchise player in every single position—every one of them marked by loyalty, professionalism, and genuine expertise.

So, today, I would like to single out members of this all-star team of policy advisers. I will begin with my senior adviser on appropriations, Cindy Herrle.

My entire team misses Cindy around the office, but the wealth of institutional expertise she lent to our efforts more than earned her the right to close out a distinguished chapter on Capitol Hill. She retired earlier this year.

Cindy joined my team with about the most impressive resume in senior congressional leadership you could possibly have: House committee work, two Speakers of the House, and a Senate whip. Suffice it to say: She knows her stuff.

Cindy's experience gave her a sixth sense of spotting issues along the way or anticipating pitfalls and helping us all avoid them.

She knows the arcane mechanics of budgets and appropriations. She knows the people who write them, edit them, and pass them. And her understanding of both Chambers gives her and anyone fortunate to have her in their corner a macro view of the process of funding the government.

I know my team was especially grateful for Cindy's skills as a ''House whisperer,'' so to speak. She was our forecaster for legislative prospects across the Capitol, a trusted liaison with the lower Chamber, whenever it came time to get important bicameral efforts across the finish line.

And even in the most stressful moments, Cindy knew how to cut the tension, donning her trusty ''good luck'' sunglasses or inviting colleagues to enjoy her annual Dolly Parton Advent calendar.

Cindy can look back with pride both for delivering excellence in difficult circumstances and for making so many friends all along the way.

But I am confident that Cindy's dearest relationship on the Hill was the parallel service of her brother Patrick, who is in the Capitol Police.

I am grateful to each of them for their decades of devoted service. Thank you, Cindy.

TRIBUTE TO JIM NEILL

Mr. President, I have found humor in what my good friend Lamar Alexander used to say about the job of being leader of the Senate. He said:

It is a little bit like being a groundskeeper at a cemetery. Everyone is under you, but no one is listening.

Truth is, in a place like the Senate, we can only be effective by rowing in the same direction with folks who share our principles. And for 7 years, the senior adviser helping me build and maintain conservative coalitions has been the youngest son of a big Irish-Catholic family from Detroit.

Jim Neill's roots taught him what is worth standing for and how to get a noisy room to listen to him. In meetings of my staff, all Jim has to do to get our attention is simply stand up.

But his engagements further afield draw on Jim's other strengths: authenticity, candor, a political weather vane with a dead read on gathering changes, and a principled compass that points true north.

I can't begin to tell you how many times important Senate accomplishments have nearly died on the launch pad but for Jim's deft and diplomatic touch.

Like many of our fellow travelers, Jim credits President Reagan with an outsized role in forming both his interest in politics and his conservative principles.

But I suspect that fewer conservatives of Jim's generation would use the next breath to credit legendary Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards with forming his style and good taste.

Around the office, my team's resident rock and roll historian doles out wicked humor and curmudgeonly quips in equal measure. But Jim's colleagues know him most of all as a trusted friend, a big brother, whose advice and perspective ring true.

Of course, credit for Jim's ability to wrestle thorny issues on a daily basis goes to his wife Erin, who keeps him grounded, and to his kids Maggie and Patrick, who I know make him extraordinarily proud. So thank you, Jim, so much.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE PARKS

Mr. President, now the space Jim shares with several colleagues is among the liveliest in my office, and that is due in no small part to my senior advisor on healthcare policy, Stephanie Parks. We just call her ''Sparks.''

Sparks is responsible for a portfolio that few people in Washington fully understand but which none of us can afford to get wrong. It is a lot like playing left tackle, and I always want the best covering my back.

As it turns out, identifying the best wasn't that difficult. In the world of healthcare policy, Sparks's reputation is unmatched. She is among the most highly regarded policy professionals in Washington.

She can sew up a tough deal like no other. And when the job requires dashing hopes or breaking china, she is somehow able to do that with a smile and with her universal admiration still intact.

Needless to say, everyone in Washington would be eager to bring Sparks's talent on board. Fortunately for me, I wasn't the only one who was eager to make sure she landed here. In fact, no less a former boss than Speaker of the House Ryan made frequent calls to my office to make sure we hired her.

Well, the Speaker was right, and I have been so grateful for Sparks's knack for making sense of complex policy developments, keeping me apprised of the ever-shifting tides of important debates.

I know the rest of my team, for their part, are grateful for the office's foremost authority on developments in true crime, Formula 1 racing, and Notre Dame football.

And I know that Sparks's professional excellence makes her beloved family, especially her mom Barbara and her many friends, rightly proud.

But since my Louisville Cardinals are headed to South Bend this weekend, I have to close my otherwise unqualified praise with just two words: ''Go Cards!''

Sparks, thank you for everything.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE DONALDSON

Mr. President, now, as one of so many lawyers in the Senate, I have always been quick to admit to colleagues I wouldn't go to me for a simple will. But I have been fortunate to have counsel on my team who can handle that and a whole lot more.

The first such person I need to thank might very well be a victim of fate. My senior advisor and counsel Steve Donaldson is a proud native Kentuckian, a sharp lawyer, and one of the few experts out there on the intricacies of campaign finance.

Frankly, it is nearly impossible to imagine a situation in which Steve didn't wind up working for me someday. I needed somebody who could keep up on this niche issue that I have been immersed in through my entire time in the Senate. In that regard, Steve was an obvious choice.

But over the years, I have come to rely on Steve as so much more than a trusted sounding board on our shared interest in the First Amendment. He is also our resident whiz on the nuances of employment law. It is an important issue to begin with, but it took on massive new importance with the onset of the pandemic a few years ago.

Steve became my team's trusted navigator through the serious public health concerns and rapidly evolving official guidance. At the most consequential time in the unemployment

policy since the Great Depression, Steve was instrumental in shaping the CARES Act, asking questions that others had not considered, and foreseeing challenges in time to tweak our legislative response.

On top of it all, he has carried the unenviable but essential responsibility of ensuring my entire office upholds the highest standards of professional ethics. The team looks forward with pained amusement to his annual impression of the Grinch who stole Christmas and with sincere appreciation for his patient counsel that keeps us all in the clear.

Steve is the consummate professional at everything—that is, except golf. Perhaps I can accept the blame for keeping him too busy at the office to play more often.

Steve's pride in Kentucky roots is, more than anything, a pride in his family. I know he makes his mother Kathy, his sister Annie, and his niece and nephew very, very proud. So, Steve, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FRAGOSO

Mr. President, next is my chief counsel Mike Fragoso. Like so many of the well-qualified jurists he has helped to put on the Federal courts over the years, Mike—or ''Frags'' is what we call him—came with an Ivy League pedigree and an impressive resume of legal brilliance.

But unlike his peers in black robes, he also carries a reputation as my office sartorial master.

Frags is another member of my staff with a challenging multifaceted mandate. From the judicial confirmation process to matters of criminal justice and border security, I call on Frags to wear many hats. And when the circumstances permit, he pairs them with three-piece suits.

Seriously, it is a job that draws on every bit of Frags's experience traveling the width of Republican politics from Jeff Flake to CHUCK GRASSLEY and plumbing the depth of conservative jurisprudence.

Frags is equally at home in the high-minded philosophical discourse of the legal community and the urgent pragmatism of Congressional dealmaking.

He is so exceptionally competent that he often produces from his desk the work that would normally require, literally, teams of outside counsel.

Frags stands on deeply held principles but maintains a firm grasp on the realm of the possible. He is willing to exhaust creative effort and sacrifice holidays to make headway against even the most intractable problems. He knows which screws to twist to hold misbehavior and miscarriage of justice to account.

Fighting the good fight can be draining, especially when the good guys come up emptyhanded. But much to his colleague's delight, Frags never misses an opportunity to elicit much-needed laughs and self-effacing humor with gag gifts he seemingly produces from thin air.

I am certain he showers his wife Ashley and their daughters Maria, Aurelia, and Helena with similar joy and even greater pride than he has for his noble work.

Frags, Frags, thanks for everything.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KAREM

Mr. President, there is a certain irony in the fact that many years ago my team found a kid who would end up as my fiercest adviser in the cause of restoring American hard power working in the world of American soft power.

In those earliest days, my fellow Kentuckian Robert Karem frequently found himself driving me around town doing important events.

These day, however, as my national security adviser, I frequently send Robert to the ends of the Earth and to the seats of foreign governments as a trusted representative of the entire Senate.

Of course, there was a period in between when I had to exercise some strategic patience, and I am not referring to the moments when classified meetings make Robert difficult to reach. I mean that his talents couldn't be contained.

And over the years, they have landed him in the service of a veritable who is who of Republican foreign policy luminaries. I am certain that each of them found, as I did, a deep intellect and appetite for knowledge, a relentless focus on worthy causes, and a passion for advancing them that simmered just beneath the surface.

Certainly, this last bit represents a compromise between Robert's experiences in the boiling cauldron of the House and his appreciation for the cooling saucer of the Senate.

When Robert returned to my office 6 years ago, I handed him a portfolio full of tough problems with no easy solution. It demands that he juggle the urgent and the important; the big picture and the smallest detail; the security of the Senate in moments of unprecedented crisis; and the enduring credibility of America's commitments in the world.

Robert knows how to advance the ball in international settings with cosmopolitan tact, meet naivete and incompetence around Washington with righteous ire, and defuse office monotony with strikes of high yield, precision-guided humor.

I am grateful for all of it and for the loyalty and dedication that should make his family, his Commonwealth, and his Nation very, very proud. Thank you, Robert.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CHAPUIS

Mr. President, now, folks all around the Senate appreciate this body's cooling saucer of a reputation, but no one embodies it like my senior adviser on commerce and tax policy, John Chapuis.

To be sure, ''Chappy'' cut his teeth with our former colleague Tom Coburn, who prided himself on playing an active and assertive role out here on the floor. And his work in the Whip's office under Senator CORNYN dropped him straight into the middle of vote-counting chaos.

But that pedigree did nothing if not make Chappy a master of Senate rules and procedure; and with that mastery comes a calm, collected assurance, the composure of a recovering collegiate athlete, the competence of a Senate expert at the top of his game.

Chappy's path through the Senate has earned him a well-deserved reputation as a Swiss Army knife. He can cite Senate rule, chapter and verse, with the most seasoned cloakroom staff. He can carry the day on consequential nominations with deep-dive background research. And, of course, most recently, he can keep me sharp, parsing tariff disputes and employment reports with equal ease.

In the proudest tradition of an institution where Senators once relied on much smaller staffs, Chappy is the utility player every team wishes it had.

Of course, the team that can claim Chappy's proudest allegiance is the one he has built with his wife Suzanne, herself a distinguished member of the Senate family in the Chaplain's office. As I understand it, the wonderful story that now includes two young sons, Sullivan and Fielding, began with a proposal at the top of the Capitol dome. I am just grateful the Republican leader's office gets to be a part of it.

Chappy, thank you so much.

TRIBUTE TO ERICA SUARES

Mr. President, I can't help but wonder how many of the industries and constituencies seeking the ear of my office on any given day know that my senior adviser responsible for business coalitions is also a watercolor painter whose work adorns the invitations my colleagues receive to our annual Kentucky Derby lunch or whether Erica Suares's former colleagues at Coastal Living magazine have followed along as her reputation as consummate adviser has reached every corner of the uppermost echelons of Republican politics—Jim DeMint, to MITT ROMNEY, to me.

Erica's innate talents for diplomacy and coordination are undeniable. For more than a decade, I have trusted Erica to relay important guidance around the Republican conference and build consensus across business and advocacy groups. She is charismatic, perceptive, and highly intelligent. In the heat of battle, she has been known to forgo sleep for days.

But the depth of Erica's commitment and the breadth of her professional accomplishments are a testament to something else—a genuine, friendly warmth that is downright difficult to sustain in a town like Washington.

As much as she excels at tending relationships with stakeholders across the Senate and private sector, Erica tends relationships with her colleagues with the utmost care. She takes it upon herself to welcome new arrivals, to celebrate birthdays with requisite

cookie cakes, and to fulfill other duties that come along with being indisputably the heart and soul of the office.

I know my entire team is grateful to occupy a small part of Erica's heart. The rest rightly belongs to her family—her mother Suri and her late father Roger—whom she continues to make so very, very proud.

Erica, thank you.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY VAN DOREN

Mr. President, Terry Van Doren has told me before about the awe he felt as a farm kid from downstate Illinois visiting the Harry Truman Presidential Library and seeing a replica of a bust that stands in the hall outside this Chamber here in the Capitol. The thought of seeing the real thing, let alone passing it by every day at work, was a thrill.

What says the most about Terry—or, as we call him, TVD—is that after 12 years on my team, I am certain he still feels the thrill of service here in the Capitol. That is not to say the Senate hasn't tried mightily to grind it out of him.

For more than a decade, Terry has juggled a uniquely challenging portfolio that encompasses agriculture, transportation, energy, and a laundry list of niche constituencies in between.

With massive implications for Federal spending and issues that matter deeply to Kentucky, Terry inevitably finds himself in the thick of every vote-arama, every government funding fight, and every last-dash legislative effort right before the holidays. With a steady hand, deep expertise, and unwavering loyalty to me and the folks I represent, Terry has been an extraordinarily effective workhorse—even if, in one instance, it meant becoming an expert on racehorses.

From spearheading the CRA process in defense against harmful overregulation to shepherding massive, bipartisan accomplishments on infrastructure and agriculture, he has exercised his talents with a mild manner, with self-effacing humility, and with undaunted optimism that this might be the year that the Senate's schedule doesn't spoil his hunting season travel plans.

So I am grateful to Terry's family—his wife Lisa and their kids Amelia and Bobby—for letting us lean on him literally at all hours.

Thanks again, Terry.

TRIBUTE TO JODY WRIGHT

Mr. President, now, if personnel is policy, I have been fortunate to have outstanding personnel on my team, but if you want to make a lasting impact, you need good personnel in every corner of the government. To do that, you need somebody like my nominations counsel, Jody Wright.

For starters, Jody has the institutional credentials of a Senate thoroughbred. From the whip's office under Don Nickles to the Republican Cloakroom, Jody knows as well as anyone just what it takes to make this place tick. She is well-versed in the Senate's written rules and, just as importantly, in the unwritten ones. Trust me, when you are trying to clear last-minute logjams on the floor, it helps to have someone who speaks these languages fluently.

Of course, nominations don't start here in the Senate. Jody's work necessarily involves a hefty dose of executive branch procedure. To further complicate matters, the nature of the job changes significantly depending on which party is in the White House. These days, Jody has excelled at identifying and claiming rare opportunities for Republican appointees to influence policy in meaningful ways.

Jody's work is a delicate balancing act on the best of days, but it also requires the sort of people skills and undaunted optimism that this proud Texan has in spades. Her sunny disposition isn't reserved for meetings with candidates from public office; it is doled out around my office and the entire Senate, wherever and whenever it is needed most. And it speaks to the pride I know Jody feels to work right here in the Capitol. That is second only to Jody's pride in her family—in her husband Glenn's own service in the Navy and in the joys of raising their daughter Grace, whom I know Jody's colleagues have enjoyed watching grow up.

So, Jody, thank you so much.

Mr. President, if you can believe it, the work of thanking the incredible staff of my Republican leader office is still unfinished. I will still need to brag on a few more outstanding leaders who have made so much of our success possible, and I look forward to doing that sometime soon.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, let me tell you two brief stories.

A high schooler takes from the internet a picture of a female classmate, then uses artificial intelligence to ''nudify'' that young girl, and shares this deepfake sexually explicit image with the rest of the school on social media. The classmate—mortified and humiliated—doesn't want to show her face at school. She is afraid. She spends a week begging her parents not to force her to go back. Her parents, futilely, report the images to the social media company, but they never hear even a word back. Meanwhile, everyone at the school knows who distributed this sexually explicit image of this 14-year-old girl, but he faces no consequences.

Here is the second story: A teenage boy begins a relationship online with a young girl. He is smitten, and they decide to swap explicit photos with each other, but it turns out the teenage girl is a scammer, and he has just fallen prey to sextortion. The scammer repeatedly messages the young man, demanding payment or the explicit photos will be sent to his friends via a social media network. The young man—embarrassed, mortified, thinking there is no way out—dies by suicide. His name was Gavin Guffey.

His father is here today advocating to hold Big Tech accountable. On my lapel, I am wearing the heart emoji that Gavin texted his family moments before he took his own life.

Where do these stories take place—in Texas? New Jersey? South Carolina? Washington? California? Illinois? Florida? Sadly, the answer is all of them.

American high schools are experiencing an explosion of AI-generated sexual images, and in many cases, there is no consequence and no recourse for the teenage girls or boys like Gavin. There have been thousands and thousands of cases of sleazebags using nonconsensual, intimate images to extort victims both sexually and financially.

In fact, the FBI just issued a warning this year about the growing threat of sextortion for minors online. There are dozens of families across the country whose children have taken their own lives because of their fear of these images being released. There are hundreds of high schoolers targeted, often by their own classmates, who are experiencing incredible psychological harms in knowing that these images exist and are still out there.

And your child's images aren't just targeted while they are in middle school or in high school. In New York, a young man right out of high school took images of his former classmates from their social media profiles and used AI to alter the images in a sexually explicit manner. He then posted them for the world to see, along with their personal identifying information, encouraging violence and harassment against those he was victimizing. He was convicted only of a misdemeanor, and he faced zero charges for the deepfake explicit images. I would venture to guess some of the victims tried and failed to get these fake images removed by the tech company.

I have spoken to these victims and their parents, including two 14-year-old girls who were victims in the same month, with the same story, on opposite sides of the country. These girls were scared; they were hopeless; but they also wanted justice and relief from these images so they took action.

Elliston Berry of Texas and Francesca Mani of New Jersey bravely spoke up about their experiences and how the TAKE IT DOWN Act—my bipartisan legislation with Democrat Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR—would have protected them and afforded them justice for these horrific acts. Both Elliston and Francesca testified at a field hearing for the Senate Commerce

Committee, bravely sharing their stories.

There are 29 States that have not criminalized deepfake revenge porn. Thus, law enforcement in those States cannot prosecute the slimeballs who peddle this lifelike, yet fake, smut. That is justice denied for these teenagers and other victims.

The TAKE IT DOWN Act empowers victims across the entire United States. It makes it a felony for these creeps to use AI to create and publish fake, lifelike pornographic images of real people.

Just as importantly, our bipartisan bill requires Big Tech to have a notice and takedown process so that every American—not just the Taylor Swifts of this country who are famous enough that they can get the images taken down but every American and every teenager in junior high and high school who is victimized—like Elliston and Francesca and Gavin—can get these disturbing images taken offline immediately. I don't want to see another family suffer such a fate, which is why I am on the floor today, trying to pass the TAKE IT DOWN Act.

This bill is overwhelmingly bipartisan. There are nearly 20 Republican and Democrat cosponsors of this bill. Over 80 organizations, including victims' advocates, including unions, including law enforcement are backing this bipartisan legislation. The TAKE IT DOWN Act passed the Senate Commerce Committee unanimously. Every Republican, every Democrat on the committee voted for this legislation. The House companion, likewise, has strong bipartisan support.

The Senate acted on parts of this issue earlier this year in having passed two complementary pieces of legislation 11 weeks ago. However, neither of these other bills empowers victims to get their explicit images—real or fake—removed from websites. In a moment, unfortunately, you will be hearing an objection from my colleague, the Senator from New Jersey, who previously supported both of these complementary bills.

One of these bills is the SHIELD Act, authored by Senator KLOBUCHAR—the coauthor of my TAKE IT DOWN Act as well. The SHIELD Act was significantly modified at the request of my colleague from New Jersey before he would allow that to pass. The TAKE IT DOWN Act deliberately adopted the exact same language that the Senator from New Jersey requested in the SHIELD Act—everything he requested—from the same sentencing provisions to the same intent provisions, to the same exceptions to the bill. Now it appears the Senator from New Jersey no longer supports the language he voted for and the language he negotiated and helped draft.

It cannot be that the Senator from New Jersey is concerned about free speech matters, because he has already agreed to pass two bills that deal with this very same issue and using the same language. I certainly hope that the Senator from New Jersey doesn't actually believe that realistic child pornography, as we have described here today, is somehow protected speech under any of our legal precedents. It is not.

The only difference between the two bills that, perhaps, the Senator from New Jersey can possibly point to is that the TAKE IT DOWN Act criminalizes the publication of deepfake revenge porn—an issue this body has not yet addressed—and that the TAKE IT DOWN Act requires big tech companies to remove these heinous images upon notice from the victims in order to protect the victims. Neither of these positive changes are good reasons to hold up the bill, but they are essential to bringing justice to our constituents from Francesca to Elliston.

So, if the Senator from New Jersey objects, teenage girls like Francesca Mani of New Jersey, like Elliston Berry of Texas, or teenage boys like Gavin Guffey will have no protection from sextortion or from having fake sexual abuse materials—images and videos, literal child pornography—being publicly shared by predators and sex offenders. If he objects, the next Francesca, the next Elliston, the next Gavin won't be able to force Snapchat or Instagram or TikTok to step up and take down this abusive content.

For the folks at home, I want you to listen very carefully. Sometimes Senate procedure can be confusing. I want you to listen for two words from the Senator from New Jersey: ''I object.'' Let me tell you how this works. If he doesn't say those two words, this legislation will, right now, this evening, pass the U.S. Senate 100 to nothing.

And understand, this legislation—99 Senators have already indicated they have no objections to this legislation. All the Senator from New Jersey has to do is not say those two words, ''I object,'' and this law is passing the Senate unanimously. On the other hand, if you hear those two words, ''I object,'' the result is going to be that this legislation is defeated on the floor of the Senate.

On behalf of Elliston Berry, on behalf of Francesca Mani, on behalf of the memory of Gavin Guffey and his family who still grieves his loss, on behalf of the countless teenagers and others who have been victimized by real and by deepfake explicit images, on behalf of the thousands more teenagers and women who are likely to be victims of this abuse in the future, I urge my colleagues to come together with a simple, bipartisan, commonsense step and pass the TAKE IT DOWN Act.

Therefore, Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 4569 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the Cruz-Klobuchar substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. I have to tell you, I am saddened that the Senator from New Jersey chose to give no explanation for his objection; chose to give no reason to Francesca, why she is being denied; no reason to Elliston; no reason to Gavin.

He had an opportunity to explain his objections. Do you know what he said? Nothing.

Nearly 2 weeks ago was when I circulated this amendment to both sides of the aisle, and it cleared 99 Senators. He had a week and a half to object. Yesterday, this legislation was about to pass, and an hour before it was going to pass, the Senator from New Jersey raised his objection. He said last night: TED, I haven't had time to read the bill.

It had been circulated to his office 2 weeks earlier, but he said he hadn't had time to read the bill.

I said: Great. I will delay this for a day so you can read the bill. The language in the bill is word for word verbatim the language you agreed to, you have voted for, and you negotiated.

He said he had numerous substantive objections. If he does, we heard none of them, not a word of it.

It makes me sad that he doesn't feel his constituents deserve any explanation for blocking legislation as important as this.

Madam President, it is not lost on anyone that this is an election year. And I will say, absent a single substantive objection, the obvious inference is that this objection is being made because we have got an election in less than 6 weeks.

I consider the Senator from New Jersey a friend. I sure hope he is not standing up here denying victims of this abuse relief simply to score partisan political points. I would like to think he wouldn't do such a thing.

But in order for me to believe he wouldn't do such a thing, he needs to actually explain some reason for his objection, which at least, so far, he has not bothered to do.

I will tell you, we had an agreement negotiated with the majority leader to pass an entire package of bills—Republican bills and Democrat bills—that have passed the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. All of that package was going to pass yesterday until, at the last minute, the Senator from New Jersey came with his midnight objection and no reasoning whatsoever.

So I am now going to give this body the opportunity to pass the package that had been negotiated in a bipartisan manner, that had been agreed to,

and we are going to find out if the Senator from New Jersey will not only object to providing relief to the victims of this abuse but will object to multiple other bills that are bipartisan bills supported by Members of this body, because he wants to play partisan politics instead. I hope he does not.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: S. 4569, the TAKE IT DOWN Act, Cruz-Klobuchar; Calendar No. 473, S. 275, the Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2024, Capito-Klobuchar; Calendar No. 474, S. 1570, the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act, Duckworth and Daines; Calendar No. 285, S. 1153, the National Manufacturing Advisory Council for the 21st Century Act, Peters and Rubio; Calendar No. 480, S. 3475, Strengthening the Commercial Driver's License Information System Act, Peters and Young; Calendar No. 479, S. 3277, the Marine Debris reauthorization, Sullivan and Whitehouse; Calendar No. 513, S. 4212, the American Music Tourism Act of 2024, Blackburn and Hickenlooper; and Calendar No. 485, S. 4107, the Think Differently Transportation Act, Duckworth and Capito; further, that S. 4569 be discharged from the Committee on Commerce; that the committee-reported amendments, where applicable, be agreed to; that the Cruz-Klobuchar amendment to S. 4569, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bills, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and passed en bloc; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. I object.

Madam President, the sharing of nonconsensual intimate images online is harmful and unacceptable. It is a serious problem that is affecting too many Americans. Many times, it is impacting our young people, and we need to do more to ensure that digital platforms are not used to harass and harm.

We need ethical guardrails for emerging technologies including generative AI. This means laws that protect people from harassment and hold wrongdoers accountable, but do not have unintended criminal consequences.

I had hoped the junior Senator from Texas would work with me rather than using Senate procedure to create the false appearance of partisanship. He used personal attacks and half truths to politicize the serious issue of online sexual harassment. I have and will continue to work with my colleagues to combat the issue of online sexual harassment. I look forward to finding solutions to address the proliferation of nonconsensual intimate images online.

Online sexual harassment and so many other issues that impact Americans, from public safety to reproductive care to failing power grids, are urgent and it is our duty to address them. However, taking to the Senate floor with veiled threats is not how we should operate in this deliberative body. We are here to work together and to find solutions together.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BLOOMBERG FOUNDATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Three quick points, Madam President: No. 1, I rise, first, to thank the Bloomberg Foundation. I had made notes from which I was going to speak, but I lost them. So I am going to kind of wing it here.

Over the past couple of years, the Bloomberg Foundation has spent millions of dollars—I want to say the figure is $30 to $40 million—to try to help really smart kids from low-income families access some of our finest colleges in the country. And America does have the best system of higher education in the world, by the way. We have the best quality colleges.

What the Bloomberg Foundation was focusing on was that these were just really smart kids from low-income families who had great grades and great standardized test scores and great extracurricular activities, but many of them just didn't know about the opportunities that were out there in the world for them. The Bloomberg Foundation wasn't concentrating on race or gender or sexuality or a part of the country or any of those things. They were just looking to try to help really smart young women and young men in high school with great grades and great standardized test scores access some of the finest universities in the country. And they spent 40 million bucks doing it, working with some other groups.

Well, it didn't work out like they thought. They just didn't have as much success as they wanted to. But they learned from the experience.

What they learned was, in order to reach these young people, you can't just text them. You can't just call them. You can't send them an email—in part, because today, when all of us receive emails and text messages from people who we don't know, we automatically assume it is some kind of scam. So that is what Bloomberg and its contractors found—that people, including our young people, they are just very suspicious, and so they weren't able to reach that many kids. And those that they didn't reach—and by the way, the folks from Bloomberg contacting them would never meet the kids. They wanted to reach as many kids as they could, so they were doing it digitally. They just found out it wasn't that effective. But they also learned that the way to reach these kids is to see them in person and, in part, go through the kids' high schools' guidance counselors and placement offices.

So I am hoping that Bloomberg is going to start again. I am not saying that Bloomberg had no success. They had success, but it just wasn't as much success as we all wanted. But, by God, they tried, and they deserve thanks.

This wasn't any taxpayer money; it was the money of the Bloomberg foundation. They tried, and they learned a lot from it, and I wanted to thank them for trying. I hope they won't give up, and I hope they will use what they learned to try to reach these young people again.

TRIBUTE TO KATHERINE FOSTER

Madam President, No. 2, I want to repeat very briefly what I said last week. Katherine Foster is a member of our Cloakroom staff. Katherine is not here. She is in the back doing her job. Today is her last day, and I wanted to thank her again for her service. As I said last time, she has taken a very prestigious job in the private sector, and I wish her well, and I hope she makes bucket loads of money.

To those who don't know, we have—by ''we,'' I mean the Republicans and the Democrats—what we call Cloakroom staff. These are people who work with us to make this place work. On any given day, the Democratic Cloakroom staff and the Republican Cloakroom staff are the nicest and the smartest people in this building, and they just do an incredible job. They work hard, and they have to be here at all kinds of ungodly hours, and they have to put up with back-sass from U.S. Senators. It is a very hard job. And that is true on both the Democratic side and the Republican side.

But, anyway, Katherine is one of that group, and she is leaving. We are sorry she is leaving, but we are happy that she is leaving because she is going to make more money than the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. So we wish her well.

But I also wanted to use this opportunity to thank our entire teams on both the Democratic and the Republican side for their incredible work.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 8292

Madam President, No. 3, the House passed a bill dealing with the sanctity of taxpayer records.

In another life, I worked in State government. I worked for like, I don't know, 16 or 17 years—I don't remember because it went by in a flash—as State treasurer, which was an elected position. But before that, I was in an appointed position, a position appointed by the Governor. It was a political position called the secretary of the Department of Revenue, and that was a fancy title for ''tax collector.'' I was the State's tax collector for, I don't

know, 3½ years, until I left the position to go run for State treasurer.

One of the things I learned was the sanctity of people's income taxes. I mean, I am sure there are some documents that are more private—maybe our medical records—but they are not that much more private to us and precious to us than our tax records.

At the Louisiana Department of Revenue, which is where I worked, we had a hard-and-fast rule, and every employee knew it, and they respected it, by God. If you leaked somebody's tax returns, we would chase you like you stole Thanksgiving, and we would punish you. And we would not only fire you, but we would prosecute you if we had to. So, consequently, we had almost no leaks—none.

I wish I could say that for the IRS. Through the years, they have had a bunch of leaks. I don't want to overstate it, but they have. Not that long ago, back in 2019, they had a leak, and it actually came from a vendor that was working for the IRS.

By the way, the sanctity of those tax returns and whatnot and the importance to protect them also applies to contractors for the tax Agency.

But, anyway, one of the vendors for the Internal Revenue Service leaked 8,000 tax returns—8,000. Not 80, not 800—8,000 tax returns. And they gave these tax returns to a media organization. The person who leaked it—he didn't do it because he was trying to show tax fraud; he did it to try to embarrass the people. A lot of them were really wealthy, and he wanted to embarrass them just out of the meanness in his heart.

Some very famous people—I think Mr. Jeff Bezos was on the list. President Trump was on the list. But if you looked at this list, this list was as long as King Kong's arm. You could stack this list here and paint that ceiling—8,000. And it embarrassed a lot of people. It would have embarrassed you if your name was all over the Internet with your personal information and your home address and your signature. It was just wrong.

It took years for the IRS to track this down. We kept pushing them and raising fresh hell and saying: This is not right.

Well, I don't think they did it on their own; I think they got outside help. They finally caught this person. Do you know what his penalty was? He got 5 years, and they fined him $5,000. I just don't think that is enough of a deterrent—I don't—when you add up all the misery that this one meathead caused to 8,000 people, none of whom were cheating on their taxes. He was just trying to embarrass them, and that is just wrong.

So the House passed a bill the other day that basically says the penalty is going to be increased. It is no longer going to be a minimum of 5; it is going to be 10 years. But also, instead of a $5,000 fine, the maximum fine is going to be $250,000.

And here is the thing. You can't—let me put it another way. Every document—every tax return that you release is a different count. In other words, this meathead that released 8,000, under the new law, that would be 8,000 counts against him. And that is the way it ought to be. It shouldn't be: Let's just lump them all together in one, and that is one count, and he pays 5,000 bucks, and he gets 5 years but he is probably out in 2. That is just not right, folks.

And what you allow is what will continue. And I don't hate anybody. I don't hate anybody. I don't know this meathead who did this, and in my heart, I don't hate him, but what he did was wrong. He just tried to embarrass and did embarrass 8,000 Americans who weren't doing anything wrong. They were paying their taxes, for God's sake. It is just wrong. It makes me want to throw up. It triggers my gag reflex.

So I hope we can pass the House bill. Like I say, I hadn't changed a word in the House bill. It is identical to what just passed the House. And I think—if I am wrong on this, Madam President, I will come back and correct the record—I think it passed the House unanimously.

Did it pass the House unanimously? Do we know, Josh? There were a couple of votes against.

This is Josh, who I work with. Smart as a whip.

It wasn't unanimous. I stand corrected. Josh, my brain, corrected me. But it was almost unanimous. And I would sure like to see this body do the same thing, and I just don't see this as a partisan issue.

Now, the reason I am talking so long is I think that my good friend Senator RON WYDEN wants to object to this. Now, I hope he doesn't. I don't know if I can say this, but I am going to say it anyway. I will buy him a pony if he doesn't object to this bill—a pony of his choice. That is not a bribe. I like RON WYDEN so much, I would buy him a pony of his choice anyway. But if he won't object to this bill, I will buy him a pony, OK, because this is a good, good piece of legislation.

I don't want to do this behind his back. So I don't see RON here, but what I am going to do, Madam President—I am not trying to tell you how to do your job. You can do whatever you want. But I am going to make this motion, and I would ask if you would consider holding it until Senator WYDEN has a chance to get here because I don't want to do this behind his back.

I see the Parliamentarian is unhappy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognizing that fact, yes.

Mr. KENNEDY. I will buy her a pony too.

Let me go to plan B. What I will do is, I want to hit ''pause'' because I don't want to do this behind RON'S back. Let me hit ''pause,'' and I will ask that we go into a quorum call. When RON gets here, I will ask to be recognized so I can assert my motion, and RON can agree with my splendid bill, and then we will go pick out a pony.

So I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senator will be recognized.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, my friend Senator WYDEN is here, so I would like to proceed. I am sorry he missed my speech. It would have given him goosebumps if he had been here to listen to it. But maybe you all can tell him about it, and I hope he will find it convincing.

In the meantime, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8292, which is the bill I talked about passed by the House almost unanimously, which was received from the House.

They couldn't hear me? Let me start over. All right.

Madam President, I am sorry. I didn't have my mic on.

The Presiding Officer recognized my request that we suspend the quorum call?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, Senator WYDEN is here. I thank him for coming out. I hope he heard my speech. I hope he was persuaded. I know him to be a reasonable man, so I took my best shot. So I am going to go ahead and make my motion now that he is here.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 8292. That is the bill I talked about that was passed almost unanimously by the House. That bill has been received from the House. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I certainly have no sympathy for leakers, and I want to make a couple of points to make it clear why I am going to oppose this proposal.

First of all, the biggest leakers of taxpayer data are the big tax software companies. We never hear a peep from our colleagues on the other side about that. In fact, my Republican colleagues try, with every piece of legislation where there is a possible connection, to get rid of the IRS's new direct-file system that allows taxpayers to avoid the

big tax prep companies who overcharge them and give away their data.

My view is, it makes no sense to create an even larger double standard—a life sentence for nonviolent offenders. That seems disproportionate to the whole concept of potentially zero penalty for big corporations that leak all the time.

Second, let's talk about the system this proposal would protect. It is a system that allows the people at the very, very top to pay what they want, when they want to, and, often, sometimes nothing at all for years on end. Some of the wealthiest folks—the people at the very top—pay zero for years on end, including the ex-President.

So my view is the American people ought to have more information about the tax schemes the ultrawealthy are playing, not less.

I want to make it clear, again, I take a backseat to no one when it comes to protecting taxpayer data. But the tax games of the ultrawealthy are not a state secret that ought to be protected like the nuclear codes. The Congress ought to be doing more for tax transparency. I am happy to have that discussion.

Meanwhile, the Senate should not go out of its way to help the system that helps the ultrawealthy hide in the shadows and dodge paying their fair share.

For those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I thank my friend RON for his point of view. I hope we can sit down and talk about this and perhaps work something out because this bill is not about changing the tax rate; it is just about everybody's tax return is their own business.

I also thank, Madam President, your courtesy and time and attention in this matter.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LIEUTENANT OSVALDO ALBARATI STOPPING PRISON CONTRABAND ACT

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5284, the Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5284) to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. OSSOFF. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

Mr. OSSOFF. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 5284) was passed as follows:

S. 5284

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 ''Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PROVISION OF A PHONE.

Section 1791(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

''(4) in the case of a violation of subsection (a)(1), imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both, if the object is specified in subsection (d)(1)(F) of this section;''; and

(3) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by inserting '', in the case of a violation of subsection (a)(2),'' before ''(d)(1)(F)''.

SEC. 3. REVIEW OF POLICIES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

(1) conduct a review of the policies of the Bureau of Prisons pertaining to inmates who make, possess, obtain, or attempt to make or obtain a prohibited object, as defined in section 1791(d)(1) of title 18, United States Code; and

(2) update those policies as needed to improve protections for incarcerated individuals and staff.

Mr. OSSOFF. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. OSSOFF. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion with respect to the Perry nomination be withdrawn; further, that the Senate vote on confirmation of the Perry nomination at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 788.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 788, Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Luján, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Chris Van Hollen, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Henrich, Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 620.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 620, David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Peter Welch, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz, Catherine Cortez Masto, Benjamin L. Cardin, Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 714.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 714, Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Charles E. Schumer, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Laphonza R. Butler, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Catherine Cortez Masto, Richard Blumenthal, Maria Cantwell, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Mazie K. Hirono, Chris Van Hollen.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 25, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of PN587; that the nominations be confirmed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the Record; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN587 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (2) beginning John R. Bass, II, and ending Brian A. Nichols, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 2, 2023.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar No. 713, Calendar No. 715; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jeffrey Samuel Arbeit, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years, and Benjamin A. Guider III, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI DAVID SAPERSTEIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I come to the floor to honor a great New Yorker, a great American, and one of the greatest Jewish leaders in our country's history: Rabbi David Saperstein. This year marks his 50th anniversary at the Religious Action Center, a milestone of immense distinction and honor.

It is not possible to summarize in a single statement the breadth and depth of Rabbi Saperstein's accomplishments. He is, of course a rabbi. But he is also an advocate at heart. He is a lawyer. A teacher. A diplomat who served as ambassador. He is a religious leader and a mentor to countless people over the years, of all faiths and persuasions.

But if we had to pick just one thing, it would be this: Rabbi Saperstein has always been a voice for justice and progress and decency for people around the world.

As the director of the Religious Action Center for over 40 years, he was one of Reform Judaism's greatest champions in the Halls of Congress and within the Federal Government. In his own words, he carried out this role with a mission to ''make real the Jewish prophetic ideals of justice, peace, freedom, equality and compassion, in America, in Israel, in the lives of human beings everywhere.''

Rabbi Saperstein is also the first rabbi in American history to serve as U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, selected by President Obama in 2014. He advised both the President and Secretary Kerry on promoting the rights of religious minorities around the world. After serving in government, he continued his service as president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Today, he also serves on the Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking.

It is rare for a single person to accomplish so much and hold so many leadership positions in one lifetime. But it is even rarer to see the profound decency and thirst for justice that has motivated Rabbi Saperstein at every step of his life. Our country is blessed through his life. Jewish Americans are better off because of his good works. And Americans of all walks of life are better off because of the service, the vision, and legacy of Rabbi Saperstein.

So, on behalf of a grateful Senate, I congratulate the rabbi for celebrating 50 years with the Religious Action Center.

TRIBUTE TO DR. NANCY COX

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate my friend Dr. Nancy Cox, dean of the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment, on her upcoming retirement. As she prepares to step down from the helm, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this distinguished Kentuckian and her 20-plus years of service to the Commonwealth.

A graduate of Furman University, the University of Georgia, and North Carolina State University, Nancy made her bones researching animal physiology. She launched her career at Mississippi State before joining the ranks of faculty leadership at UK's College of Agriculture as associate dean for research. To the great fortune of our flagship university, Nancy never left.

Serving as dean of the college of agriculture since 2014, Nancy led the school

through some of its most transformative years. She spearheaded groundbreaking programs, like the Racetrack Safety Program and the James B. Beam Institute for Kentucky Spirits, that help keep Kentucky's signature equine and bourbon industries at the forefront of the Nation. Early on, she understood the importance of research not only to the university and its students, but also to Kentucky's agricultural community, prioritizing investments for veterinary studies, equine health, and animal forage production research. As dean, she oversaw the renewal of UK's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and together, we worked to establish UK's first-ever animal forage production research lab in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Nancy's work to champion research on issues ranging from equine safety to the problems facing small family farms continues to help our Nation's producers and growers succeed.

Even after two decades of service to Kentucky, Nancy hasn't shied away from new opportunities to effect change on campus. In 2020, she stepped up to join President Capilouto's leadership team as the first-ever vice president for land-grant engagement. In this role, she has helped deepen UK's commitment to its land-grant mission, finding new ways to serve and connect with communities across the Commonwealth through research, instruction, and extension programs.

Anybody who has ever worked with Nancy can vouch for her dedication to serving her fellow Kentuckians. From forging new partnerships to deepening the university's ties with important stakeholders, like the Kentucky Farm Bureau, Nancy's leadership has tangibly made life better for families, businesses, and communities across our state. As she puts it, ''Every day, we try to do better than the day before.'' Nancy has certainly lived up to this ideal, and though we are all sorry to see her go, I am confident she will continue to make a difference in her community.

As she begins a well-deserved retirement, I have no doubt that she will be enjoying more time with her friends and family. Today, it's my privilege to join the chorus of faculty, students, and alumni praising Nancy's leadership and her work to lift up Kentucky's farmers and the next generation of agricultural leaders. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking Nancy for her remarkable service to the University of Kentucky and the Commonwealth.

TRIBUTE TO JIM IACOCCA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Brigadier General (Retired) James ''Jim'' T. Iacocca as he prepares to retire from the Knox Regional Development Alliance in my home State of Kentucky. It is my privilege to pay special tribute to Jim for all his contributions to the Commonwealth and his 30-plus years of dedicated service to our Nation.

Jim entered the Army on a whim. Without speaking to his parents, he enlisted in the Army Reserve his freshman year at Lehigh University. His 29 years of Active-Duty service that followed included tours in airborne and special operations units at multiple Army installations, deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq, and numerous military awards and decorations. He served as deputy commanding general of the Army Recruiting Command and Brigade Commander for the Army's 3rd Recruiting Brigade. In 2015, Jim became the 60th Adjutant General, one of the oldest leadership positions in the Army. In this role, he oversaw over 1 million Active-Duty, National Guard, and Reserve servicemembers, keeping soldiers combat-ready to serve and execute the Army's missions.

Jim retired from Active-Duty service in 2017, but his work on behalf of the Commonwealth and the Army was far from over. As one of two civilian aides to the Secretary of the Army for Kentucky, Jim helps bridge the gap between Army leadership and our State's military communities, providing crucial counsel to the Secretary on all matters Kentucky.

Many on my staff have had the privilege of interacting with Jim through his work as president and CEO of the Knox Regional Development Alliance. In this role, Jim serves as the critical link between my office and the military base. With an eye always toward the future, Jim is constantly working with partners inside and outside the gate to identify new missions and improve the experience and well-being of Kentucky's servicemembers. He has been instrumental in some of the biggest issues Fort Knox has tackled in recent years, driving billions of dollars into the regional economy and advocating for the priorities of Fort Knox and its more than 26,000 soldiers, civilians, and families.

In all his years serving Fort Knox, Jim has never lost sight of the people he represents; that includes not only the brave men and women who serve our country but also the greater Knox region. Jim will be the first to tell you that a strong community is an irreplaceable asset to any military installation and, indeed, Fort Knox. As the unifying voice for the base and the Knox community, Jim collaborates with a wide range of people, from servicemembers to the business community to local, State, and Federal leaders across the Commonwealth. In fact, Jim's contributions recently earned him the honor of Gold Neighbor for his dedication to Fort Knox, its soldiers, and their families. I count myself among the many grateful for Jim contributing his character, humble leadership, and deep knowledge to the Commonwealth.

Jim has worn many impressive hats while serving his country, but his proudest roles have been husband and father. As he prepares to step down from the Knox Regional Development Alliance this year, I know Jim will enjoy spending more time with his wife Sandy and their daughter—and building out that impressive bourbon collection of his. Our men and women in uniform, in addition to the people of Kentucky, are losing a tireless advocate, and though we are saddened to say goodbye to Jim, his retirement is well-earned. I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in thanking this brave American, dedicated public servant, and proud Kentuckian for his decades of distinguished service to our country.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) ofthe Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24–72, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bulgaria for defense articles and services estimated to cost $114 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24–72

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as Amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bulgaria.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * $79 million.
Other $35 million.
Total $114 million.
Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two hundred eighteen (218) Javelin FGM–148F missiles (includes four (4) fly-to-buy missiles).

One hundred seven (107) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLU).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Javelin LWCLU Basic Skills Trainers (BST); Javelin Outdoor Trainers (JOT); Battery Coolant Units (BCUs); System Integration and Check Out (SICO); lifecycle support; Javelin Restricted Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM); Javelin operator manuals; tools; Javelin gunner training; Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO) training; Javelin maintenance training; technical assistance; other associated equipment and services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (BU–B–UCQ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: BU–B–UCP, BU–B–UCS.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 20, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bulgaria—FGM–148F Javelin Missiles

The Government of Bulgaria has requested to buy two hundred eighteen (218) Javelin FGM–148F missiles (includes four (4) fly-to-buy missiles) and one hundred seven (107) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLU). Also included are Javelin LWCLU Basic Skills Trainers (BST); Javelin Outdoor Trainers (JOT); Battery Coolant Units (BCUs); System Integration and Check Out (SICO); lifecycle support; Javelin Restricted Interactive Electronic Technical Manual (IETM); Javelin operator manuals; tools; Javelin gunner training; Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO) training; Javelin maintenance training; technical assistance; other associated equipment and services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $114 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political and economic stability in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Bulgaria's long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to meet its national defense requirements. Bulgaria will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be the Javelin Joint Venture between Lockheed Martin, located in Orlando, FL, and RTX Corporation, located in Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Bulgaria.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24–72

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Javelin Weapon System is a medium-range, man portable, shoulder-launched, fire and forget anti-tank system for infantry, scouts, and combat engineers. It may also be mounted on a variety of platforms including vehicles, aircraft, and watercraft. The system weighs 49.5 pounds and has a maximum range in excess of 2,500 meters. The system is highly lethal against tanks and other systems with conventional and reactive armors. The system possesses a secondary capability against bunkers.

2. Javelin's key technical feature is the use of fire-and-forget technology which allows the gunner to fire and immediately relocate or take cover. Additional special features are the top attack and direct fire modes, an advanced tandem warhead and imaging infrared seeker, target lock-on before launch, and the capability for soft launch from enclosures or covered fighting positions. The Javelin missile also has a minimum smoke motor that decreases its visibility and chance of detection on the battlefield.

3. The Javelin Weapon System is comprised of two major tactical components, the reusable Light Weight Command Launch Unit (LWCLU) and a missile contained in a disposable launch tube assembly. The LWCLU incorporates an integrated day-night sight that provides target engagement capability in adverse weather and countermeasure environments. The LWCLU may also be used in a stand-alone mode for battlefield surveillance and target detection. The LWCLU's thermal sight is a 3rd generation Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor. To facilitate initial loading and subsequent updating of software, all on-board missile software is uploaded via the LWCLU after mating and prior to launch.

4. The missile is autonomously guided to the target using an imaging infrared seeker and adaptive correlation tracking algorithms. This allows the gunner to take cover or reload and engage another target after firing a missile. The missile has an advanced tandem warhead and can be used in either the top attack or direct fire modes (for targets under cover). An onboard flight computer guides the missile to the selected target.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Bulgaria can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Bulgaria.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24–89, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Sweden for defense articles and services estimated to cost $31.5 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24–89

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Sweden.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* $27.5 million.

Other $4.0 million.

Total $31.5 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case SW–P–LBK was implemented below congressional notification threshold at $13.7 million ($10.9 million in Major Defense Equipment (MDE)) and included forty-five (45) AN/USQ–190 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS). The Government of Sweden has requested the case be amended to include an additional seventy-five (75) AN/USQ–190 MIDS JTRS. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the congressional notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): One hundred twenty (120) AN/USQ–190 MIDS JTRS.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: communications equipment; support equipment; engineering and technical support and assistance; non-warranty repair and return; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (SW–P–LBK).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: September 20, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Sweden—Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems

The Government of Sweden has requested to buy one hundred twenty (120) AN/USQ–190 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS). The following non-Major Defense Equipment (MDE) items will also be included: communications equipment; support equipment; engineering and technical support and assistance; non-warranty repair and return; training; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $31.5 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Sweden's capability to meet current and future threats by modernizing its existing Link 16 capability to interoperate with U.S. forces and to exchange secure, jam-resistant tactical data via Link 16. Sweden will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and strengthen its homeland defense. Sweden will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor is Data Link Solutions, located in Cedar Rapids, IA. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Sweden; however, U.S. Government Engineering and Technical Services may be required on an interim basis for training and technical assistance.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24–89

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AN/USQ–190 Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS JTRS) builds on MIDS-Low Volume Terminal (LVT)'s capabilities with the addition of Concurrent Multi-Netting (CMN) and Concurrent Contention Receive (CCR) functions. CMN and CCR dramatically expand the number of platforms and network-enabled systems that can be reliably included in a Link 16 network. These enhancements allow a single MIDS JTRS terminal to simultaneously receive messages on up to four nets (compared with only a single net in terminals without CMN and CCR) within a single Link 16 time slot, allowing a user to ''hear'' messages from up to three additional sources at once.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Sweden can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Sweden.

SUPPORTING HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, on March 6, 2021, almost a year to the day after communities across America—and Alaska—shut down in an attempt to slow the spread of COVID–19, this body was voting on the third COVID relief bill, the American Rescue Plan.

Unfortunately, this was a wholly partisan exercise. Rather than advancing a bipartisan consensus effort, one side unilaterally pushed forward the largest spending package Congress had ever advanced, which I was not able to support. However, in the midst of that bogged down, partisan exercise, there was a bright spot of cross-aisle collaboration that brought together Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. In fact, it was one of only three amendments that passed with unanimous support during a contentious process where over 40 votes were taken.

I am speaking of my amendment with Senators MANCHIN, PORTMAN, SINEMA, COLLINS, and SULLIVAN to designate $800 million of the K12 education funds in the bill to be used for identifying, supporting, and educating children and youth experiencing homelessness.

I offered this amendment because the first two COVID relief packages did not include any dedicated funding to support this vulnerable population, who were arguably the most negatively impacted by school closures.

At that time, 2,578 Alaskan children and youth were identified as experiencing homelessness. That number grew to 3,554 in the next school year. Unfortunately, we are on pace to break records this school year.

Homelessness has far-reaching impacts on young people, affecting both their personal development and education. Living without a stable home means increased stress, insecurity, and trauma, leading to mental health challenges such as anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

The tolls of their living situation also affects their physical health, increasing the risk of illness, obesity, diabetes, and hunger. Many youth struggle with regular sleep without a consistent place to rest their head. And many turn to substance abuse to cope with hardships.

For youth in school, homelessness often results in frequent school absences, difficulty concentrating, and lower academic achievement, as the instability of their living conditions makes it hard to focus on learning. The likelihood of dropping out of school rises dramatically, and so does the risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system.

Homeless youth may lack access to essential resources like school supplies, quiet study spaces, and nutritious meals, further widening the achievement gap.

Now I am probably not breaking any news to those of us in Congress, who have heard too many stories of young people enduring these incredibly trying conditions.

But I am here today to share some incredible news on this front from the bipartisan work done on this floor to help our youths in crisis.

In my home State of Alaska, we received $2.35 million in these funds, more than eight times its usual allocation.

To see the impact that these funds have had makes my heart sing. What was really incredible was seeing how each district used these funds creatively to meet the unique and specific needs of the kids they serve. By providing districts flexibility in their spending, schools were able to provide everything from school supplies to cell phones to clothing and food.

In the Kenai Peninsula School District, they used funds to help a student access mental health services. This particular student had experienced homelessness and housing instability for the majority of their time in public education. After falling off the radar of the school, the student became an unaccompanied homeless youth due to parental substance use disorder and incarceration.

These homeless youth funds were a lifeline in providing critical mental health services to support this student, giving them tools for coping, and helped place them on a path to sustained stability at a time when they were experiencing incredible uncertainty and didn't have someone in their life to help guide them.

In Anchorage, the school district used these funds to provide Wi-Fi hot spots, since the subsidized broadband internet was no longer available.

These funds enabled the purchase of 15 Wi-Fi hot spots for families last school year and 10 more for this year. You can imagine that for families and youth who are moving from place to place—motels, cars, couches—access to reliable internet to complete homework and communicate with teachers is a particular challenge. No other district program is able to support homeless students this way. ASD's Migrant Education, Indigenous Education, and English Language Learners departments see this as a big need but one they cannot address.

In addition to hotspots, Anchorage School District's program was able to provide car repairs. Now, that might seem like a strange way to help those experiencing homelessness, but districts discovered that car repairs made more economic sense than providing

cab services for young people trying to attend classes. By providing $200 on car repair costs, the district ultimately saved money on transportation, and families had more reliable car services.

Both districts also used funding to bring on additional staff designated to work with homeless students. The Child in Transition Program in the Anchorage School District was able to hire two full-time staff for remote sites and five part-time staff in high schools to support students on campus and connect them to services. These staffers are connecting students and families with identification efforts, checking in on attendance and grades, monitoring and supporting academic progress, and facilitating referrals with community partners.

In fact, one of these staffers was able to build rapport with a student experiencing homelessness who was interested in applying for a job, but didn't know how to start the process. By having a dedicated staff member, who they knew and trusted, the support and resources were there for this student to apply for the position and prepare for their interview. Today, that young person is employed.

These real-life examples highlight what this funding is actually doing on the ground and the incredible, real world benefits it has in the lives of youth and families experiencing homelessness.

We know that the No. 1 risk factor for adult homelessness is the lack of a high school education or equivalent.

The challenges and hardships that youth experiencing homelessness face can set them on the wrong path, severely limiting future opportunities for employment and healthy lifestyles.

These funds are still directly supporting students so they can attend school and have the resources to successfully complete their education.

This funding is helping young people get out of the homelessness cycle permanently.

I am proud to stand here with my colleagues to share the impact of this American Rescue Plan provision.

I was disappointed that we were not able to get a clean 1-year extension done so that we can continue to hear good stories of the work being done in our communities to identify and support homeless youth.

There were a number of reasons that States and local education agencies were not able to fully spend down their funds—from local education agencies not even being aware of the additional flexible funds, to delayed guidelines from the Department of Education on allowable uses.

So without an extension, some States will be returning funds. And make no mistake: These are funds that are still critically needed in our communities. The youth experiencing homelessness in our States still need our support, and we expect to see continued increases in homeless youth.

To be clear, there is more work to be done with homelessness on the rise. I urge my colleagues to work with us to address these issues.

CONSTITUTION WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise in recognition of Constitution Week, recognized from September 17 through September 23.

Since 1956, Congress has recognized an annual Constitution Week in recognition of the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia on September 17, 1787. We also recognize Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on September 17, providing an opportunity for us to reflect upon and to learn about our Nation's founding document.

This annual recognition is of critical importance. Our Constitution informs our system of governance, creates individual rights and liberties, and expresses our collective values. Throughout my time in office, I have prioritized working to improve the quality of U.S. history and civics education throughout our Nation. Educating current and future generations of Americans about our Constitution is a critical piece of this.

While the flaws and omissions inherent in the original Constitution are widely recognized, one of its most important features is that it was designed to remain adaptable to future generations of Americans. Virginia delegate Edmund Randolph, one of the drafters, stated that the intention was to ''insert essential principles only, lest the operations of government should be clogged by rendering those provisions permanent and unalterable, which ought to be accommodated to times and events.''

Of course, article V of our Constitution also lays out an explicit amendment process. Amendments can be made to our Constitution when proposed by a two-thirds vote of both the House and Senate and ratified by three-fourths of the State legislatures, which equates to 38 States.

Today, we are in the unprecedented situation in which a constitutional amendment ratified by the required 38 States has not been formally recognized as a part of our Constitution. In 2020, Virginia became the 38th and final required State to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which was proposed and sent to the States after passage by broad bipartisan majorities in 1972.

The ERA would constitutionally protect the equality of rights under the law, regardless of sex. The main clause of the amendment simply states, ''Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.''

Despite what many Americans believe, the only right explicitly guaranteed regardless of sex in the U.S. Constitution is the 19th Amendment right to vote. The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment has been invoked successfully in sex discrimination cases, but the outcomes of these challenges have been inconsistent. The current Supreme Court's approach to the Constitution highlights the need for the ERA, given the apparent belief by some Justices that the Equal Protection Clause should be frozen in time in 1868, casting in doubt those precedents currently holding that the Equal Protection Clause applies to sex discrimination.

Our lack of an explicit provision places us out of line with the rest of the world. Eighty-five percent of countries have an explicit prohibition against governmental discrimination on the basis of sex.

The United States is the only industrialized democracy that does not include an explicit provision in its Constitution, a marker that I take seriously as the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. On August 6 of 2024, the American Bar Association, which is the leading legal association in our Nation, voted overwhelmingly to recognize the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Resolution 601 urges government on all levels to implement the ERA now.

This important affirmation by our Nation's leading association of lawyers is in line with the position taken by many members of this body. In a vote on April 27, 2024, a bipartisan majority of U.S. Senators voted to affirm the validity of the Equal Rights Amendment as our 28th Amendment to the Constitution and to explicitly remove the deadline that Congress included in the preamble of the resolution proposing the ERA to the States.

In both 2020 and 2021, the House of Representatives passed a similar joint resolution to explicitly remove this arbitrary deadline for adoption of this critical constitutional amendment.

It is important that we pass this S.J. Res. 4, which I have been pleased to lead on a bipartisan basis with Senator LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska, to remove any ambiguity and to make it clear beyond a doubt that the ERA is a valid part of our Constitution. The passage of this resolution is long overdue. However, the fact remains that the Equal Rights Amendment has already fulfilled all of the requirements laid out in article V and should be recognized—today—as our 28th Amendment.

Women still face serious challenges ''on account of sex,'' and our existing legal framework does not always provide a sufficient remedy.

As the 28th Amendment, the ERA would serve as a new tool—for Congress, for Federal Agencies, and the courts—to advance equality in the fields of workforce and pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and violence, reproductive autonomy, and protections for LGBTQ+ individuals.

For example, we recently recognized 30 years since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, which President Biden described as his ''proudest legislative achievement.'' Despite all of the successful progress through VAWA,

a U.S. Supreme Court decision invalidated one of its key elements: the creation of a private right of action to allow survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse to sue for civil damages from their perpetrators. The Court struck down this democratically approved legislation on the grounds that it was outside of Congress's power.

It stymied the ability of our democratically elected branches to address the critical problem of gender-based violence. The ERA would serve as an explicit constitutional backstop for legislation like VAWA's private right of action that is intended to address problems of inequality, as well as serving as a tool in the courts.

Our Constitution is a reflection of our values, and no value is more American than equality. I call for the passage of S.J. Res. 4. I also express my strong belief that the ERA has fulfilled the requirements of article V and should be recognized as such.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT HEALTH PROVISIONS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to highlight the critical importance of the health provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act, IRA.

Last week, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing entitled, ''Lower Health Care Costs for Americans: Understanding the Benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act.'' Since President Biden signed the IRA into law on August 16, 2022, this landmark legislation continues to make life easier for American families to afford health insurance coverage and prescription drugs.

Across the board, costs are being lowered. Since January 2023, thanks to the IRA, insulin for Medicare beneficiaries is capped at $35 a month, and all recommended vaccines are available for seniors at no cost. The IRA further lowers drug costs by capping out-of-pocket Medicare part D beneficiaries' expenses at $2,000. And in 2026, Medicare will begin implementing negotiated drug prices, starting with 10 of the highest cost prescription drugs.

Last month, the Biden-Harris administration took on Big Pharma and succeeded in negotiating to lower prices for 10 of the most common and expensive drugs under Medicare. Americans are expected to save $6 billion on prescription drug costs, and people enrolled in Medicare are expected to save $1.5 billion in out-of-pocket costs in 2026 alone. Early next year, the administration will announce 15 more drugs that will be subject to price negotiations.

Prior to this historic piece of legislation, drug companies were routinely charging Americans three times more than patients in other countries for the same medication.

However, the Biden-Harris administration's announcement last month ended this pattern by unveiling negotiated lower prices for some of the most expensive, popular drugs taken to treat conditions including blood clots, diabetes, cancer, heart failure, and rheumatoid arthritis. Every day, millions of Americans are saving money on healthcare costs, thanks to the Biden-Harris administration.

This was made possible because of the IRA, which passed thanks to my Democratic colleagues in Congress and with Vice President HARRIS' tie-breaking vote in the Senate. Every single Republican voted against it.

In 2021, the Biden-Harris administration was able to pass temporary subsidies for low-income Americans as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, ARPA. With the passage of the IRA a year later, these enhanced premium tax credits (PTCs) were extended for an additional 3 years. These PTCs have been a key driver of the record 21.4 million people signing up for coverage under the ACA.

As things stand, the enhanced PTCs passed in the Inflation Reduction Act will expire in 2025. We cannot let this happen. We know access to affordable health insurance saves lives and reduces costs by enabling people to access the care they need. If these enhanced PTCs are allowed to expire next year, over 20 million Americans will see a sudden increase in their health insurance costs. Additionally, an estimated 3 million Americans could lose their health insurance entirely.

Another policy included in the IRA to increase prescription drug affordability is capping Medicare patients' out-of-pocket costs at $3,000 in just a couple of months and $2,000 per year in 2025. This policy will prevent Medicare beneficiaries from paying tens of thousands of dollars to purchase lifesaving drugs prescribed by their doctors.

Further, many vaccines are available with no beneficiary cost-sharing under Medicare. Vaccines can be incredibly expensive. For example, the shingles vaccine can cost up to $385 for seniors. In 2023, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) estimated that vaccination rates for adults enrolled in Medicaid were lower than adults with private health insurance coverage. Now, Medicare beneficiaries can receive all adult vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for free, including the shingles vaccine. That means no copayment or other out-of-pocket costs.

Democrats voted for this, and the Biden-Harris administration made it happen. Americans and Marylanders are struggling to pay for their prescription medications, and it is long past time for Congress to remedy this obstacle. Prescription drugs have been lifesaving for millions, but if they are unaffordable, then their benefit is of no significance.

No one should have to go into debt to buy the prescription drugs they need to live a healthy, productive life, and yet, that is a dilemma many families in the U.S. face. Twenty-nine percent of Americans either cannot afford their prescription drugs or are rationing them. Too often, groups in fair or poor health struggle the most to afford their medications.

Opponents of addressing the high prescription drug prices, claim that more affordable prices will come at the expense of innovation. I say, and the research agrees, that is false. The U.S. Government ensures there is access to innovative treatments and prescriptions. The best example of this can be found in my home State of Maryland, the National Institute of Health (NIH), which is the world's largest government funder of biomedical research. Almost all drugs rely on NIH-supported basic science. And the returns on these investments are very high.

Researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have found that each $125 million NIH grant leads to $375 million more in private market value, 33 more patents, and one new drug. Another study estimated that the rate of return on NIH investment is 43 percent, and that each dollar in NIH funding leads to an additional $8.40 in private research and development (R&D) spending.

Despite these significant taxpayer investments, prescription drugs are often priced at levels that limit access to lifesaving drugs, particularly among those who are underinsured or uninsured. Even after accounting for the cost and risk of R&D, evidence shows the returns to new products exceed normal rates of return.

These drug manufacturers offer many important and lifesaving medications that people need and deserve. Patients and the healthcare system should not be price gouged or priced out, which is why the IRA is so important for American families.

There is evidence that the IRA health provisions have reduced out-of-pocket spending for millions of Americans. I urge all of my Senate colleagues to join Democrats and the Biden-Harris administration to ensure all of our constituents have access to affordable, lifesaving, and life-sustaining prescription drugs. When it comes to these essential medications, no one should have to choose between putting food on their table and their health—or even their life.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the deeply concerning trend of the criminalization of women's healthcare, particularly after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade.

I want to bring awareness to this week's Senate Finance Committee hearing entitled, ''Chaos and Control: How Trump Criminalized Women's Health Care.'' Now, more than ever, it is vital to codify reproductive rights and protect other hard-won civil rights as they faced renewed threats.

We must prioritize women's health and reproductive rights by passing comprehensive legislation like the Women's Health Protection Act, the Right to Contraception Act, and the Right to IVF Act.

Last week, ProPublica published two articles documenting the devastating and entirely preventable deaths of Amber Thurman and Candi Miller, two mothers living in Georgia. The deaths of these mothers were due to Georgia's strict abortion ban. According to 10 maternal health experts and doctors on a Georgia State committee who reviewed these two cases, their deaths were impacted by the State's abortion ban—an abortion ban that does not, as promoted, protect the life of the mother.

It has been made clear to the public that pregnant women across the United States are losing their lives for reasons that could have been avoided. Since abortion was banned or restricted in 22 States over the past 2 years, pregnant women have been forced to carry a pregnancy to term, travel across State lines to those without an abortion ban, and even face rejection from emergency room doctors. The right to abortion was deeply held by women for almost 50 years, and the right to access contraception has existed for almost 60 years. Despite the clear constitutional rights the Supreme Court established almost 50 years ago in the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, each year, legislatures across the country have passed harmful abortion restrictions in an effort to impede a woman's fundamental right to make the best, informed healthcare decisions for herself and her family.

Reproductive freedom is continuously undermined and attacked, even though 80 percent of the public believe decisions about abortion should be made by women in consultation with their healthcare providers. I urge my colleagues to accurately represent their constituents, who overwhelming support a woman's right to choose, without the interference from Federal, State, or local governments. At no point is a politician more qualified to look at and assess your reproductive health than you and your healthcare provider.

As it stands, we are facing an extreme healthcare worker shortage because of the Dobbs decision. Providers have been forced to relocate or cease offering care altogether, leaving over one-third of women in situations where it is difficult to get abortion services in their State. Clinics and maternal health providers are stepping in to provide care for out-of-state patients who cross State borders to seek care.

In 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) projected that, by 2030, roughly 3,000 fewer OB–GYNs will be practicing in the country. As of 2018, there were around 50,800 OB–GYNs, already too few to meet the country's rising demand. Many providers are afraid of facing criminal penalties. The criminalization of doctors providing reproductive care to women is appalling.

While doctors struggle to provide care to all their patients, communities of color are facing the largest barriers when it comes to accessing abortion care. Black women are three times more likely to die in childbirth compared to their White counterparts. Many States are facing maternal healthcare deserts, especially areas that typically serve low-income communities.

When abortion is illegal, those who want to terminate a pregnancy may be forced to go a more dangerous route. The World Health Organization (WHO) found that unsafe or illegal abortions account for up to 10 percent of maternal deaths worldwide. Candi Miller tragically died in her home after taking abortion pills she ordered online. She did not visit a doctor because of the current legislation on pregnancies and abortions in Georgia. Due to abortion bans, like the one in Georgia, many women grapple with the decision to manage their abortion alone, even when they would prefer to seek care from a healthcare provider.

The Dobbs decision claimed to hand abortion to the States, but we continue to see challenges to reproductive rights elevated to the Supreme Court. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. FDA decided this past term was merely a temporary win for reproductive health, but this is not over. Anti-abortion advocates and supporters of Project 2025 will continue to attack access to medication abortion, a safe and effective drug taken by over 6 million women over the last 24 years.

I am proud that Maryland was the first State to mandate contraceptive coverage in 1998. My State has long been a leader in supporting and protecting reproductive rights. On April 14, 2023, Governor Moore announced that the State would begin to stockpile mifepristone. This is even more important now that there have been threats of weaponizing the Comstock Act against pregnant people. Maryland remains committed to serving as a safe haven for abortion and reproductive healthcare access.

Idaho's challenge to the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) is also far from over. The Biden-Harris administration was clear that States must comply with EMTALA and provide stabilizing care in emergencies, even if that care includes abortion. States like Idaho unjustifiably put women's health and life at risk when they prohibit providers from managing pregnancy complications. Patients have lost their child, their fertility, and even their organs. Idaho v. U.S. demonstrated that abortion bans harm all patients.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have worked to dismantle barriers to women's health. The right to choose whether to have a child is fundamental, and it is a decision that should only be made by women in consultation with their healthcare provider, free of government interference. It is time to elevate the voices that truly know how much is at stake in the fight for reproductive freedoms. Lives are at risk, and we cannot sit back and continue to read about the growing rates of maternal mortality. Amber Thurman and Candi Miller's deaths should have been prevented. In their memory and that of all the women who have lost their lives due to their State's abortion bans, we must fight for a woman's right to reproductive care.

VENEZUELA

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today first and foremost to acknowledge the incredible bravery of the Venezuelan people.

On July 28, despite the Maduro regime controlling Venezuela's entire election apparatus, despite the issuing of arrest warrants against opposition campaign aides and disqualifying opponents, despite blocking nearly all independent international observers, despite the threat of violence from men on motorbikes who attacked people at opposition rallies, Venezuelans from all walks of life went to the polls to vote.

That took courage. And it took a leap of faith that they could take back their country. And had they been given the opportunity, I think it is safe to assume the nearly 8 million Venezuelans who have left the country to escape the chaos and repression in recent years, would also have voted against Maduro.

Venezuelans are tired of living under this regime. They have endured a horrific economic and humanitarian crisis. They suffer through electricity blackouts. Many in Venezuela don't have access to clean water and are instead forced to use open water in the street for bathing, cooking, and drinking.

One UN report found 96 percent of Venezuelans living in poverty. Government corruption is rampant, the regime has carved up the energy sector and given it to loyalists, and parts of the security forces actively participate in drug trafficking.

In the face of all this, Venezuelans took a chance and went to the polls. Predictably, Maduro claimed victory within hours. But thanks to the receipts from the voting machines, academics and news outlets ranging from AP to the Washington Post to the Guardian were able to analyze the results and have all concluded that the opposition won in a landslide. One election forensics professor at the University of Michigan found the opposition beat Maduro 66 percent to 31 percent.

Despite this, Maduro, without irony, declared victory, saying that the ''popular will'' had to be respected. More than a month later, he still hasn't released the official precinct-level results. And in attempt to distract from what he has done, he has picked fights with social media companies and has

moved the Christmas holiday to October. That is just crazy, and it reeks of desperation.

No one thinks he won—not the President of Chile who wrote that the results were ''difficult to believe''; not the Costa Rican Government who called the results ''fraudulent''; not the President of Colombia, who said Maduro should ''accept the transparent results, whatever they may be''—and indeed, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia released a very important joint statement calling for ''impartial verification of the results.''

Of course, there are those who still support Maduro. Vladimir Putin congratulated him. And the Cuban President said Maduro ''cleanly and unequivocally defeated'' the opposition.

But Venezuelans know the truth; Maduro lost. That is why, despite the clear threat of violence, they poured into the streets in protest.

Before the election, Maduro warned of ''a bloodbath,'' and indeed, his crackdown has been swift and deadly. At least 24 people have been killed and about 2,400 people arrested in relation to the protests, according to Human Rights Watch.

Just days ago, Mr. Gonzalez, the winner of the July 28 Presidential election, was forced to flee to Spain after Maduro issued a warrant for his arrest. Earlier this week, I spoke with Ms. Machado, the opposition leader who bravely traveled across Venezuela and mobilized a peaceful, democratic movement to change the country at the ballot box. Now, she has been forced into hiding by Maduro's campaign of repression and intimidation.

As the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I condemn the actions of the Maduro regime, and I believe we must do what we can to support the Venezuelan people. That is why I fully support the leveling of targeted Magnitsky sanctions against those in the Maduro regime engaged in serious human rights abuses as part of this violent crackdown. That is why I am here on the floor today, to lift up the voices of the Venezuelan opposition, so their struggle for democracy is not lost to the next news cycle. And it is why I am working on legislation that I will introduce in the coming days—legislation that will add support for Venezuela's democratic institutions; provide humanitarian relief for Venezuelans; support a peaceful democratic, transition of power; support the restoration of the rule of law in the country; and contribute to the reconstruction of Venezuela.

Now, I know that reconstruction might seem like an impossible dream. It might seem like Maduro will never leave power.

I am here to underline a critically important point: Nothing is impossible, so do not give up hope.

I am not naive; I realize Maduro is desperate to hold onto power. I know that, after years of failed maximum pressure campaigns by previous administrations, Maduro is still there.

But that does not mean we should give up hope. Simon Bolivar once said: ''A people that loves freedom will in the end be free.''

For so many decades in my life, the Soviet Union seemed indestructible. Then almost overnight, it collapsed. I remember being in Berlin with my wife Myrna. My wife and I hammered at the concrete of the Berlin Wall that was covered in graffiti showing a crossed-out hammer and sickle. The collapse of the Soviet Union is an important example for those of us who are fighting for a better Venezuela today. It is an example of the good we can achieve, if only we have faith.

But if Maduro agrees to respect the election results, there is much work to be done. We here in Washington recognize that it will be the Venezuelan people who are at the forefront of change in their country. But we in Congress and in the international community generally, we have tremendous power to support the people of Venezuela and their aspirations for a brighter, democratic future.

So to my colleagues here in Congress: Be ready—ready to support, to engage, and to play a productive role in ending this longstanding conflict.

To those in the Venezuelan military and security forces who are ready for a new direction for your country, away from violence and repression: Lay down your arms and be part of the solution.

And to the brave Venezuelan people, do not lose hope that you can change things for the better. Do not give up hope that in the end your country will be free.

ACCESSIBLE FEDERAL TECHNOLOGY

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 51st anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the importance of the law to equal access for people with disabilities, including equal access to Federal technology.

When it was signed into law on September 26, 1973, the Rehabilitation Act prohibited discrimination on the basis of disability by the Federal Government, in federally funded programs, and by Federal contractors. Passage of the Rehabilitation Act committed the Federal Government to ensuring that every person, including people with disabilities, have access to government programs and services. As with any legislation, enforcement is key. In the years following passage, people with disabilities needed to advocate that the Federal Government issue regulations and implement the law in order to ensure Federal services and products are accessible. Four years after passage, no regulations had been issued. At the beginning of April 1977, disability advocates started a month-long national protest, pressuring President Carter and his Cabinet. The protests lasted 26 days and resulted in implementation of the first Rehabilitation Act regulations. The Rehabilitation Act and the resulting regulations laid the groundwork for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

The Rehabilitation Act helped make the Federal Government more accessible for people with disabilities, but with time, new accessibility barriers emerged. Those accessibility barriers were related to America's information revolution, which has changed society at a rapid pace. In response to the emerging digital revolution, Senator Orrin Hatch led efforts in 1986 to establish guidelines on electronic accessibility, resulting in a new section of the Rehabilitation Act: section 508. In 1998, Senator Chris Dodd and Representative ANNA ESHOO led efforts to further strengthen section 508's accessibility requirements for digital information, services, and tools offered by Federal Agencies. The Rehabilitation Act amendments in 1998 were the last significant congressional changes to Section 508.

Section 508 requires technology at Federal Departments and Agencies to be accessible for, and usable by, people with disabilities, including Federal employees who have disabilities. Section 508 requires the United States Access Board to develop the specific standards that Department and Agency technology must meet to be accessible for people with disabilities. Technology covered by section 508 includes websites, apps, and electronic documents, as well as physical technology such as kiosks, computers, and telecommunications equipment. Examples of accessible technology include websites, apps, or PDFs that can work with a screen reader or other assistive technology. They include video communications systems that are capable of incorporating sign language. They include kiosks that are properly positioned for a wheelchair user and provide an option for speech output.

Accessible Federal technology is important to ensure all Americans can benefit from government resources, and demographic changes mean more Americans will be disadvantaged if Federal technology is not accessible. Our Nation is rapidly aging, and older adults are more likely to have a disability. That means a larger population will be relying on accessible Federal technology for access to Federal employment, information, and services in the coming decades. Accessible Federal technology also benefits people without disabilities. For example, an accessible Federal website also benefits someone browsing on a small screen, someone browsing with a broken arm, or someone in a noisy environment who cannot hear an online video.

Despite the importance of accessible technology, the Federal Government has a poor record of meeting its obligations under section 508. In 2018, I was approached by blinded veterans who informed me that they could not access Department of Veterans Affairs' websites using their screen readers. In

response, I introduced bipartisan legislation, the Department of Veterans Affairs Website Accessibility Act. When it was signed into law in 2020, the VA Website Accessibility Act required the VA to report on the accessibility of the VA's websites and intake kiosks. The resulting report, released in 2021, had stark findings—fewer than 10 percent of the VA's websites were fully accessible for people with disabilities. The report also included a wholly inadequate plan for bringing the VA's websites into section 508 compliance.

The VA's web accessibility report was a wakeup call; the Federal Government must do better. To start, I used my position as chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging to push the VA to improve. I am pleased that my efforts had bipartisan support from the ranking member of the Aging Committee and from the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs. In response to a letter signed by the bipartisan leadership of three committees and two subcommittees, the VA released a revised website accessibility report, with an updated plan for making VA websites accessible. I also requested that the VA conduct regular section 508 compliance updates for bipartisan House and Senate staff, which the VA has done since March 2022. The VA's recurring progress reports for congressional staff help ensure that the VA's efforts to improve stay on track.

Unfortunately, the shortfalls at the VA are not unique. In recent years, a long list of agencies has settled lawsuits alleging that their websites and technology are not accessible. Further, since 1998, the Federal Government's reporting and oversight for section 508 has ranged from lackluster to nonexistent. The Department of Justice is required by law to report every 2 years on the Federal Government's section 508 compliance but, prior to my oversight, had not done so since 2012. The General Services Administration routinely collected data on Federal website accessibility but did not make that information available to the public or Congress. The Office of Management and Budget maintained a strategic plan for Federal section 508 compliance, but that strategic plan had not been updated since 2013, despite Federal accessibility shortfalls and rapid technological change.

Since 2022, I have authored multiple letters to Federal departments and Agencies urging them to improve section 508 compliance, oversight, and transparency. Many letters were bipartisan, demonstrating the continued, broad interest in accessible Federal technology. I also led two Aging Committee hearings on accessible government technology that included people with disabilities as witnesses. Their testimony helped the committee understand the real-world impact when Federal technology does not allow for equal access. In December 2022, I released Unlocking the Virtual Front Door, an Aging Committee majority staff report that lays out many of the Federal accessibility failures that I have outlined today. Unlocking the Virtual Front Door includes a set of recommendations for the Federal Government and for Congress for making Federal technology accessible.

I am pleased that improvements have been made in response to my oversight of section 508 compliance. The VA reorganized its technology access office, expanded its outreach to people with disabilities, and bolstered its efforts to make its technology accessible. The VA also reevaluated over 300 exceptions that it had granted to allow the use of inaccessible technology and revoked all but 18. The Department of Justice, meanwhile, released its first report on the Federal Government's section 508 compliance since 2012, and the General Services Administration committed to new section 508 oversight and transparency efforts. The Office of Management and Budget has released updated guidance for Departments and Agencies on meeting section 508 standards, replacing its outdated 2013 strategic plan. Department and Agency inspectors general have also taken an interest in accessible technology, which resulted in a January 2024 inspector general report on technology at the VA.

While there has been progress toward making the Federal Government's technology accessible for people with disabilities, significant shortfalls remain. The Justice Department's latest section 508 report, released in January 2023, found that 1 in 10 public-facing websites at major Departments and Agencies are not fully accessible for people with disabilities. A December 2023 General Services Administration assessment likewise noted that the Federal Government's section 508 compliance is ''well below expectations.'' There are also continued, troubling reports of specific electronic accessibility failures within the Federal Government. For example, there are allegations that the new electronic health record system at the VA is not accessible for people with disabilities. The VA has come a long way since I began my oversight of section 508. The VA must continue to show that it is serious about section 508 by prioritizing accessibility for all new information and communications technology, including its EHR system.

The reports and data that have been released in response to my oversight of section 508 highlight a need to do more. One recommendation in Unlocking the Virtual Front Door was for Congress to significantly update section 508 for the first time since 1998. That is why I have introduced S. 4766, the Section 508 Refresh Act of 2024. My legislation would make changes to ensure that newly purchased or developed Federal technology is accessible before it is deployed. It would also reform the Federal Government's section 508 complaint process by giving the experts with the Access Board a prominent role. The Section 508 Refresh Act would require regular testing to ensure that Federal technology already in use remains fully accessible over time, and it would require Departments and Agencies to appoint qualified, dedicated section 508 officers. Critically, my legislation would also require the involvement of people with disabilities in the acquisition and accessibility testing of Federal technology. People with disabilities who work for the Federal Government or use Federal resources are the ones who are harmed when Federal technology is not accessible. It is essential for them to have a seat at the table when Federal technology is being acquired, designed, implemented, and tested.

The need to reform section 508 is real. My own constituents have testified to the Aging Committee about the impact when Federal technology does not allow equal access for all Americans. Ms. Jule Ann Lieberman of Devon, PA, is an expert on assistive technology. Yet, during the COVID–19 pandemic, she could not access local prevalence data on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website because it was inaccessible for her screen reader. Although Ms. Lieberman was able to ask a family member for help, she explained to the committee that ''repeated requests for help become burdensome for those who support me, potentially leaving me with either no access or not timely information.'' Sadly, Ms. Lieberman ran into yet another accessibility barrier later in the pandemic, when she could not use her screen reader to access COVID–19 vaccination resources on the CDC website.

Mr. Ron Biglin is a blind Air Force veteran from Clarks Summit, PA. Mr. Biglin can fish, kayak, and do online banking. However, Mr. Biglin could not use the internet to access his VA health benefits. When Mr. Biglin tried to do so, the VA's online portal, My HealtheVet, would not work with his screen reader. Mr. Biglin told the Aging Committee that, ''when you are visually impaired you want to be as independent as possible and having problems getting on VA websites takes away this independency.'' In response to my oversight, the VA worked to resolve the issues that Mr. Biglin was having with My HealtheVet. However, to safeguard equal access, we must ensure that all Federal Departments and Agencies build accessibility into their technology from the start.

I remain committed to ensuring that Federal technology is accessible for people with disabilities and that all Americans have equal access to Federal jobs, information, and benefits. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress on continued section 508 oversight and to advance the Section 508 Refresh Act.

GUATEMALA

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, last December I joined Senators TIM KAINE, DICK DURBIN, JEFF MERKLEY, and LAPHONZA BUTLER and Representatives NORMA J. TORRES and DELIA C. RAMIREZ, on a trip to Guatemala. We arrived just weeks before the scheduled inauguration of President Bernardo Arevalo, who had been elected by an overwhelming majority. The Guatemalan people had voted decisively to reject the corruption, impunity, and malfeasance that had been the hallmark of successive governments in that country.

We went to Guatemala to speak directly to Mr. Arevalo's supporters, as well as to the powerful forces in Guatemala, including the Attorney General, opposition members of Congress, magistrates, and those who were corruptly conspiring to prevent President Arevalo from taking office. Our purpose was to make clear that if their efforts to subvert the will of the people succeeded, it would have profoundly negative long-term consequences for U.S. relations—both economic and security—for whoever illegally seized power. It would propel the country down a path of authoritarianism and economic decline much like Nicaragua, leading to further social division, political instability, and isolation

Their efforts to overturn the election and undermine the people were flagrant; the Attorney General went so far as to attempt to nullify the fair election of then President-elect Arevalo shortly after we met with officials of the outgoing administration to urge a peaceful transfer of power.

Ultimately, the efforts to prevent President Arevalo from taking office failed. But his detractors were far from defeated. They immediately set their sights on preventing President Arevalo from carrying out his anti-corruption agenda and forcing him from office. Those efforts continue today.

I mention this because I recently met with a delegation of Guatemalan indigenous women, led by Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchú. Although their numbers are woefully under-represented in the three branches of government, I have never met more determined and courageous women. Women who have experienced extreme poverty, violence, and loss, yet who have become leaders in their communities and fiercely dedicated to preserving their indigenous identity, improving the lives of their families, and defending Guatemala's fragile democracy.

The United States strongly supports President Arevalo, who offers the best chance Guatemala has had in decades to chart a new path for his country—a path grounded in the rule of law, in the institutions of democracy, in transparency, in accountability. And despite the efforts of the corrupt networks whose only interest is in using the institutions of power and privilege to enrich themselves, I am hopeful because President Arevalo has the support of Guatemala's indigenous population, exemplified by the fearless women I met this week.

They are not going to let what they won freely and fairly at the ballot box be stolen from them. They are not going to allow a minority of crooked elites deny them and their children the chance for a better life. They have an ambitious social, economic, and political reform agenda. They are committed to working to strengthen education, economic opportunity, equality, democracy, and justice. It is in the interest of the Arevalo administration and the United States to help them achieve these goals for the benefit of all Guatemalans.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILWAUKEE NAACP

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the Milwaukee NAACP on its 100th anniversary. It gives me great pleasure to honor this remarkable organization and to commemorate this historic milestone.

The Milwaukee NAACP branch was established in 1924, which grew out of the national quest to eradicate the eruptions of anti-Black violence. For 100 years, the Milwaukee NAACP has stood at the forefront of the civil rights movement, unwavering in its efforts to achieve parity in politics, education, society, and the economy, while striving to eliminate racial prejudice.

During the emergence of the NAACP, millions of African-Americans were migrating from the south to northern States like Wisconsin in search of greater opportunity and a better quality of life. The newcomers soon learned that they had not escaped racial discrimination in jobs, education, and housing.

Throughout its early years, led by prominent middle-class African-American professionals, including Wilbur Halyard, Ardie Halyard, and James W. Dorsey, the Milwaukee NAACP was instrumental in battling the racial discrimination through political lobbying, legal intervention, and direct-action protest.

Over the past century, the NAACP has achieved significant progress in empowering African-Americans to reach their greatest potential. By supporting initiatives to improve the lives of those who are often left behind, the NAACP has instigated substantial transformations in Wisconsin's largest city.

Despite the NAACP's tireless efforts, the African-American community in Milwaukee continues to face daunting challenges. Factors such as wages, educational outcomes, economic conditions, neighborhood safety, and the opportunity to achieve the American dream are regretfully still influenced by a person's ZIP Code or the color of his or her skin.

By working together, we can ensure that African-Americans and all community members are educated, employed, and empowered to succeed. The NAACP's persistent commitment to improvement fosters hope for the next generation of leaders in Milwaukee's communities of color.

As we honor the Milwaukee NAACP's achievements and contemplate future challenges, I will be forever grateful for the branch's achievements over the past century, and I look forward to its continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE MARYLAND ATHLETES AT THE 2024 OLYMPICS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 26 athletes with ties to Maryland who participated at the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics in Paris, France. Olympic athletes compete at the highest level of their craft, showing incredible determination and perseverance to reach their goals. Therefore, I would like to recognize the following athletes for their hard work and successes during the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics:

Katie Ledecky of Bethesda and alumni of Stone Ridge School of Sacred Heart, who won silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay, dominated the 1500m freestyle, won gold in the 800m freestyle, and bronze in the 400m freestyle. Ledecky now has 14 Olympic medals, making her the most decorated female Olympian in U.S. history.

Phoebe Bacon of Chevy Chase and Erin Gemmell of Potomac, who also competed on the U.S. Swim Team, with Gemmell taking silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay.

Alyssa Thomas, a 10-year veteran of the WNBA and University of Maryland Alumni, who won her first gold medal during the U.S. Women's Basketball final against France.

Kevin Durant of Suitland, an NBA superstar who won his fifth gold medal during the U.S. Men's Basketball final against France.

Thea Lafond, another UMD Terp and alumni of Montgomery County Public Schools, who won Dominica's first gold medal ever in the triple jump.

Aaron Brooks of Hagerstown and Helen Maroulis of Rockville, who both won a Bronze Medal in their weight class of wrestling. Maroulis is the first-ever American to win three Olympic medals in women's wrestling.

Aaron Russell of Ellicott City and the Team USA Men's Volleyball Team, who won a bronze medal in their match against Italy.

Masai Russell of Potomac, who won gold in the 100m hurdle.

Quincy Wilson of Potomac, who became the youngest Maryland Olympian and track and field gold medalist in the history of the Olympics for running in the team qualifier for the 4x400m relay.

Skateboarder Rudy Lilley of Ocean City, the youngest Maryland woman at 17 to compete at the Olympic Games.

Grace Balsdon, Leah Crouse, Brooke DeBerdine, Emma DeBerdine, Kelee Lepage, and Nike Lorenze, alumnae of University Maryland, who competed for their respective countries' field hockey teams.

Trevon Jenifer of Huntingtown, who won his third Gold-Medal for wheelchair basketball.

Noah Hanssen of Ellicott City, who placed fourth in wheelchair fencing.

Tatyana McFadden of Columbia, who earned a silver medal in the women's T54 100m, her 20th medal.

Daniel Ramanchuk of Mt. Airy, who won a gold medal in Men's T54 5,000m and a bronze medal in Men's T54 400m.

Jessica Long of Baltimore, who won a gold medal in the women's 400m freestyle swim, making her one of the top Paralympians of all times with 29 medals.

Zachary Shattuck of Mt. Airy, who won a silver medal in men's mixed 4x50m freestyle relay swim.

On behalf of all Marylanders, I thank them for representing Maryland in the 2024 Olympics and Paralympics and congratulate them on this major achievement.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE NEE

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate George Nee, president of the AFL–CIO of Rhode Island, on his upcoming retirement and to thank him for his years of service and unwavering dedication to improving the lives of working people.

For George, organized labor serves as the ''People's Lobbyist,'' ensuring that the concerns of working people are given due consideration when critical decisions are made. In his retirement letter, he wrote that ''organized labor has a right and a responsibility to exercise our voice when and where decisions are made at every level of government. These decisions impact the quality of life and economy of our state, and we must be there.''

His leadership—tenacious but pragmatic and always with decency and integrity—has contributed to the vibrancy of the union movement in Rhode Island, making it one of the States with the highest percentage of union workers in the Nation.

From the beginning, George acted on the belief that working people have a right to have a voice, no matter if they are working in the fields, on the factory floors, in offices, in healthcare facilities, in schools, or on construction sites.

As a young man, he left the comfort of Boston College to earn $5 dollars per week, plus room and board, to join farmworkers in organizing successful grape and lettuce boycotts. He was inspired by Cesar Chavez, and joined him on a pilgrimage across the farmlands of California, serving as his personal bodyguard.

Rhode Island called him back. In 1976, he organized jewelry workers, clerical workers, and healthcare workers and founded SEIU Local 76, where he served as president until he joined the Rhode Island AFL–CIO in 1983 as a staff representative. George quickly rose through the ranks at the Rhode Island AFL–CIO. By 1985, he was elected secretary-treasurer and, in 2009, president—a role that he will step down from on October 11.

George's strong moral compass and steady leadership has been a beacon for public servants and community leaders across the State. He has been a mentor and a trusted adviser to me and to so many others who share his goals of a just and prosperous Nation where workers' rights are always protected.

In a 2018 interview with Rhode Island Public Radio's Scott MacKay, George said: ''We have a solemn obligation to the people who came before us to fight back and protect these rights for future generations.''

As he begins his next chapter, George can rest assured that he fulfilled that solemn promise and has equipped a new generation for the battles and the challenges ahead. Rhode Island is a stronger State, and we are a better Nation because of George Nee's leadership.

I thank him and his wonderful family, especially his beloved wife Ann, for their great friendship and kindness over many years and for their great inspiration. George always reminded us, by his actions, that hard work for a just cause was the greatest and most satisfying contribution that we can make.

I wish George a happy and healthy retirement. He has earned it.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE NEE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to my friend George Nee on his upcoming retirement as president of the Rhode Island AFL–CIO. George is a friend of many years, and I have long admired his dedication to fighting for Rhode Islanders—for good-paying jobs, affordable healthcare, safe workplaces, and retirement security.

George was born in Syracuse, NY, and first came to New England in the late 1960s to attend Boston College. He left his studies to oversee the United Farm Workers grape boycott in Massachusetts and, a few years later, came to Rhode Island for the Farm Workers' lettuce boycott. Through his work, he met legendary activist and organizer Cesar Chavez and became part of the security team protecting Chavez as he worked to organize farm workers. Inspired by Chavez, George returned to the Ocean State in 1976 to form his own union, which would become the Service Employees International Union Local 76, representing jewelry, clerical, and healthcare workers.

In 1983, George joined the Rhode Island AFL–CIO as its executive director, then secretary-treasurer, then president. Under George's leadership, the AFL–CIO improved access to opportunities for workers, including Climate Jobs Rhode Island, an initiative to help transition Rhode Island toward a clean energy economy. Along the way, he met and married Anne Sliney, the best of a great many good decisions he has made. She has made her own magnificent contributions, and together, they raised three children Katie, Brigid, and Patrick, who are each following the family tradition of making a difference in ways that matter.

I got to know George best in the early 90s when Rhode Island's workers' compensation system was in crisis. George brought the union voice and perspective to the table and advocated for reforms to revamp the broken system. The result was a law that dramatically reduced costs without cutting benefits—a win for workers and employers. George was one of the keys to the law's passage and went on to protect that reform and the workers' compensation system over many years. George stands in a Rhode Island tradition of leadership in the national labor movement, along with legends like Ed McElroy, Armand Sabitoni, Frank Montanaro, and now Michael Sabitoni. George puts his head down and works hard, so workers in our State can hold their heads high.

Bravo, my friend. We owe you a debt of gratitude and appreciation for uplifting the lives and livelihoods of workers across our State. My very best wishes on your exciting next chapter.

REMEMBERING J. MICHAEL DOWNEY

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life of one of Rhode Island's great champions for working people, J. Michael Downey, president of Rhode Island Council 94 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

Mike was known as a family man, an organizer, a tough negotiator, and a fierce protector of his members' wages, working conditions, and benefits. He was a loving husband to his wife of nearly 50 years, Claudette, a devoted father to his three children, and a doting grandfather to his nine grandchildren. He was also a beloved brother to his brothers and sisters in the union movement.

Mike came from a family of union organizers. His father was the president of Local 28, the Plumber's Union and executive director of the Allied Building Trades. His grandfather was president of the Bricklayer's Union, Local 1. Mike was a master plumber and practiced his trade at the University of Rhode Island for 27 years, during which he also served as the president of Local 528.

He later brought his expertise to the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, where he served as the chief plumbing investigator. In 2005, Mike was first elected president of Council 94, and he was re-elected five times. He also served on the executive board of the Rhode Island AFL–CIO and the Institute of Labor Studies. Under his leadership, Council 94 increased member participation, expanded and enhanced its political activities, and prioritized organizing, adding new locals.

Just days before his passing, Mike helped negotiate a new 3-year contract with the State that boosted wages and enhanced benefits. The contract was overwhelmingly approved by the rank-and-file members—a final addition to his long list of accomplishments as a union leader.

Mike was known for his kindness and compassion. He is remembered for his

special passion for supporting the lowest paid members of the union. He believed in the dignity of work and creating pathways for all workers to advance. He embodied the spirit of solidarity.

We will miss him and will strive to live by his example.

REMEMBERING J. MICHAEL DOWNEY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to honor my friend, J. Michael Downey, who was the president of Rhode Island's AFSCME Council 94. Mike passed away in August, leaving behind his wife Claudette, their three children Corey, Faith, and Michael, and their spouses. He also leaves behind two siblings and nine grandchildren. Mike was born in Providence and grew up in a union household. Both his father and grandfather served in leadership roles in their local unions.

After graduating from LaSalle Academy, Mike earned his master plumbing license through a 5-year apprenticeship program. Mike went on to work as a plumber at the University of Rhode Island and later as chief plumbing investigator at the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training. It was during Mike's time at URI that, like his father and grandfather before him, he found his passion for organized labor and advocating for the rights and well-being of workers. For more than 27 years, Mike served as president of Local 528, which represents workers at URI. Mike also served as president of AFSCME Council 94 from 2005 until his passing.

Mike was an avid sports fan and loved New England's teams—the Celtics, Red Sox, and Patriots. He also enjoyed coaching youth sports and could often be found cheering in the stands at his grandkids' sporting events. Mike was a great guy, an enthusiastic leader, and a good friend in the fight. I thank him for his tireless advocacy on behalf of workers across Rhode Island. I will miss him.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of Ambassador J. William Middendorf. Ambassador Middendorf is an extraordinary Rhode Islander and an extraordinary American. Last Sunday, we had a chance to celebrate his birthday at his home in Little Compton, RI, and he was as sharp and insightful as ever. Today, along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to take a moment to honor his impressive career in service to our country.

Ambassador Middendorf, now a resident of Little Compton, RI, was born in Baltimore, MD on September 22, 1924. As a young man, he attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. In 1945, as World War II raged in Europe, Ambassador Middendorf interrupted his education to serve in the Navy as an engineering officer and navigator aboard the landing craft support ship USS *LCS–53*. After the war, Ambassador Middendorf continued his education and graduated from Holy Cross with a bachelor of naval science. He later attended Harvard College, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree, and in 1954, he earned an M.B.A from New York University's Stern School of Business.

Ambassador Middendorf then became an investment banker. Eventually, as a cofounder of the prominent Wall Street firm Middendorf, Colgate and Company, he began to involve himself in politics. He took on important roles within the national Republican Party, including as treasurer of the Republican National Committee from 1965 to 1969.

Eventually, Ambassador Middendorf left his investment firm and began his long career in public service. In 1969, President Nixon appointed him to be U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, where he represented our Nation with distinction. In 1974, he returned to the U.S. to serve first as Under Secretary of the Navy, and then as the 62nd Secretary of the Navy, a position he held until 1977.

As Secretary of the Navy he pushed for the development of four new Navy programs, particularly the *Ohio*-class submarine program. He also led the way on developing and fielding the AEGIS missile system, Trident missile program, CH–53E heavy-lift helicopter, and the F/A–18 Hornet attack aircraft. The introduction of these programs resulted in major improvements for the Navy and remain key national defense assets to this day. The Navy's growth under Ambassador Middendorf's leadership is in large part thanks to his relationships in Congress and reputation as a respected leader.

After serving as Secretary of the Navy, Ambassador Middendorf returned to the private sector. He served as the president and chief executive officer of Financial General Bankshares, which eventually became First American Bank.

After the 1980 election, Ambassador Middendorf led the CIA transition team for President Reagan's incoming administration. President Reagan then nominated him to be U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States in 1981. He served in this position until accepting an appointment as U.S. Representative to the European Community, now known as the European Union.

In retirement, Ambassador Middendorf has remained a person of tremendous intellect and achievement and has become a prolific writer. Ambassador Middendorf continues to share his strong and insightful opinions as a frequent contributor to the ''Providence Journal.'' While we don't always agree, his columns always make for a lively and interesting read. He has also written several books, and his newest title, ''On My 100–Year Watch: Tyrants and Patriots,'' is set to be released later this year.

Following the tradition of naming naval destroyers after U.S. naval leaders and heroes, the future *Arleigh Burke*-class guided-missile destroyer—DDG–138—will be named USS *J. William Middendorf*. Once commissioned, the USS *J. William Middendorf* will join U.S. naval forces in protecting our country for years to come. And today, I am proud to rise in recognition of Ambassador J. William Middendorf, an exceptional Rhode Islander and American, and wish him a happy 100th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF II

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise today to wish a happy 100th birthday to J. William Middendorf II, known to family and friends as Bill. Bill lives in Little Compton, RI, and celebrated this remarkable milestone on Sunday. Bill led a distinguished career in public service. He served in World War II as a naval engineering officer and navigator. He was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands in 1969. Following his ambassadorship, he served as Under Secretary of the Navy.

In 1974, Middendorf was appointed by President Nixon to serve as the 62nd Secretary of the Navy. During his leadership in the Navy, Middendorf championed the Navy's submarine program and oversaw the creation of General Dynamics Electric Boat's Quonset Point location. Rhode Islanders know well the importance of the Quonset Point facility to our State's economy and its role at the forefront of our national security efforts. Bill was also instrumental in the development of the F/A 18 Hornet, which was in part named for the Revolutionary warship, the USS *Hornet* that had been commissioned by his ancestor, Captain William Stone. And he approved the first Marine Corps Marathon, which is still run to this day.

Last December, I was very pleased to take to the Senate floor to celebrate that an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer was named USS *J. William Middendorf*, which follows the tradition of naming destroyers after U.S. naval leaders. That recognition was a testament to Bill's remarkable career in public service and many contributions to our State and country. Bill, my best wishes to you on your 100th birthday.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise today on behalf of my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE and myself, to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Community College of Rhode Island—CCRI—which opened its doors on September 24, 1964. Over the last six decades, CCRI has grown into New England's largest public, 2-year degree

granting college, expanding educational opportunities for hundreds of thousands of Rhode Islanders.

From its modest beginning in Providence with just 325 students, CCRI opened its Knight Campus in 1972 to nearly 3,000 students, after Royal Webster Knight gifted 80 acres of his estate in Warwick to the college. CCRI has grown to nearly 20,000 enrolled students each year and now has four campuses across Rhode Island, including an education center and online classes, ensuring that residents throughout the State have access to educational and career development opportunities.

Students have more than 20 academic departments to choose from—from the arts, to science and mathematics, to business, and more—all at an affordable price. In 2017, the Rhode Island Promise Program was launched, making CCRI tuition-free to recent high school graduates seeking opportunities.

But CCRI also understands that education is a lifelong journey, and it is never too late to learn something new. The adult education team at CCRI offers a wide range of classes to prepare adults to join the workforce, including GED classes, English language studies, and corporate language training. By working in close collaboration with industry and business leaders, CCRI ensures students are meeting workforce needs in the Ocean State. Just last year, CCRI was selected by the Biden administration as one of just 17 new Industrial Assessment Centers, working with the Department of Energy to expand clean energy workforce training opportunities, for in-demand, high-quality jobs.

CCRI is a pillar of hope for the community, consistently rising to the challenge of meeting the educational and workforce needs of the present and the future. In the last 20 years alone, CCRI has guided students and employers through the Great Recession and COVID–19 pandemic and earned the designation as a Hispanic-serving Institution, reflecting its commitment to meeting emerging community needs. Its campuses also serve as community hubs, connecting residents to vital services and activities, job preparation workshops, free flu and COVID shots, and more. This is all thanks to the dedicated faculty and staff, who work tirelessly to carry out the mission of the college every day.

CCRI is a bedrock institution to the State of Rhode Island, and we are so proud of the hard-working people who have changed the lives of so many individuals over the last 60 years. Along with Senator WHITEHOUSE, I would like to congratulate the entire CCRI community on this important milestone.

TRIBUTE TO REV. DR. MARK E. DEVER

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, it is a privilege today to honor the Rev. Dr. Mark E. Dever on the occasion of his 30th anniversary as senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, here in Washington, DC.

Mark Dever was born in Madisonville, KY, in 1960. Initially a skeptic, he became a Christian as a teenager and went on to study at Duke University, where he met his wife Connie. Preparing for a life in academia, Dr. Dever completed degrees at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, before earning a Ph.D. inecclesiastical history from Cambridge University.

Providence had plans other than academia, however. In January 1993, Dr. Dever was invited to apply for the recently vacated pulpit on Capitol Hill. To the surprise of many, he did—and has pastored in the shadow of the Capitol ever since.

Since his installation as pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Dr. Dever has not hesitated to preach ''the whole counsel of God,'' Acts 20:27. Under his faithful leadership, the church has grown from a few hundred to a thriving congregation of nearly a thousand. In January 1995, that same leadership was felt in this Chamber, when he briefly served the Senate as interim chaplain.

Dr. Dever has dedicated his life to the work of the ministry and to the idea that a pastor should preach, pray, love, and stay. And those who have been blessed enough to know him or to be members at his church know he embodies that ideal.

His preaching—and he would be sure to note that it is expositional preaching in particular—has taught many to better understand God and God's word. His constancy in prayer and willingness to wait on God's timing has produced an inspiring level of patience and trust in God's purposes. He loves through his encouragement and regular prayers. He has an almost singular ability to shape leaders and inspire pastors. And his dedication to staying in the place God has called him has made Dr. Dever a blessing to the thousands of Capitol Hill and executive branch staffers who have passed through his church doors.

Dr. Dever is the author of over 20 books. He is the grateful husband of Connie, the father of Annie and Nathan, and the proud grandfather of Penelope.

On behalf of the Senate and countless colleagues who have been inspired, pastored, and taught by him, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Mark Dever for his distinguished service to the church and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JOHN T. BROOKS

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, today I congratulate Dr. John T. Brooks, on his retirement from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC. Dr. Brooks is retiring from the CDC with more than 26 years of hard work on behalf of our country. Dr. Brooks began his career as an epidemic intelligence service (EIS) officer at the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases. In this role, he investigated domestic outbreaks of foodborne disease and managed domestic surveillance for cases of botulism.

Most recently, as the chief medical officer of the CDC's Division of HIV Prevention in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Dr. Brooks was essential in leading efforts in the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative. He pushed for Federal guidelines to prevent and treat HIV and multiple other infectious diseases, as well as authored over 250 peer-reviewed publications and textbook chapters.

Thank you, Dr. Brooks, for 26 years at the CDC, for dedication to public service, and for a lifetime of work that has truly made a difference in the health of our Nation and around the world. On behalf of the U.S. Senate and the great State of Georgia, I recognize Dr. Brooks for all of the important work he has done and wish him the very best in his next phase of life.

ANTIQUE TRACTOR PRESERVATION DAY

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, today, I rise to pay tribute to an observance that honors the thousands of Americans who devote their daily toils to the excellence of our Nation's agriculture industry. That observance is embodied in a new celebration: Antique Tractor Preservation Day, observed in Kansas on August 22.

As a Senator from Kansas, my devotion to our State's leading role in American agriculture has been a cornerstone of my tenure. As a fifth-generation farm kid, I understand firsthand that the success of agriculture would not be possible without the tractors that facilitate its development. It is therefore imperative to mark Antique Tractor Preservation Day in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In doing so, we pay homage to antique tractors, which symbolize American agriculture.

A focus on antique tractors is of particular importance. Uplifting antique tractors allows the public to appreciate the impressive spirit of innovation that has driven continued improvement in the efficiency of today's tractors, resulting in a direct improvement of the modern farming sector. A specified day to celebrate antique tractors and display them in various venues empowers families who own these tractors to preserve their farming heritage by sharing stories with a wide audience. Educational opportunities regarding our Nation's farming history are crucial to the continuance of this essential industry. Antique Tractor Preservation Day offers such an opportunity. Just as friendships have been forged on tractors for over a century, so, too, does the observance of Antique Tractor Preservation Day provide an occasion to solidify the bonds of fellowship between farming enthusiasts and those

who have not yet learned about the significance of antique tractors.

A special mention must be made to Mr. Michael Hinton, a native Kansan who has committed his efforts to educating the American public about antique tractors and the legacy they represent. Mr. Hinton pioneered the concept of Antique Tractor Preservation Day and maintains a tremendously helpful website at talkingtractors.com, which serves as a resource for those who seek to learn more about tractors and agriculture. For his distinguished passion and efforts, I am grateful.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Antique Tractor Preservation Day and, in so doing, the storied legacy of American agriculture, which is paramount to our Nation's merit.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CYNTHIA EDWARDS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cynthia Edwards, as her tenure as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the State of Arkansas comes to a close.

We have been fortunate to have Ms. Edwards's careful and expert guidance at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture since 2011. In that time, the department has continued to make strides in bettering the lives of Arkansans, especially our farmers and ranchers, and much of this progress can be directly attributed to her dedication to the industry.

Growing up in DeWitt, AR, Ms. Edwards is no stranger to the agrarian charm the Natural State is renowned for. DeWitt is a small community in the Arkansas Delta, a region of the country where people roll up their sleeves and work hard until the job is done.

The same can be said for Ms. Edwards. A lawyer by trade, with undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Arkansas system, she has dedicated her career to public service, first working under a great leader for the State Senator Blanche Lincoln and culminating in her work for the Arkansas Department of Agriculture.

The lasting impact on the state of Arkansas that Cynthia Edwards is responsible for will be hard to even measure, as well as her influence on future generations of women hoping to pursue careers in the areas of agricultural law and policy. Her example is an inspiration, and it is exciting to see others following in the path she has paved.

I congratulate Ms. Edwards on her outstanding service to the State of Arkansas and its agricultural pursuits and wish her the best in her retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE CINCINNATI OHIO VET CENTER

● Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise to honor the Cincinnati Ohio Vet Center for receiving the 2024 Vet Center Excellence in Customer Experience Award, given to the highest performing vet center in the Nation. In the past year, the Cincinnati Vet Center has improved the well-being of veterans in southwest Ohio. The center expanded community access points to local college campuses at the University of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky University and conducted strategic outreach on smaller local college campuses. The team also expanded outreach to local gyms and fitness centers, going above and beyond to meet veterans where they are, to spread the word about the services vet centers provide to our Nation's heroes.

The counselors at the Cincinnati Vet Center have added to the evidence-based treatments available to veterans and servicemembers and worked to find new ways for veterans to heal and build lasting connections with one another. The team accomplished all of this while remaining steadfast in their commitment to its Vietnam era groups and its long-running African-American veteran group.

Veterans and their families have sacrificed so much to keep our country safe. We owe them more than our gratitude; they deserve the healthcare, benefits, and educational opportunities that they have earned through their service to our Nation. That is why the work that places like the Cincinnati Ohio Vet Center do matters so much and why we can never waver in our commitment to veterans and their families.

I would like to personally recognize these employees at the Cincinnati Vet Center for making this possible: Cher Runtenelli, vet center director; Ryan Scharfenberger, outreach specialist; Zachary McGuffey, program support assistant; Taylor Katt, readjustment counselor; Stephanie Downard, readjustment counselor; and Chasitee Little, readjustment counselor.●

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY LOZADA

● Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I am honored to recognize Kimberly ''Kym'' Lozada of Manchester as September's Granite Stater of the Month. After her husband passed away, Kym felt a drive to find ways to support her community—and now, through her barbershop, Get Faded, Kym offers free haircuts and other events to support adults and kids alike.

Kym, a mother of six, opened Get Faded in February 2023. When her husband passed away 6 months later, she wanted to find a way to help other single parents who might be struggling with the busy back-to-school season. She started an annual event with free haircuts for local students, and this year, the shop also gave out 150 backpacks filled with school supplies. The business has also hosted trunk-or-treat for kids on Halloween. Get Faded prioritizes ensuring that all children feel comfortable; it is a certified sensory-safe barbershop, where the barbers are trained to give haircuts to children with autism or sensory processing sensitivities that can make it difficult to experience a traditional haircut. Overall, Kym makes Get Faded a place where every child can feel supported—and, of course, get the haircut they want to feel stylish and confident.

In addition, like many Granite State families, the Lozada family has experienced the effects of the fentanyl crisis. Kym's late husband dealt with addiction, and she is open about his experience in the hopes that she can inspire others to get treatment. In Kym's words, ''I will keep telling my story in the hope that it can save someone's life.'' Get Faded recently hosted free haircut events for adults at Hope for NH Recovery, a center that offers peer-based support for those dealing with addiction, and at AmeriHealth Caritas, an organization that works to bring healthcare to communities throughout the State.

Kym's dedication to helping those in need is a true example of the Granite State spirit of pitching in to help our fellow citizens. Her family's experience is one that is not unique in our State, but her perseverance and commitment to helping Granite Staters in her own way can inspire all of us.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. LEE EDWARDS

Mr. LEE. Madam President, the resurgence of American conservatism over the last three-quarters of a century had many fathers: James Burnham, Willmore Kendall, Frank Meyer, Richard Weaver, Milton Friedman, Russell Kirk, and, of course, William F. Buckley. They laid the intellectual foundation for the political transformation launched by Senator Barry Goldwater and brought to fruition by Ronald Reagan. All those are names of the past, but one individual remains with us who knew most of them, wrote about them, and popularized their thinking that transformed American society.

This is Dr. Lee Edwards. Now in his tenth decade, he has been an irreplaceable part of the conservative movement longer than most of us have been alive. He is a scholar and teacher with a doctorate from the Catholic University of America and further study at the Sorbonne. He is a philosopher, formerly the distinguished fellow in conservative thought at the Heritage Foundation. His books have been translated into as many languages as societies and their peoples have hungered for freedom.

His volumes still speak eloquently to young Americans who wonder where we go from here: ''The Collapse of Communism,'' ''The Power of Ideas,'' ''The Conservative Revolution: The Movement that Remade America,'' ''Reading the Right Books, a Guide for the Intellectual Conservative,'' and biographies of half a dozen major conservative leaders. He knew them all.

One might think he deserves some sort of monument.

Well, he has one, a monument that he more than anyone else created.

It stands a few blocks from this Capitol at the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue, New Jersey Avenue, and G Street. It is the Victims of Communism Memorial, dedicated to ''more than 100 million victims of Communism and to those who love liberty.''

Authorized by Act of Congress in 1993, it was first suggested to Lee by his wife Anne, who was also his partner in his writing.

If this memorial were a mandatory stop for all the high school tours that come to DC every spring, graduates would be better inoculated against the ignorance of radical leftism that infests too many of our universities.

Lee's work continues through his Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, here in Washington, where visitors are reminded that one-fifth of humanity still lives under communism in China, Cuba, Vietnam, Laos, and North Korea, as well as other countries where oppressive Marxist-Leninist practices impoverish and subjugate millions.

Whatever honors have been bestowed upon him in the past, and whatever accolades await him in the future, Lee Edwards remains that rare person of enormous achievement for liberty, whose greatest reward will always be the joyous sound of breaking chains across the world, the shattering of tyranny, and the anthems of a free people.

TRIBUTE TO JOE CASTIGLIONE

● Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, for 42 years, Joe Castiglione's resonating voice has been the bridge between Boston's great cathedral Fenway Park and Red Sox fans listening to the game in garages, kitchens, workplaces, and vehicles across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and throughout New England.

Whether you were turning your dial to 93.7 FM in Boston or Lawrence or Malden, 105.5 FM in Springfield, 1440 AM in Worcester, or 96.3 FM on the Cape, Joe Castiglione made you feel like you were in the bleachers with peanuts and a score card. When you were listening to him, you always knew who was at bat, you always knew the count, and you always knew how many runners were on base.

With humility, grace, and an encyclopedic baseball mind, Joe Castiglione took us on a journey every season. It was Castiglione who introduced us to our new ball club each spring after the snow of winter gave way to the green grass of spring. It was Joe Castiglione who ushered us through the dog days of summer, when winning and losing streaks began to cement our spot in the standings. And it was Joe Castiglione who carried us through four magical, crisp October runs that cemented Boston's status as the City of Champions.

On behalf of Red Sox fans everywhere, thank you, Joe Castiglione. I hope retirement brings you as much joy and happiness and entertainment as you have brought Red Sox Nation. Your wonderful wife Jan, sons Joseph Jr. (Duke) and Thomas, daughter Kate, and six grandchildren are fortunate to have you.

As a poet, a wordsmith, an alltime orator, we leave with some of Joe Castiglione's greatest words: ''Swing and a ground ball, stabbed by Foulke, he has it, he under hands to first, and the Boston Red Sox are the World Champions! For the first time in 86 years, the Red Sox have won Baseball's World Championship. Can you believe it?!''●

TRIBUTE TO KEN McNEELY

● Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 32-year career of Ken McNeely, AT&T western region president, ahead of his retirement at the end of this month.

Ken joined AT&T in 1991 as a senior attorney specializing in corporate litigation and has held several key positions for the company since. As vice president of law and government affairs, the longest serving president of AT&T California, and now as president of the western region, Ken has been an exceptional leader and a trusted partner to colleagues in the public and private sectors.

As president of the western region, Ken has led AT&T's activity in 19 States and overseen a workforce of over 50,000 employees, working tirelessly to deliver greater reliability for communities throughout California.

Ken is also a dedicated member of his community, serving on several boards, and supporting numerous philanthropic organizations over the years. He has also been recognized by others for his outstanding leadership, including by the Black Business Association with their Top 100 African Americans in Technology Award, Equality California with their Vanguard Award, and Our Family Coalition with their Luminary Award.

Ken has always represented our State and its values, and thanks to his work, we have made great strides in bridging the digital divide, ensuring first responders can stay connected to their communities, and preparing our students for future careers in the STEM field.

Today, I want to congratulate Ken on his many accomplishments and to thank him for his work over the past three decades. I wish him, his husband Inder, and their children Kabir and Meera well in the years ahead.●

RECOGNIZING SACRAMENTO STATE

● Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the students and faculty of California State University, Sacramento—or ''Sacramento State''—as they embark on their first year as California's first-ever ''Black-Serving Institution,'' as well as the inaugural class of their ''Black Honors College.''

Reflective of the most diverse State in the Nation, Sacramento State has long been a leader in providing quality, higher education to students of all backgrounds. Already, they are recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as both a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

But as the home to the largest enrollment of Black and African-American students in the California State University (CSU) system, this past summer, the California State Assembly recognized Sacramento State as the first ''Black-Serving Institution'' in the State of California, a testament to the university's support of Black students who come from around the world to enroll.

Sacramento State is always looking for more ways to attract, support, and help graduate more Black students. That is why earlier this year, they created and launched the Nation's first Black Honors College, an enhanced co-curricular college providing specialized coursework for students interested in Black history, life, culture, and contributions.

Thanks to the vision and leadership of Sacramento State president Dr. Luke Wood, inaugural dean of the Black Honors College Dr. Boatamo Mosupyoe, and CSU chancellor Dr. Mildred Garcia, Sacramento State is building a world-class academic environment for Black students to follow their passions and to thrive.

Today, I want to congratulate Sacramento State on their official State recognition and to wish the inaugural class of the Black Honors College enormous success in the years ahead.●

TRIBUTE TO JACKIE REED

● Mr. WICKER. Madam President, on behalf of the people of Mississippi, I commend the accomplishments and career of Jackie Reed.

Jackie is a veteran driver known for his lofty standards of care. The Collinsville, MS, resident has notched 3 million safe miles in his 34 years behind the wheel, and he has been increasingly recognized as a leader in the Nation's vital trucking industry. His lifelong commitment to excellence has made our highways safer and helped power the American economy.

For the past few years, Jackie has competed at the National Truck Driving & Step Van Championships. The event—known as the ''Super Bowl of Safety''—has consistently demonstrated his knowledge of safety requirements, his industry awareness, and his driving skills. In 2022, he secured the Mississippi Grand Champion award in the three-axle category. He

returned the next year, finishing second place in the State's two-axle group.

In 2024, Jackie topped all his previous achievements. He was named America's top truck driver, besting 421 other elite contestants from almost every State. Jackie earned the Bendix Grand Champion title, and he also won first place in the tank truck vehicle class.

Jackie says he has won big awards because he has paid ''attention to the small stuff.'' He scours the Facts for Drivers guidebook. He diligently inspects his truck. That level of detail pays off in trophies, and it also benefits Americans nationwide. Jackie's careful driving helps deliver goods to consumers, and it keeps his fellow drivers from accidents along the way.

Mississippi is lucky to have such an outstanding representative on the national stage. It is for his decades of distinction, his many achievements, and his continued quality that I commend Jackie Reed today.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:16 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 612. An act to reauthorize the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1103. An act to require the President to remove the extension of certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices if Hong Kong no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3208. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7073. An act to improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8057. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the ''Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office''.

At 1:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1657. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1726. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2468. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2950. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4094. An act to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4259. An act to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4596. An act to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

H.R. 5302. An act to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the ''Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit''.

H.R. 5490. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5509. An act to modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5646. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6474. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas.

H.R. 6852. An act to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7370. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing.

H.R. 7422. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to provide cost-recovery authority for the Department of the Interior.

At 4:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 9747. An act making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes.

At 6:33 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 656. An act 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 message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 522. An act 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.

H.R. 6656. An act 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.

H.R. 7323. An act 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, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 522. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1657. An act to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 1726. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

H.R. 3208. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity On-the-Job Training Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs .

H.R. 4259. An act to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 5302. An act to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the ''Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit'' ; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 5509. An act to modernize permitting systems at the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6474. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6656. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 6852. An act to designate Holcombe Rucker Park, in Harlem, New York, as a National Commemorative Site, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7073. An act to improve public-private partnerships and increase Federal research, development, and demonstration related to the evolution of next generation pipeline systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7323. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 7370. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to establish a deadline for processing applications related to geothermal leasing; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7422. An act to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to provide cost-recovery authority for the Department of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 8057. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9317 Bolsa Avenue in Westminster, California, as the ''Little Saigon Vietnam War Veterans Memorial Post Office'' ; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1103. An act to require the President to remove the extension of certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices if Hong Kong no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2468. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2950. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4094. An act to amend the Central Utah Project Completion Act to authorize expenditures for the conduct of certain water conservation measures in the Great Salt Lake basin, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4596. An act to reauthorize the Bureau of Reclamation to provide cost-shared funding to implement the endangered and threatened fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins.

H.R. 5490. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–6001. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modernizing the Delivery of Housing Counseling Services'' (RIN2502–AJ70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6002. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards'' (RIN2502–AJ58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6003. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2024 Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6004. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Rural Health Care Services Outreach, Rural Health Network Development, and Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Grant Programs Fiscal Years 2021–2022''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6005. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6006. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Requirements Related to the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act'' (RIN1210–AC11) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6007. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2021''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6008. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA–3606-EM in the State of South Carolina having exceeded the $5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6009. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–6010. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rules Governing Motion to Amend Practice and Procedures in Trial Proceedings under the America Invents Act before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board'' (RIN0651–AD50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–6011. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Use of Campaign Funds for Candidate and Officeholder Security'' (Notice 2024–22); to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC–6012. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards'' (RIN2700–AE77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6013. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant foreign narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6014. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6015. A communication from the Chief Counsel, United States Mint, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Exchange of Coin'' (31 CFR Part 100) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6016. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary (Terrorism and Financial Intelligence), Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6017. A communication from the Counsel of Bank Activities, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Business Combinations under the Bank Merger Act'' (RIN1557–AF24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6018. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation NMS: Minimum Pricing Increments, Access Fees, and Transparency of Better Priced Orders'' (RIN3235–AN23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–6019. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Mitigating the Impact of Significant, Anomalous, and Highly Suspect Billing Activity on Medicare Shared Savings Program Financial Calculations in

Calendar Year 2023'' (RIN0938–AV20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–6020. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Hearing Before the Food and Drug Administration; General Provisions; Amendments'' (RIN0910–AI97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–6021. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Chemical Data Reporting; Extension of the 2024 Submission Period'' ((2070-AK33) (FRL No. 5982.2–01–OCSPP)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6022. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Mecklenburg Emission Control Standards'' (FRL No. 8980–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6023. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Chemical Data Reporting; Extension of the 2024 Submission Period'' ((2040-AF92) (FRL No. 7218–01–OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6024. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Management of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons and Substitutes under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020'' ((2060-AV84) (FRL No. 10105–02–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6025. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''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'' (RIN0648–XS022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6026. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2019 Commercial Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf of Mexico Gray Triggerfish'' (RIN0648–XS017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6027. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2019 Commercial and Recreational Accountability Measure and Closures for Gulf of Mexico Lane Snapper'' (RIN0648–XS019) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6028. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders'' (RIN0648–XW014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6029. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Region; 2019–2020 Commercial Closure for King Mackerel in the Gulf of Mexico Western Zone'' (RIN0648–XS016) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6030. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019–2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments; Correction'' (RIN0648–BJ43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6031. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''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'' (RIN0648–XS020) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6032. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2019 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for the South Atlantic Deep-Water Complex'' (RIN0648–XS018) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6033. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; 2019–2020 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Inseason Adjustments; Correction'' (RIN0648–BJ43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6034. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''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'' (RIN0648–XW015) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6035. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Greater Amberjack Emergency Management Measures'' (RIN0648–BM73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6036. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; Vermillion Snapper Trip Limit Reduction'' (RIN0648–XS015) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6037. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2020 Commercial Longline Closure for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish'' (RIN0648–XS024) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6038. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''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'' (RIN0648–XX021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6039. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustment to the 2019 Specifications'' (RIN0648–XX022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6040. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Small-Mesh Multispecies Fishery; Inseason Adjustment to the Southern Red Hake Posession Limit'' (RIN0648–XX039) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6041. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From VA to NY'' (RIN0648–XX036) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September

25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6042. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2020 Gulf of Alaska Pollock and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts'' (RIN0648–XY058) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6043. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less Than 60 Feet (18.3 Meters) Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XY064) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6044. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands'' (RIN0648–XY073) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6045. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Chinook Salmon Prohibited Species Catch Limits in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XY062) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6046. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Greater Than or Equal to 50 Feet Length Overall Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XY025) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6047. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XY017) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6048. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area'' (RIN0648–XY061) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6049. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Rockfish Management in the Groundfish Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–BJ03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6050. A communication from the Acting Director of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Gulf of Alaska'' (RIN0648–XY057) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–6051. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''West Virginia: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions'' (FRL No. 11702–03–R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6052. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Revisions; California; Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 11981–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–6053. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; FL; Surface Coating of Miscellaneous Metal Parts and Products Amendments'' (FRL No. 12121–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 25, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM–177. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of New York, transmitted by the Secretary of the New York State Department of State, concerning the rescission of all previous requests by the New York State Legislature or either house thereof for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1460

Whereas, The New York State Legislature has made applications to the United States Congress to call one or more conventions to propose amendments concerning specific subjects to the United States Constitution, pursuant to Article V thereof; and

Whereas, the legislature finds that:

a. Since its ratification, the United States Constitution has only been amended 27 times; and

b. Despite continual debate, extreme political turmoil, shifting views, and uncountable political, economic, and societal problems and events, our Nation has not had another Constitutional Convention since 1787; and

c. Article V of the United States constitution provides a vehicle for amending the constitution upon application by ''two thirds'' of the several States; and

d. Throughout its long and storied history, New York has made such applications; and

e. Scholars differ as to whether such applications ever expire, and if, regardless of scope set forth in the applications, any convention would be required to abide by such scope; and

f. Wealthy interest groups could exploit decisions made by our ancestors to contort their intent to amending the Constitution and removing or altering our rights; and

Whereas, the legislature declares that:

a. Although historical records maintained by the State of New York and the Library of Congress are incomplete and, in some instances, unclear as to the final disposition of joint resolutions previously passed by the New York State Legislature to initiate a call to Congress for a Constitutional Convention, it is reported that the New York State Legislature has passed several such calls for a Constitutional Convention since the 1780's. These calls include (1) Joint Resolution (1789) calling broadly for amendments to the Constitution to promote the common interests and secure the great and unalienable rights of mankind; (2) Joint Resolution (1931) calling for the repeal of the eighteenth amendment; and (3) Joint Resolution (1972) calling for the allowance of public funds for seculgr education; and

b. It is unclear as a matter of constitutional law whether these calls ever expire, and current generations may now be bound by decisions made in a different time and culture. The need to advance these various policy reforms should be debated anew, if necessary, and not bind future generations without any considetation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, (if the Assembly concur), That the Legislature does hereby rescind, repeal, cancel, nullify, and supersede, any and all prior applications by the Legislature to the Congress of the United States of America to call a Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States pursuant to the terms of Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America, regardless of when and regardless of whether such applications were for a more limited convention to propose one or more amendments regarding one or more specific subjects and purposes or for a general convention to propose an unlimited number of amendments upon an unlimited number of subjects, whether or not the calls are confirmed by the historical records maintained by the State or the Library of Congress; and be it further

Resolved, (if the Assembly concur), That the Secretary of State be, and hereby is, directed to send a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Senate of the United States and one to the House of Representatives in the Congress of the United States; and be it further

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That the members of the Legislature of the State of New York request that this Joint Resolution be published in the Congressional Record and listed in the official tally of state legislative applications relating to calling for the United States Congress to call a convention to propose amendments to the United States Constitution.

POM–178. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to enactment of federal legislation prohibiting persons who are in the United States, in violation of the laws

of the United States, from contributing funds into or from the Social Security program; to the Committee on Finance.

POM–179. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to enactment of federal legislation to lawfully permit preferential hiring of United States citizens and preferential placement of United States citizens in educational programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Report to accompany S. 3891, a bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–233).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 1823. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the ''Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building''.

S. 3181. A bill to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the ''Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit'', and for other purposes.

H.R. 3354. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the ''Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building''.

S. 4404. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the ''Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office''.

S. 4634. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the ''Representative Maxine Bell Post Office''.

S. 4803. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 31143 State Highway 65 in Pengilly, Minnesota, as the ''First Lieutenant Richard Arne Koski Post Office''.

H.R. 6810. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the ''U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6983. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the ''Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office''.

H.R. 7180. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the ''Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office''.

H.R. 7385. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the ''John Mercer Langston Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7417. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7606. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the ''Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7607. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the ''George Henry White Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7893. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the ''Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building''.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 5164. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 5165. A bill to prohibit the intimidation of election officials and election workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 5166. A bill to provide major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates with the same level of Secret Service protection as Presidents and Vice Presidents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 5167. A bill to amend section 45Q of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the mine methane capture incentive credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5168. A bill to make certain antidiscrimination laws applicable to the judicial branch of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 5169. 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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 5170. A bill to establish the Data Protection Agency; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 5171. 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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 5172. A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to ensure that businesses and organizations that work with vulnerable populations are able to request background checks for their contractors who work with those populations, as well as for individuals that the businesses or organizations license or certify to provide care for those populations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 5173. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the treatment of critical access hospital services furnished by a critical access hospital located in a noncontiguous State; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 5174. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the criteria by which fiduciary responsibility is exercised in protecting shareholder rights; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5175. A bill to amend subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act to authorize direct support worker career advancement demonstration projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5176. 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, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5177. 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 Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 5178. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to update the amount of Social Security lump sum death payments and index lump sum death payments to inflation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5179. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide enhanced Federal matching payments for direct support worker training programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5180. A bill to amend subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act to fund additional projects that focus on competency-based training for personal or home care aides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5181. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish minimum physical activity requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 5182. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the collection of information regarding social determinants of health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5183. A bill to include sexual assault and aggravated sexual violence in the definition

of aggravated felonies under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to expedite the removal of aliens convicted of such crimes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5184. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a floor on payments to sole community hospitals located in a non-contiguous State under the hospital outpatient prospective payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 5185. A bill to establish a grant program to support qualified community colleges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 5186. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish criminal penalties for gratuities given to State and local public officials; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 5187. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for Qualified Community College Bonds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5188. 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 Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 5189. 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 Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 5190. A bill to prohibit the procurement of certain batteries by the Department of State; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 5191. A bill to award grants to States to support efforts at institutions of higher education to increase degree attainment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions .

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 5192. A bill to authorize compensation to individuals, organizations, and companies impacted by the Gold King Mine wastewater spill of 2015, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 5193. A bill to designate certain special management areas, wildlife conservation areas, protection areas, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and scientific research and education area in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. COONS, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KELLY, Mr. HELMY, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 5194. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 5195. A bill to establish a verifiable international terrestrial ecosystem services conservation program and provide international technical assistance for the development of markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5196. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish the New Homes Tax Credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 5197. A bill to establish a rule of construction regarding consent for disclosure of personally identifiable information under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 5198. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for oil and natural gas well remediation and restoration accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 5199. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 5200. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require mandatory certification for certain students and reduce stigma associated with unpaid school meal fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 5201. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to limit Federal funding of the procurement of certain buses under the Clean School Bus program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5202. A bill to amend the Fentanyl Sanctions Act to strengthen the imposition of sanctions under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5203. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance on best practices for screening and treatment of congenital syphilis under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. COONS, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 5204. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitations for deductible new business expenditures, to consolidate provisions for start-up and organizational expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 5205. A bill to modify the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 5206. A bill to require a report on foreign investment in the pharmaceutical industry of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 5207. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to modify certain requirements relating to emergency loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 5208. A bill to establish protections for warehouse workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5209. A bill to require the Attorney General to make publicly available a list of federally licensed firearms dealers with a high number of short time-to-crime firearm traces, and to prohibit Federal departments and agencies from contracting with such dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 5210. A bill to improve mental health services of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5211. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to modify the Presidential drawdown authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 5212. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the carbon oxide sequestration credit to ensure parity for different uses and utilizations of qualified carbon oxide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 5213. A bill to amend the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 to require labor organizations to make certain disclosures to its members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 5214. A bill to require States to measure and publicly report on the separation of children from parents by hidden foster care arrangements , and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 5215. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the treatment of nondisclosure agreements with respect to privatized military housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 5216. 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 Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5217. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate cost-sharing requirements for behavioral health care under

TRICARE Reserve Select; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5218. A bill to amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen, increase oversight of, and compliance with, security standards for health information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HELMY:

S. 5219. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5220. A bill to establish a process for expedited consideration of legislation relating to decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 5221. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for memorial headstones and markers furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who died before November 11, 1998, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 5222. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a pandemic preparedness and response program using artificial intelligence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 5223. A bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 5224. A bill to prohibit the imposition of requirements that handguns have certain features generally absent from firearms in common use, to restore the civil and natural rights of the people of the United States in States hostile to liberty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5225. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, to examine the ability of the Federal Government to respond to potential fiscal shocks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5226. A bill to establish a program to address sickle cell disease and other heritable hemoglobinopathies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 5227. A bill to reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationships of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan as a federally recognized Indian tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 5228. A bill to require the use of prescription drug monitoring programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 5229. A bill to reorganize the Federal judiciary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5230. A bill to amend the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act to reauthorize the United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. HOEVEN, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5231. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program to implement a pre-qualification or pre-approval process for farmers and ranchers with respect to a direct farm ownership loan under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 5232. A bill to prohibit the unauthorized possession of a firearm at a Federal election site; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 5233. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain gains and dividends derived from counties of concern as ordinary income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Mr. COTTON, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 5234. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on certain investments of private colleges and universities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 5235. A bill to provide additional contract authority to State departments of transportation to carry out surface transportation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HELMY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5236. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to enhance financial support for rural and safety net hospitals providing maternity, labor, and delivery services to vulnerable populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 5237. A bill to prohibit index funds from investing in Chinese companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5238. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit Amtrak from including mandatory arbitration clauses in contracts of carriage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 5239. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to manage risks relating to military use of artificial intelligence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. KING, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 5240. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to enhance direct certification under the school lunch program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BARRASSO:

S. 5241. A bill to require the establishment and use of short form applications for rural communities applying for economic development grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 5242. A bill to amend the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 to preserve the confidentiality of certain records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 5243. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the regulation of cannabis and cannabinoid products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RICKETTS:

S. 5244. A bill to prohibit the purchase of certain securities from covered entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 5245. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates with a justification for candidate protection determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5246. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to expand the capacity of junior or community colleges and area career and technical education schools to conduct training services, education, and outreach activities for careers in the residential construction industry; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 5247. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide nonimmigrant visas for cooperating witnesses of certain criminal activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 5248. A bill to require hospitals participating in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program to inquire whether a patient is a citizen or national of the United States, or in a satisfactory immigration status, as part of the patient admission and registration process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 5249. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny certain green energy tax benefits to companies connected to certain countries of concern; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 5250. A bill to reauthorize titles II and V of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. COONS):

S. 5251. A bill to establish a pilot program to support domestic critical material processing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 5252. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code to require accountability in deferred prosecution agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 5253. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5254. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the employer-provided child care credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 5255. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on biomedical research funded by the United States and performed in China; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROMNEY:

S. 5256. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the child tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BUDD, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 5257. A bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to make technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 5258. A bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to clarify the treatment of authentic Alaska Native articles of handicraft containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 5259. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to increase participation in community solar programs and the receipt of associated benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY:

S. 5260. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make certain information available on a public website relating to intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities certified for participation under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5261. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to provide grants to local educational agencies to cover the costs of challenges to determinations not to discontinue the use of specific instructional materials, or the availability of specific school library materials, in public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 5262. A bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding access to birth centers and exploring more effective payment models for birth center care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 5263. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on alleged noncompliance with that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. THUNE (for Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAWLEY)):

S. 5264. A bill to suspend normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China and to increase the rates of duty applicable with respect to articles imported from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 5265. A bill to take certain land into trust for the benefit of the Tonto Apache Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 5266. A bill to require automatic sealing of certain criminal records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 5267. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an audit of the expenditures of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 5268. A bill to prohibit Federal judges from receiving certain gifts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 5269. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a commission to review operations at the Veterans Health Administration and submit to Congress reports with respect to that review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 5270. A bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Prevention Act of 1998 to include new requirements for assessments and reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 5271. A bill to require the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration to temporarily exempt buprenorphine from the Suspicious Orders Report System for the remainder of the opioid public health emergency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 5272. A bill to amend chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, to provide protections with respect to frequent flyer programs and co-branded credit cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5273. A bill to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Quinault Indian Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. LEE):

S. 5274. A bill to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 5275. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to facilitate patient access to certain pediatric technologies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 5276. A bill to require a roadmap for the future desired state for the solid rocket motor (SRM) industrial base, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. SCHMITT):

S. 5277. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to publish, on an annual basis, an assessment of United States dependency on critical agricultural products or inputs from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5278. A bill to provide additional authorities for the leadership of the United States Agency for International Development in health technology innovation for global health in low-resource settings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 5279. 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 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 5280. A bill to improve services provided to taxpayers by the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 5281. 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 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5282. A bill to restrict car manufacturers and other companies from selling consumer car-related data, increase transparency regarding data practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. COTTON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KING, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. ERNST, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5283. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Robert M. Gates, in recognition of his service to the United States as an intelligence professional, Secretary of Defense, and educator and leader for young people of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 5284. A bill to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 5285. A bill to stop the shipment of illicit synthetic drugs via transportation networks in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 5286. A bill to prohibit certain exports of natural gas produced or refined in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 5287. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 5288. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide grants to States to award grants for the establishment of networked geothermal heating and cooling systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5289. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5290. A bill to address the effect of litigation on applications to export liquefied natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5291. A bill to require all aliens applying for a nonimmigrant visa who are unlawfully present in the United States to submit to an in person interview with a consular officer; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5292. A bill to amend the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 to modify a provision relating to the acquisition of a Coast Guard icebreaker; considered and passed.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S.J. Res. 111. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S.J. Res. 112. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S.J. Res. 113. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S.J. Res. 114. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Israel of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S.J. Res. 115. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed license amendment for the export of certain defense articles, defense services, and technical data to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S.J. Res. 116. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed enhancement or upgrade of sensitivity of technology or capability of certain major defense equipment for the Government of Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HELMY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 856. 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 the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. REED, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 857. A resolution expressing concern about the spreading problem of book banning and the proliferation of threats to freedom of expression in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 858. A resolution recognizing the 15th anniversary of Outdoor Afro; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 859. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2024 as ''National Recovery Month''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 860. A resolution designating the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as ''Religious Education Week'' to celebrate religious education in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 861. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2024 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 862. A resolution designating October 23, 2024, as ''National Marine Sanctuary Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. Res. 863. A resolution designating October 12, 2024, as ''National Loggers Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. VANCE):

S. Res. 864. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of September 23 through September 29, 2024, as ''Rail Safety Week'' and supporting the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week to reduce highway-rail grade crossing and trespasser-related incidents, fatalities, injuries, and derailments, improve the safe transportation of hazardous materials by rail, and prevent rail worker fatalities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 865. A resolution expressing the support of the Senate for the designation of October 23, 2024, as ''Public Radio Music Day'' and deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 866. A resolution designating October 4, 2024, as ''National Energy Appreciation Day'' to celebrate the people who work to power the United States and the economy of the United States and to build awareness of the important role that the energy producers of the United States play in reducing poverty, strengthening national security, and improving the quality of life for people around the world; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 867. A resolution designating September 2024 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 868. A resolution acknowledging and commemorating the women who served

the Navy in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service during World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. WICKER):

S. Res. 869. A resolution designating 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 the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 870. A resolution designating the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as ''Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. Res. 871. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2024 as ''National Youth Justice Action Month''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. Res. 872. A resolution recognizing the life and the death of Daniel J. Evans, former Senator for the State of Washington; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 873. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO)):

S. Res. 874. A resolution honoring the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary, Florida, for winning the 2024 Little League Baseball World Series; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 875. A resolution designating September 21, 2024, through September 29, 2024, as ''Blue Star Welcome Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 876. A resolution designating October 2024 as ''National Principals Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 877. A resolution designating the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as ''National Community Policing Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 878. A resolution honoring the life, legacy, and contributions of James Earl Jones; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 879. A resolution permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 880. A resolution supporting afterschool programs and Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 24, 2024; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 881. A resolution designating October 26, 2024, as the ''Day of the Deployed''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. Res. 882. A resolution designating the week of September 23 through September 27, 2024, as ''National Clean Energy Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KING, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 883. A resolution recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of America on its 120th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HYDE–SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 884. A resolution designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 885. A resolution designating October 2, 2024, as ''Energy Efficiency Day'' in celebration of the economic and environmental benefits that have been driven by private sector innovation and Federal energy efficiency policies; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 886. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2024, to October 31, 2024, as ''Bat Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 887. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 7 through October 12, 2024, as ''National 4-H Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 888. A resolution honoring the life of James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. Res. 889. A resolution designating October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 890. A resolution condemning the brutal Hamas-led terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and supporting an outcome that ensures the forever survival of Israel, the complete denial of the ability of Hamas to reconstitute in the region, and the safe release of United States hostages from the Gaza Strip; to the Committee on Foreign Relations .

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY,

Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Con. Res. 42. A 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 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. Con. Res. 43. A concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as ''Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 88

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 88, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and require review of certain agricultural transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 219

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 363

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 373

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 373, a bill to modify the disposition of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues and to open Federal financial sharing to heighten opportunities for renewable energy, and for other purposes.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend the Lumbee Act of 1956.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 547, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 633

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 633, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the United States.

S. 663

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 663, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the waiting periods for disability insurance benefits and Medicare coverage for individuals with metastatic breast cancer, and for other purposes.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 746

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 746, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 930

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 930, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 1028

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1028, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

S. 1230

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1230, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick ''Roddie'' Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 1266

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1266, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United State Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 1302

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1302, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

S. 1462

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1462, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, supra.

S. 1624

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1624, a bill to require certain civil penalties to be transferred to a fund through which amounts are made available for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

S. 1772

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1772, a bill to establish a national mercury monitoring program, and for other purposes.

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. LUJAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1851, a bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes.

S. 2026

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to provide support for programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to the coordination of maternity health care, and for other purposes.

S. 2076

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2076, a bill to adjust the definition of service in the uniformed services with respect to readmission requirements for servicemembers under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. HELMY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2119, a bill to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2815

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2815, a bill to provide for a wage differential program to support new nursing school faculty members.

S. 2895

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2895, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 3014

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3014, a bill to establish requirements for the Federal Trade Commission with respect to certain rules related to automotive retailing, and for other purposes.

S. 3026

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3026, a bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on offshore wind leasing.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3079

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3079, a bill to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, and for other purposes.

S. 3381

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3381, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.

S. 3612

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. HELMY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3612, a bill to prohibit the limitation of access to assisted reproductive technology, and all medical care surrounding such technology.

S. 3755

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3755, a bill to amend the CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes.

S. 3788

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3788, a bill to reauthorize the National Landslide Preparedness Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3885

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3885, a bill to expand medical, employment, and other benefits for individuals serving as family caregivers for certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 3926

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3926, a bill to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, and for other purposes.

S. 3979

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3979, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent and codify the pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, and for other purposes.

S. 4141

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 4141, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the FIFA World Cup 2026, and for other purposes.

S. 4176

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4176, a bill to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

S. 4243

At the request of Ms. BUTLER, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 4243, a bill to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to Shirley Chisholm.

S. 4246

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4246, a bill to improve menopause care and mid-life women's health, and for other purposes.

S. 4299

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4299, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule relating to the collection of crashworthiness information under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 4350

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4350, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend acute hospital care at home waiver flexibilities.

S. 4370

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4370, a bill to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4528

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4528, a bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Marshall Walter ''Major'' Taylor in recognition of his significance to the

nation as an athlete, trailblazer, role model, and equal rights advocate.

S. 4539

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4539, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

S. 4679

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4679, a bill to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, and for other purposes.

S. 4693

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4693, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an investment credit for converting non-residential buildings to affordable housing.

S. 4778

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4778, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the exclusion for certain employer payments of student loans under educational assistance programs permanent.

S. 4832

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4832, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to amend the rules of the Commission to include a shark attack as an event for which a wireless emergency alert may be transmitted, and for other purposes.

S. 4841

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4841, a bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to establish a National Center for Advanced Development in Education at the Institute for Education Sciences, and for other purposes.

S. 4892

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4892, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program for first responder mental health and wellness, and for other purposes.

S. 4917

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4917, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 4935

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4935, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to update the budget neutrality threshold under the Medicare physician fee schedule.

S. 4988

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 4988, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals who fought for or with the United States against the armed forces of Imperial Japan in the Pacific theater and the impacted Saskinax people on Attu, whose lives, culture, and community were irrevocably changed from December 8, 1941, to August 15, 1945.

S. 5008

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5008, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 5054

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5054, a bill to impose an assessment related to fossil fuel emissions, to establish the Polluters Pay Climate Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 5058

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5058, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a strategy to improve cooperation between the Department of Defense and allies and partners of the United States located in the Middle East so as to improve use of partner-sharing network capabilities to facilitate joint defense efforts among the United States and such allies and partners, and for other purposes.

S. 5062

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 5062, a bill to address sexual harrassment and sexual assault of Bureau of Prisons staff in prisons, and for other purposes.

S. 5074

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 5074, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress quarterly briefings on budgetary shortfalls of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to prohibit the provision of bonuses to Department of Veterans Affairs employees in Senior Executive Service positions in fiscal years with budgetary shortfalls, and for other purposes.

S. 5076

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5076, a bill to require periodic updates to the comprehensive strategy to promote Internet freedom and access to information in Iran, to authorize grants to support and develop programs in Iran that promote or expand an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet, and for other purposes.

S. 5087

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5087, a bill to amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to promote the establishment of tenant organizations and provide additional amounts for tenant organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 5091

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5091, a bill to provide for the basic needs of students at institutions of higher education.

S. 5122

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5122, a bill to establish the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

S. 5135

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5135, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase penalties for unauthorized disclosure of taxpayer information.

S. CON. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 40, a concurrent resolution establishing new congressional oversight to address regulatory reform.

S. RES. 669

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 669, a resolution designating October 10, 2024, as ''American Girls in Sports Day'' .

S. RES. 795

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 795, a resolution condemning the botched rollout by the Department of Education of the FAFSA Simplification Act.

S. RES. 833

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were

added as cosponsors of S. Res. 833, a resolution countering disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and calling for multi-stakeholder efforts to address the significant detrimental effects that the rise in disinformation, propaganda, and misinformation in regional information environments has on democratic governance, human rights, and United States national interests.

AMENDMENT NO. 2853

At the request of Mr. HICKENLOOPER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2853 intended to be proposed to S. 4638, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 5165. A bill to prohibit the intimidation of election officials and election workers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Freedom from Intimidation in Elections Act of 2024.

This legislation would amend section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act to establish a rebuttable presumption that carrying a visible firearm around election-related activities, such as voting or counting ballots, constitutes intimidation within the meaning of the VRA.

This bill empowers voters and election workers to seek an emergency civil injunction against individuals or groups engaged in such intimidating conduct.

Importantly, the bill provides an exemption for appropriate law enforcement officials and allows any group or individual facing suit to present evidence that they did not, in fact, intimidate any voters or election workers.

Given the increasing political polarization this country faces and the Supreme Court's everchanging interpretation of the Second Amendment, the risk of violence at polling places and election offices has never been higher. This bill is essential to ensure that eligible individuals can continue to exercise their right to vote without fear of retribution or harm.

It is imperative to protect our voters and dedicated election workers from threats of political violence by updating the Voting Rights Act's anti-intimidation provisions to address the specific threat posed by firearms around election activities.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 5172. A bill to amend the National Child Protection Act of 1993 to ensure that businesses and organizations that work with vulnerable populations are able to request background checks for their contractors who work with those populations, as well as for individuals that the businesses or organizations license or certify to provide care for those populations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 5172

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

SECTION 1. DEFINING "COVERED INDIVIDUAL" FOR PURPOSES OF BACKGROUND CHECKS UNDER THE NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION ACT OF 1993.

Section 5(9)(B) of the National Child Protection Act of 1993 (34 U.S.C. 40104(9)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by inserting '', contracts with,'' after ''is employed by'';

(B) by inserting '', contract with,'' after ''be employed by''; and

(C) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii);

(3) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) is employed by or volunteers with, or seeks to be employed by or volunteer with, an entity that is under contract with a qualified entity;'';

(4) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by adding ''or'' at the end; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) is licensed or certified, or seeks to be licensed or certified, by a qualified entity;''.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 5205. A bill to modify the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act. This legislation would expand the boundary of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge by approximately 5,658 acres to conserve additional land in Solano, Marin, and Sonoma Counties of California.

The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge consists of more than 19,000 acres located along the northern edge of San Pablo Bay in Northern California. It was established in 1974 to support wetland habitat; endangered species, like the salt marsh harvest mouse and the Ridgeway's Rail; and migratory birds, including the largest wintering population of Canvasbacks on the west coast.

In addition to providing habitat and wildlife conservation, the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge offers numerous recreation opportunities, including wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, hiking, boating, fishing, and hunting. Regulation of these recreation activities allows for public enjoyment of the refuge while still protecting the wildlife and their habitats.

The bill would expand the San Pablo Bay National Refuge by 5,658 acres, which is more than 28 percent of its current size. The bill would also authorize the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire lands within the modified boundary from willing sellers or donors and allow other Federal Agencies to transfer federally owned land within the modified boundary to the Service without administrative hurdles. Finally, the bill would encourage the Service to allocate Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to acquire any private inholdings within modified National Wildlife Refuge boundary.

The Fish and Wildlife Service recently reported that 221 million acres of wetlands were destroyed between 2009 and 2019, representing a 50-percent increase in the rate of loss from the previous decade. The loss of wetlands across the country has reduced the amount of critical habitat for wildlife, endangered species, and migratory birds. Given these trends and its prime location within the Pacific Flyway, expanding the boundaries of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge offers a unique opportunity to protect both critical wetland habitat and priority public uses on Federal lands.

Importantly, expanding the refuge would also contribute to the State of California's and the Biden-Harris Administration's goals to conserve 30 percent of our public lands and waters by 2030.

I would like to thank my colleagues Representatives JOHN GARAMENDI, MIKE THOMPSON, and JARED HUFFMAN for championing this bill in the House.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act as quickly as possible.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5209. A bill to require the Attorney General to make publicly available a list of federally licensed firearms dealers with a high number of short time-to-crime firearm traces, and to prohibit Federal departments and agencies from contracting with such dealers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act.

This legislation addresses a critical need to ensure that Federal resources do not inadvertently support gun dealers whose business practices may contribute to the proliferation of firearms used in criminal activities.

The Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act would withhold Federal contracts from Federal firearm, licensees, FFLs, who have been listed in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' AFT Demand 2 Program twice in the preceding 3 calendar years.

The Demand 2 Program targets gun dealers who have sold 25 or more firearms within a year that are subsequently traced to crimes within 3 years of their sale.

Under this act, dealers identified under the Demand 2 Program will be prohibited from entering into Federal contracts for a period of 3 years following their last appearance on the list. However, the Attorney General would have the discretion to waive this prohibition for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security if it is deemed necessary to protect national security.

Over the past two decades, the ATF's Demand 2 Program has been instrumental in identifying gun dealers whose sales practices may be contributing to the diversion of firearms to criminal activities. While the vast majority of an FFLs operate responsibly, a small fraction—about 2 percent—of these dealers have been shown to be a significant source of crime guns.

Between 2021 and 2023, only approximately 1,500 of the Nation's 75,000-plus FFLs were subject to the Demand 2 Program. This small group of dealers has a disproportionate impact on gun violence in our communities. It is deeply troubling that some of these dealers have continued to receive lucrative Federal contracts despite their track record.

The Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act aims to incentivize better business practices among gun dealers by ensuring that those with a history of contributing to gun violence through irresponsible sales are not rewarded with Federal contracts. This bill is a critical step towards reducing gun violence and ensuring that Federal procurement practices do not inadvertently support the diversion of firearms to criminal activities.

Americans deserve to feel safe in their communities, and our government has a responsibility to ensure that its resources are used to promote public safety, not undermine it. By passing this legislation, we can take meaningful action to address the gun violence epidemic that continues to plague our Nation.

Public safety is paramount, and this bill represents an important measure to strengthen our efforts in combating the illegal use of firearms. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Clean Hands Firearm Procurement Act as swiftly as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 5216. 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 Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 5216

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 ''Western South Dakota Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) RECLAMATION FEASIBILITY STANDARDS.—The term ''reclamation feasibility standards'' means the eligibility criteria and feasibility study requirements described in section 106 of the Reclamation Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 2405).

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

(3) WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM.—The term ''Western Dakota Regional Water System'' means the Western Dakota Regional Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation established and operated substantially in accordance with the reclamation feasibility standards to serve as a non-Federal project entity for purposes of the cooperative agreement entered into under section 3(b).

SEC. 3. WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the West Dakota Water Development District, through a cooperative agreement, may undertake 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.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The study under paragraph (1) shall comply with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary determines that the study under subsection (a) does not comply with the reclamation feasibility standards, the Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement with the Western Dakota Regional Water System to complete additional work to ensure that the study under that subsection complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under this section shall not exceed 50 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $10,000,000.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 5272. A bill to amend chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, to provide protections with respect to frequent flyer programs and co-branded credit cards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 5272

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 ''Protect Your Points Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. PROTECTIONS RELATING TO FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAMS AND CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 42309. PROTECTIONS RELATING TO FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAMS AND CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARDS.

''(a) PROTECTIONS RELATED TO POINTS, MILES, AND OTHER ACCRUED VALUE.—

''(1) VALUE DISCLOSURE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, each covered air carrier shall—

''(A) prominently display on each page of the website of the air carrier information regarding the financial value of one point, mile, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program; and

''(B) update, in real time, any change to such information.

''(2) EXPIRATION OF POINTS.—A covered air carrier shall not place an expiration date on any points, miles, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program.

''(3) TRANSFER OF POINTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered air carrier shall—

''(i) allow a consumer participating in a frequent flyer program to transfer any amount of points, miles, or other accrued value of the consumer to another participant (chosen by the consumer) of the same frequent flyer program; and

''(ii) guarantee that, with respect to any such transfer, the points, miles, or other accrued value remain equal in value once transferred.

''(B) LIMITATIONS.—A covered air carrier shall not—

''(i) limit the number of points, miles, or other accrued value that a consumer may transfer to another participant of the frequent flyer program; or

''(ii) impose a fee or other penalty on the consumer in connection with such transfer.

''(4) DISPLAY OF AIRFARE VALUE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, each covered air carrier shall display on any travel booking page of the website of the air carrier the cost of airfare or other add-on services both in dollar value and in the value of points, miles, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program, in a manner that—

''(A) displays both values concurrently; and

''(B) does not require a consumer to alternate between such values to display both costs.

''(5) AIRFARE AND ADD-ON SERVICES TRANSACTIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, each covered air carrier shall offer to consumers the ability to purchase airfare or other add-on services in any combination of dollars and points, miles, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program.

''(b) CONSUMER NOTICE OF CHANGES TO TERMS OF SERVICE.—

''(1) CHANGES TO TERMS OF SERVICES.—With respect to the terms of service, contract of carriage, or other customer agreement of any frequent flyer program or airline co-branded credit card of a covered air carrier, the covered air carrier shall not include any provision that reserves the right of the covered air carrier to make changes to the terms of service, contract of carriage, or other customer agreement without providing to the consumer at least 1 year of notice of any such change.

''(2) NOTICE TO CONSUMERS.—A covered air carrier shall not take any action that would allow the covered air carrier to devalue a consumer's accrued points, miles, or other accrued value promised or offered in connection with a frequent flyer program, including any action to decrease the dollar value,

eliminate, reduce, suspend, forfeit, invalidate, impose new limits on the access, use, redemption, or validity, or impose new requirements or expense for the redemption or use of any such points, miles, or other accrued value unless the covered air carrier has provided to consumers not fewer than 1 year of notice of any such action.

''(3) COORDINATION WITH CFPB.—In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary shall coordinate with the Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, as necessary.

''(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADD-ON SERVICES.—The term 'add-on services' means any service that a consumer may add to a flight booking for an additional cost, or may purchase as an in-flight service, including seating options, baggage, beverages, food, early boarding, lounge access, internet or wifi access, or any other service determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(2) CO-BRANDED CREDIT CARD.—The term 'co-branded credit card' means a credit card jointly offered by a covered air carrier in partnership with a credit card issuer, with an emphasis on rewarding brand loyalty.

''(3) COVERED AIR CARRIER.—The term 'covered air carrier' means an air carrier conducting passenger operations under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, that offers a frequent flyer program.

''(4) FREQUENT FLYER PROGRAM.—The term 'frequent flyer program' means a program in which a covered air carrier promises or offers points, miles, or other accrued value for tickets purchased from the covered air carrier.

''(5) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Transportation.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 423 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 42308 the following:

''42309. Protections relating to frequent flyer programs and co-branded credit cards.''.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 5289. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out activities to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 5289

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 ''White Oak Resilience Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF LAND-GRANT COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

In this Act, the term ''land-grant college or university'' means—

(1) an 1862 Institution (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

(2) an 1890 Institution (as defined in that section); and

(3) a 1994 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public Law 103–382)).

SEC. 3. WHITE OAK RESTORATION INITIATIVE COALITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition (referred to in this section as the ''Coalition'')—

(1) as a voluntary collaborative group of public, State, private, and nongovernmental organizations to carry out the duties described in subsection (b); and

(2) in accordance with the charter entitled ''White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter'' adopted by the White Oak Initiative Board of Directors on March 21, 2023 (or a successor charter).

(b) DUTIES.—In addition to the duties specified in the charter described in subsection (a)(2), the duties of the Coalition are—

(1) to coordinate public, State, local, private, and nongovernmental restoration of white oak in the United States;

(2) to make program and policy recommendations with respect to—

(A) changes necessary to address Federal and State policies that impede activities to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(B) adopting or modifying Federal and State policies to increase the pace and scale of white oak regeneration and resiliency of white oak;

(C) options to enhance communication, coordination, and collaboration between forest land owners, particularly for cross-boundary projects, to improve the health, resiliency, and natural regeneration of white oak;

(D) research gaps that should be addressed to improve the best available science on white oak;

(E) outreach to forest landowners with white oak or white oak regeneration potential; and

(F) options and policies necessary to improve the quality and quantity of white oak in tree nurseries; and

(3) to submit the report under subsection (c).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Coalition shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report describing the activities of the Coalition during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, including the recommendations described in subsection (b)(2).

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT, TECHNICAL SERVICES, AND STAFF SUPPORT.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make such personnel available to the Coalition for administrative support, technical services, and development and dissemination of educational materials as the Secretaries determine to be necessary to carry out this section.

(e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to the Coalition.

(f) PRIVATE FUNDING OF WHITE OAK RESTORATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may make available funds to the Coalition to carry out this section from funds in the accounts established pursuant to section 1241(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(f)).

SEC. 4. FOREST SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects in national forests to restore white oak in those national forests through white oak restoration and natural regeneration practices.

(b) NATIONAL FORESTS RESERVED OR WITHDRAWN FROM THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.—At least 3 pilot projects required under subsection (a) shall be carried out in national forests reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Agriculture may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WHITE OAK ASSESSMENT AND PILOT PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term ''covered land'' means land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary, including a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System and abandoned mine land.

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

(b) ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out an assessment of covered land to evaluate—

(A) whether white oak is present on the covered land; and

(B) the potential to restore white oak forests on the covered land.

(2) USE OF INFORMATION.—In carrying out the assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary may use information from sources other than the Department of the Interior, including information from—

(A) the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition established by section 3(a); and

(B) the Chief of the Forest Service.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of the Interior, a report describing the results of the assessment carried out under paragraph (1).

(c) PILOT PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date on which the Secretary submits the report required under subsection (b)(3), the Secretary shall establish and carry out 5 pilot projects on various areas of covered land, the purpose of which is to restore and naturally regenerate white oak.

(2) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects required under paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. WHITE OAK REGENERATION AND UPLAND OAK HABITAT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall establish a nonregulatory program to be known as the ''White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Program'' (referred to in this section as the ''Program'').

(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall—

(1) draw upon the best available science and management plans for species of white oak to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and conservation activities that will improve the growth of white oak within the United States;

(2) collaborate and coordinate with the White Oak Restoration Initiative Coalition to prioritize white oak restoration initiatives;

(3) adopt a white oak restoration strategy that—

(A) supports the implementation of a shared set of science-based restoration and conservation activities developed in accordance with paragraph (1);

(B) targets cost-effective projects with measurable results; and

(C) maximizes restoration outcomes with no net gain of Federal full-time equivalent employees; and

(4) establish the voluntary grant and technical assistance program in accordance with subsection (e).

(c) COORDINATION.—In establishing the Program, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall consult with—

(1) the heads of Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(B) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

(2) the Governor of each State in which restoration efforts will be carried out pursuant to the Program.

(d) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Program include—

(1) coordinating restoration and conservation activities among Federal, State, local, and Tribal entities and conservation partners to address white oak restoration priorities;

(2) improving and regenerating white oak and upland oak forests and the wildlife habitat such forests provide;

(3) carrying out coordinated restoration and conservation activities that lead to the increased growth of species of white oak in native white oak regions on Federal, State, Tribal, and private land;

(4) facilitating strategic planning to maximize the resilience of white oak systems and habitats under changing climate conditions;

(5) engaging the public through outreach, education, and citizen involvement to increase capacity and support for coordinated restoration and conservation activities for species of white oak; and

(6) increasing scientific capacity to support the planning, monitoring, and research activities necessary to carry out such coordinated restoration and conservation activities.

(e) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that funds are available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance program (referred to in this subsection as the ''grant program'') to achieve the purposes of the Program described in subsection (d).

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (referred to in this subsection as the ''Foundation'') to manage and administer the grant program.

(B) FUNDING.—After the Secretary enters into a cooperative agreement with the Foundation under subparagraph (A), the Foundation shall—

(i) for each fiscal year, receive amounts to carry out this subsection in an advance payment of the entire amount on October 1, or as soon as practicable thereafter, of that fiscal year;

(ii) invest and reinvest such amounts for the benefit of the grant program; and

(iii) otherwise administer the grant program to support partnerships between the public and private sectors in accordance with this section.

(3) APPLICATION OF NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISHMENT ACT.—Amounts received by the Foundation to carry out the grant program shall be subject to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), excluding section 10(a) of that Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)).

SEC. 7. WHITE OAK TREE NURSERY SHORTAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall develop and implement a national strategy to increase the capacity of Federal, State, Tribal, and private tree nurseries to address the nationwide shortage of white oak tree seedlings.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) be based on the best available science and data, as established by land-grant colleges and universities that have demonstrated—

(A) scientific expertise relating to white oak;

(B) the ability to rapidly transfer technologies to the stave industry;

(C) geographic proximity to concentrated areas of white oak; and

(D) support for regional economic development; and

(2) identify and address—

(A) regional shortages of bareroot and container white oak tree seedlings;

(B) regional white oak reforestation opportunities and the seedling supply necessary to fulfill those opportunities;

(C) opportunities to enhance white oak seedling diversity and close gaps in seed inventories; and

(D) barriers to expanding, enhancing, or creating new infrastructure to increase nursery capacity for white oak tree seedlings.

SEC. 8. WHITE OAK RESEARCH.

(a) RESEARCH.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with a land-grant college or university to conduct research on—

(1) white oak genes with resistance and stress tolerance;

(2) white oak trees that exhibit vigor for the purpose of increasing survival and growth;

(3) establishing a diverse white oak seed bank capable of responding to stressors;

(4) providing a sustainable supply of white oak seedlings and genetic resources;

(5) reforestation of white oak through natural and artificial regeneration; and

(6) the best methods for white oak reforestation on abandoned mine land sites.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the research under subsection (a), the land-grant college or university may consult with such States, nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, and other scientific bodies as the land-grant college or university determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 9. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

(a) PARTNERSHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, shall enter into a partnership with an eligible entity described in paragraph (2) to conduct research on improving white oak species resiliency, health, and preservation, including research on—

(A) population-scale sequencing;

(B) stress response traits;

(C) seedling physiology and performance; and

(D) white oak product development.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible entity referred to in paragraph (1) is a land-grant college or university that has demonstrated—

(A) scientific expertise relating to white oak;

(B) the ability to rapidly transfer technologies to the stave industry;

(C) geographic proximity to concentrated areas of white oak; and

(D) support for regional economic development.

(b) PRIORITIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, shall prioritize research relating to the resistance of white oak to disease, pest, heat, and drought in cultivated, new, and old-growth white oak timber stands.

SEC. 10. NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE INITIATIVE.

The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, shall establish an initiative on white oak—

(1) to re-establish white oak forests where appropriate;

(2) to improve the management of existing white oak forests to foster natural regeneration of white oak; and

(3) to provide technical assistance to private landowners to re-establish, improve management of, and naturally regenerate white oak.

SEC. 11. AUTHORITIES.

To the maximum extent practicable, to carry out activities under this Act and the amendments made by this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall use the authorities provided under this Act and those amendments, in combination with authorities under other provisions of law, including—

(1) good neighbor agreements under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a); and

(2) stewardship contracting projects under section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 856—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

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HELMY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 856

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was October 18, 1587, when the first ''Luzones Indios'' arrived in Morro Bay, California, on board the Nuestra Señora de Esperanza, a Manila-built galleon ship;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes 1763 as the year in which the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana;

Whereas the recognition of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States adds a new perspective to the history of the United States by bringing attention to the economic, cultural, social, and other notable contributions made by Filipino Americans to the development of the United States;

Whereas the Filipino American community is the third largest Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander group in the United States, with a population of approximately 4,500,000;

Whereas, from 2000 to 2019, the Filipino American community grew 78 percent, and Filipinos are the largest Asian community in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada,

New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and West Virginia;

Whereas, from the Civil War to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, Filipinos and Filipino Americans have a longstanding history of serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas more than 250,000 Filipinos fought under the United States flag during World War II to protect and defend the United States in the Pacific theater;

Whereas a guarantee to pay back the service of Filipinos through veterans benefits was reversed by the First Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79–301; 60 Stat. 6) and the Second Supplemental Surplus Appropriation Rescission Act, 1946 (Public Law 79–391; 60 Stat. 221), which provided that the wartime service of members of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines and the new Philippine Scouts shall not be deemed to have been active service, and, therefore, those members did not qualify for certain benefits;

Whereas 26,000 Filipino World War II veterans were granted United States citizenship as a result of the Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–649; 104 Stat. 4978), which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on November 29, 1990;

Whereas, in 1991, the Filipino American National Historical Society made efforts to recognize October as Filipino American History Month for the first time;

Whereas, in 2009, Congress first recognized October as Filipino American History Month (S. Res. 298; H. Res. 780);

Whereas, on February 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 123 Stat. 115), which established the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to compensate Filipino World War II veterans for their service to the United States;

Whereas, since June 8, 2016, the Filipino World War II Veterans Parole Program has allowed Filipino World War II veterans and certain family members to be reunited more expeditiously than the immigrant visa process allowed at that time;

Whereas, on December 14, 2016, President Barack Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–265; 130 Stat. 1376) to award Filipino veterans who fought alongside troops of the United States in World War II the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress;

Whereas, on October 25, 2017, the Congressional Gold Medal was presented to Filipino World War II veterans in Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Building, a recognition for which the veterans had waited for more than 70 years;

Whereas Filipino Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that may be bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces, and continue to demonstrate a commendable sense of patriotism and honor in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the late Peter Aquino Aduja of Hawaii and the late Thelma Garcia Buchholdt of Alaska became the first Filipino American elected to public office and the first Filipina American elected to a legislature in the United States, respectively, inspiring their fellow Filipino Americans to pursue public service in politics and government;

Whereas Filipino American farmworkers and labor leaders, such as Philip Vera Cruz and Larry Itliong, played an integral role in the multiethnic United Farm Workers movement, alongside Cesar Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and other Latino workers;

Whereas, on August 3, 1948, the late Victoria Manalo Draves became the first Filipino American and Asian American to win a gold medal at the Olympics;

Whereas, on April 25, 2012, President Barack Obama nominated Lorna G. Schofield to be a United States District Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and she was confirmed by the Senate on December 13, 2012, to be the first Filipina American in United States history to serve as an Article III Federal judge;

Whereas Filipino Americans play an integral role in the healthcare system of the United States as nurses, doctors, first responders, and other medical professionals, and approximately 1 in 4 working Filipino adults in the United States is a frontline healthcare worker;

Whereas Filipino Americans contribute greatly to music, dance, literature, education, business, hospitality, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts, and other fields that enrich the United States;

Whereas, as mandated in the mission statement of the Filipino American National Historical Society, efforts should continue to promote the study of Filipino American history and culture because the roles of Filipino Americans and other people of color have largely been overlooked in the writing, teaching, and learning of the history of the United States;

Whereas it is imperative for Filipino American youth to have positive role models to instill—

(1) the significance of education, complemented by the richness of Filipino American ethnicity; and

(2) the value of the Filipino American legacy; and

Whereas it is essential to promote the understanding, education, and appreciation of the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Filipino American History Month in October 2024 as—

(A) a testament to the advancement of Filipino Americans;

(B) a time to reflect on and remember the many notable contributions that Filipino Americans have made to the United States; and

(C) a time to renew efforts toward the research and examination of history and culture so as to provide an opportunity for all people of the United States to learn more about Filipino Americans and to appreciate the historic contributions of Filipino Americans to the United States; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe Filipino American History Month with appropriate programs and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 857—EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT THE SPREADING PROBLEM OF BOOK BANNING AND THE PROLIFERATION OF THREATS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. REED, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 857

Whereas the overwhelming majority of adults in the United States oppose book bans;

Whereas an overwhelming majority of adults in the United States support educators teaching about the civil rights movement, the history and experiences of Native Americans, enslaved Africans, immigrants facing discrimination, and the ongoing effects of racism;

Whereas, according to a survey by the Knight Foundation, an overwhelming majority of adults are confident that their community's public schools select appropriate books for students to read;

Whereas, in 1969, the Supreme Court of the United States held in Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969), that students do not ''shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate'';

Whereas, in 1982, a plurality of the Supreme Court of the United States wrote in Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District No. 26 v. Pico, 457 U.S. 853 (1982), that schools may not remove library books ''in a narrowly partisan or political manner'', as this kind of censorship will result in ''official suppression of ideas'';

Whereas the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States protects freedom of speech and the freedom to read and write;

Whereas Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that ''everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers'';

Whereas PEN America identified over 10,000 instances of individual books banned between July 2023 and June 2024, which is over double the instances of recorded book bans in public schools between July 2022 and June 2023 when PEN America counted nearly 3,400 instances of individual books banned;

Whereas PEN America identified 5,894 instances of books banned between July 2021 and June 2023, affecting 2,823 unique titles and censoring the works of 2,598 authors, illustrators, and translators;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of recent book bans were enacted without following the best practice guidelines for book challenges outlined by the American Library Association, the National Coalition Against Censorship, and the National Council of Teachers of English;

Whereas the unimpeded sharing of ideas and the freedom to read are essential to a strong democracy;

Whereas books do not require readers to agree with topics, themes, or viewpoints but instead allow readers to explore and engage with differing perspectives to form and inform their own views;

Whereas suppressing the freedom to read and denying access to literature, history, and knowledge are repressive and antidemocratic tactics used by authoritarian regimes against their people;

Whereas book bans violate the rights of students, families, residents, and citizens based on the political, ideological, and cultural preferences of the specific individuals imposing the bans;

Whereas book bans have multifaceted, harmful consequences on—

(1) students, who have a right to access a diverse range of stories and perspectives, especially students from historically marginalized backgrounds whose communities are often targeted by thought control measures;

(2) educators and librarians, who are operating in some States in an increasingly punitive and surveillance-oriented environment and are experiencing a chilling effect in their work;

(3) authors whose works are targeted and suppressed;

(4) parents who want their children to attend public schools that remain open to curiosity, discovery, and the freedom to read; and

(5) community members who want free access to a range of uncensored information and knowledge from their public libraries;

Whereas classic and award-winning literature and books that have been part of school curricula for decades have been challenged, removed from libraries pending review, or outright banned from schools, including—

(1) ''Brave New World'' by Aldous Huxley;

(2) ''The Handmaid's Tale'' by Margaret Atwood;

(3) ''Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation'' adapted by Ari Folman;

(4) ''Their Eyes Were Watching God'' by Zora Neal Hurston; and

(5) ''To Kill a Mockingbird'' by Harper Lee;

Whereas books, particularly those written by and about outsiders, newcomers, and individuals from marginalized backgrounds, are facing a heightened risk of being banned;

Whereas a substantial number of the instances of books banned or otherwise restricted in the United States have LGBTQ+ characters or themes that recognize the equal humanity and dignity of all individuals despite differences, including—

(1) ''And Tango Makes Three'' by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell; and

(2) ''This Book Is Gay'' by Juno Dawson;

Whereas a significant proportion of the instances of books, both fiction and nonfiction, that have been banned or otherwise restricted in the United States are books about race, racism, or feature characters of color, including—

(1) ''The Story of Ruby Bridges'' by Robert Coles and illustrated by George Ford;

(2) ''Letter from Birmingham Jail'' by Martin Luther King, Jr.;

(3) ''Thank You, Jackie Robinson'' by Barbara Cohen;

(4) ''Malala: A Hero For All'' by Shana Corey;

(5) ''Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story'' by Kevin Noble Maillard;

(6) ''Hair Love'' by Matthew A. Cherry;

(7) ''Good Trouble: Lessons From the Civil Rights Playbook'' by Christopher Noxon; and

(8) ''We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Pictures'';

Whereas the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund has reported a dramatic surge in challenges at libraries and schools to the inclusion of graphic novels that depict the diversity of civic life in the United States and the painful and complex history of the human experience, including—

(1) ''New Kid'' by Jerry Craft;

(2) ''Drama'' by Raina Telgemeier;

(3) ''American Born Chinese'' by Gene Luen Yang; and

(4) ''Maus'' by Art Spiegelman;

Whereas books addressing death, grief, mental illness, and suicide are targeted alongside nonfiction books that discuss feelings and emotions written for teenage and young adult audiences that frequently confront these topics;

Whereas, during congressional hearings on April 7, 2022, May 19, 2022, September 12, 2023, and October 19, 2023, students, parents, teachers, librarians, and school administrators testified to the chilling and fear-spreading effects that book bans have on education and the school environment; and

Whereas, according to PEN America, from July 2021 to June 2023, over 40 States across the country limited access to certain books for limited or indefinite periods of time, including—

(1) Florida, where at least 1,972 books in total have been banned or restricted in 37 school districts;

(2) Texas, where at least 1,426 books in total have been banned or restricted in 28 school districts;

(3) Pennsylvania, where at least 644 books in total have been banned or restricted in 16 school districts;

(4) Missouri, where at least 360 books in total have been banned or restricted in 16 school districts;

(5) Tennessee, where at least 360 books in total have been banned or restricted in 9 school districts;

(6) Utah, where at least 293 books in total have been banned or restricted in 10 school districts;

(7) South Carolina, where at least 128 books in total have been banned or restricted in 7 school districts;

(8) Virginia, where at least 94 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 6 school districts;

(9) Michigan, where at least 80 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 6 school districts;

(10) North Carolina, where at least 74 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 5 school districts;

(11) Wisconsin, where at least 72 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 12 school districts;

(12) Idaho where at least 51 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 1 school district; and

(13) Oklahoma, where at least 45 books in total have been banned or restricted in at least 3 school districts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as ''Banned Books Week'';

(2) expresses concern about the spreading problem of book banning and the proliferating threats to freedom of expression in the United States;

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to supporting the freedom of expression of writers that is protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution and the freedom of all individuals in the United States to read books without government censorship;

(4) calls on local governments and school districts to follow best practice guidelines when addressing challenges to books; and

(5) calls on local governments and school districts to protect the rights of students to learn and the ability of educators and librarians to teach, including by providing students with the opportunity to read a wide array of books reflecting the full breadth and diversity of viewpoints and perspectives.

SENATE RESOLUTION 858—RECOGNIZING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUTDOOR AFRO

Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 858

Whereas, in 2009, Outdoor Afro started as a blog about nature written by Ms. Rue Mapp, and has grown into a national not-for-profit network with volunteer leaders in 33 States and the District of Columbia, guiding hundreds of outdoor events each year based on a simple mission to celebrate and inspire Black-American connections to nature through recreational activities, including camping, hiking, birding, fishing, gardening, skiing, biking, camping, environmental education, conservation stewardship, and more;

Whereas, in the past 15 years, Outdoor Afro has cultivated and trained more than 1000 outdoor leaders, led thousands of outdoor events, and engaged well over 150,000 participants;

Whereas Outdoor Afro has disrupted the false perception that Black Americans do not have a relationship with nature and is inspiring access to remote and pristine nature, as well as urban nature, including local parks, trails, and open spaces;

Whereas Outdoor Afro promotes a healthy lifestyle and helps communities find healing, connects to Black history found in natural areas, and inspires an increased desire to protect vulnerable public lands for all to enjoy;

Whereas Outdoor Afro held its first international expedition in 2018 to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania;

Whereas, in response to the disproportionate number of Black children who drown while swimming, Outdoor Afro launched Making Waves, a program to strengthen relationships with water through water safety and swimming lessons provided by certified swim instructors;

Whereas, since its inception, Making Waves has funded nearly 1,950 ''Swimmership'' scholarships and aims to reach 1,500 new swimmers in 2024;

Whereas Outdoor Afro has engaged millions of people through digital outreach and is changing visual representations of who can connect with and lead in the outdoors through this digital outreach;

Whereas Outdoor Afro's growing network comprises civically engaged men and women, many of whom plan outdoor activities on behalf of children and senior community members, restoring Black-American leadership in nature;

Whereas Outdoor Afro is a leading voice in the Black-American community for advice on where to recreate, the best outdoor gear to use, and environmental causes that need the greatest attention; and

Whereas October 25, 2024, marks 15 years since the establishment of Outdoor Afro as a community that supports connecting Black Americans with natural spaces and one another through recreational activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 15th anniversary of Outdoor Afro; and

(2) commends the leadership of Outdoor Afro for leading the way for inclusion in outdoor recreation and nature for all.

SENATE RESOLUTION 859—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2024 AS ''NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH''

Mr. KING (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 859

Whereas the theme for National Recovery Month is ''Every Person. Every Family. Every Community.'';

Whereas nearly 108,000 individuals in the United States suffered a fatal drug overdose

during 2023, the first annual decrease in drug overdose deaths since 2018;

Whereas overdose deaths involving opioids decreased from an estimated 84,181 in 2022 to 81,083 in 2023;

Whereas overdose deaths from synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl) decreased in 2023 compared to 2022, but overdose deaths from cocaine and psychostimulants (like methamphetamine) increased;

Whereas, in 2023, there were approximately 22,219,000 adults in the United States who considered themselves to be in recovery from substance use disorder;

Whereas individuals with substance use disorder may face stigma from health professionals as well as from friends and family;

Whereas it has been demonstrated that stigma can be a barrier to accessing treatment and engaging in recovery for individuals with substance use disorder; and

Whereas peer-supported communities offer individuals with substance use disorder better success in recovery by addressing the personal and emotional effects of addiction and easing reintegration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of patient, provider, and societal education for the prevention of substance use disorder;

(2) supports efforts to explore the means by which integrated care, community, and helping individuals obtain a sense of purpose can lead to effective and sustainable treatment of substance use disorder;

(3) shows appreciation and gratitude for family members, friends, and other individuals who support individuals in recovery from substance use disorder; and

(4) supports the designation of September 2024 as ''National Recovery Month''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 860—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, 2024, THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS ''RELIGIOUS EDUCATION WEEK'' TO CELEBRATE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 860

Whereas the free exercise of religion is an inherent, fundamental, and inalienable right protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the United States has long recognized that the free exercise of religion is important to the intellectual, ethical, moral, and civic development of individuals in the United States, as evidenced by the Founders of the United States, such as—

(1) Benjamin Franklin, who believed religion to be ''uniquely capable of educating a citizenry for democracy''; and

(2) George Washington, who said in his farewell address, ''Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.'';

Whereas religious education is useful for self-development because it asks students to consider and respond to questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life, engages students in questions about morality and justice, and enables students to identify their values;

Whereas studies like the one published by the International Journal of Mental Health Systems in 2019 have shown that religious education can be ''instrumental to improving adolescent mental health'' by helping children learn how to make decisions based on morals, promoting less risky choices, and encouraging connectedness within a community, which can enhance self-esteem and well-being;

Whereas religious education fosters respect for other religious groups and individuals generally by acknowledging a source for human dignity and worth;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States found in Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925), that the State does not have power ''to standardize its children by forcing them to accept instruction from public teachers only. The child is not the mere creature of the state; those who nurture him and direct his destiny have the right, coupled with the high duty, to recognize and prepare him for additional obligations.'';

Whereas religious instruction can come from a variety of sources, including sectarian schools and released time programs;

Whereas, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2015, 4,350,000 children in the United States attended sectarian elementary and secondary schools where those children received religious education; and

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States held in Zorach v. Clauson, 343 U.S. 306 (1952), that State statutes providing for the release of public school students from school to attend religious classes are constitutional, and, as a result, an estimated 540,000 public school students in the United States take advantage of released time programs each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms the importance of religious education in the civic and moral development of the people of the United States;

(2) celebrates the schools and organizations that are engaged in religious instruction of the children of the United States to aid those children in intellectual, ethical, moral, and civic development;

(3) calls on each of the 50 States, each territory of the United States, and the District of Columbia to accommodate individuals who wish to be released from public school attendance to attend religious classes; and

(4) designates the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as ''Religious Education Week''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 861—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2024 AS ''SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH'' IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. WARREN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 861

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as ''SCD'') is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD can result in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 Black or African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited;

Whereas sickle cell anemia can shorten life expectancy by more than 20 years;

Whereas sickle cell anemia is a common cause of childhood stroke, and, in 2019, fewer than half of children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 16 years old received the recommended screening for stroke;

Whereas, in 2019, only 2 in 5 children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 9 years old used recommended medication that can prevent sickle cell anemia complications;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address sickle cell disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies as well as the need to address barriers that may impact delivery of and access to approved treatments;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as ''HSCT'') is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available

treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas September 2024 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

SENATE RESOLUTION 862—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 23, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DAY''

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 862

Whereas, on October 23, 1972, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) became law and ushered in a new era of ocean conservation;

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuary System is a nationwide network that conserves spectacular oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

Whereas communities across the United States can nominate their most treasured marine and Great Lakes waters for consideration as national marine sanctuaries;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect biodiversity, safeguard extraordinary seascapes, historic shipwrecks, and sacred cultural places, and provide abundant recreational opportunities;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries seek opportunities to partner with indigenous governments and communities to achieve shared conservation goals and to support the care-taking of ecological resources and cultural sites of indigenous peoples;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries protect vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas the conservation of marine ecosystems is vital for healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes, for addressing climate change, and for sustaining productive coastal economies;

Whereas the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and its partners work to protect and nurture the growth of the National Marine Sanctuary System;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries increase access to nature for all, support coastal communities, and generate billions of dollars annually in local communities by providing jobs in the United States, supporting commercial, Tribal, and recreational fisheries, bolstering tourism and recreation, engaging businesses in stewardship, and driving the growth of the blue economy;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries connect people and communities through science, education, United States history, recreation, and stewardship and inspire community-based solutions that help individuals understand and protect the spectacular underwater habitats, wildlife, archaeological resources, and cultural seascapes of the United States;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries are living laboratories that enable cooperative science and research that improves resource management and advances innovative public-private partnerships;

Whereas national marine sanctuaries can help make oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes more resilient by protecting ecosystems that sequester carbon, by safeguarding coastal communities from flooding and storms, and by protecting biodiversity;

Whereas the United States is a historic maritime Nation, and oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes are central to the way of life of the people of the United States;

Whereas engaging communities as stewards of these protected waters makes national marine sanctuaries unique and provides a comprehensive, ecosystem-based, highly participatory approach to managing and conserving marine and Great Lakes environments for current and future generations; and

Whereas October 23, 2024, is recognized as ''National Marine Sanctuary Day'' to increase awareness about the importance of the National Marine Sanctuary System and healthy oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes and to celebrate the many recreational opportunities available for the enjoyment of this network of protected waters: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 23, 2024, as ''National Marine Sanctuary Day'';

(2) encourages the people of the United States and the world to responsibly visit, experience, recreate in, and support the treasured national marine sanctuaries of the United States;

(3) acknowledges the importance of national marine sanctuaries in supporting community resilience, protecting biodiversity, and increasing access to nature;

(4) recognizes the importance of national marine sanctuaries for their recreational opportunities and contributions to local and national economies across the United States;

(5) celebrates the ability of the National Marine Sanctuary System to protect nationally significant places in oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes;

(6) calls on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to partner with communities and to complete designations of new national marine sanctuaries; and

(7) encourages Federal agencies to balance priorities and work together to support the priorities of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.).

SENATE RESOLUTION 863—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL LOGGERS DAY''

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 863

Whereas the logging industry has served as an economic driver and cultural tradition in the United States for centuries;

Whereas the logging industry creates rural jobs and provides revenue for local and State governments and National forests;

Whereas loggers provide renewable material for products used by people in the United States every day;

Whereas loggers are the first link in the $300,000,000,000 domestic forest products supply chain;

Whereas loggers are the means by which healthy forest management plans are accomplished;

Whereas logging provides for healthy forests, which—

(1) create and maintain vital wildlife habitats;

(2) protect watersheds;

(3) provide young forests that sequester carbon for cleaner air;

(4) provide social wellbeing and public recreational opportunities; and

(5) reduce loss of life and property from wildfires; and

Whereas logging provides for healthy forests through regeneration and conservation, including by planting 2,500,000,000 trees annually: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 12, 2024, as ''National Loggers Day''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 864—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS ''RAIL SAFETY WEEK'' AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RAIL SAFETY WEEK TO REDUCE HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING AND TRESPASSER-RELATED INCIDENTS, FATALITIES, INJURIES, AND DERAILMENTS, IMPROVE THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BY RAIL, AND PREVENT RAIL WORKER FATALITIES

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. VANCE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Whereas the first Rail Safety Week was held from September 24 through September 30, 2017, by a highway-rail grade crossing safety nonprofit organization Operation Lifesaver, the Department of Transportation, and other organizations;

Whereas Rail Safety Week was launched to—

(1) raise awareness about the need for increased education on how to be safe around highway-rail grade crossings and railroad tracks; and

(2) highlight efforts to further reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities;

Whereas highway-rail grade crossing and trespassing incidents constituted approximately 96 percent of all rail-related fatalities during 2023;

Whereas, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 429), Congress provided $3,000,000,000 during a 5-year period for the Railroad Crossing Elimination grant program that has provided nearly $600,000,000 to 63 local communities in 32 states to construct and plan highway-rail grade separation projects to eliminate crossings;

Whereas, in 2022, more than 60 percent of all highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred at highway-rail grade crossings with lights or gates;

Whereas preliminary Federal statistics indicate that 2,192 highway-rail grade crossing collisions occurred in the United States in 2023, resulting in 247 deaths and another 764 individuals being injured;

Whereas many collisions between trains and motor vehicles or pedestrians could have

been prevented by increased education, engineering, and enforcement;

Whereas Operation Lifesaver administers a public education program about grade-crossing safety and trespassing prevention;

Whereas, during Rail Safety Week, from September 23 through 29, 2024, and throughout the year, everyone is encouraged to take added caution as motorists or pedestrians approach tracks or trains;

Whereas the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio, which resulted in the burning of 5 vinyl chloride tank cars and forced the evacuation of approximately 2,000 nearby residents, was a reminder of the risks posed by hazardous materials transportation;

Whereas preliminary 2023 Federal statistics indicate that—

(1) Class I freight railroads had the highest accident rate not at grade crossings in the past decade;

(2) the number of accidents not at grade crossings per 1,000,000 miles traveled among Class I freight railroads has increased by 42 percent since 2013; and

(3) more than 42,000 rail workers have been injured and 120 rail workers have been killed on duty since 2013;

Whereas the United States, Canada, and Mexico will concurrently observe Rail Safety Week; and

Whereas this important observance should lead to greater safety awareness and a reduction in highway-rail grade crossing collisions, derailments, rail worker fatalities, and other railroad incidents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of ''Rail Safety Week'';

(2) expresses strong support for—

(A) the goals and ideals of Rail Safety Week;

(B) efforts to reduce highway-rail grade crossing and trespasser-related incidents, fatalities, and injuries;

(C) efforts by the Federal Railroad Administration to improve safety cultures at Class I freight railroads;

(D) efforts by the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation into the February 3, 2023, Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, Ohio;

(E) the residents of East Palestine, Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and all other communities impacted by the derailment and release of hazardous materials on February 3, 2023;

(F) the brave actions of first responders who combat releases of hazardous materials across the United States, including the brave actions of the more than 300 firefighters from 50 fire departments who responded to the February 3, 2023, derailment in East Palestine, Ohio; and

(G) rail workers who have died or been injured while working to keep people and goods moving throughout the United States and the families of those rail workers; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to participate in Rail Safety Week events and activities;

(B) to educate themselves and others on how to be safe around railroad tracks; and

(C) to support efforts to improve the safe transportation of hazardous material by rail.

SENATE RESOLUTION 865—EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 23, 2024, AS ''PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC DAY'' AND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RADIO MUSIC STATIONS IN SERVING LISTENERS, MUSICIANS, AND HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITIES IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 865

Whereas more than 23,800,000 listeners in the United States tune in weekly to local noncommercial radio stations to discover, learn about, and enjoy music selections, artists, and genres that are, in many cases, available only on public radio;

Whereas approximately 687 public radio music stations serve rural and urban communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico;

Whereas local public radio music stations celebrate a broad collection of sounds and styles, including jazz, blues, classical, Americana, alternative, folk, roots, soul, bluegrass, and other genres;

Whereas 96 percent of over-the-air broadcasts of classical music in the United States come from local public radio stations;

Whereas local, noncommercial, not-for-profit, public radio music stations develop local artists and audiences, sustain music and performers, and educate and enrich their audiences and communities;

Whereas local public radio music stations are locally staffed and programmed, are connected to the unique culture of their community, and share core values of music discovery, curation, preservation, and performance with their audiences;

Whereas knowledgeable local hosts, live announcers, and expert curation on public radio music stations have a proven track record of—

(1) helping audiences discover new and emerging homegrown musicians; and

(2) providing deep explorations into the history and cultural impact of music;

Whereas public radio music stations—

(1) tailor their content and programming to reflect regional tastes and talent;

(2) make music more accessible through local performances, studio sessions, artist interviews, and music journalism; and

(3) broadcast news and information about the local music industry;

Whereas public radio music stations connect musicians and artists with local audiences through an expanding range of platforms, including free over-the-air broadcasts, podcasts, videos, digital, and on-stage;

Whereas public radio music stations have served rural communities by—

(1) providing music discovery options for rural audiences;

(2) enabling musicians in rural communities to reach public radio audiences; and

(3) promoting and preserving music genres with deep cultural connections;

Whereas the emphasis of public radio on music presentation adds to the journey of lifelong music enjoyment;

Whereas public radio music stations serve as cultural hubs in their communities by providing a place for listeners to come together for the shared enjoyment of music and to support the local music economy;

Whereas local public radio stations partner with schools, hospitals, and other community organizations to promote broad access to music for the public;

Whereas the values and collective commitment of public radio music stations to community service, education, and cultural support separate these nonprofit, noncommercial radio stations from other music providers; and

Whereas, October 23, 2024, would be an appropriate day to designate as ''Public Radio Music Day'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 23, 2024, as ''Public Radio Music Day''; and

(2) expresses its deep appreciation for the role of public radio music stations in serving listeners, musicians, and hundreds of communities in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 866—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 4, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL ENERGY APPRECIATION DAY'' TO CELEBRATE THE PEOPLE WHO WORK TO POWER THE UNITED STATES AND THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO BUILD AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE ENERGY PRODUCERS OF THE UNITED STATES PLAY IN REDUCING POVERTY, STRENGTHENING NATIONAL SECURITY, AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 866

Whereas energy is a vital part of daily life and has greatly improved the standard of living in the United States and around the world;

Whereas the energy mix in the United States reflects an all-of-the-above energy approach, which is important for keeping energy affordable, reliable, and efficient;

Whereas the efficient use of the natural resources of the United States is a key part of strengthening the national security of the United States;

Whereas access to affordable, reliable energy supports economic growth and creates upward mobility;

Whereas the use of advanced energy technology has greatly reduced emissions associated with energy development and use while supporting sustained economic growth alongside continued environmental improvement;

Whereas the men and women who play a part in building, maintaining, and delivering access to energy should be commended for their hard work and vital role in modern life;

Whereas access to energy throughout the United States has more than doubled life expectancy in the United States;

Whereas access to energy has reduced the percentage of the global population living in poverty from more than 40 percent to less than 10 percent;

Whereas the energy industry accounts for 7,800,000 jobs in the United States;

Whereas each direct job in the oil and natural gas industry of the United States generates 3.7 jobs elsewhere in the economy of the United States, ultimately supporting 10,800,000 jobs that account for 5.4 percent of employment in the United States;

Whereas Federal oil and natural gas leases for onshore and offshore development brought in more than $22,000,000,000 in revenue for the Federal Government in 2022;

Whereas the United States oil and natural gas industry alone generates nearly $1,800,000,000,000 in gross domestic product per year;

Whereas coal continues to serve as a reliable and affordable source of baseload power for consumers across the United States and provided 19.5 percent of the utility-scale electricity in the United States in 2022;

Whereas hydroelectric power infrastructure contributes significant clean and reliable baseload power to the energy grid of the United States and vital grid flexibility with the ability to scale up or down to match fluctuations in consumer demand;

Whereas innovation in the nuclear energy industry of the United States has led to the annual generation capacity of about 100,000 megawatts of safe, clean, and reliable nuclear power; and

Whereas renewable energy employment continues to expand, with solar jobs accounting for the largest area of growth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 4, 2024, as ''National Energy Appreciation Day''; and

(2) encourages the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and the people of the United States to observe National Energy Appreciation Day with appropriate events to promote education on, and celebrate the role of, modern energy systems in everyday life.

SENATE RESOLUTION 867—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS ''NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 867

Whereas approximately 306,000 individuals in the United States live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas there are approximately 18,000 new spinal cord injuries in the United States each year;

Whereas more than 42,000 individuals with spinal cord injuries are veterans;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries;

Whereas almost half of all spinal cord injuries sustained by individuals 30 years of age or younger occur as a result of a vehicular accident;

Whereas the average remaining years of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries has not improved significantly since the 1980s;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for individuals living with spinal cord injuries, enhancing the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2024 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 868—ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMEMORATING THE WOMEN WHO SERVED THE NAVY IN THE WOMEN ACCEPTED FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II

Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 868

Whereas President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (referred to in this preamble as ''WAVES'') on July 30, 1942, when he signed the Act of July 30, 1942 (56 Stat. 730, chapter 538), into law;

Whereas, despite social stigmas and public opinion averse to women in uniform, women applied for WAVES in such numbers that enrollment ceilings were reached within the first several years;

Whereas, while women had served in the enlisted ranks of the Navy in a variety of positions during World War I, legislation passed after World War I limited women to service as nurses until the creation of the WAVES;

Whereas, during World War II, women in the United States were recruited into the Armed Forces to perform military assignments so that men could be freed for combat duties;

Whereas, under the direction of Lieutenant Commander (later Captain) Mildred Helen McAfee, the WAVES peaked in 1945 at nearly 80,000 officers and enlisted personnel, or approximately 2.5 percent of the wartime strength of the Navy and was composed of women from urban and rural communities across many socioeconomic backgrounds;

Whereas the annual report of the Secretary of the Navy for fiscal year 1945 stated that there were 8,475 officers and 73,816 enlisted WAVES serving in the spring of 1945;

Whereas the WAVES worked at large and small naval commands from Florida to Washington and from California to Rhode Island, as well as overseas;

Whereas the numerous and diverse contributions of the WAVES ranged from yeoman, chauffeur, and baker to pharmacist, artist, aircraft mechanic, and dental hygienist;

Whereas, during World War II, the WAVES served as training instructors throughout the United States for newly recruited WAVES as well as thousands of aspiring male naval aviators, gunners, and navigators destined for combat units;

Whereas the WAVES who served in naval aviation taught instrument flying, aircraft recognition, celestial navigation, aircraft gunnery, radio, radar, air combat information, and air fighter administration but were not allowed to be pilots;

Whereas the WAVES served the Navy in such numbers that, according to a Navy estimate, enough men were freed for combat duty to crew the ships of 4 major task forces, each including a battleship, 2 large aircraft carriers, 2 heavy cruisers, 4 light cruisers, and 15 destroyers;

Whereas, at the end of World War II, Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal stated that members of the WAVES ''have exceeded performance of men in certain types of work, and the Navy Department considers it to be very desirable that these important services rendered by women during the war should likewise be available in postwar years ahead'';

Whereas, by the end of World War II, more than 400,000 women had served the United States in military capacities, with every Navy aviator who entered combat having received some part of his training from a member of the WAVES;

Whereas the WAVES, despite their merit and the recognized value and importance of their contributions to the war effort, were not given status equal to their male counterparts, and struggled for years to receive the appreciation of Congress and the people of the United States;

Whereas the WAVES helped to catalyze the social, demographic, and economic evolutions that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s and continue to this day; and

Whereas the pioneering women who served in the WAVES are owed a great debt of gratitude for their service to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the women who served the Navy in the Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (referred to in this resolution as ''WAVES'') during World War II;

(2) commends the WAVES who, through a sense of duty and willingness to defy stereotypes and social pressures, performed military assignments to aid the war effort, with the result that men were freed for combat duties; and

(3) recognizes that the WAVES, by serving with diligence and merit, not only opened up opportunities for women that had previously been reserved for men, but also contributed vitally to the victory of the United States and the Allies in World War II.

SENATE RESOLUTION 869—DESIGNATING 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

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 869

Whereas, for more than 100 years, young women facing unplanned pregnancies have found support from charitable organizations ranging from Catholic Charities and Jewish maternity homes to the Salvation Army;

Whereas many charitable organizations banded together on November 13, 1971, to form the first United States association of nonprofit organizations, known in 2024 as Heartbeat International, dedicated to rescuing as many lives as possible from abortion;

Whereas, as of 2024, there were approximately 3,000 pregnancy centers (also known

as ''pregnancy care and resource centers'') in the United States;

Whereas women in every part of the United States turn to pregnancy centers for help, hope, and healing;

Whereas pregnancy centers are local, nonprofit organizations that provide vital and compassionate support to women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions;

Whereas pregnancy centers reach almost 2,000,000 people each year through a combination of client services, including—

(1) pregnancy tests;

(2) ultrasound and medical services;

(3) options counseling and education; and

(4) parenting and childbirth classes;

Whereas the estimated value of services provided in 2022 to women and men of all ages and backgrounds was over $350,000,000;

Whereas some pregnancy centers offer specific medical services, including—

(1) consultation with a licensed medical professional;

(2) a limited ultrasound for pregnancy confirmation; and

(3) testing for sexually transmitted infections and diseases;

Whereas the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates—

(1) provides life-affirming pregnancy centers with legal counsel, education, and training;

(2) has assisted hundreds of pregnancy centers in becoming medical clinics; and

(3) has represented nearly 1,300 pregnancy centers that currently operate as medical clinics;

Whereas more than 53,000 people in the United States volunteer at community-supported pregnancy centers each year, including more than 5,000 licensed medical professionals;

Whereas nearly 2,250 medical pregnancy centers provide a limited ultrasound at little or no cost to women;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 486,000 ultrasounds were performed at medical pregnancy centers;

Whereas pregnancy centers understand that pregnancy can be emotional for mothers and fathers, and the compassionate staff and trained volunteers of pregnancy centers—

(1) provide each patient with educational materials; and

(2) offer each patient emotional support and care to help each patient through difficult situations;

Whereas close to 88 percent of pregnancy centers in the United States offer specialized parenting education—

(1) through direct services on premises; or

(2) in nearby churches, schools, or other locations;

Whereas nearly every pregnancy care and resource center provides clients with material support for pregnancy and infant care, which may include—

(1) maternity clothing;

(2) baby clothes and furniture;

(3) housing assistance; or

(4) nutritional counseling and resources;

Whereas pregnancy centers—

(1) do not discriminate based on age, race, nationality, creed, religious affiliation, disability, or arbitrary circumstances; and

(2) take special care to provide help to underserved minority populations;

Whereas pregnancy centers have committed to engaging fathers so that they can acquire the skills necessary to become involved and responsible fathers;

Whereas Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers have saved more than 886,000 babies since 2008;

Whereas, since 2012, Heartbeat International reports that the Abortion Pill Rescue Network has saved more than 5,000 lives from in-process chemical abortions;

Whereas, between 2010 and 2024, 8 of 10 women considering abortion when they entered a Care Net-affiliated pregnancy care and resource center ended up choosing life;

Whereas, between 2010 and 2024, Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers—

(1) provided 1,300,000 free ultrasound scans;

(2) provided parenting support and education to 1,100,000 individuals;

(3) provided material resources to more than 1,700,000 individuals; and

(4) administered 3,200,000 pregnancy tests;

Whereas the 24-hour Option Line of Heartbeat International—

(1) helps carry out a mission of reaching and rescuing as many lives as possible around the world through an effective network of life-affirming pregnancy centers; and

(2) answers questions by phone, text, email, or chat before connecting an individual with the individual's local pregnancy center, where the individual will receive 1-on-1, compassionate, caring support;

Whereas Heartbeat International has made contact with over 7,000,000 calls from women and men seeking pregnancy help through the Option Line, a national multilingual pregnancy contact center available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 364 days a year;

Whereas the Care Net Pregnancy Decision Line is the only national hotline that provides immediate pregnancy decision coaching by highly trained coaches;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports the existence of approximately 450 maternity homes in the United States;

Whereas Care Net, Heartbeat International, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, and other groups issued a statement entitled ''Our Commitment of Care and Competence'', which—

(1) addresses issues including—

(A) scientific and medical accuracy;

(B) truth in advertising;

(C) compassion;

(D) nondiscrimination;

(E) patient confidentiality;

(F) staff training; and

(G) a consistent life ethic; and

(2) expands the determination of the pregnancy help movement to comply with applicable legal requirements regarding—

(A) employment;

(B) fundraising;

(C) financial management;

(D) taxation;

(E) medical licensure; and

(F) operation standards;

Whereas less than 10 percent of the income of pregnancy centers in the United States is derived from governmental sources, which ensures that pregnancy centers—

(1) minimize burdens on each taxpayer; and

(2) engage local communities to provide sustainable support; and

Whereas, after the reversal of Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), pregnancy centers have wrongfully been the subject of vandalism and violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning November 11, 2024, as ''National Pregnancy Center Week'';

(2) supports the important work of pregnancy centers across the United States;

(3) appreciates and recognizes the thousands of volunteers and staff of pregnancy centers in the United States who give millions of hours of service each year to women and men who are faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; and

(4) recognizes the importance of—

(A) protecting life; and

(B) assisting women and men in need as they bring children into the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 870—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, AS ''COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATORS APPRECIATION WEEK''

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 870

Whereas community schools marshal, align, and unite the assets, resources, and capacity of schools and communities for the success of students, families, and communities;

Whereas community schools are an effective and evidence-based strategy for school improvement included under section 4625 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7275), as added by section 4601 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114–95; 129 Stat. 2029);

Whereas community schools that provide integrated student support, well-designed and expanded learning opportunities informed by rigorous community-connected classroom instruction, promote a culture of belonging and safety, and active family and community engagement that use collaborative leadership and practices have positive academic and non-academic outcomes, including—

(1) improvements in—

(A) student attendance;

(B) behavior;

(C) academic achievement;

(D) school readiness;

(E) mental and physical health;

(F) high school graduation rates; and

(G) school climate; and

(2) reduced racial and economic achievement gaps;

Whereas community schools have the potential to help people of the United States from underserved communities, as indicated in a 2024 report;

Whereas a 2023 study found that mental health care provided through community schools addresses disparities through school-provided service and shows improved academic performance and student conduct, including reducing the number of school suspensions and disciplinary referrals;

Whereas a 2022 report found that community schools and the community as a whole produce a positive impact on student attendance, on-time grade progression, and credit accumulation for high school students;

Whereas community schools have a positive impact on meeting the basic needs of students, including nutritional services and access to comprehensive health services, as indicated in a 2024 report;

Whereas community schools provide a strong social return on investment, with one study citing a social return of between $10 to $15 for every dollar invested over a 3-year period;

Whereas community school coordinators—

(1) are essential to building successful community schools and creating, strengthening, and maintaining partnerships between community schools and their communities;

(2) facilitate and provide leadership for the collaborative process and development of a system of supports and opportunities for children, families, and others within the community of a school that allow all students to learn and the community to thrive; and

(3) deliver a strong monetary return on investment for community schools and their communities, with one study citing a return

of $7.11 for every dollar invested in the salary of a community school coordinator; and

Whereas Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week, celebrated from September 15 through September 21, 2024, recognizes, raises awareness of, and celebrates the thousands of community school coordinators across the country and the critical role of community school coordinators in the success of students: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 15 through September 21, 2024, as ''Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week'';

(2) thanks community school coordinators for the work they do to serve students, families, and communities; and

(3) encourages students, parents, school administrators, and public officials to participate in events that celebrate Community School Coordinators Appreciation Week.

SENATE RESOLUTION 871—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2024 AS ''NATIONAL YOUTH JUSTICE ACTION MONTH''

Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 871

Whereas the historical role of the juvenile court system is to rehabilitate and treat young people while holding them accountable and maintaining public safety, and the juvenile court system is therefore better equipped to work with youth than the adult criminal justice system, which is punitive in nature;

Whereas youth are developmentally different from adults, and those differences have been—

(1) documented by research on the adolescent brain; and

(2) acknowledged by the Supreme Court of the United States, State supreme courts, and many State and Federal laws that prohibit youth under the age of 18 from taking on major adult responsibilities such as voting, jury duty, and military service;

Whereas most laws allowing the prosecution of youth as adults were enacted before the publication of research-based evidence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice demonstrating that prosecuting youth in adult court actually decreases public safety, as, on average, youth prosecuted in adult court are 34 percent more likely to commit future crimes than youth retained in the juvenile court system;

Whereas youth deserve an opportunity to demonstrate their potential to grow and change, and youth who are placed under the commitment of the juvenile court system often do not receive access to age-appropriate services and education and remain far from their families, which increases the likelihood that those youth will commit offenses in the future;

Whereas, between 2000 and 2022, there was a 75 percent decline in youth incarceration in the United States, but troubling disparities remain;

Whereas youth of color, youth with disabilities, youth with mental health challenges, and youth in foster care are disproportionately represented at all stages of the criminal justice system;

Whereas it is harmful to public safety and to young people in the legal system to confine youth in adult jails or prisons where they are significantly more likely to be physically and sexually assaulted, and are often placed in solitary confinement;

Whereas youth sentenced as adults receive an adult criminal record that hinders future education, housing, and employment opportunities; and

Whereas, in October, people around the United States participate in Youth Justice Action Month—

(1) to increase public awareness of the impact of the justice system; and

(2) to provide people across the United States with an opportunity to develop action-oriented events in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges that the collateral consequences normally applied in the adult criminal justice system should not automatically apply to youth arrested for crimes before the age of 18;

(2) expresses support for the designation of October 2024 as ''National Youth Justice Action Month'';

(3) recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Youth Justice Action Month; and

(4) recognizes the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11101 et seq.), as amended by the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–385; 132 Stat. 5123), and the importance of reauthorization, funding, and continued implementation in a manner consistent with the spirit and intent of the law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 872—RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND THE DEATH OF DANIEL J. EVANS, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 872

Whereas Daniel ''Dan'' Evans was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1925;

Whereas Dan Evans graduated from Roosevelt High School in Seattle in 1943;

Whereas Dan Evans enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943, and served a 3-year tour of duty as an ensign aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific during World War II;

Whereas, after World War II, Dan Evans earned a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington and worked as a civil engineer in Seattle;

Whereas, in 1951, Dan Evans was recalled to the United States Navy for the Korean War, where he served as an operations officer on a destroyer with the rank of lieutenant and later as an aide to Admiral William K. Mendenhall during peace negotiations at Panmunjon;

Whereas Dan Evans married the late Nancy Bell Evans of Spokane, Washington, in 1959 and is survived by three sons, Daniel Jr., Mark, and Bruce;

Whereas Dan Evans was first elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1956 and served as the Republican floor leader from 1961 to 1964;

Whereas Dan Evans was first elected Governor of the State of Washington in 1964 and became the first person in Washington State history to serve 3 terms as Governor, winning reelection in 1968 and 1972;

Whereas Dan Evans served as Chair of the National Governors Association from 1973 to 1974;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the President of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, from 1977 to 1983;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the first Chair of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council from 1981 to 1983;

Whereas, in 1983, Governor John Spellman appointed Dan Evans to the Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of former Senator Henry ''Scoop'' Jackson of Washington;

Whereas Dan Evans was elected to the Senate in a special election in 1983, and served as the Senator from Washington from 1983 to 1989;

Whereas Dan Evans served as Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate from 1987 to 1989;

Whereas, in 1993, Governor Mike Lowry appointed Dan Evans to the Board of Regents of the University of Washington;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the President of the Board of Regents of the University of Washington from 1996 to 1997;

Whereas, in 1999, the University of Washington Graduate School of Public Affairs was renamed the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance; and

Whereas, in 2017, the Olympic Wilderness in Olympic National Park was renamed the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Daniel J. Evans, former member of the Senate;

(2) the Senate will communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Daniel J. Evans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 873—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF RED RIBBON WEEK DURING THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 23 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2024

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 873

Whereas the National Family Partnership started the Red Ribbon Campaign in 1988—

(1) to educate the people of the United States and encourage participation in drug prevention activities;

(2) to preserve the memory of Enrique ''Kiki'' Camarena (referred to in this preamble as ''Special Agent Camarena''), a special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration who—

(A) served the Drug Enforcement Administration for 11 years; and

(B) was murdered in the line of duty in 1985, while engaged in the battle against illicit drugs;

(3) to commemorate the service of Special Agent Camarena to the Drug Enforcement Administration and the people of the United States; and

(4) to further the cause for which Special Agent Camarena gave his life;

Whereas the Red Ribbon Campaign is the longest-standing drug use prevention program in the United States, bringing drug awareness to millions of people in the United States each year;

Whereas Red Ribbon Week is celebrated every year during the period of October 23 through October 31 by—

(1) State Governors and attorneys general;

(2) the National Family Partnership;
(3) parent-teacher associations;
(4) Boys and Girls Clubs of America;
(5) the Young Marines;
(6) the Drug Enforcement Administration; and
(7) hundreds of other organizations throughout the United States;

Whereas the objective of Red Ribbon Week is to promote the creation of drug-free communities through drug use prevention efforts, education programs, parental involvement, and community-wide support through specific actions such as lighting up buildings and landmarks, and activities that engage the public;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdoses are the leading cause of death in people in the United States between the ages of 18 to 45, outnumbering deaths by firearms, motor vehicle crashes, suicide, or homicide;

Whereas over 107,000 people died from drug overdoses in the United States in 2023;

Whereas reducing the demand for illicit controlled substances would—
(1) curtail lethal addictions and overdoses; and
(2) reduce the violence associated with drug trafficking;

Whereas, although public awareness of illicit drug use is increasing, emerging drug threats and growing epidemics continue to demand attention;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration hosts a National Take Back Day twice a year, on the last Saturdays of October and April, for the public to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs that can lead to accidental poisoning, overdose, or misuse;

Whereas the National Family Partnership hosts Lock Your Meds, a multi-media campaign and program to encourage individuals, businesses, and communities to dispose of drugs appropriately and to reduce the demand for drugs;

Whereas Lock Your Meds is statewide in Idaho, North Carolina, and throughout the southeastern United States;

Whereas synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and the analogues of fentanyl devastated communities and families at an unprecedented rate, claiming more than 80,000 lives in 2023;

Whereas the presence of fentanyl and the analogues of fentanyl pose hazards to police officers and law enforcement agents;

Whereas 7 out of 10 fake prescription pills containing fentanyl tested at Drug Enforcement Administration laboratories contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration has created a special exhibit entitled ''The Faces of Fentanyl'' to commemorate the lives lost from fentanyl poisoning, and has received over 5,000 photos as of the date of enactment of this resolution;

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration seized more than 80,000,000 fentanyl-laced, fake prescription pills and more than 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder in 2023;

Whereas over 4,000 people in the United States died from a drug overdose involving heroin in 2023, a rate of over 1 death for every 100,000 people in the United States;

Whereas, from 2022 to 2023, drug overdose deaths involving cocaine increased by over 7 percent, with almost 30,000 people in the United States dying from such an overdose in 2023;

Whereas, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2,500,000 people in the United States aged 12 or older reported having used methamphetamine in 2021;

Whereas psychostimulants with abuse potential, such as methamphetamine, were involved in 1.2 times as many drug overdose deaths as cocaine; and

Whereas parents, young people, schools, businesses, law enforcement agencies, religious institutions and faith-based organizations, service organizations, senior citizens, medical and military personnel, sports teams, and individuals throughout the United States will demonstrate their commitment to healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles by wearing and displaying red ribbons during the week-long celebration of Red Ribbon Week; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) supports the goals and ideals of Red Ribbon Week during the period of October 23 through October 31, 2024;
(2) encourages the people of the United States to wear and display red ribbons during Red Ribbon Week to symbolize their commitment to healthy, drug-free lifestyles;
(3) encourages the people of the United States to light up buildings and landmarks to send a drug-free message;
(4) encourages children, teens, and other individuals to choose to live drug-free lives; and
(5) encourages the people of the United States—
(A) to promote the creation of drug-free communities; and
(B) to participate in drug use prevention activities to show support for healthy, productive, and drug-free lifestyles.

SENATE RESOLUTION 874—HONORING THE SOUTHEAST REGION LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM FROM LAKE MARY, FLORIDA, FOR WINNING THE 2024 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. RUBIO (for Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO)) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 874

Whereas, on August 25, 2024, the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary Little League of Lake Mary, Florida, won the Little League Baseball World Series;

Whereas this is the first time a Florida team has won the Little League Baseball World Series in the 77-year history of the series;

Whereas the Southeast Region team achieved an undefeated record by obtaining 4 wins and 0 losses in the Southeast Region Tournament and 4 wins and 0 losses in the Little League Baseball World Series playoffs and winning the championship game;

Whereas the Southeast Region team players, coaches, and managers showed tremendous dedication and sportsmanship throughout the season toward the goal of winning the Little League Baseball World Series Championship;

Whereas the Southeast Region team fans from Florida showed enthusiasm, support, and courtesy for all of the players and coaches and the game of baseball; and

Whereas, in the 77th Little League Baseball World Series championship game, the Southeast Region baseball team faced the Asia-Pacific Region baseball team from Kuei-Shan Little League of Taoyuan, Taiwan, and came away victorious by a score of 2-1 in extra innings after a walk-off bunt: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary, Florida, for winning the 2024 Little League Baseball World Series Championship.

SENATE RESOLUTION 875—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 21, 2024, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS ''BLUE STAR WELCOME WEEK''

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 875

Whereas Blue Star Families seeks to empower military families by connecting them with their neighbors—individuals and organizations—to create vibrant communities of mutual support;

Whereas Blue Star Families annually designates the week beginning the second to last Saturday in September and concluding 8 days thereafter as ''Blue Star Welcome Week'';

Whereas, during Blue Star Welcome Week, the Senate recognizes the 600,000 active duty and transitioning military families who move to new communities each year;

Whereas nearly half of these permanent change of station (PCS) moves occur during the summer; and

Whereas a sense of belonging is essential to the well-being and readiness of military families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—
(1) designates September 21, 2024, through September 29, 2024, as ''Blue Star Welcome Week'';
(2) expresses gratitude for the sacrifices made by service members, transitioning veterans, and their families;
(3) commits to ensuring that military-connected families feel a strong sense of belonging to their local civilian communities; and
(4) encourages civilians across the United States to welcome military-connected families into their communities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 876—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2024 AS ''NATIONAL PRINCIPALS MONTH''

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 876

Whereas the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the American Federation of School Administrators have declared October 2024 to be ''National Principals Month'';

Whereas principals are educational visionaries, instructional and assessment leaders, community builders, budget analysts, facilities managers, and administrators of legal and contractual obligations;

Whereas principals work collaboratively with teachers and parents to develop and implement clear missions, high curriculum standards, and performance goals;

Whereas principals create school environments that facilitate great teaching and learning and continuous school improvement;

Whereas the vision, actions, and dedication of principals provide the mobilizing force behind any school improvement effort; and

Whereas the celebration of National Principals Month would honor elementary school, middle school, and high school principals and recognize the importance of principals in ensuring that every child has access to a high-quality education: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2024 as ''National Principals Month'';

(2) honors the contributions of principals in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the United States; and

(3) supports the goals and ideals of National Principals Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 877—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 6, 2024, THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL COMMUNITY POLICING WEEK''

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 877

Whereas police officers are indispensable members of the community who put their lives on the line to protect others;

Whereas promoting strong relationships, founded in trust and mutual respect, between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve helps ensure the safe and effective execution of the law;

Whereas relationships developed through community policing help protect both law enforcement officers and civilians;

Whereas law enforcement officers and communities that work together to address public safety concerns can create lasting solutions to difficult challenges;

Whereas community policing has helped produce reductions in both violent and property crime;

Whereas events in recent years have sparked a nationwide call to improve the interactions between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve, particularly communities of color;

Whereas community policing facilitates peaceful dialogue, capable of fostering understanding and trust, between law enforcement officers and civilians;

Whereas community policing informs the public about the challenges that law enforcement officers face in executing their duties and provides law enforcement officers insight into the concerns of community members;

Whereas a long-term commitment to community policing is necessary to eliminate the underlying causes of crime;

Whereas the advancement of community policing should be supported to ensure that State and local law enforcement agencies have necessary resources; and

Whereas community policing has been recognized as an important tool for improving the relationship between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as ''National Community Policing Week''; and

(2) supports community policing and encourages the people of the United States, law enforcement agencies, and elected officials to identify ways in which communities can improve public safety, strengthen relationships, and build trust.

SENATE RESOLUTION 878—HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES EARL JONES

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 878

Whereas James Earl Jones was born on January 17, 1931, to Robert Earl Jones and Ruth Connolly Jones in Arkabutla, Mississippi;

Whereas, at the age of 5, Mr. Jones moved to Dublin, Michigan, with his maternal grandparents, John Henry Connolly and Maggie Connolly, who raised him;

Whereas, as a young boy, Mr. Jones spoke few words, suffering from a debilitating stutter;

Whereas, in high school, an English teacher discovered Mr. Jones's gift for writing and convinced him to read his poetry aloud, leading Mr. Jones to overcome his stutter;

Whereas, in 1949, Mr. Jones enrolled at the University of Michigan, where he joined the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and initially prepared to study medicine before switching to drama;

Whereas, in 1953, Mr. Jones commissioned in the United States Army, training at Fort Benning in Georgia, before being assigned to Camp Hale near Leadville, Colorado, and later being discharged as a first lieutenant;

Whereas, in 1955, Mr. Jones moved to New York, New York, to study at the American Theatre Wing, paying his way by working as a janitor;

Whereas, in 1958, Mr. Jones performed in his first Broadway production, Sunrise at Campobello, which launched his stage career;

Whereas, over the course of his 60-year career, Mr. Jones gave life to nearly 90 television network dramas and episodic series, over 110 movies, and countless plays, including a 30-month span in which he appeared in 18 different stage productions;

Whereas, in 1960, Mr. Jones joined Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival, paving the way for his performances in ''Henry V,'' ''Romeo and Juliet,'' ''Richard III,'' ''A Midsummer Night's Dream,'' and ''Othello'';

Whereas, in 1964, Mr. Jones debuted in the Cold War satire ''Dr. Strangelove,'' which established him in Hollywood, both on screen and behind the microphone, his voice exuding a timeless depth and intensity which drew listeners in and left a lasting impression;

Whereas, in 1969, Mr. Jones was the first celebrity guest on ''Sesame Street,'' appearing in the second-ever episode of the children's series and slowly reciting the alphabet;

Whereas Mr. Jones spent his career as a pioneer for Black actors of his generation, as exemplified in his becoming one of the first Black actors to have a continuing role on a daytime soap opera in ''As the World Turns'' and in becoming the first Black actor to win a 1969 Tony Award in the play category for his performance in ''The Great White Hope'';

Whereas, in 1977, Mr. Jones gave voice to Darth Vader in George Lucas's ''Star Wars,'' even humbly requesting that his name not appear in the credits out of deference to a co-star;

Whereas it was not until the third film in the original Star Wars trilogy, ''Return of the Jedi,'' that Mr. Jones would be credited as the voice of Darth Vader;

Whereas, in 1982, Mr. Jones wed the late Cecilia Hart, who had played Desdemona to his Othello, and together they had a son, Flynn Earl Jones;

Whereas, in 1994, Mr. Jones embodied the voice of Mufasa in Disney's ''The Lion King'' and was the only cast member to reprise his role in the 2019 remake of the film;

Whereas, in 2015, at the age of 84, Mr. Jones returned to Broadway to appear in the revival of the 1976 play ''The Gin Game'';

Whereas, in 2022, a Broadway theater, formerly known as the ''Cort,'' was renamed the James Earl Jones Theatre in his honor, the same house in which Mr. Jones began his career in 1958;

Whereas Mr. Jones earned a remarkable number of awards and accolades throughout his career in theater and film, including—

(1) a National Medal of the Arts from President George Bush in 1992;

(2) the Kennedy Center Honor in 2002;

(3) the Honorary Award for Lifetime Achievement at the 2011 Academy Awards;

(4) the Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre at the 2017 Tony Awards;

(5) two Primetime Emmy Awards, 2 Tony Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and a Grammy Award for individual performances; and

(6) a rare EGOT tally, achieving the ''grand slam'' of American show business by winning Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony awards; and

Whereas, on September 9, 2024, Mr. Jones passed away at 93 years old—Mississippi losing a beloved son, and the world losing an extraordinary talent: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of James Earl Jones for his contribution to theater, film, his State, and his country;

(2) recognizes that the voice and heart of Mr. Jones will be remembered for generations to come;

(3) extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Jones; and

(4) requests that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family of Mr. Jones as a token of the Senate's respect and admiration for his life's work.

SENATE RESOLUTION 879—PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 879

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within a Senate building or other office secured for a Senator nonmonetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a nonprofit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the second session of the 118th Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 880—SUPPORTING AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AND LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, A NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2024

Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 880

Whereas millions of children in the United States have parents who work outside the home;

Whereas high-quality programs that expand learning opportunities for children, such as afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities, provide safe, challenging, engaging, and fun learning experiences, including experiences that encourage the study of science, technology, engineering, and math that help children and youth develop social, emotional, physical, cultural, and academic skills;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs and high-quality expanded learning opportunities provide students with hands-on, engaging lessons that are aligned with the school day;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs complement regular and expanded school days and support working families by ensuring that the children of those families are safe and productive during the hours parents are working;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs engage families, schools, and diverse community partners in advancing the well-being of children and youth in the United States;

Whereas high-quality afterschool programs that partner with high-quality community-based organizations build stronger communities by integrating schools with the larger community; and

Whereas Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool, before-school, summer, and expanded learning opportunities programs will be held on October 24, 2024, to highlight the critical importance of those high-quality programs to children and the families and communities of those children: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 24, 2024.

SENATE RESOLUTION 881—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 26, 2024, AS THE ''DAY OF THE DEPLOYED''

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 881

Whereas more than 2,000,000 individuals serve as members of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the reserve components of the Armed Forces;

Whereas several hundred thousand members of the Armed Forces are serving overseas in every region of the world;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 members of the Armed Forces have deployed to the area of operations of the United States Central Command since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks;

Whereas, in the decades following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, members of the Armed Forces deployed in two major wars and countless operations throughout the world, and their service and bravery helped protect the United States from further terrorist attacks;

Whereas the United States is kept strong and free by the loyal military personnel from the total force of the Armed Forces, which includes the Active Duty components, the National Guard, and the Reserves, who protect the precious heritage of the United States through their declarations and actions;

Whereas the United States remains committed to providing the fullest possible accounting for personnel missing from past conflicts ranging from World War II through current day conflicts;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces serving at home and abroad have courageously answered the call to duty to defend the ideals of the United States and to preserve peace and freedom around the world;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces are called upon to respond to an increasingly complex and wide-ranging set of global threats to the United States;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces continue to come under enemy fire while deployed, risking their lives to protect Americans at home.

Whereas the United States remains committed to easing the transition from deployment abroad to service at home for members of the Armed Forces and the families of the members;

Whereas members of the Armed Forces personify the virtues of patriotism, service, duty, courage, and sacrifice;

Whereas the families of members of the Armed Forces make important and significant sacrifices for the United States; and

Whereas the Senate has designated October 26 as the ''Day of the Deployed'' since 2011: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 26, 2024, as the ''Day of the Deployed'';

(2) honors the deployed members of the Armed Forces of the United States and the families of the members;

(3) calls on the people of the United States to reflect on the service of those members of the Armed Forces, wherever the members serve, past, present, and future; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe the ''Day of the Deployed'' with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 882—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK''

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. SMITH, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 882

Whereas, across the United States, clean and readily abundant forms of energy are powering more homes and businesses than ever before;

Whereas clean energy generation is readily available from zero- and low-emissions sources;

Whereas the clean energy sector is a growing part of the economy and has been a key driver of economic growth in the United States in recent years;

Whereas technological innovation can further reduce costs, enhance reliability, and increase deployment of clean energy sources;

Whereas the report of the Department of Energy entitled ''United States Energy & Employment Report 2024'' found that, in 2023, the energy and energy efficiency sectors in the United States employed approximately 8,350,000 individuals;

Whereas the scaling of affordable and exportable clean energy is essential to reducing global emissions;

Whereas clean energy jobs contribute to the growth of local economies; and

Whereas innovative clean energy solutions and clean energy jobs are part of the energy future of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 23 through September 27, 2024, as ''National Clean Energy Week'';

(2) encourages individuals and organizations across the United States to support commonsense solutions that address the economic, environmental, and energy needs of the United States in the 21st century;

(3) supports reliable and affordable energy for the people of the United States; and

(4) recognizes the role of entrepreneurs and small businesses in ensuring the leadership of the United States in the global energy marketplace and in supporting low-cost, clean, and reliable energy in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 883—RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF AMERICA ON ITS 120TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KING, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 883

Whereas, in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America was founded as a positive disruption to society by making valuable mentorship the alternative to sending kids to the juvenile justice system;

Whereas, as of 2024, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has more than 230 local agencies in more than 5,000 communities in all 50 States and the District of Columbia to inspire and engage youth to achieve their full potential;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters of America—

(1) operates under the belief that inherent in every child is incredible potential; and

(2) establishes powerful connections through meaningful matches of volunteer mentors and young people from age 5 through young adulthood;

Whereas, since its founding, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has served adult volunteers, young people, and families, and built a strong network of an estimated 20,000,000 alumni and champions;

Whereas mentoring is an evidence-based and effective method to support the emotional, social, physical, educational, and economic success of young people;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, through its efforts in communities across the United States, has significantly impacted the ability of young people to meet

various challenges, including challenges associated with mental health, educational achievement, workforce development, and criminal violence prevention;

Whereas 92 percent of youth in Big Brothers Big Sisters of America programs feel a greater sense of belonging and view their mentor as a very important adult in their life;

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has been supported by a dedicated network of volunteers, donors, and partners, who have generously contributed their time, resources, and expertise to further the mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America; and

Whereas Big Brothers Big Sisters of America raises significant private funding from individuals, corporations, and foundation grants, which compliments its Federal investment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Big Brothers Big Sisters of America for its work mentoring the young people of the United States and strengthening thousands of communities;

(2) acknowledges the 120th anniversary of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and all of the achievements of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America;

(3) recognizes that access to a positive, sustained mentor can change the life trajectory of a young person; and

(4) supports Big Brothers Big Sisters of America in continuing and expanding programs that support young people.

SENATE RESOLUTION 884—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28, 2024, AS ''GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE WEEK''

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH (for herself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 884

Whereas the last Sunday in September—

(1) is designated as ''Gold Star Mother's Day'' under section 111 of title 36, United States Code; and

(2) was first designated as ''Gold Star Mother's Day'' under the Joint Resolution entitled ''Joint Resolution designating the last Sunday in September as 'Gold Star Mother's Day', and for other purposes'', approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895);

Whereas there is no date dedicated to families affected by the loss of a loved one who died in service to the United States;

Whereas a gold star symbolizes a family member who died in the line of duty while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, through their service, bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas the selfless example of the service of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces, as well as the sacrifices made by the families of those individuals, inspires all individuals in the United States to sacrifice and work diligently for the good of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces and the families of veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as ''Gold Star Families Remembrance Week'';

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by—

(A) the families of members of the Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(B) the families of veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Week by—

(A) performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) celebrating families in which loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

SENATE RESOLUTION 885—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2, 2024, AS ''ENERGY EFFICIENCY DAY'' IN CELEBRATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS THAT HAVE BEEN DRIVEN BY PRIVATE SECTOR INNOVATION AND FEDERAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 885

Whereas October has been designated as ''National Energy Awareness Month'';

Whereas improvements in energy efficiency technologies and practices, along with policies of the United States enacted since the 1970s, have resulted in energy savings of more than 80,000,000,000,000,000 British thermal units and energy cost avoidance of more than $1,000,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas energy efficiency has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and in administrations of both parties for more than 50 years;

Whereas bipartisan legislation enacted since the 1970s to advance Federal energy efficiency policies includes—

(1) the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.);

(2) the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–12; 101 Stat. 103);

(3) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 et seq.);

(4) the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.);

(5) the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17001 et seq.);

(6) the Energy Efficiency Improvement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–11; 129 Stat. 182);

(7) the Energy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–260; 134 Stat. 2418); and

(8) the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 429);

Whereas energy efficiency has long been supported by a diverse coalition of businesses (including manufacturers, utilities, energy service companies, and technology firms), public interest organizations, environmental and conservation groups, and State and local governments;

Whereas, since 1980, the United States has more than doubled its energy productivity, realizing twice the economic output per unit of energy consumed;

Whereas more than 2,200,000 individuals in the United States are currently employed across the energy efficiency sector, as the United States has doubled its energy productivity, and business and industry have become more innovative and competitive in global markets;

Whereas the Department of Energy is the principal Federal agency responsible for renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency efforts;

Whereas cutting energy waste saves the consumers of the United States billions of dollars on utility bills annually; and

Whereas energy efficiency policies, financing innovations, and public-private partnerships have contributed to a reduction in energy intensity in Federal facilities by nearly 50 percent since the mid-1970s, which results in direct savings to United States taxpayers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 2, 2024, as ''Energy Efficiency Day''; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe Energy Efficiency Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 886—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 24, 2024, TO OCTOBER 31, 2024, AS ''BAT WEEK''

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 886

Whereas bats are vital to the sustainability of natural ecosystems, national economies, and human health by controlling damaging insect pests, pollinating plants that produce fruits and vegetables, dispersing seeds to ensure healthy functioning forests and fields, and saving farmers in the United States more than $3,000,000,000 in pest control every year;

Whereas bats have captured the human imagination through backyard sightings, folklore, art, myths, and legends, making outreach and education about the importance of bats instrumental;

Whereas bats are present throughout the world, except in extremely cold regions, and are the second-largest order of mammals with over 1,400 species;

Whereas white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats in North America, has now spread to 40 States and 12 species of hibernating bats;

Whereas the disease has caused significant declines in populations of the tricolored bat, the little brown bat, and the northern long-eared bat, which is listed as endangered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

Whereas the Department of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, is leading the international response to the disease in partnership with the United States Forest Service and more than 150 Federal and State agencies, Tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and universities;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service co-lead the multinational, multi-agency North American Bat Monitoring Program, which, since 2015, has consolidated nearly 94,000,000 records from partners in 49 States, 9 Canadian Provinces, and 20 Tribal

organizations, demonstrating the power of collaborative conservation science to monitor changes in North American bat populations;

Whereas the United States Geological Survey conducts scientific research on bats that helps resource managers and policymakers make informed decisions regarding the conservation of bats across North America; and

Whereas, in the past decade, the international partnership of States, Tribes, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other institutions has made extraordinary progress to understand white-nose syndrome, slow the spread of the disease, and develop treatments that hold promise for ending this epidemic: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2024, to October 31, 2024, as ''Bat Week'';

(2) encourages the observance of Bat Week with appropriate events and activities;

(3) acknowledges the important role bats play as pollinators and pest control for agriculture; and

(4) intends to—

(A) continue working to conserve bat species and their habitat; and

(B) work to defeat the disease known as white-nose syndrome.

SENATE RESOLUTION 887—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 7 THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL 4–H WEEK''

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 887

Whereas 4–H is the largest youth development organization in the United States, supporting nearly 6,000,000 young people across the United States;

Whereas 4–H helps young people become confident, independent, resilient, and compassionate leaders;

Whereas 4–H is delivered by the Cooperative Extension System, a community of more than 110 land-grant colleges and universities across the United States that provides experiences for young people to learn through hands-on projects in the important areas of health, science, agriculture, and civic engagement;

Whereas the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture serves as the Federal partner of 4–H in collaboration with land-grant colleges and universities, the Cooperative Extension System, and National 4–H Council;

Whereas National 4–H Week showcases the incredible ways 4–H provides opportunities for all young people and highlights the remarkable members of 4–H in all 50 States and across the globe who work each day to make a positive impact on other individuals;

Whereas the 4–H network of nearly 500,000 volunteers and 3,500 professionals provides caring and supportive mentoring to all members of 4–H, helping members to grow into true leaders, entrepreneurs, and visionaries; and

Whereas members of 4–H will celebrate National 4–H Week during the week of October 7 through October 12, 2024: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of October 7 through October 12, 2024, as ''National 4–H Week'';

(2) recognizes the important role of 4–H as the youth development program of the Cooperative Extension System and the Department of Agriculture in the United States;

(3) encourages all citizens to recognize 4–H for the significant impact the organization and members have made and continue to make by empowering youth with the skills needed to lead for a lifetime; and

(4) celebrates the work of 4-H in developing engaged, healthy, and productive citizens who are ''Beyond Ready'' for work and life in a world of change.

SENATE RESOLUTION 888—HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES RALPH SASSER, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 888

Whereas James Ralph Sasser (referred to in this preamble as ''Senator Sasser'')—

(1) was born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1936;

(2) attended the University of Tennessee from 1954 to 1955;

(3) graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1958; and

(4) received a law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1961;

Whereas, as a student at Vanderbilt University, Senator Sasser met Mary Gorman, to whom he was married for over 60 years;

Whereas, after graduating from law school, Senator Sasser was admitted to the Tennessee Bar and began practicing law in Nashville, Tennessee;

Whereas Senator Sasser began his lifetime of service to the United States by serving in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1957 to 1963;

Whereas Senator Sasser was first elected to the Senate in 1976, where he served with honor and distinction for 3 terms;

Whereas, from 1989 to 1995, Senator Sasser was chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate, where he helped negotiate and pass budget deals under Presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton;

Whereas, from 1996 to 1999, Senator Sasser adeptly served as the Ambassador to China under President Clinton;

Whereas, during his tenure as Ambassador to China, Senator Sasser and his staff—

(1) worked to improve relations between the United States and China, which included arranging mutual state visits such as—

(A) Chinese President Jiang Zemin visiting the United States in 1997; and

(B) President Clinton visiting China in 1998; and

(2) bravely withstood days of violent protests against the United States Embassy in Beijing, China;

Whereas, following his retirement as Ambassador to China, Senator Sasser served as a visiting professor at George Washington University and later as a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;

Whereas Senator Sasser served the State of Tennessee proudly and leaves behind a legacy of distinguished service to—

(1) the State of Tennessee; and

(2) the citizens of the State of Tennessee;

Whereas the State of Tennessee and the United States are immensely grateful for the lifelong commitment of Senator Sasser to public service; and

Whereas Senator Sasser is survived by—

(1) his wife, Mary Gorman Sasser;

(2) his son, James Gray Sasser;

(3) his daughter, Elizabeth Sasser;

(4) his 2 sisters, Jo Marilyn O'Brien and Phyllis Donnally; and

(5) 4 grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of James Ralph Sasser; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late James Ralph Sasser.

SENATE RESOLUTION 889—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2024, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr.

GRAHAM, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 889

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of patriotic men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas dedicated workers paid a high price for advancing a nuclear weapons program at the service and for the benefit of the United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contributions, services, and sacrifices that those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in—

(1) Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009;

(2) Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010;

(3) Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011;

(4) Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

(5) Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

(6) Senate Resolution 417, 113th Congress, agreed to July 9, 2014;

(7) Senate Resolution 213, 114th Congress, agreed to September 25, 2015;

(8) Senate Resolution 560, 114th Congress, agreed to November 16, 2016;

(9) Senate Resolution 314, 115th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2017;

(10) Senate Resolution 682, 115th Congress, agreed to October 11, 2018;

(11) Senate Resolution 377, 116th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2019;

(12) Senate Resolution 741, 116th Congress, agreed to September 30, 2020;

(13) Senate Resolution 438, 117th Congress, agreed to February 25, 2022;

(14) Senate Resolution 785, 117th Congress, agreed to December 22, 2022; and

(15) Senate Resolution 452, 118th Congress, agreed to November 6, 2023; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contributions, services, and sacrifices they made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States, including the uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 890—CONDEMNING THE BRUTAL HAMAS-LED TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL ON OCTOBER 7, 2023, AND SUPPORTING AN OUTCOME THAT ENSURES THE FOREVER SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL, THE COMPLETE DENIAL OF THE ABILITY OF HAMAS TO RECONSTITUTE IN THE REGION, AND THE SAFE RELEASE OF UNITED STATES HOSTAGES FROM THE GAZA STRIP

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PAUL, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VANCE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 890

Whereas Hamas is a foreign terrorist organization designated by the Secretary of State under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), whose founding charter states a commitment to destroying Israel and any nation that would support it, including the United States;

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Iran-backed Hamas terrorists led an attack on Israel, killing approximately 1,200 individuals, including 40 United States citizens, taking 251 individuals hostage, and launching thousands of rockets toward Israel;

Whereas Israel, like other sovereign states, has a right to defend itself;

Whereas, after a year of continued and growing hostilities by Iranian proxies, Israel has launched operations to defend its people, eradicate Hamas terrorists, and rescue hostages held in the Gaza Strip;

Whereas Iran-backed Hamas has proven that it has no desire for peace in the region and has repeatedly broken negotiated ceasefire agreements and initiated attacks against Israel; and

Whereas, since October 7, 2023, Iran-backed terrorists continue rocket attacks on innocent civilians, disrupting major shipping and trade routes throughout the region, lobbing attacks on United States personnel and bases across the region, and killing and injuring more than 186 troops: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns Iran-backed Hamas for its brutal attacks on Israel;

(2) condemns Iran-backed Hamas for killing and taking hostage United States citizens;

(3) condemns Iran-backed Hamas for its use of rape as a weapon of war and for its inhumane treatment, torture, and killing of hostages;

(4) condemns the destructive and antisemitic protests in which property has been damaged, flags have been torn down, burned, and replaced with Hamas flags, and Jewish Americans have felt their safety threatened; and

(5) supports an outcome that will—

(A) ensure the forever survival of Israel;

(B) destroy the ability of Hamas to reconstitute any leadership role in the region; and

(C) safely release and return all United States hostages.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42—RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EQUAL PAY AND THE DISPARITY IN WAGES PAID TO LATINA WOMEN IN COMPARISON TO WHITE, NON-HISPANIC MEN

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HELMY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 42

Whereas October 3, 2024, is designated as ''Latina Equal Pay Day'' to observe the pay gap between Latina women and White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas, as of 2024, there are 13,907,000 Hispanic women in the labor force, representing slightly more than 17 percent of all women in the labor force;

Whereas section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)) (commonly known as the ''Equal Pay Act of 1963'') prohibits discrimination in wages on the basis of sex for equal work;

Whereas title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.) prohibits discrimination in compensation because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex;

Whereas, despite the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 (Public Law 88–38; 77 Stat. 56) more than 6 decades ago, which established that employers shall not discriminate in wages on the basis of sex, but shall provide equal pay for equal work, Bureau of the Census data show that Latina women working full-time and year-round are paid 58 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men, while the average wage differential for all Latina women with reported earnings working full-time, part-time, and part-year is 51 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas an analysis by the National Partnership for Women & Families of data from the Bureau of the Census shows that disabled Latina women are paid 44 cents for every dollar paid to White, non-Hispanic, nondisabled men;

Whereas the National Women's Law Center has calculated that, on average, Latina women lose over $1,200,000 in potential earnings over a 40-year career to the wage gap;

Whereas, at the rate observed in 2023, Latina women will not reach equal pay with White non-Hispanic men for 182 years after the date of enactment of this resolution;

Whereas, in 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of the Census reported the median annual pay for all Latina women in the United States working full-time, part-time, and part-year was $32,410, compared to the median annual pay of $63,210 for White, non-Hispanic men;

Whereas lost wages mean Latina women have less money to support themselves and their families, save and invest for the future, and spend on goods and services;

Whereas approximately 51 percent of Latina women are unable to earn sick days through their jobs;

Whereas the lack of access to affordable, quality child care, paid family and medical leave, and other family-friendly workplace policies forces many Latina women to choose between their paycheck or job and getting quality care for themselves or their family members, a dynamic that contributes to the wage gap;

Whereas, if the annual wage gap were eliminated, on average, a Latina woman working full-time and year-round would have enough money to pay for nearly 3 years of childcare, 37 months of food, or more than 16 months of mortgage and utility payments;

Whereas workplace harassment forces many women to leave their occupation or industry, or pass up opportunities for advancement, which contributes to the gender wage gap;

Whereas targets of workplace harassment are 6.5 times as likely as nontargets to change jobs;

Whereas there is a high personal cost for women who have been sexually harassed, including unemployment, under-employment, and financial stress resulting from changing jobs, which lead to long-term consequences for earnings and career attainment;

Whereas, in 2023, nearly 70 percent of workers paid the minimum wage or less were women, and there was a disproportionate concentration of women of color in low-wage and tipped jobs;

Whereas the pay disparity Latina women face is part of a wider set of disparities Latina women face in homeownership, unemployment, poverty, access to childcare, and the ability to build wealth;

Whereas the underpayment of Latina women workers causes businesses and the economy to suffer;

Whereas true pay equity requires a multifaceted strategy that addresses the gender and racial injustices that Latina women face daily; and

Whereas many national organizations have designated October 3, 2024, as ''Latina Equal Pay Day'' to recognize the pay gap between Latina women and White, non-Hispanic men in the prior year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the disparity in wages paid to Latina women and the impact of that disparity on women, families, the economy, and the United States; and

(2) reaffirms its support for ensuring equal pay and closing the gender wage gap.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 43—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2024, AS ''VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DAY''

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 43

Whereas, on September 29, 1899, the organization now known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was founded in Columbus, Ohio, in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection;

Whereas, on September 29, 2024, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States will celebrate its 125th anniversary;

Whereas, since 1899, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has provided voluntary and unselfish service to the Armed Forces, veterans, and the United States by—

(1) advocating for overarching benefits programs for veterans;

(2) facilitating veterans transitioning back to civilian society;

(3) serving the communities in which veterans live; and

(4) taking a national leadership role on substantive issues important to veterans of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States provides an opportunity to recognize, honor, and pay tribute to the nearly 1,000,000 veterans of the Armed Forces represented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States who served in combat from World War II to the present day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) expresses support for the designation of September 29, 2024, as ''Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day'';

(2) recognizes the historic significance of the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and congratulates the organization on achieving that milestone;

(3) commends the nearly 1,000,000 veterans who belong to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and thanks those veterans for their service to their fellow veterans and the United States; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to observe September 29, 2024, with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3298. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 9747, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3299. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. HAGERTY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

SA 3300. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 805, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention.

SA 3301. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 805, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3298. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 9747, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. For ''Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund'', there is appropriated $5,600,000,000 for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended, for the same purposes and under the same terms and conditions as funds appropriated under such heading in title VIII of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–43; 135 Stat. 355), except that such amounts shall be for major disasters that occurred in 2023 or 2024 and the fourth, 20th, and 21st provisos under such heading in such Act shall not apply: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this section, no less than $3,500,000,000 shall be allocated for declared major disasters that occurred in 2023 within 30 days of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this section, $25,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building and technical assistance, including assistance on contracting and procurement processes, to support recipients of allocations for major disasters from this, prior, or future Acts, including likely recipients, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, of allocations that may become available with respect to major disasters in future years: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this section, $25,000,000 shall be transferred, in aggregate, to ''Department of Housing and Urban Development— Program Office Salaries and Expenses—Community Planning and Development'' for necessary costs, including information technology costs, of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of amounts made available under this section or any Act enacted before or after the date of enactment of this Act that makes amounts available for purposes related to major disasters under the heading ''Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund'' and for additional information technology and other costs related to Department of Housing and Urban Development-wide or program specific disaster coordination and response: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available in this section, $5,000,000 shall be transferred in aggregate under the heading ''Department of Housing and Urban Development—Office of Inspector General'' for necessary costs of overseeing and auditing funds amounts made available under the heading ''Community Development Fund'' in this Act or any Act enacted before or after the date of enactment of this Act that makes amounts available for purposes related to major disasters under such heading: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this section and under the heading ''Community Planning and Development, Community Development Fund'' in any such Act may be used by a grantee to assist utilities as part of a disaster-related eligible activity under section 105(a) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)): *Provided further*, That such amount is 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 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

SEC. ____. For ''Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund'', there is appropriated $10,000,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended, of which $9,500,000,000 shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford

Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided,* That such amount is 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.

SA 3299. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. HAGERTY) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust; as follows:

Amend the title to read as follows: ''To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.''.

SA 3300. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 805, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: ''That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take all necessary steps to secure the release of Americans and deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to continue working with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of this national security threat and the United States Government's sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

SA 3301. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 805, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention; as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, ''for some reason I have physical courage, but, that's nothing compared to moral courage. If I don't have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don't have that moral courage, we don't have journalism'';

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), his death then used as propaganda against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to ''achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States'' and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government's hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that ''the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive overseas,'' and in 2023, upon negotiating the release of five Americans held in Iran, President Biden said that ''reuniting wrongfully detained Americans with their loved ones has been a priority for my Administration since day one'';

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the ''Bringing Americans Home'' report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexanda Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheik in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has successfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden's July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United State Government hostage, and strains international stability: Now, therefore, be it

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AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transporation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 91

AMENDMENT NO. 3299

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding passage of S. 91, as amended, the Hagerty amendment to the title at the desk be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3299) to the title was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the title)

Amend the title to read as follows: ''To award a Congressional Gold Medal collectively to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.''.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Colorado and the majority leader be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions from September 25, 2024, through September 27, 2024.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107–12, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Trevor Whipple of Vermont.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, reappoints the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Robert Charles Joondeph of Oregon.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader and the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 110–298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Juan Figueroa of New York.

The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, pursuant to Public Law 117–263), announces the appointment of the following individual to serve as member of the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: Jay Snyder of New York.

RURAL BROADBAND PROTECTION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 473, S. 275.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 275) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with an amendment to strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Rural Broadband Protection Act of 2024''.

SEC. 2. VETTING PROCESS FOR PROSPECTIVE HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND APPLICANTS.

Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(m) VETTING OF HIGH-COST FUND RECIPIENTS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'covered funding' means any new offer of high-cost universal service program funding, including funding provided through a reverse competitive bidding mechanism provided under this section, for the deployment of a broadband-capable network and the provision of supported services over the network; and

''(B) the term 'new covered funding award' means an award of covered funding that is made based on an application submitted to the Commission on or after the date on which rules are promulgated under paragraph (2).

''(2) COMMISSION RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to establish a vetting process for applicants for, and other recipients of, a new covered funding award.

''(3) CONTENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In promulgating rules under paragraph (2), the Commission shall provide that, consistent with principles of technology neutrality, the Commission will only award covered funding to applicants that can demonstrate that they meet the qualifications in subparagraph (B).

''(B) QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIBED.—An applicant for a new covered funding award shall include in the initial application a proposal containing sufficient detail and documentation for the Commission to ascertain that the applicant possesses the technical, financial, and operational capabilities, and has a reasonable business plan, to deploy the proposed network and deliver services with the relevant performance characteristics and requirements defined by the Commission and as pledged by the applicant.

''(C) EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL.—The Commission shall evaluate a proposal described in subparagraph (B) against—

''(i) reasonable and well-established technical, financial, and operational standards, including the technical standards adopted by the Commission in orders of the Commission relating to Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection (WC Docket No. 19–195) (or orders of the Commission relating to modernizing any successor collection) for purposes of entities that must report broadband availability coverage; and

''(ii) the applicant's history of complying with requirements in Commission and other government broadband deployment funding programs.

''(D) PENALTIES FOR PRE-AUTHORIZATION DEFAULTS.—In adopting rules for any new covered funding award, the Commission shall set a penalty for pre-authorization defaults of at least $9,000 per violation and may not limit the base forfeiture to an amount less than 30 percent of the applicant's total support, unless the Commission demonstrates the need for lower penalties in a particular instance.''.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 275), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

BOTTLES AND BREASTFEEDING EQUIPMENT SCREENING ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 474, S. 1570.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1570) to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1570) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1570

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 ''Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act''.

SEC. 2. HYGIENIC HANDLING OF BREAST MILK AND BABY FORMULA DURING AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING.

The Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act (Public Law 114–293) is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

''SEC. 3. HYGIENIC HANDLING OF BREAST MILK AND BABY FORMULA DURING AVIATION SECURITY SCREENING.

''Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section and every five years thereafter, if appropriate, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall issue or update, as the case may be, guidance to minimize the risk for contamination of any breast milk, baby formula, purified deionized water for infants, and juice (as well as ice packs, freezer packs, frozen gel packs and other accessories required to cool breast milk, baby formula, and juice) that is subject to re-screening or otherwise subject to additional screening. Such guidance shall—

''(1) be developed in consultation with nationally recognized maternal health organizations;

''(2) ensure adherence to hygienic standards, as established by the Administrator, in consultation with nationally recognized maternal health organizations;

''(3) ensure that, when any such re-screening or additional screening requires additional testing, such testing so adheres to such standards, to so minimize such risk; and

''(4) apply to security screening personnel of the Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening pursuant to section 44920 of title 49, United States Code.

''SEC. 4. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT.

''Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing an audit of compliance with the requirements of sections 2 and 3. Such audit shall also include information relating to the effect of various types of screening technologies, including bottled liquid scanners, on the screening of breast milk, baby formula, purified deionized water for infants, and juice (as well as ice packs, freezer packs, frozen gel packs and other accessories required to cool breast milk, baby formula, and juice) that is subject to re-screening or otherwise subject to additional screening, and the rate at which such items are denied entry into the sterile area (as such term is defined in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations).''.

STRENGTHENING THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION SYSTEM ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 480, S. 3475.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3475) to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Transportation to designate an authorized operator of the commercial driver's license information system, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3475) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3475

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 ''Strengthening the Commercial Driver's License Information System Act''.

SEC. 2. COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 31309 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting ''(referred to in this section as the 'Secretary')'' after ''Secretary of Transportation''; and

(ii) by inserting ''(referred to in this section as the 'information system')'' after ''an information system''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by inserting ''information'' before ''system'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''(1) At a minimum, the information system under this section'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—At a minimum, the information system''; and

(ii) by indenting subparagraphs (A) through (F) appropriately; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''(2) The information system under this section'' and inserting the following:

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—The information system'';

(3) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''under this section''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting ''information'' after ''of the'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''commercial driver's''; and

(C) in paragraph (5), by striking ''under this section'';

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking ''section 31313(a)'' and inserting ''subsections (a)(2) and (b) of section 31313''; and

(B) by striking ''section 31313'' and inserting ''that section'';

(5) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(6) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) AUTHORIZED OPERATOR.—The Secretary may authorize a qualified entity (referred to in this section as the 'authorized operator')—

''(1) to operate, maintain, develop, modernize, and enhance the information system; and

''(2) to collect fees on behalf of the Secretary in accordance with subsection (e); and

''(3) to use any fees collected in accordance with that subsection.

''(e) FEE SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the authorized operator, as applicable, may charge a reasonable fee for use of the information system.

''(2) AMOUNT OF FEES.—The total amount of fees collected under this subsection shall equal, as nearly as possible, the total amount necessary for the purposes and uses described in paragraph (3)(B).

''(3) USE OF FEES.—Fees collected under this subsection shall—

''(A) be credited to—

''(i) an appropriation account; or

''(ii) an account designated by the authorized operator; and

''(B) be available only for the purposes of operating, maintaining, developing, modernizing, or enhancing, or any other use relating to, the information system, including for personnel and administration costs relating to the information system.

''(4) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Fees collected under this subsection shall remain available until expended for a purpose or use described in paragraph (3)(B).

''(5) AUTHORIZED OPERATOR.—If the Secretary designates an authorized operator under subsection (d)—

''(A) the Secretary shall not be charged a fee for access to, use of, or data in the information system; and

''(B) the Secretary shall have access to fee statements on a quarterly basis.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 31311(a)(21) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''By the date established by the Secretary under section 31309(e)(4), the State shall be operating'' and inserting ''The State shall operate''.

WORDS MATTER FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 498, S. 3698.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3698) to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise references in such title to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3698) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3698

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 ''Words Matter for the District of Columbia Courts Act''.

SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES.

(a) JURISDICTION OF UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—Section 11–501(2)(D), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking ''substantially retarded persons'' and inserting ''persons with moderate intellectual disabilities''.

(b) JURISDICTION OF SUPERIOR COURT.—Section 11–921(a)(4)(D), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking ''substantially retarded persons'' and inserting ''persons with moderate intellectual disabilities''.

(c) JURISDICTION OF FAMILY COURT.—Section 11–1101(a)(15), District of Columbia Official Code, is amended by striking ''the at least moderately mentally retarded'' and inserting ''persons with moderate intellectual disabilities''.

EUGENE E. SILER, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE ANNEX

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 410, S. 4293.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4293) to designate the United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, as the ''Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex''.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which was reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4293) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4293

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

SECTION 1. EUGENE E. SILER, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE ANNEX.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, shall be known and designated as the ''Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse annex referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex''.

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 4489, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4489) to designate the Federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, California, as the ''Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building'', and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4489) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 4489

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

SECTION 1. SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN FEDERAL BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, California, shall be known and designated as the ''Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building''.

CONGENITAL HEART FUTURES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7189, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7189) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a national congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7189) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR THE UNVEILING OF A STATUE OF MARTHA HUGHES CANNON

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 127, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 127) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Martha Hughes Cannon.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 127) was agreed to.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7777, which was received from the House and is at desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7777) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2024, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7777) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESTORING BENEFITS TO DEFRAUDED VETERANS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4190, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4190) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to repay the estates of deceased beneficiaries for certain benefits paid by the Secretary and misused by fiduciaries of such beneficiaries.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4190) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AMENDING THE DON YOUNG COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022 TO MODIFY A PROVISION RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION OF A COAST GUARD ICEBREAKER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 5292, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5292) to amend the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 to modify a provision relating to the acquisition of a Coast Guard icebreaker.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 5292) was passed as follows:

S. 5292

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

SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF ACQUISITION OF ICEBREAKER.

Section 11223 of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 4021; 14 U.S.C. 561 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''Paragraphs'' and all that follows through ''apply'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a), and subsection (b), of section 1132 of title 14, United States Code, shall not apply''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Commandant provides the briefing described in subparagraph (B), paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection (a), and subsections (d) and (e), of section 1132 of title 14, United States Code, shall not apply to an acquisition or procurement of an icebreaker under subsection (a) until—

''(i) the first phase of the initial acquisition or procurement is complete; and

''(ii) initial operating capacity is achieved.

''(B) BRIEFING DESCRIBED.—The briefing described in this subparagraph is a briefing provided by the Commandant to the appropriate congressional committees not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph that includes a detailed cost estimate for an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a), including—

''(i) expected upgrades and crewing needs; and

''(ii) for each year of the estimated service life of such an icebreaker, the estimated costs for modification, shore infrastructure, crewing, and maintenance.'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (g) through (j) as subsection (h) through (k);

(3) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) FULL OPERATING CAPABILITY.—

''(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the procurement or acquisition of an icebreaker under subsection (a), the Commandant shall provide the appropriate congressional committees with a briefing that includes a detailed cost estimate for the icebreaker for each year of the estimated service life of the icebreaker, including the estimated costs for modification, shore infrastructure to support the cutter and crew, crewing, maintenance, and any other costs related to the icebreaker.

''(2) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Commandant shall not expend any funds to reconfigure an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a), beyond the funds required to achieve initial operating capability of the icebreaker, until the date that 7 days after the date on which the Commandant provides the briefing required by paragraph (1).

''(B) PLANNING AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—The limitation on use of funds under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the expenditure of funds for planning and program management activities relating to reconfiguration of an icebreaker procured or acquired under subsection (a).''; and

(4) in subsection (k), as redesignated, by striking ''3 years'' and inserting ''5 years''.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 876, S. Res. 877, S. Res. 878, S. Res. 879, S. Res. 880, S. Res. 881, S. Res. 882, S. Res. 883, S. Res. 884, S. Res. 885, S. Res. 886, and S. Res. 887.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions, all en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 876, S. Res. 877, and S. Res. 878) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The resolution (S. Res. 879) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The resolutions (S. Res. 880, S. Res. 881, S. Res. 882, S. Res. 883, S. Res. 884, S. Res. 885, S. Res. 886, and S. Res. 887) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES RALPH SASSER, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 888, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 888) honoring the life of James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 888) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF JAMES WRIGHT FOLEY AND CALLING FOR THE MORAL COURAGE TO PRIORITIZE THE RETURN OF AMERICANS HELD CAPTIVE ABROAD AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY EFFORTS TO DETER INTERNATIONAL HOSTAGE TAKING AND ARBITRARY DETENTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 805.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 805) commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the Shaheen-Graham amendment to the resolution be considered and agreed to; that the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; that the Shaheen-Graham amendment to the preamble be considered and agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3300) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: ''That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take all necessary steps to secure the release of Americans and deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to continue working with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of this national security threat and the United States Government's sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

The resolution (S. Res. 805), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3301) to the preamble was considered and agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, ''for some reason I have physical courage, but, that's nothing compared to moral courage. If I don't have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don't have that moral courage, we don't have journalism'';

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), his death then used as propaganda against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to ''achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States'' and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government's hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that ''the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive overseas,'' and in 2023, upon negotiating the release of five Americans held in Iran, President Biden said that ''reuniting wrongfully detained Americans with their loved ones has been a priority for my Administration since day one'';

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the ''Bringing Americans Home'' report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexanda Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheik in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has successfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden's July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United State Government hostage, and strains international stability: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 805

Whereas James W. Foley was an American freelance journalist, an author, teacher and humanitarian from New Hampshire;

Whereas James dedicated his career to robust, independent, and compassionate journalism that took him to war zones and classrooms alike;

Whereas, upon his return after being detained for six weeks in Libya, James said, ''for some reason I have physical courage, but, that's nothing compared to moral courage. If I don't have the moral courage to challenge authority, to write about things that might have reprisals on my career, if I don't have that moral courage, we don't have journalism'';

Whereas, on November 22, 2012, James was kidnapped while reporting on the conflict in northern Syria;

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, James Wright Foley was publicly beheaded by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), his death then used as propaganda against the United States of America;

Whereas, on September 4, 2014, the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation was established

to inspire the moral courage needed to secure the freedom of Americans taken captive abroad, prevent future hostage-taking, and promote journalist safety;

Whereas the Foley Foundation participated in the National Counter Terrorism Center task force, ordered by President Barack Obama to evaluate United States hostage policy and engagement with families of those held captive;

Whereas, on June 24, 2015, President Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 30, which committed to ''achieving the safe and rapid recovery of U.S. nationals taken hostage outside the United States'' and established the current United States hostage enterprise, which includes the Hostage Response Group (HRG) at the National Security Council, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA), and the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell (HRFC) that together pursue recovery strategies, support returned hostages and families of current hostages, and coordinate the use of diplomatic, law enforcement, intelligence, and military capabilities to resolve international hostage-takings;

Whereas the Foley Foundation has worked since 2014, in collaboration with the United States Government's hostage enterprise and families of United States nationals taken hostage abroad by terrorists or criminals and those wrongfully detained by nation states to help reunite families;

Whereas, in 2019, after negotiating the release of a United States citizen wrongfully detained in Iran, President Trump reiterated that ''the highest priority of the United States is the safety and well-being of its citizens. Freeing Americans held captive is of vital importance to my Administration, and we will continue to work hard to bring home all our citizens wrongfully held captive overseas,'' and in 2023, upon negotiating the release of five Americans held in Iran, President Biden said that ''reuniting wrongfully detained Americans with their loved ones has been a priority for my Administration since day one'';

Whereas, since 2019, the Foley Foundation has annually published research in the ''Bringing Americans Home'' report, which evaluates the experiences of American families with a loved one held captive abroad, returned hostages and detainees, and government and nongovernment experts;

Whereas, in December 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump reaffirmed the United States commitment to bringing home American citizens by signing into law the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 1741 et seq.) to prioritize and provide assistance to Americans wrongfully detained abroad and to their family members;

Whereas, in September 2021, Alexanda Kotey pleaded guilty to eight counts of kidnapping, torture, and accessory to murder of four Americans, including James Wright Foley, Kayla Jean Mueller, Steven Joel Sotloff, and Peter Edward Kassig;

Whereas, on August 19, 2022, the Department of Justice convicted former British jihadist, El Shafee ElSheik in Federal Court in the Eastern District of Virginia for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of Americans Sotloff, Kassig, Mueller, and Foley, as well as three British citizens;

Whereas, under Democratic and Republican presidents, the United States has successfully freed more than 120 Americans from unjust captivity abroad;

Whereas President Joe Biden's July 2022 Executive Order 14078 (relating to bolstering efforts to bring hostages and wrongfully detained United States nationals home) declared that hostage taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States; and

Whereas the targeting of United States nationals for use as political pawns by nation states is a grave threat to the security of United States nationals traveling abroad, seeks to hold the United State Government hostage, and strains international stability: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) stands with all those who have been taken hostage or wrongfully detained, those who have been released, and the families and friends who fight for their freedom;

(2) prioritizes the return of all innocent United States nationals targeted for kidnapping or wrongful detention abroad and will continue to take all necessary steps to secure the release of Americans and deter our adversaries from using Americans as tools for their geopolitical ambitions;

(3) acknowledges the need to continue working with allies and partners to develop a coordinated approach to deter and prevent international hostage-taking;

(4) condemns the practice of targeting and wrongfully detaining Americans in order to threaten American sovereignty and interfere with United States foreign policy;

(5) supports efforts to ensure that the United States Government hostage enterprise is properly resourced and authorized to address the evolving dynamic of hostage-taking and wrongful detention, including through the Hostage Response Group at the National Security Council, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, and supporting departments and agencies to speed the safe return of United States nationals held hostage abroad and deter future hostage-taking;

(6) commends the personnel, past and present, of the hostage enterprise who have endeavored to faithfully execute the mission of recovering Americans unjustly held captive abroad; and

(7) recognizes August 19, 2014, as a solemn remembrance of this national security threat and the United States Government's sacred obligation to protect United States nationals abroad from being taken captive unjustly.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, THROUGH TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn under the provisions of S. Res. 888 to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times: Friday, September 27, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 1, at 1 p.m.; Friday, October 4 at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 8, at 2:30 p.m.; Friday, October 11, at 8:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 15, at 1:30 p.m.; Friday, October 18, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 22, at 8 a.m.; Friday October 25, at 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 29, at 9:30 a.m.; Friday, November 1, at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, November 4, at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, November 6, at 12 noon; and Friday, November 8, at 12 noon; further, that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 8, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Perry nomination; further, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen on Wednesday, November 13.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 888, as a further mark of respect for the late James Ralph Sasser, former Senator from Tennessee, the Senate, at 9:48 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 27, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate September 25, 2024:

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

JEFFREY SAMUEL ARBEIT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

BENJAMIN A. GUIDER III, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

ANN C. FISHER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 14, 2030.

ASHLEY JAY ELIZABETH POLING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2030.

THE JUDICIARY

BYRON B. CONWAY, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN R. BASS II AND ENDING WITH BRIAN A. NICHOLS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 2, 2023.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on September 25, 2024, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on September 25 answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude:

Michael Ahasic, William Scott Allison, John W. Banbury, Rolland Beaudry, Joseph Blackwell, Ronald C. Bliss, Ernest Boone, Michael P. Bracken, William L. Brzostowski, Gary L. Buehre, Charlie H. Burley, Michael M. Clemente, Frank Cogswell, Philip J. Collins, William Cousins, Dennis R. Cowger, David Thomas Crocker, George J. Curtin, Kenneth R. Dearing, Thomas Dilley, Edward Duglow, Dennis Duszynski, Conrad Dybala, Ronald E. Eddings, Donald Ehrhart, James Erwin, James Farley, Harvey Ferguson, Jr., James J. Fitzgerald, Wade Fleming, Carl W. Fredrickson, Raymond Frigo, Thomas J. Frigo, Francis Garrett, Donald Girouard, Michael Grant, Cornell Gray, Michael H. Green, Scott Russell Gustafson, Larry M. Hakes, Ricky Hanaway, Catherine Hannon, William C. Harper, Jack Phillip Harris, Donald Hawver, Richard Hayman, Edward M. Heery, Donald Hendrick, John Horwath, Ronald Hudson, Dennis Ray Humphrey, Ronald L. Hunter, Adolf Janke, James A. Johnsen, William E. Johnson, III, William Josma, Richard J. Kappel, Charles P. Keenon, Bruce Klein, Francis Kleine, Edward Kopeshke, Ronald D. Lehman, Jerome Lewicki, Alvin Lively, Sonny W. London, William Lord, Paul Lyczak, Raymond J. Machowski, Jr., Louis Marohn, Thomas O. Mason, Dennis C. Maxwell, Charles Mayton, Robert McMahon, John R. Mercado, Freddie Moffett, James C. Morrison, David Andrew Neff, Gust Nudi, Thomas P. O'Neill, Ronald L. Olson, David Joseph Prawdzik, Daniel G. Prezembel, John Prochaska, Johnston F. Rehling, James C. Roberts, Robert Cruz Rodarte, Adam Rose, Richard Sachs, Bernadette Sinner, Anthony J. Santerelli, Craig Alan Schilling, Laurel Schilling, James Schlegel, Stephen E. Schmidt, John J. Schoeps, Marvin Schufeldt, Dennis L. Schultz, George Seaberry, Robert Frank Shervino, Roy Slowinski, Michael Steurer, John K. Stoeckert, Joseph Sullivan, Donald Taylor, Robert Thompson, Henry Trenkle, Michael Valdez, Douglas Voight, George Walker, Ronald G. Walton, Gene Allen Weisbecker, Arthur Wettergren, Ivan White, Dennis Wiecek, James M. Wiedemann, and Dennis J. Wilhelm.

RECOGNIZING DR. QAUMANIQ SUUQIINA

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Qaumaniq Suuqiina, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Qaumaniq Suuqiina—psychologist, teacher, First Nations leader, wife, mother and grandmother—is consciously aware that her actions today will affect those that come after her. She has spent more than 40 years helping individuals recover from all forms of addiction serving as director of a counseling center specializing in the treatment of addictions, codependency, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

For the last 27 years, she and her husband, Dr. Iglahliq Suuqiina, have worked as First Nations' leaders and bridgebuilders to bring reconciliation between races and genders, using protocol and honor as a tool for healing and understanding. They have partnered with Jewish people and educated non-Jewish individuals and people groups about the blessings of building relationships with the Jews, and Israel's right to occupy the land of Israel as indigenous people. They are committed to the fight against antisemitism.

Qaumaniq is a certified expressive arts therapist and is a graduate of the Expressive Arts Training Institute. She has a Doctorate in Biblical Counseling from the United Graduate College and Seminary International. She is a published author, trained dancer and musician.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, she strives to be honorable in her work and personal life believing that honor is the language of heaven.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JIMMIE W. HANES, JR., USAF, RETIRED WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USAF Colonel Jimmie W. Hanes, Jr., of Crawford, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His continuous efforts in supporting concepts of sacrifice and devotion showcase exceptional integrity.

Born and raised in Enon, Ohio, Colonel Hanes demonstrated leadership from an early age, excelling academically, athletically, and socially. This innate drive to lead never diminished; even during his military career, he remained actively involved in community initiatives whenever possible.

During his distinguished military service, Colonel Hanes flew 107 combat missions, including 100 over North Vietnam. He spent many years in the Strategic Air Command, serving both as a B–52 crewmember and in key staff positions such as Deputy Director for Bomber Operations at SAC Headquarters and U.S. Defense/Air Attaché to the Sultanate of Oman. Whether building schools in Oman or engaging with local boards and committees as Commander of Wurtsmith Air Force Base, he consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the communities he served. His leadership at Wurtsmith contributed to the base being considered a finalist for USAF Base of the Year.

Colonel Hanes's exemplary military career earned him numerous decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two devices, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with nine devices, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two devices, and the Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation.

After retiring in 1992 following nearly 30 years of active service, Colonel Hanes continued his dedication to public service. He remained in Michigan, working as a City Administrator and City Manager, impacting thousands of constituents daily. His innovative leadership in these roles earned him two Michigan Municipal League Outstanding Achievement Awards and other accolades. Later, he moved to Waco, Texas, where he has served as the Director of Waco Regional Airport since 2000, a position that keeps him actively engaged in the local community.

Colonel Hanes holds leadership positions in numerous organizations. Notable roles include Chairman of the Board at Lutheran Sunset Ministries, President of the North Bosque Water Supply Company, President of the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, President of Ridgewood Country Club, and Chairman of the Veterans One-Stop Advisory Board. He has also served on the boards of the Waco Downtown Rotary, McLennan County United Way, American Red Cross Heart of Texas Chapter, Baylor Lady Bears "Tip Off Club," and the Baylor Bears Foundation.

Throughout his life, Colonel Hanes has dedicated himself to serving others—during his youth, his military career, and his civilian life. His unwavering commitment to his fellow citizens embodies the highest American values.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

It is with great honor that I award retired USAF Colonel Jimmie W. Hanes, Jr. with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

CONGRATULATIONS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE HONORABLE ALGENON L. MARBLEY

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the distinguished service of the Honorable Algenon L. Marbley from my district, who has served the Southern District of Ohio since 1997, after his appointment by President Clinton and unanimous confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

In 2019, the Judge became the first African American from the segregated South to serve as Chief District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. Under his leadership, the Court remained one of the Nation's most productive, even through the challenges of the COVID–19 pandemic.

In 2023, the District was ranked in the top 15 most productive federal district courts. His dedication to justice is unparalleled.

As Chief Judge Marbley celebrates his 70th birthday and concludes his tenure, I extend my deepest gratitude for his service and friendship and wish him continued success in his next chapter.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALAPAHA COLORED SCHOOL

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Alapaha Colored School in Alapaha, Georgia, on November 8, 2024.

Built in 1924, the Alapaha Colored School is one of the last surviving wood-framed schools that served the black population in and around Berrien County, Georgia. Alapaha Colored School was founded by Mr. Nathan Bridges, a former slave who moved to Alapaha around 1880, and Mr. Brutus Shipman, who was raised by Bridges.

This school was in operation from 1924 until 1953, when a modern school was constructed for African American children. The school accommodated eleven grades while only having four classrooms. The school board later used the building for summer GED classes for WWII veterans who could not finish school before the war.

In 2002, after the restoration efforts of Alapaha's former Mayor, James Boone, and several former school students, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, it is a museum for everyone to visit and learn about this important piece of African American history in our district.

This school is a testament to its founders' commitment to educating African American children in Georgia's Eighth Congressional District. I join the Town of Alapaha in recognizing and celebrating the historic achievements of this establishment.

HONORING STEVE MONTENEGRO

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Representative Steve Montenegro from Legislative District 29, covering the West Valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Representative Montenegro is the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee, and a member of the Government and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. He has earned the Hero of the Taxpayer and the Friend of the Family awards for his voting record throughout his tenure in the Arizona Legislature.

Representative Montenegro is a strong conservative, who has supported many bills to strengthen the state's economy, defend life, secure the border, and safeguard the Second Amendment.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Representative Montenegro's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

RECOGNIZING MACY PETTY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Macy Petty, who was named a 2024 Young Christian Woman of Distinction.

Macy Petty is the legislative strategist at Concerned Women for America. In this role, she advocates for biblical values and constitutional principles in public policy. She graduated from Lee University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration with minors in business administration, communication arts, and pre-law.

While playing NCAA volleyball at Lee, Macy joined CWA as a women's sports spokeswoman, advocating for sex-based protections at the state and federal level. A platform was created to defend truth through her experience playing against a male athlete on a girls' volleyball team. Her experience has given her the opportunity to speak across the country about the dangers of gender ideology.

Macy is published in news outlets, including Fox News, the Daily Caller and Washington Examiner. She is regularly interviewed on national media outlets, such as Fox News, Fox Business, and Newsmax.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this young woman of distinction.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF JAMES DAVIDSON HALLOWELL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary spirit and life of James Davidson Hallowell; a great son, husband, father, businessman, philanthropist, and community leader.

On July 25, 1933, James was born to Dennis and Doretta (Johnson) Hallowell in Brawley, California. Just one year after his birth, James and his family relocated to Clovis. He graduated from Clovis High School and later pursued higher education at Fresno State. He graduated from Fresno State with a degree in marketing in 1955. James devoted much of his youth to helping at his family's dealership, and after graduation he chose to work full-time at, Hallowell Chevrolet. He later married his high school sweetheart Coralein ''Coke'' Smith on Valentine's Day in 1957 and began leading the family business in 1965. He was a talented businessman and by the end of his tenure the dealership had generated over $65 million in sales.

James's work as a philanthropist and community leader was rightfully recognized as he attained many well-deserved accolades throughout his life. From 1969 to 2000, Mr. Hallowell received the Sid Craig School of Business Alumni and Friends Award, the Fresno Junior Chamber of Commerce Award as Fresno's Outstanding Young Man, Time Magazine's Quality Dealer Award, the Leon S. Peters award, the AFP Outstanding Philanthropist Award, and along with Coke he won the Excellence in Business Hall of Fame Award. Finally, he was honored with Honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters from Fresno State.

His love for life was reflected in his passion for cycling and biking across Europe along with his community activities. James was a charter member of the Fresno Business Council reflecting his commitment as a businessman who wanted to serve by tackling issues in the community. In 1995 James and Coke made a five-year pledge of $100,000 to Fresno State. He was on the board of the Fresno Philharmonic and the Fresno Art Museum. Mr. Hallowell had a seat on Community Medical Center's Board of Directors. James cared deeply about the community which is perfectly illustrated by his and Coke's donation of a conservation easement on their 700-acre cattle ranch for the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust.

In James's passing, we celebrate a life that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on through his family; wife Coke, daughters Joell and Elise, and grandchildren, Taylor, and Alden Moir. May we draw inspiration from James's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of James Davidson Hallowell.

CELEBRATING HENRY PELAK'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor my constituent, Mr. Henry Pelak, who turned 100 years old on July 24th of this year. Mr. Pelak has dedicated his life to our country, his family, and Michiganders.

Pelak was born in the summer of 1924 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After high school, he proudly served our country in the United States Navy. Once he completed his training with amphibious naval vessels in Virginia and Florida, Pelak was assigned to be a motor machinist on a naval landing craft and deployed to Europe.

During World War II, Pelak was stationed in England to prepare for the Normandy Invasion. On June 6, 1944, he was on one of the first boats to hit Omaha Beach on D–Day in Nazi-occupied France. His bravery contributed to the successful deployment of troops during the first wave of the Allied Invasion, where he landed military and naval combat demolition units to clear the way for incoming infantry. After the invasion, Pelak was reassigned to a unit in Bremerhaven, Germany, and reenlisted for two more years.

I am so proud to honor Henry Pelak, not only for reaching this incredible milestone, but also for his unwavering service to our Nation. His life stands as a shining example of true courage, resilience, and patriotism.

As we celebrate Mr. Pelak's 100th birthday, I want to express my deepest gratitude for his tremendous service to West Michigan and the United States. May he have a happy, healthy, and fulfilling year ahead.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF KEVIN SPROUL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to extend my personal congratulations and to honor and recognize a dedicated public servant and community leader, Sheriff Kevin Sproul, on the occasion of his retirement as Sheriff of Dougherty County. Georgia. The community will gather in Albany. Georgia on September 28. 2024. to celebrate his retirement after 42 years of service at the Dougherty County Sheriffs Office.

A resident of Dougherty County since he was 7 years of age, Sheriff Sproul graduated from Albany High School, received an associate's degree in Social Work from Darton College, and a bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from LaGrange College at Albany. He also earned the Master Level 5 Gang Expert Certificate in 2007 from the National Gang Crime Research Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Sheriff Sproul started his career at the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office on September 8, 1982. For over four decades, he has worked in virtually every one of its divisions, including jail operations, protecting our roadways. and mentoring the community's young people. Sheriff Sproul understands that fighting crime and ensuring public safety starts with educating our students on character and instilling within them the values they need to be good citizen leaders. Over the course of his career in law enforcement, he has taught over 16,300 students in partnership with the Dougherty County School System.

In 2008, Mr. Sproul launched his campaign for Sheriff with the spirit of service and justice held close to his heart. He is now finishing his fourth term as Dougherty County's top law enforcement official, a position he has utilized to increase the efficiency of his agency, improve the quality of life for inmates, and make Dougherty County a safer place to live and conduct business.

As Sheriff, Sproul made a point to engage with and collaborate with leaders from across the state in order to improve public safety for all. He is a member of Georgia Gang Investigators Association (G.G.I.A.) and has served on the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) National Training Team. He has also served on the Stop the Violence Board, Regional Police Academy Board in Tifton, GA, and the GBI Regional Drug Task Force Board, as well as the Albany Civil Rights Board and the SOWEGA Council on Aging Board.

Sheriff Sproul has contributed so much to his community and accomplished so much in his life, but none of it would have been possible without the Grace of God, and the love and support of his wife of 41 years, Vicki, their three children. and one granddaughter.

George Washington Carver once said "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Sheriff Kevin Sproul has embodied the spirit of that quote throughout his career and his community is stronger and more secure thanks to his unwavering leadership.

On a personal note, I am blessed to call Sheriff Sproul my friend, and it has been a pleasure working with him during my time in elective office. Kevin never told me just what I wanted to hear; he always told me what he felt I needed to hear. I will always cherish the fidelity of his friendship and the timbre of his character.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Sheriff Kevin Sproul upon the occasion of his retirement. We wish him and his family all the best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

HONORING THE LANSING ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to honor and celebrate the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs. As the association prepares to merge with the Eastside Community Action Center, I want to reflect on its incredible impact and decades-long service to the Lansing community.

Since its founding in 1945. this historic organization, originally known as the Lansing Association of Colored Women's Clubs. has served as a pillar of social, cultural, and economic empowerment, particularly for Black women in Lansing.

Founded through the efforts of Dr. Rose T. Brunson, Mrs. Gertrude Lee, and Mrs. Ina B. Majors, the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs began with a vision to address the needs of local residents. Their determination led them to secure initial funding, which enabled the group to open their original clubhouse. The organization later moved to its present location in 1969, which has since been recognized as a historic site by the Michigan Historical Commission.

The association's legacy is intertwined with the very fabric of Lansing, and its impact can be felt across generations. From its early work establishing a nursery to its many decades of providing a clubhouse where Black organizations could meet and host activities, the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs has been instrumental in advancing opportunities for the Black community.

In response to recent fundraising efforts, the organization will merge this year with the Eastside Community Action Center. This merger will allow the association to continue its programming and contribute to broader initiatives that include youth activities, housing programs, and financial literacy education—initiatives that will carry forward the spirit of the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs.

This upcoming transition marks the end of an era for the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs, but it is also an opportunity to celebrate the organization for striving to form necessary partnerships in its efforts to continue fulfilling its purpose. The clubhouse, a place of significance for the Black community, will continue to serve as a space where important work will take place. Though the name of the organization may no longer stand alone, the values and commitment of the women who built it will continue to inspire new efforts to improve the lives of others.

As we reflect on the association's remarkable history, let us celebrate the generations of women who fostered peace, harmony, and higher standards of living for Lansing residents. It is with deep appreciation that I recognize the Lansing Association of Women's Clubs and its incredible legacy here in the official record of the United States House of Representatives. May its mission continue to guide and uplift the community for years to come.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH JESSE ROBERT, USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to present retired USAF Staff Sergeant Joseph Jesse Robert, of Mart, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His lifelong

dedication to honoring the values of service and sacrifice exemplifies what it truly means to be a patriot.

Raised in West, Texas, Joseph Robert signed his delayed enlistment forms in December 1977, before graduating high school in the spring of 1978. He attended IT training at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois and graduated from the Aerospace Ground Support Technician School before reporting to Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. In 1979, Joseph underwent advanced training on the MVP 116A Generator and became the only service member to receive a letter of certification as an engineer from Consolidated Diesel Company of Connecticut.

In October 1979, Joseph was deployed to South Korea, where his service qualified him for the South Korean Defense Medal. He was also awarded Airman of the Quarter for his branch in 1980 and became the inaugural Tactical Air Command 552nd AWACS Airman Maintenance Professional of the Year. Joseph's tour ended in August 1982. He began working to repair ground support equipment in 1986 but was laid off in July 1991 after suffering an injury that ended his service career.

Joseph's civilian service began soon after. After working through his recovery, he became a volunteer First Responder for the Prairie Hill Volunteer Fire Department and Mart Emergency Medical Service, where he earned his EMT Basic certification. In 2009, Joseph faced another medical setback when he suffered a stroke, again affecting his ability to serve in active capacities. However, his desire to serve his community remained strong. In 2012, he became an MVPN volunteer with the Veterans One Stop in Waco, and from 2014 to 2017, he administered the Mexia Peer Support Center. He has held several leadership positions at the local VFW Post 4964 in Mexia, including Adjutant, Senior Vice, Quartermaster, and Commander, and he currently serves as the Service Officer for American Legion Post 288. Joseph also works with Veterans Partners of Texas, where he helps clothe, feed, and assist veterans daily.

Joseph's military and civilian service career has been long and impactful, earning him numerous awards, including the Army Service Ribbon, Marksman Qualification Badge (M–16), Maintenance Professional of the Year, Male MVPN Volunteer of the Year, Veteran Volunteer of the Year, and a certificate of appreciation as a Veteran of Foreign Wars. Joseph served his country in the Air Force and returned home to serve his community, continually seeking to offer his services in any capacity he can.

I am pleased to award retired USAF Staff Sergeant Joseph Jesse Robert with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRED HEART COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself and Representatives ANNA ESHOO, RO KHANNA, and JIMMY PANETTA to recognize Sacred Heart Community Services Agency for 60 years of working to create a community free from poverty by creating hope, opportunity, and action.

Sacred Heart Community Services Agency was founded in 1964 by Louise Benson, someone I knew as a faith-filled person who committed her time and energy to the wellbeing of the poor. Today Sacred Heart delivers essential safety net services to individuals and families in need. The organization has evolved into a respected and innovative provider of programs that assist families with achieving lifelong economic self-sufficiency and impressive grassroots organizing that addresses the root causes and consequences of poverty.

For 60 years, Sacred Heart has stood with integrity and served with compassion to empower individuals and families to reach better lives. We celebrate their many accomplishments and wish them continued success.

HONORING THE 2024 HERZOG FOUNDATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR FROM IOWA

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate an exceptional educator, Julie Pickard, on being named the 2024 Herzog Foundation's Teacher of the Year. Representing the great state of Iowa, Julie's dedication to the academic and spiritual growth of her students exemplifies the values of Christian education. Her work is a shining example of the impact one teacher can have on shaping future generations, not only through the curriculum but through faith and character.

Julie has spent her career ensuring that students receive a well-rounded education, rooted in both knowledge and integrity. Her passion for teaching, coupled with her unwavering commitment to serving her community, makes her truly deserving of this national recognition. This prestigious award speaks to the respect and admiration she has earned from her colleagues, students, and the wider educational community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to commend Julie Pickard for her incredible accomplishments. On behalf of the people of Iowa, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and wish her continued success in shaping young minds and hearts for years to come.

RECOGNIZING SAM SORBO

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sam Sorbo, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Sam Sorbo is an education freedom advocate. After an award-winning Hollywood film career as an actor, producer, and writer of ''Just Let Go,'' ''Let There be Light,'' and ''Left Behind.'' Sam stepped back from her Hollywood career to homeschool her three small children, when she realized there is more to education than the school system accomplishes or addresses.

Sam scripted and produced ''School's Out with Sam Sorbo'' for EpochTV and currently hosts ''The Sam Sorbo Show'' daily on Patriot.TV and as a podcast. Seeking to emancipate families from modern schooling, Sam wrote and produced ''The Playbook for Home Learning,'' a 15-video training with a workbook for parents.

Fluent in five languages, Sam speaks internationally on how to ''Educate . . . differently.''

She has written several books including books on education, ''They're YOUR Kids'' and ''Teach from Love.'' ''Words for Warriors'' addresses the dangerous shifts in our vernacular and ''True Faith,'' was written in collaboration with her husband, Kevin Sorbo. Remarking on the lack of Biblical study in our government's schools, Sam notes, ''How can anyone claim to educate while ignoring the most important book in the history of the world?''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

HONORING BUILDING SAFETY MONTH

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark Building Safety Month 2024 and to recognize the more than 60,000 members of the International Code Council (ICC)—including the more than 8,300 in California—who have dedicated their livelihoods to ensuring public safety throughout the built environment.

Building Safety Month is sponsored each and every May by the International Code Council and its partners, with a shared goal of reminding the public about why buildings are safe, resilient, efficient, and livable.

The Code Council—celebrating its thirtieth anniversary this year—brings together local, state, and federal government stakeholders, as well as those from the private sector every three years to develop model codes and standards that protect the occupants of the buildings in which we live, work, and play. Those codes and standards are then adopted, implemented, and enforced year-round at varying levels of government across the nation. Building safety officials, the fire service, architects, engineers, builders, and other skilled tradespeople all use these codes and standards to ensure the safe construction and maintenance of buildings.

This is particularly important in California, a state that faces numerous natural hazards: atmospheric rivers, wildfires, riverine floods, mudslides, record snowfalls, extreme heat, and earthquakes. Often, depending on the time of year, the buildings in which we spend our time are at risk from multiple natural threats.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking International Code Council Board for their enduring commitment to safe construction, and in particular, ICC Board President Stuart Tom; ICC Chief Executive Officer Dominic Sims; the

Code Council's elected leadership; and its more 60,000 Members and staff as they commemorate Building Safety Month 2024 and work to raise public awareness to the importance of building safety across our Nation.

THANKING SUSAN M. KOZUBSKI FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Ranking Member Morelle and myself, please join me in congratulating Susan M. Kozubski who is retiring after 21 years of service to the People's House and with more than 30 years of overall federal service. Susan currently serves as the Assistant Chief Administrative Director for Finance and Administration in the Office of Inspector General.

Ms. Kozubski began her service in 1984 working for the European Special Activities Area of the Department of the Air Force in Germany. During her time in Germany, Susan also worked in the 18th Military Intelligence Battalion of the Army, was the executive secretary to the Battalion Commander of the 6–40th Armor Battalion, Berlin Brigade, U.S. Army Berlin, and the executive secretary to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Berlin.

Susan returned to the United States in 1993, started working in the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and then as the executive secretary for the Director of the Non-Developmental Airlift Aircraft System Program Office. For her work in the Program Office, she was awarded the Air Force Award of Excellence in Acquisition Management.

Ms. Kozubski joined the House Inspector General's Office in 2000 as the administrative assistant. She advanced into higher-level positions in the Office as the secretary, executive secretary, and administrative director. Susan worked on several special projects, including representing the Office on the House Officers' and IG's Human Resources Task Force.

In 2007, Ms. Kozubski returned to Europe and worked for the U.S. Embassies in Poland and Montenegro. In Warsaw, Susan worked in the Visa Fraud section as a consular associate. During that time, she exposed a visa fraud ring operating between New York and Belarus, earning her the State Department's Benjamin Franklin Award. In Montenegro, she was the Community Liaison Officer, helping acclimatize new embassy staff and their families with aspects of living in the host country.

Susan returned to the United States in 2010 and re-joined the House Inspector General's Office in 2010 as the Assistant Director for Finance and Administration. During this time, she worked on several projects and implemented programs and procedures to increase efficiencies in the administrative functions and operations. For example, she led the team to revise the Performance Management Program, led the team that developed the first Succession Planning Program, and chaired the House Officers' and IG's Human Resource Task Force several times. Notably, Susan is the first, and currently only person to be awarded the Employee Excellence Award twice, first in 2019 and again in 2023.

Congratulations and thanks to Ms. Susan M. Kozubski for her dedication and leadership serving our Nation for over 30 years.

RECOGNIZING DENTON'S INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Denton IOOF Cemetery and the Ribbon Cutting ceremony denoting a long-overdue correction to the property's deed, formally eliminating the prohibition for the burial of Black individuals in the cemetery. This is a significant and important day for the Denton community in formally acknowledging the rights and worth of all community members, regardless of race.

I would like to thank Mayor Gerard Hudspeth for raising the issue so the City of Denton could do the necessary research and legal work to eliminate the codified restrictions in the deed's provisions. Denton county has a rich African American history, which serves as an important cornerstone for the flourishing and prosperity community we recognize today.

The elimination of this restriction aligns the IOOF Cemetery's stated value of ''elevating mankind's character'' with Denton's shared commitment in honoring the innate human value of its citizens and ensures that all cemetery visitors and their loved ones are recognized as equal in both practice and in code. I am honored to recognize this ribbon cutting ceremony.

CONGRATULATING PARALYMPIAN CHRIS HAMMER

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Chris Hammer for winning a gold medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

At 38 years old, Chris Hammer dedicated over half his life to achieving his Paralympic dreams. He began his athletic journey at a young age, where he quickly discovered a passion for long-distance running. In 2004, Chris began his collegiate career at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in West Michigan. There, he earned five All-American honors—once in cross country and four times in steeplechase. In 2022, he was inducted into GVSU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Following his success at GVSU, Chris joined the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Team in London, competing in the 1500-meter, marathon, and 800-meter track events. He then competed in the PT4 paratriathlon at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and the PST5 paratriathlon at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games, finishing fourth in both events.

In Paris, Chris finished the men's PTS5 paratriathlon in just 58 minutes and 44 seconds, winning the gold medal for his outstanding performance. We are honored that Chris called the great state of Michigan home for so many years, and applaud his commitment, drive, and persistence throughout his athletic career.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Chris Hammer's first gold medal victory. I congratulate Chris on his well-earned success, and hope he finds some time to celebrate this incredible feat alongside his teammates, family, and community.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL LUIS JESUS LOPEZ, USMC, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USMC Corporal Luis Jesus Lopez, of Waco, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His dedication to his Country and fellow men serves as a template for American Exceptionalism.

Born and raised in Texas, Luis Lopez answered the call to serve by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in February 1969, during the escalating conflict of the Vietnam War. Throughout his four years of active duty, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he faced the perils of enemy fire on the battlefield with unwavering courage. In one particularly harrowing encounter, Corporal Lopez and his squad came under intense attack. Amid the chaos, he exhibited extraordinary bravery and selflessness. Alongside a corpsman and another Marine, he worked tirelessly to load two radiomen onto a helicopter, shielding them from lifethreatening enemy fire. One of the radiomen had already made the ultimate sacrifice, but Corporal Lopez upheld the sacred duty to never leave a fallen comrade behind. His actions that day not only saved lives but also exemplified the highest ideals of honor and brotherhood.

Corporal Lopez's distinguished service is reflected in the numerous awards and honors he has received, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Rifle Sharpshooter Badge. In his civilian life, Luis Lopez has remained a pillar of his community. He is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the Marine Corps League, and the American Legion in Waco. Through these organizations and his personal efforts, he consistently strives to support and assist his fellow veterans. His unwavering commitment to service extends beyond official capacities, making him an invaluable member of the community who continues to enrich the lives of others. Even in retirement, Corporal Lopez has dedicated himself to serving others, just as he did during his military career. His ongoing contributions to his fellow veterans and his community stand as a testament to his character and the values he embodies. It is with profound honor and respect that I award retired USMC Corporal Luis Jesus Lopez with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

RECOGNIZING DR. LINDA SMITH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Linda Smith, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Linda Smith is the executive vice president for the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB). She previously served as president of the D. James Kennedy Center for Christian Statesmanship, executive vice president and chief operating officer for NRB, chief of the office of public affairs for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and chief of staff for the U.S. Parole Commission.

As chief of public affairs, Linda oversaw congressional, media, and public relations for the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons. At the U.S. Parole Commission, she served as chief analyst for the National Appellate Board and other positions before assuming the role as chief of staff, overseeing this multi-mission agency, responsible for the release and re-arrest of federal offenders.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including the Myrl E. Alexander Award from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, which recognizes the development of new techniques in correctional programs and implementation of new and innovative procedures. She also received the Victims of Crime Award from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia for her work with crime victims.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

HONORING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT ISAAKO FA'ATOESE MALOTUMAU

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Staff Sergeant Isaako Fa'atoese Malotumau, as we mark the 10th anniversary of his passing. Isaako Malotumau was born on October 18, 1950, in Aoa, American Samoa. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 9, 1970, and completed basic and infantry training at Fort Ord, California, by November 1970. His first assignment was as a rifleman in South Vietnam from December 1970 to April 1971, followed by service with the Rangers until he was captured on April 24, 1971. After 704 days as a POW, he was released on March 27, 1973. He served in various roles, including Test Supervisor at Fort Ord and Redeye Team Chief in West Germany, until his honorable discharge on June 26, 1978. Isaako died on September 10, 2014, and was buried in Tacoma, Washington.

His Bronze Star Medal citation reads:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Executive Order 11046, 24th August, 1962, takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Specialist Fourth Class Isaako Fa'atoese Malotumau. United States Army, for meritorious achievement as a Prisoner of War while engaged in operations against an opposing armed force in North Vietnam during the period of February 1971 to May 1972. In an atmosphere of enemy harassment and brutal treatment, he continued to establish and maintain communications through unusual and ingenious methods, which resulted in American and Allied prisoners presenting a posture of increased resistance to the enemy's wishes and at the same time improving prisoner morale. His loyalty, diligence and devotion to duty were in keeping with highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

SSG Malotumau was a Pastor of the New Life Samoan Assembly of God, Tacoma. WA with over 2 decades of ministry. He is survived by his lovely wife of 40 years, Pr. Talatalaga Finau Mikaele—Malotumau, whom he married on April 27, 1974. They had 6 children and 9 grandchildren at the time of his passing. We honor his legacy and thank him and his family for their public service that continues to benefit the Pacific Islander community to this day.

HONORING NEW JERSEY'S SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S HOMETOWN HEROES

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hometown heroes, first responders and law enforcement, who keep us safe every day. In recognition of National Police Week in May, my office put out a call for nominations for the first NJ–07 Law Enforcement Hometown Heroes initiative. Twenty-two law enforcement professionals from across New Jersey's 7th Congressional District were nominated by their chiefs and supervisors for the outstanding work they do every day. It is my honor to play a small role in recognizing their efforts as a token of appreciation for the difficult and often thankless task of keeping our communities safe. I will always support these men and women in blue, and I look forward to welcoming each of these hometown heroes to a ceremony in October to formally recognize them in-person. In recognition of their bravery and commitment, I would like to include in the RECORD the names of these twenty-two Hometown Heroes:

Officer Alyse Brown, Sparta Township Police Department, Staff Sergeant Brent Hawkswell, New Jersey State Police, Officer Connor Strohm, Readington Township Police Department, Sergeant Daniel Kern, Hopatcong Police Department, Lieutenant Donald Sretenovic, New Providence Police Department, Lieutenant Douglas Baylor, Phillipsburg Police Department, Detective Elizabeth Savnik, Westfield Police Department, Corporal Gretchen Malone, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, Officer Jarren Mann, Hunterdon County Sheriff's Office, Officer Jessica Gutsick, High Bridge Police Department, Officer John M. Simonetti Jr., Mount Olive Police Department, Captain Jonathan Rachel, Springfield Police Department, Captain Michael Jackson, Mountainside Police Department, Captain Miguel Acabou, Clark Police Department, Officer Nicholas J. Villa, Raritan Township Police Department, Patrolman Peter Zabita, Hopatcong Police Department, Corporal Ryan Kamieniencki, Far Hills Police Department, Captain Scott Rayack, Rahway Police Department, Lieutenant Thomas Polito, Bedminster Township Police Department, Sergeant Timothy Richard, Bernardsville Police Department, Sergeant Tracy Baldassare, Bernards Township Police Department, and Officer Vincent Conti, Scotch Plains Police Department.

We are grateful for the commitment and sacrifice they make every single day.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DONN FURMAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished life and incomparable spirit of Donn Furman; a passionate environmental advocate Whose legacy lives on in the natural world around us and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Born in 1950 in Dinuba, California to Duane and Patricia Furman, Donn went on to become a force and advocate of nature. Raised amidst the stunning backdrop of the Fresno/Madera area, Donn's love of learning led him to earn his bachelor's degree in philosophy and minor in economics at California State University, Fresno before doing graduate work in philosophy at the University of Washington, Seattle. His knowledge and deep love of nature laid the foundation for his remarkable life dedicated to preserving the diverse landscape of California.

Donn's passion for the preservation of nature was fostered by his love of rivers, fly fishing with his buddies around the world, hiking, all things water, and simply being outdoors. Donn embodied the essence of California's landscape as he dedicated himself to environmental advocacy. In 1985, he became the Executive Director of the Committee to Save the Kings River which worked to protect the river from a proposal to build a dam. The community of supporters including fly fishermen, campers, and legislators united in support. Two years after Donn's appointment, federal wild and scenic designation and protection for 92 miles of the river was established.

After his success in protecting the Kings River, Donn went on to spearhead the San Joaquin River Committee where he promoted recreational and educational use of the river, lobbied governmental agencies and legislators, and expanded membership. His work coalesced into the formation of the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, a nonprofit public benefit corporation and treasured piece of the Central Valley that has spread joy and appreciation of the land to all who have had the pleasure to visit. As Executive Director, he established a Board of Directors and coordinated the development of a conceptual plan, educational programs, fundraising, and membership.

Wherever Donn went, his love of learning and advocacy followed. He earned his JD from San Joaquin College of Law where he then specialized in environmental, water, and land use law. As a Deputy City Attorney in San Francisco, he represented the SF Public

Utilities Commission where he addressed the Endangered Species Act, Hetch Hetchy water and power, Bay-Delta issues, and Tuolumne and San Joaquin River water supply issues. Donn later took part in founding the Sierra Foothill Conservancy which acquires, protects, and preserves historical rangeland for educational and recreational use.

Donn's love of life was not confined to his commendable service. He was an avid reader, writer, poet, musician, gardener, loyal friend, naturalist, and traveler. Wherever there were trails to explore, Donn hiked them with his family and friends.

In Donn's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced adventure, challenged the status quo, and left an indelible mark on the world and all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on in his family: his wife of 38 years, Cynthia, son Nicholas, brother Douglas, sister Debora, and nieces Kate and Nicole and mother Patricia. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn the loss of this remarkable Californian. May we draw inspiration from Donn Furman's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Donn Furman, a catalyst of change and beloved friend to the Central Valley.

BUILDING CHIPS IN AMERICA ACT OF 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 23, 2024

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 2228 the Building Chips in America Act.

It is really unfortunate that this bill was added to the schedule at the last minute, with no consultation with the committees of jurisdiction, at least on the Minority side. Republicans promised us the most open House in history, but instead now officially preside over the most closed House in our Nation's history.

I say this, because this bill is the poster child of something that needs further review. I'll note here that this bill hasn't received a single hearing in the House of Representatives.

And this is a bad bill. This bill would eliminate NEPA environmental reviews from semiconductor projects funded under the Chips and Science Act.

This issue is personal to me. My home county, Santa Clara County, is the heart of Silicon Valley. It is also the largest collection of superfund sites in the nation. Most of those sites were tied to semiconductor or microelectronics manufacturing. While most of these toxic sites have since been remediated, the legacy of this pollution remains in the contaminated groundwater in many places in Silicon Valley.

Moreover, there was a human toll from the use of toxic chemicals in chips manufacturing. Some workers at factories developed health problems. Stillborn babies, infant deformities, and disease were also tied to exposure.

In California, we learned lessons from the past semiconductor manufacturing in Silicon Valley. We should be learning from this legacy and ensuring we don't repeat it. NEPA reviews are a vitally important tool in this regard.

When Congress passed the Chips and Science Act, we rightly decided that the trade imbalance in semiconductor manufacturing was an issue of economic and national security. As a result, we gave companies in this sector unprecedented amounts of taxpayer money. That money comes from regular people, like nurses, firefighters, custodians, and the like. We should require, at a minimum, that when we take these people's money and give it to corporations, the government will review the environmental impacts of these activities.

Furthermore, NEPA reviews provide an avenue for public participation in this process. I think we owe it to the hardworking taxpayers of America to provide them with this process.

The last thing I'll say about this is that it is unnecessary. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo herself said as much at a hearing this summer when she stated: ''[w]e are on track to complete the environmental review for all these companies before we issue the award.'' The NEPA process is not slowing down the Chips awards.

So, I am deeply disappointed we are here today considering this ill-advised and unnecessary legislation. There really is no good reason anyone should support this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote against S. 2228.

EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW OVER THE DEATH OF ALEXANDER MICHEL ODEH

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alexander Odeh and his legacy, as well as remember the tragedy that shocked Orange County and claimed Mr. Odeh's life.

A Palestinian-American and the Southern California Regional Director of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Mr. Odeh spent much of his life working to support Arab-American civil liberties. Mr. Odeh was a published poet and lecturer at Coastline College and California State University, Fullerton. He was known to impart knowledge, compassion, and guidance to his many students.

On October 11, 1985, Mr. Odeh was the victim of a domestic terror attack as he entered the ADC office in Santa Ana. A scholar, activist, husband, and father of three daughters was taken far too soon by an egregious act of domestic violence.

To this day, almost 39 years after the bombing that claimed Mr. Odeh's life, those responsible have yet to face justice. He worked tirelessly to unite Christians, Muslims, and Jews in Southern California. Despite hatred and threat of harm, Mr. Odeh was not deterred and remained steadfast in his efforts to build bridges. He is survived by his wife, Norma Odeh, and his three daughters, Helena, Samya, and Susan.

Mr. Odeh lived a life of strength, perseverance, and dedication. Today, I am introducing a resolution to acknowledge Mr. Odeh's tragic passing and celebrate his impact on our Orange County community. I urge my colleagues to honor Alexander Odeh's memory and legacy by supporting this resolution.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANDREA RAMIREZ

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Andrea Ramirez, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Dr. Andrea Ramirez MBA, PhD builds bridges between cultural worlds creating ethnic harmony. Her career has spanned across public service, executive search and the nonprofit sector. Her expertise in conflict resolution and cultural intelligence served her well in the White House as a policy advisor, director of Hispanic Outreach, and special assistant to the President. Dr. Ramirez led White House initiatives based at the U.S. Department of Education, including the Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiative and the White House Initiative for Hispanics in Educational Excellence.

Prior to her government service, Dr. Ramirez served as executive director of the Faith and Education Coalition of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC). She currently serves as a trustee for Dallas Baptist University, sits on the NHCLC's Executive Committee and is an Open Education Resources Advisory board member for Texas Education Agency.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Navy veteran, prolific author. and life-long servant leader—the 39th President of the United States and Georgia peanut farmer, Mr. Jimmy Carter. President Carter's 100th birthday falls on October 1, 2024, and a celebration of his storied life and service will take place that evening in his hometown of Plains, Georgia.

In 1945, President Carter and the love of his life, Rosalynn, began dating and they married on July 7, 1946, at a ceremony in Plains. Following the death of his father, James Earl Carter, Sr. in 1953, the Carters and their three sons returned to Plains from the U.S. Naval Academy as Jimmy was then tasked with running the family peanut farm. Soon after, he was elected to the Sumter County School Board, eventually becoming its chairman. In 1962, he was elected to the Georgia State Senate where he continued to support racial integration and voting rights for African Americans. Senator Carter began his successful campaign for Georgia Governor in 1970, serving as Governor from 1971 to 1975.

Prior to moving back to Plains from the Governor's residence, Governor Carter had already announced his intention to run for President of the United States in the 1976 election. In November of 1976, Jimmy Carter became President-elect of the United States and the first Georgian to win the highest office in the land. As President, Jimmy Carter showed great success in international affairs, delivering the Camp David Accords, Panama Canal treaties, SALT II treaty, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China. He also delivered on his domestic agenda, signing legislation to establish the U.S. Department of Education, expanding the Head Start program, successfully making America less dependent on foreign energy, and protecting millions of acres of public lands for future generations.

Following President Carter's loss in the 1980 Presidential Election, the Carter family returned to home to Plains where they continued to make a positive impact on both their local community and the world. Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter continued their ministry of service after their time in the White House with the same vigor and urgency, becoming heavily involved in Habitat for Humanity. The Carters' work with Habitat drew national attention through the annual Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project, which helped the upstart non-profit organization grow and construct thousands of new homes for low and middle-income families. In 1982, Jimmy and Rosalynn founded the Carter Center, a nonprofit human rights organization, which has since become famous for its work to eradicate disease, strengthen democracies, and alleviate human suffering all around the world.

In 1999, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter were jointly awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor by President Bill Clinton. And in 2002, President Carter was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.

Together, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter rose to great heights, supporting and cherishing one another along the way as they served the world around them. From the Plains Peanut Festival to the Governor's Mansion, to the White House, and to communities around the globe, they always remained grounded, and Plains remained home in their hearts.

Mr. Speaker. I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of the Second Congressional District, in celebrating the amazing accomplishments of Jimmy Carter and commemorating his 100th year on this earth.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN ROBERT NOLEN ROCHELL, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USA Captain Robert Nolen Rochell, of Woodway, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His unwavering commitment to his fellow man in some the darkest days of human history make him inexplicably worthy of our respect, admiration, and thanks.

Born in Marlin, Texas, Robert "Bob" N. Rochell made the courageous decision to leave high school at the age of 17 to enlist in the United States Army during World War II. Stationed at Dachau, Germany—site of profound historical significance as a former Nazi concentration camp—he served with distinction as a World War II veteran.

Bob's commitment to service extended beyond World War II. As the Vietnam War loomed and the need for Field Artillery Officers grew, he applied to and was accepted into the United States Field Artillery Officer Candidate School, graduating 13th out of 125 in Class 8–65. He further demonstrated his dedication by attending Airborne School and serving a brief assignment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Six months later, he began his first tour in Vietnam as a forward observer and air observer in the Central Highlands. Near the end of this tour, he served as Executive Officer of the 155mm howitzer battery airlifted into combat—Battery A, 1st Battalion. 20th Field Artillery—which became the second most decorated Artillery Battalion of the Vietnam War. After returning from his first tour, Bob was assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, as an instructor at the Officer Candidate School. He was subsequently called back for a second tour in Vietnam, where he served as Commanding Officer of Service, Headquarters, and Alpha Batteries. Captain Rochell retired from active duty on September 1, 1975.

His distinguished military career is reflected in the numerous decorations he received: the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Good Conduct Medal with Clasp (Bronze, four loops), the Army Occupation Medal (Germany), the National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Star and one Bronze Star, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Parachutist Badge.

Captain Rochell's dedication to service continued long after his military career. He served as the national president of the Society of the Fifth Infantry Division and as president of the Heart of Texas Chapter of The Retired Officers Association (TROA), a predecessor of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). He is a life member of the 1st Battalion, 30th Field Artillery Association (Hard Chargers), where he served on the board as First Vice President. Additionally, he is an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Fifth Division Association, the U.S. Field Artillery Association, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Robert was married to the late Elizabeth Leggitt for over 40 years, sharing a life grounded in mutual support and community service. Today, he remains an active member of his community and continues to contribute to the Heart of Texas Military Officers Association of America.

It is my honor to award retired USA Captain Robert Nolen Rochell a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His lifelong commitment to his country and community exemplifies the highest standards of service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIAN AARON CUMMINGS

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Aaron Cummings, for his outstanding performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics. Originally from Muskegon, Aaron represented West Michigan on the world stage as an athlete on the U.S. Men's Rugby Sevens Team. Aaron has dedicated his time and energy to becoming one of the foremost rugby players in our country.

Growing up in West Michigan, Aaron began his rugby career at Grand Haven High School. He then attended Davenport University in Kent County, Michigan, and helped the Davenport Panthers finish fourth in the 2016 and 2017 USA College Sevens National Championship. Kicking off his professional rugby career, Aaron won the 2021 Club Sevens National Championship with the Chicago Lions and joined the USA Men's Sevens Residency in Chula Vista. In early 2022, he entered the world stage at the HSBC World Rugby Sevens Debut in Malaga, Spain, and was later named to the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2022 squad in Cape Town, South Africa.

This year, Aaron joined the 2024 U.S. Men's Rugby Sevens Team at the Paris Olympics, where he and his teammates finished eighth.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Aaron Cummings for his commitment to sportsmanship, his tenacity, and his athleticism. I congratulate Mr. Cummings and thank him for being such a wonderful representative of West Michigan.

REMEMBERING SUSAN ASHNER

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a dear friend, Susan Ashner, who recently passed away. As the founder and board chair of Beit Ruth, Susan worked tirelessly to create a safe haven for at-risk girls in Israel and break the cycle of generational violence. Susan's compassion and unwavering dedication touched so many lives and had an immeasurable positive impact on each girl she worked with. Her unparalleled legacy of kindness and leadership lives on through her husband, Michael, their children Samuel, Jessica, Julia, and Leo, and their loving family. I am honored to have counted such an extraordinary person as a friend.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM A. BLONIGAN

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor William A. Blonigan, who will

be retiring after an impressive 44-year tenure with the City of Robbinsdale. I wish to acknowledge his tireless efforts in the expansion of housing opportunities, his commitment to the public good, his stewardship of critical infrastructure initiatives, and his overall devotion to the city he serves.

Mayor Blonigan's service to Robbinsdale began in 1980, when he was first elected to the City Council. As his city manager wrote, ''He has not left the dais since.'' After 10 consecutive terms as a City Council member, he ran to serve as the city's Mayor, winning the support of his constituents through active communication, strong relationships, and a desire to find common ground on the issues that impact Robbinsdale residents.

Over the last 44 years, Mayor Blonigan has been a steady hand in some of the most consequential initiatives in the city's history. He helped build new facilities for the Police Department and Fire Department in 1993 to ensure residents received a high quality of service from their public safety agencies. He drove historic investment in parks throughout the city, including the redevelopment of Robbinsdale's largest park, Lakeview Terrace Park, that included a playground, ball fields, walking paths, and access to Crystal Lake. He supported a new water filtration system for Crystal Lake that resulted in over 40,000 pounds of litter and pollution being removed. Most recently, he oversaw the construction of a new water treatment plant that went online in 2023 and a new water tower that went into service earlier this year. He prioritized an aggressive approach to caring for the city's 100+ year old infrastructure while ensuring residents were not overburdened by property taxes.

Mayor Blonigan's tenure is also defined by significant expansion of housing opportunities and successful economic development initiatives. He built strong relationships with intergovernmental committees, private entities, small businesses, and developers to drive this important work. During his time as Mayor, Robbinsdale saw multiple unused schools and dilapidated buildings redeveloped into housing, as well as the construction of multiple new market-rate apartment complexes and hundreds of new single-family homes supported by the city's Economic Development Authority. He encouraged an expansion of North Memorial Hospital—one of the largest hospitals in the state—and a full-service grocery store down the street from it. He coordinated investment in Robbinsdale's historic downtown, ensuring it is vibrant for future generations.

At the heart of Mayor Blonigan's service is his unwavering commitment to the public good. In 2011, the City created a Domestic Partner Registry to recognize same-sex partnerships in advance of statewide marriage legalization in 2012. He was a supporter of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives long before they became common practice in municipal governments. He led nearby cities in creating a process to remove racial covenants from their land and home titles to help us heal from generations of racist redlining. He joined cities across the state in declaring a climate emergency, leading to the creation of Robbinsdale's Energy Action Plan to help the city and its residents fight the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege to honor and thank Mayor Blonigan for his service to the City of Robbinsdale. His leadership should be an example to all public servants.

RECOGNIZING ABBY JOHNSON

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abby Johnson, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Abby Johnson is a strong advocate for life from the womb to the tomb and beyond. She went to work for Planned Parenthood believing she would be helping women. After working her way up from volunteer to director of one of their facilities, and even winning Planned Parenthood's employee of the year award, Abby had a surprising change of heart after witnessing a live ultrasound guided abortion procedure. It became clear in that moment that abortion did not provide the freedom she had promised so many women in those counseling rooms. Abortion only caused harm, destruction and devastation. Upon that realization, Abby left her job in the abortion industry and has been sharing her experiences ever since.

Her story was chronicled in a best-selling book titled, ''Unplanned,'' which was later turned into a major motion picture with the same name. She has written several other books, including ''The Walls Are Still Talking'' and ''Fierce Mercy.''

Abby is the CEO of two successful prolife non-profits and hosts her own podcast, ''Politely Rude.'' One of her ministries, ''And Then There Were None,'' has helped almost 700 abortion workers leave the abortion industry and come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

HONORING ELIZABETH BROWNE

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Browne for her dedicated service to the health and wellbeing of her neighbors in and around Waltham, Massachusetts.

Ms. Browne has been a pillar of our community. She began working with Charles River Community Health in 2003 and has spent the past fifteen years serving as its Executive Director and CEO.

For over two decades, she has devoted her time, talents, and energy to the staff and patients of Charles River Community Health.

Founded in 1974, Charles River Community Health is a vital resource to the people of Allston-Brighton, Waltham, and surrounding areas. They are focused on delivering comprehensive, integrated, and equitable primary health care for a diverse group of individuals and families.

Under her leadership, Charles River Community Health expanded its physical space, grew its dedicated staff, and strengthened its capacity to deliver high-quality service to more patients—ensuring continuity of care at the height of the COVID–19 pandemic.

Ms. Browne has dedicated her life to community-based care and has worked diligently to increase access and improve health outcomes for families in Waltham and across the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Liz for her career of service to the Commonwealth and wish her the best in her next chapter.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WALTER MILLER LAVENDER, USN, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USN Senior Chief Petty Officer Walter Miller Lavender, of Lorena, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His remarkable accomplishments reflect a life dedicated not only to the greater good but also to his community and his country. exemplifying the values that define true patriotism.

Walter began his journey at Cisco Junior College on a football scholarship and gained recognition as an award-winning boxer. He later transferred to Midwestern State University but chose in 1961 to enlist in the United States Navy, answering a higher call to serve.

Trained as a medic, he was first stationed in Guam, where he honed his medical skills and survived the devastating Super Typhoon Karen in 1962. His resilience and commitment were further demonstrated during two tours in Vietnam. In 1965, as a Combat Medic with the 7th Marines near Quy Nhon, he provided critical care to wounded soldiers under fire. In 1970. aboard the helicopter carrier USS *Iwo Jima*, he was responsible for evacuating casualties, ensuring that injured service members received timely medical attention.

Walter also served aboard the USS *Dewey* and the USS *Ward*, showcasing versatility and leadership across multiple assignments. After over 22 years of distinguished service. he retired in 1983 as a Senior Chief Hospital Corpsman from the Marine Corps Reserve in Waco, Texas.

His exemplary service is reflected in the numerous decorations he received: the Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, five Good Conduct Awards, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross, and the Seventh Fleet ''Shell Back'' Recognition aboard the USS *Dewey*.

Following his military career, Walter continued to serve his community as a Radiologic Technologist in local hospitals until his retirement in 2014. He also served as a Municipal Court Judge in the 1980s, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to public service.

Today, he remains actively involved as the treasurer of the Heart of Texas Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 1012 and serves as a health and wellness advisor and PTSD mentor at the Waco Veterans One-Stop and the Heart of Texas Behavioral Health Network.

His dedication to supporting fellow veterans and their families highlights his belief in service beyond self.

Those who know Walter describe him as embodying the values of duty, honor, and country. His selfless commitment to helping others continues to inspire all who meet him.

To honor his sacrifice and service, I am pleased to award retired USN Senior Chief Petty Officer Walter Miller Lavender with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

INTRODUCTION OF FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH RESOLUTION

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, since 2019, and as the Member of Congress with the most Filipino Americans of any U.S. House district nationwide, I have been honored to co-lead an annual resolution recognizing October as Filipino American History Month. I have joined many colleagues in doing so in order to recognize and celebrate the great contributions of Filipino Americans to our country, in government and law, music and entertainment, sports, business and countless other ventures.

The first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the continental United States took place on October 18, 1587, when the ''Luzones Indios'' came ashore from the Manila-built galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza in Morro Bay, California. This was followed by the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, Louisiana in 1763. Since those early beginnings, our Filipino American community has grown to approximately 4.4 million citizens and is the third largest Asian American and Pacific Islander group in the United States. Many of the early Filipino immigrants were young men who came to the United States, most to Hawaii, California, Washington and Alaska, seeking a better life.

This first generation of Filipino immigrants are commonly referred to as the Manong generation (Ilocano for first-born male). They worked mostly physically demanding jobs in tough conditions for very little pay. Over the years, they fought against discrimination, found a way forward, became respected members of their communities, and made a better future for themselves and their future generations. The several generations since have thrived upon that foundation.

The history of the Fil-Am community in Hawaii is particularly rich and echoes the national story. In 1906, the first fifteen sakada contract laborers arrived in Honolulu from the Philippines aboard the SS *Doric*, marking the first sustained immigration into our country and the humble beginnings of Fil-Ams in Hawaii. These first immigrants, those that followed and the subsequent generations eventually became trailblazers in politics and government, the military, business and entrepreneurship, journalism, popular culture, music and the arts and more.

Our resolution honors the tremendous and increasing contribution of Filipinos Americans to our country in all areas including music, dance, literature, education, health care, business, literature, journalism, sports, fashion, politics, government, science, technology, the fine arts and other fields. To name just a few as examples, again from my Hawaii:

Domingo Los Banos was Hawaii's first Filipino American school principal and a loyal veteran of the 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment that fought in the Philippines during World War II.

Carolina Dizon Wong broke a glass ceiling when she obtained an M.D. degree and became the first Filipino American to start a medical practice in Hawaii in 1952.

Peter Aduja became the first Fil-Am elected to public office in the United States when he was elected to the Hawaii Territorial House of Representatives in 1954.

Larry Ramos became to first Filipino and Asian-American to win a Grammy Award playing the banjo for the New Christy Minstrels in 1963.

Ines Cayaban was the first Filipino American graduate of the School of Public Health, Nursing and Social Work at the University of Hawaii. She received the prestigious Jefferson Award in 1986 for her service.

In 1994, Ben Cayetano was elected the Governor of Hawaii, becoming the first Filipino American governor of a state in our union.

In 2019, Roy Macaraeg became the first Fil-Am to become a general officer in the history of Hawaii's citizen soldier ranks.

In Hawaii, we also regularly honor the over 250,000 Filipinos nationwide who answered the call to protect and defend America and the Philippines in the Pacific theater. In 2016, President Obama signed into law the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act to bestow Congress's highest honor upon those veterans. With my colleagues in the House, I have introduced our Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, which seeks to reunite World War II Filipino soldiers with their children, so that we can honor those living in our community who fought to protect the free and open Indo-Pacific that we have today.

Each and all of these lives of achievement are but a small sampling of a broader community that has achieved so much and contributed so much to the rich fabric of our country. And the story of Filipino Americans is still in its early chapters.

It is fully appropriate that we again honor our Filipino American community whose story is a quintessentially American story.

CONGRATULATING CITY OF HOPE ON BEING NAMED A TOP 5 HOSPITAL FOR CANCER CARE

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate City of Hope's National Medical Center in Duarte, California on being recognized as one of the nation's top 5 hospitals for cancer care by the U.S. News & World Report's 2024–2025 rankings. In the same report, the center was also rated as high performing in six cancer procedures: lung cancer surgery, colon cancer surgery, prostate cancer surgery, gynecologic cancer surgery, gastroenterology and GI cancer surgery, and in the treatment of leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

City of Hope is the only freestanding National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center in California that is not affiliated with a university. Their system in California includes the Duarte campus, a new cancer center in Orange County, and clinical locations across Southern California, along with cancer treatment centers and outpatient facilities in the Atlanta, Chicago, and Phoenix areas. City of Hope continues to be a national leader and innovator in a range of complex cancer types and innovative technologies, and because of them, hundreds of thousands of lives continue to be saved through these advances.

I know firsthand of the dedication and devotion that City of Hope is committed to offering all who are in need, particularly to those from traditionally underserved communities. It has been a trusted institution in Southern California, offering superior care to the community for many decades.

I congratulate City of Hope and all its staff on this well-deserved national recognition by U.S. World News & Reports, and I wish them continued success.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DOMINGA BUSTAMANTE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dominga Bustamante, an integral and cherished figure in the San Joaquin Valley. Dominga's journey began when her family migrated to California in her early childhood so they could work in agriculture. After settling in Dinuba, she went on to graduate from Dinuba Unified School District and met her high school sweetheart, Cruz Bustamante Jr., along the way.

Together, they moved to San Joaquin, California where the newlywed Mrs. Bustamante recognized the pressing needs of her new community. This prompted her to join AmeriCorps and serve as a VISTA volunteer so she could help families obtain their much-needed Social Security benefits. Dominga then stayed the path of serving others by becoming a CSO Organizer. From driving the elderly to their appointments to interacting with local and county officials, she remained dedicated to ensuring the citizens of San Joaquin and neighboring communities received fair and equitable rights.

Recognizing her passion for advocacy, Dominga diversified her efforts across various roles throughout the community including law enforcement interdiction advocate, bilingual instructional aide, certificated health provider, and social and political advocate. She supported the youth by serving as a teen anxiety first responder and advisor for the San Joaquin Teen Club.

She also became known for going above and beyond to welcome new Hindu and Sikh families to the community as an unofficial ''Welcome Host.'' In recognition of these efforts and more, California Latina Leaders in Action honored Mrs. Bustamante with the prestigious ''Lifetime Achievement Award'' in 2002.

In addition to serving her community, Dominga also honored her faith as a beloved Catechism teacher for over 30 years. The Diocese of Fresno eventually acknowledged her

service with the ''Bishop's Catechist Appreciation Certificate'', recognizing her as a faithful minister of God's Word.

During her retirement years, Dominga continued educating and volunteering at organizations such as the Central California Food Bank. She treasured her time with family and always opened her home for family gatherings on holidays and birthdays. She became an accomplished seamstress and quilter and created beautiful handmade blankets for each of her 13 grandchildren.

Mrs. Bustamante is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Cruz Bustamante Jr. She is survived by her six children, Cruz, Belinda, Dorothy, Ron, Andrew and Naomi and 13 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

In Dominga's passing, we celebrate a life that embraced adventure, embodied generosity and left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know her. Let us express our deepest gratitude for her immeasurable contributions to her community in the San Joaquin Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in commemorating the selfless life of Mrs. Dominga Bustamante. May her life's journey be an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING SUE Z. McGRAY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue McGray, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Sue Z. McGray, the president of Christian Women in Media teaches women that it's never too late for hope. Sue has experienced personal triumph over low self-esteem, co-dependency, a broken marriage, and domestic violence and today serves as a mentor for Morning Star Sanctuary, a Christian safe place for women and children. Her personal life experiences have given her the insight to author a book titled ''Becoming Visible: Letting Go of the Things that Hide Your True Beauty,'' written to help and encourage women to become overcomers.

Sue's exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to empowering women through faith is expressed through her support and mentoring of women helping them overcome challenges to pursue their God-inspired dreams and goals.

Sue is a sought-after Christian women's conference speaker and teacher and an entrepreneur who has built a successful business that has reached the pinnacle of her industry. Sue has authored another book titled ''Life Changing Encounters and Divine Appointments,'' a study of biblical encounters that continue to inspire people in the 21st Century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

CONGRATULATING OLYMPIAN EVAN MEDELL

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Evan Medell, for his exceptional performance in para-taekwondo at the 2024 Paris Paralympics. Evan proudly represented West Michigan on the world stage, displaying his exceptional talent and perseverance as one of the world's foremost para-taekwondo athletes.

Growing up in Grand Haven, Evan began his athletic journey at the Lakeshore Taekwondo Academy when he was just 12 years old. Throughout his career, Evan excelled in numerous international events, including winning gold at the 2023 Parapan American Games in Chile. When para-taekwondo made its Paralympic debut at the 2020 Tokyo Games, Evan became the first American to secure a bronze medal. Furthermore, he was the youngest athlete in history to compete in a para-taekwondo world championship. As an athlete competing with Brachial Plexus Palsy, a paralysis that impacts the nerves in the arm and hands, Evan is an inspiration to all West Michiganders who have dreams of competing at the Olympic level.

This year, Evan joined the 2024 U.S. Men's Taekwondo Team at the Paris Paralympics, where he secured a bronze medal for our country.

Mr. Speaker, once more, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Evan Medell for his commitment to sportsmanship, his perseverance, and his outstanding athleticism. I congratulate Mr. Medell and thank him for being such an admirable representative of West Michigan.

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST DONALD GENE JOHNSON, USA, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USA Specialist Donald Gene Johnson, of Groesbeck, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His pledge to champion values of support and sacrifice exemplifies American patriotism.

Born in Texas, Donald received his draft notice in October 1965 and joined the Army to serve during the Vietnam War. He underwent basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado, before being deployed to the front lines in Vietnam. While overseas, he carried out critical operations vital to his unit's success, such as establishing forward base camps and managing supply runs. His efforts were essential in maintaining the operational effectiveness of his fellow soldiers under challenging and often perilous conditions.

One fateful night, while stationed at a listening post outside the perimeter, Donald and three other soldiers were struck by a mortar round. Despite being severely injured, he remained composed and took actions that saved lives under extreme adversity. For his extraordinary courage and selflessness in the face of danger, he was awarded the Purple Heart, a testament to his bravery and dedication.

After returning to Texas, Donald channeled his entrepreneurial spirit into building a successful Pepperidge Farm franchise in Houston. Upon selling the business, he returned to Limestone County to operate a cattle ranch, applying the same dedication and hard work that characterized his military service. His commitment to his community remained strong; he drove a school bus for the Groesbeck Independent School District, serving as an inspirational mentor to many young people. Additionally, he worked as a jailer at the Limestone County Jail, where he continued to positively influence lives through his mentorship.

Specialist Johnson's military honors include the Purple Heart, the Sharpshooter (Rifle) qualification, the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal. These accolades reflect his commitment to excellence and the sacrifices he made during his service.

Donald is part of a remarkable family legacy of service; his four brothers—Charles, Foy, Edwin, and Cecil—also served in the military, each risking their lives for their country. This collective dedication underscores their character and commitment to the Nation.

I am honored to award retired USA Specialist Donald Gene Johnson with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His life of service and dedication embodies the spirit of American patriotism, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to his country and community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MITCHELL MEISNER

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize the honorable life of my dear friend, Mitchell Meisner, a passionate legal professional and civil rights activist. Mr. Meisner, in his over 60 years of work, advocated for the original civil rights bills, volunteered his time to support aspiring lawyers, and protected vulnerable individuals by offering pro bono legal services.

Mr. Meisner was born in Washington, D.C. and was raised to value civil service. His parents exemplified these principles, as his father served as an attorney at the Department of Commerce, and his mother was as a teacher who also worked at NOAA and in the White House under President Jimmy Carter. I had the good fortune of seeing his childhood home in Bethesda, Maryland, with his only daughter, Amy, and am inspired by their story. Mr. Meisner carried on his parents' legacy, achieving a bachelor's, master's, and Doctor of Philosophy degree in political science. He then took his passion to Michigan, where he received his Juris Doctor degree at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Throughout his educational career, Mr. Meisner was incredibly active in national politics and the Civil Rights Movement. He bore

witness to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s ''I Have A Dream'' speech and found joy in sharing his stories of the famed 1963 March on Washington. When President John F. Kennedy visited Amherst College, where Mr. Meisner was working towards his bachelor's degree, he led a student-protest calling for a civil rights bill.

As a legal professional, Mr. Meisner often donated his time as a volunteer judge in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition, providing free legal representation to those who needed it, and serving as a mentor and a teacher. He was dedicated to giving back to the community and considered it a privilege to mentor young law students.

Mitchell Meisner passed away on June 20, 2024, after an admirable battle with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by his incredible wife, Marica, who resides in their longtime home in Huntington Woods; his brother, Jon; his three children, Jesse, Geoff, and Amy; and his seven grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored, on his 81st birthday, to recognize the life and service of Mitchell Meisner, who dedicated his work to uplifting the voices of those most in need. Please join me in celebrating this wonderful individual whom I miss dearly and was proud to call a friend.

HONORING MARTIN COUNTY SHERIFF AND CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST FORMER PRESIDENT TRUMP

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the September 15, 2024 attempt on Former President Trump's life and to honor the Martin County Sheriff's Office for their bravery in apprehending the would-be assassin.

The attempt on Former President Trump's life was a cowardly act aimed at the very heart of our Republic. We are nearly a month away from an election where tens of millions of people will decide the next commander-in-chief.

Yet, this would-be assassin was selfish enough, deluded enough, and cowardly enough to try and rob us of that opportunity. But in that moment of darkness, courage blazed through.

The heroes of the Martin County Sheriff's Office acted with incredible speed and bravery, risking their lives to apprehend the would-be assassin before he could harm others. Their valor turned a potential national tragedy into a story of triumph over evil.

Let's honor these men and women for their valor. They stand as a beacon of what it means to protect and serve.

Let's also reaffirm that political violence has no place in our discourse. We should always stand united in the face of those who seek to divide us.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE DEARING RAILROAD CAR

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Dearing Railroad Car on the occasion of its 100th Birthday. As one of the few remaining 100-year-old railroad cars still in operation in the United States, the Dearing Railroad Car holds a unique and significant place in Georgia's and in our nation's history. The Dearing's 100th anniversary takes place on October 18, 2024, and a celebration of its life will be held in Cordele, Georgia.

Initially called ''Thompson'' the Pullman shops began manufacturing The Dearing in 1924, finishing the car in 1925. The Dearing remains one of the last of its time to still be in operation in the United States.

Over the years, The Dearing has run trips on several different railroads as both a sleeper and office car. In 2006, the car was purchased by Columbus, Georgia residents Nelson and Borden McGahee who are still its current owners.

The Dearing spent eight years traversing the United States on Amtrak, allowing passengers to journey across the country and through time when they stepped through the car. In 2020, The Dearing joined the SAM Shortline and continues to contribute to local economies and communities. The SAM Shortline has a multi-million-dollar economic impact in Southwest Georgia, boosting the tourism needed to support our small towns in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in celebrating the 100th Birthday of The Dearing Railroad Car and honoring the history of American railroads, which were so important to Georgia's growth and rich history and culture.

RECOGNIZING HARRIS FAULKNER

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harris Faulkner, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Harris Faulkner is a six-time Emmy award-winning news anchor who believes that faith in God, still moves mountains. She began her rise in TV news reporting at WNCT–TV (CBS 9) in Greenville, North Carolina and after several career moves she joined FOX News Channel in 2005 where she currently helms two top-rated daily daytime programs ''The Faulkner Focus'' and ''Outnumbered.''

Throughout her tenure at the network, Faulkner has played integral roles in FNC's election coverage, hosted numerous primetime specials, interviewed many notable figures and covered global news events.

As a result of her excellence in broadcast journalism and serving as the only Black woman to anchor two back-to-back cable news programs, Faulkner has received many notable awards including being named to WORTH Magazine's ''Groundbreakers'' list, honoring 50 influential women worldwide for breaking barriers in their industries. In 2021, Variety's New York Women's Impact Report honored Faulkner. And at the National Press Club she was named the Multicultural Media and Correspondents Association's Broadcast Journalist of the Year.

Faulkner is a speaker, author, and philanthropist. Her 2023 FOX News Books title ''Faith Still Moves Mountains,'' became number one on the New York Times bestseller's list. She penned the national bestseller ''9 Rules of Engagement: A Military Brat's Guide to Life and Success'' in 2018.

Faulkner actively raises awareness and funds for numerous organizations offering immediate and ongoing support to the U.S. Military forces and their families. Additionally, she's dedicated to intensifying research around childhood diseases. In 1998, Harris Faulkner received the Amelia Earhart Pioneering Lifetime Achievement Award for her humanitarian efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this inspiring woman of distinction.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF STEPHEN W. SCHILLING

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary spirit and life of Stephen W. Schilling: a great son, husband, father, advocate, and community leader.

Bill and Ruth Schilling gave birth to Stephen on Thanksgiving Day, 1946, in San Francisco, California. He graduated Marin Catholic High School in 1964. In 1969, he graduated from California State University-Chico majoring in businesses. He also pursued his graduated studies in Public Administration. President Kennedy's call to public duty inspired him to join the United States Peace Corps, where he served in Venezuela from 1971 to 1973. Schilling took over the clinic at a difficult time, as it was on the verge of bankruptcy and was about to be closed down by financial and regulatory officials.

After a few years, he was promoted to Clinica Sierra Vista's CEO. His tremendous work, combined with an amazing staff, allowed the clinic to flourish and become one of the largest varied and clinically trained health and human services nonprofits in the country. Clinica Sierra Vista's operations has had a good impact on the lives of many different communities, including farmworker and senior populations, rural villages, unhoused persons, the urban poor, and those without insurance.

Steve spent nearly 45 years, and his transformative leadership can be seen in the growth of the clinic, going from a dozen employees to twelve hundred; from two hundred thousand dollars to one hundred twenty million dollars per year and from an operation housed in a trailer to more than 70 service locations throughout three counties in Central California serving thousands of people every day.

His joy for life was mirrored in his interests, which included gardening in his yard, sports,

fishing, hunting, and travel, as well as community activities. Steve was a founding member of the Rotary Club of Bakersfield. He was also a member of several community organizations, including the Human Relations Commission, the Children's Network, nine chambers of commerce, and numerous other organizations, demonstrating his commitment to serving by staying informed about the needs of the valley's many vulnerable populations.

In Steve's passing, we celebrate a life that left an indelible mark on all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy lives on in his family; wife Deidre, children Christina, Mari, Sheridan, John, and grandchildren Sofia and Vivienne. May we draw inspiration from Steve's enduring spirit and the richness of a life well-lived.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the memory of Stephen W. Schilling.

OCTOBER 7

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a poem submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and is a reflection of his views:

OCTOBER 7

October 7
First anniversary for an old-new pogrom
With Holocaust dimensions
In a land deserving Shalom's program
While pursued by ghastly ghosts
It seeks to overcome
Under the blazing sun that rarely forgives
But dares not forget,
Watching over challenged tender
Saplings of renewed faith restored
To a promising ancient home,
Fledglings of hope sans the
Threatening clouds raining
Death for too long,
To remove fences obstructing
The view of hands touching hands,
Hearts joining hearts,
Buried dreams in the
Sands of time and trouble,
To yet resurface to quench
The thirst of the conflicted
Children of Yitzchak and Yishmael
Who will learn to drink from
The same to- be- recovered well
That once brought life to
Now a deserted tent.

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is the founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. Kazakhstan's only born rabbi, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors and spent his early childhood in transit and DP Camps in Austria and Germany. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

HONORING TOM RAFFIO FOR RECEIVING THE WALTER R. PETERSON AWARD

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Tom Raffio on receiving the Walter R. Peterson Award for Education and Public Service. The Walter R. Peterson Award for Education and Public Service is presented to an individual whose contributions best exemplify the late governor's values of public service and dedication to higher education.

As a passionate civic leader, Tom's community leadership spans across numerous New Hampshire organizations that support local education initiatives, youth programs, health causes, and the arts. Tom believes in the importance of access and affordability to quality post-secondary education for all New Hampshire residents.

Under Tom's leadership, the Northeast Delta Dental Foundation is committed to improving oral health care accessibility and education. This Foundation supports oral health programs each year throughout New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. It also addresses the shortage of dentists in under-served communities by raising funding for medicine scholarships and dental education loan repayment programs. In New Hampshire, one of the dental health education programs serves adult clients with disabilities, many of whom encounter oral health challenges. Further expanding its community impact under Tom's leadership, it has grown to include numerous local community partners to join this philanthropic mission.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to extend my gratitude to Tom Raffio for his exceptional commitment to serving New Hampshire. We thank Tom for his leadership and contributions to advance health equity and the overall wellness of our local communities. His work has enriched so many lives and is an inspiration for us all to join together and improve the lives of our community members.

RECOGNIZING DAVID MARSHALL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Battalion Chief David Marshall of Cañon City for reaching his well-earned retirement after a 46-year career with the Cañon City Area Fire Protection District.

Chief Marshall began his career as a volunteer firefighter with the Cañon City Volunteer Fire Department in 1978. Since the 1980s, he has served as leader of the District's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division. David led EMS trainings for over 30 years at Pueblo Community College, where he taught and mentored the majority of EMS professionals serving in Fremont County today. Many of them have since gone on to lead their own EMS programs across the state. In his time leading the EMS division of the Cañon City Fire Protection District, David enhanced the EMT training to more advanced certifications, including Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Paramedic level providers. His work and effort elevated the level of care provided to his community.

Chief Marshall's legacy of bringing access to emergency services and trainings to rural communities will live on across Colorado through the generations of EMS providers he mentored. His strong, dependable leadership sets an example for all Coloradans, and his teachings will forever have an impact on Fremont County.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Battalion Chief Marshall on his retirement and to thank him for his contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD EUGENE RAFUSE, USAF, RETIRED, WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Harold Eugene Rafuse, of Crawford, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His persistent efforts in fostering beliefs of sacrifice and respect reflect his value as a leader during service and in retirement.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse devoted nearly 20 years to active duty in the United States Air Force serving with distinction in a variety of critical roles. As an airborne Forward Air Controller and close air support combat fighter pilot, he flew the North American T–28D Trojan aircraft in Southeast Asia as a Raven Pilot, providing vital support to ground forces. He also piloted the RC–135 aircraft, conducting high-altitude photographic and electronic reconnaissance missions in Eastern and Southeast Asia, significantly contributing to our national security efforts.

Later in his career, he was selected for the newly established United States Air Force Space Operations Command, where he served as a space operations and surveillance commander. His leadership in this emerging field showcased his adaptability and commitment to advancing our Nation's capabilities in space.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse's 20 years of active service are complemented by his extensive experience in aviation, aerospace, scientific research, engineering, technology, education, senior program management, information resource management, and administration. He held influential positions across the Department of Defense, multiple federal intelligence agencies, and various civilian educational and business institutions. Notably, he served as a science and technology advisor to the Office of President Ronald Reagan, a testament to his expertise and the trust placed in him at the highest levels of government.

By the time of his retirement, his exceptional achievements had earned him numerous titles and certifications, including Senior Pilot in the Air Force, Senior Space Operations Commander, Space Surveillance and Mission Assessment Expert, Command Missileer, Master Acquisition Manager (Department of Defense Level III certified), and Master Instructor.

Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse's decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force

Longevity Service Ribbon with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol), and the Air Force Training Ribbon. These honors reflect his dedication, skill, and the high esteem in which he is held by his peers and superiors.

Following his distinguished military career, Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse has been deeply involved in community service and education. He co-founded the Baylor University School of Engineering and Computer Science and has served on its Board of Advocates for over 25 years, influencing the education of countless students. He has also been a member of the Baylor University Air Institute's Board of Advisors for over five years, contributing his expertise to the advancement of aviation education.

Currently, he chairs the Board of Texas State Technical College, where he has served for over 25 years, demonstrating his long-term commitment to technical education and workforce development. Additionally, he is a member and former president of the Heart of Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, where he has served on the educational scholarship selection committee for over 25 years, supporting the next generation of leaders. These are just a few examples of the many organizations where Lieutenant Colonel Rafuse has made significant contributions as a member and leader.

It is with great honor and respect that I present retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel Harold Eugene Rafuse with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas. His exemplary service to our Nation and continued contributions to his community stand as an inspiration to us all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAN PABLO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANSION ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the ''San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act.'' I thank U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA (D–CA) for sponsoring the companion legislation and my colleagues, Congressmen JARED HUFFMAN (D–CA) and MIKE THOMPSON (D–CA) for cosponsoring my bill.

The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge is one of California's treasured places, protecting more than 24,390 acres of tidal marshes and wetlands in the north San Francisco Bay Area. As part of the Pacific Flyway, the National Wildlife Refuge provides critical habitat for endangered species and migratory birds.

The ''San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act'' would add approximately 5,658 acres of adjacent baylands owned by the State of California and the nonprofit Sonoma Land Trust to the National Wildlife Refuge's boundary. This expansion would increase the National Wildlife Refuge's acreage by more than 23 percent, supporting President Biden's ''America the Beautiful'' National Conservation Goal to protect and conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030 and Governor Newsom's similar conservation goal for the State of California.

Conserving California's special places has been a lifelong passion throughout my tenure in the State Legislature, as Deputy Secretary of the Interior to President Clinton, and now as a Member of Congress representing Solano County. San Pablo Bay is one of those special places. This bill will help to restore the saltmarshes in San Pablo Bay for future generations and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for Bay Area residents and visitors alike.

Importantly, this bill does not infringe upon state interests or individual property owners and prevents the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from using eminent domain to acquire properties within the expanded boundaries. Instead, the bill directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to only acquire land within the newly extended boundary from willing sale or donation. Furthermore, the bill encourages the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to engage in cooperative management with state agencies to better manage the National Wildlife Refuge and nearby state conservation lands within the San Pablo Bay watershed.

This bill is inspired by the tireless efforts of the late U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D–CA) and the late Congressman Don Edwards (D–CA) to restore and conserve the Bay Area's saltmarshes and wetlands. Thanks to their leadership and steadfast work, the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in the South Bay now encompasses over 30,000 acres of habitat for millions of migratory birds and endangered species. It is an honor to continue Senator Feinstein and Congressman Edwards' legacy of protecting and restoring resilient bayland ecosystems that benefit both wildlife, people, and our planet.

The ''San Pablo National Wildlife Refuge Expansion Act'' takes a critical step toward preserving the Bay Area's ecological diversity and ensuring the resilience of our communities as we continue fighting the climate crisis. I thank the hundreds of Bay Area residents and Californians who participated in the public comment period on my draft bill announced in September 2023. Their thoughtful comments and overwhelming support made this a stronger bill.

My colleagues and I are honored to introduce this bill to help restore vital ecosystems and improve the north Bay's climate resiliency by preserving one of California's special places for future generations. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to join us in cosponsoring this bill.

RECOGNIZING CHANDRA CHEESEBOROUGH

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chandra Cheeseborough, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Chandra Cheeseborough is an example of a world record breaking Olympic Champion with a successful coaching career after receiving one of the first ever Title IX scholarships given to deserving female athletes.

Chandra broke onto the international track scene at age 16, winning two gold medals at the 1975 Pan American Games, taking the 200 meters in an American record time of 22.77 seconds. In 1976, she set the World junior record at 11.13 seconds, placing second at the U.S. Olympic trials, then placing sixth in that event at the Montreal Olympic games.

Chandra graduated from Jean Ribault High School in Jacksonville, Florida in 1977, where she set the still standing NFHS national high school records in both the 100-yard and 220-yard dashes. She attended Tennessee State, where she was a member of national championship teams that set world indoor records. She qualified for the 1980 U.S. Olympic team but was unable to compete due to the Summer Olympics boycott. She won the national indoor 200-yard dash in 1979, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Chandra's breakthrough year in the 400-meter race came in 1984, when she set two American records in the event, then placing second in the Los Angeles Olympics in a career best of 49.05, the No. 10 performer of all time. She made history at the 1984 games when she became the first woman to win gold medals in both relays, which were held less than an hour apart.

In 1999 she was named head coach of both men and women's track and cross-country teams leading her Tigerbells to 6 Ohio Valley Conference Championships. She also served as assistant coach for the 2008 Beijing Olympics hurdles and sprints.

Her faith in Christ has been a beacon of hope and strength to her student athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this inspiring woman of distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND LEGACY OF JUDGE SARA J. SMOLENSKI

HON. HILLARY J. SCHOLTEN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of my constituent, the Honorable Sara J. Smolenski, who is retiring from the Kent County 63rd District Court after 34 years of outstanding public service. As a trailblazer in our West Michigan community, Judge Smolenski has dedicated her professional life to serving the people of Kent County.

Judge Smolenski served as a private attorney and an assistant city attorney in Grand Rapids prior to her judgeship. She was first elected to the court in 1990 and served as Chief Justice for over a quarter century, from 1996 to 2023. Throughout her life, she has supported local organizations such as the Hospice of Michigan, Kent County Literacy Council, RAVE (Resources Against Violent Encounters) to Women of West Michigan, and the Young Women's Christian Association. Her incredible service to our community has not gone unnoticed, receiving awards from organizations such as the American Red Cross and Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

In 2016, Judge Smolenski became the first elected official to enter a same-sex marriage in Kent County when she married her partner of 27 years. She remains a role model for women and LGBTQ+ people in Michigan's

Third District, and I am honored to celebrate her today.

Mr. Speaker, once more I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Judge Sara J. Smolenski for her commitment to public service, justice, and the people of Kent County. I hope her retirement is restful and filled with joy.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA ON HIS SERVICE AND RETIREMENT

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Major General Kenneth S. Hara, the Adjutant General of the State of Hawaii, on his retirement from the Hawaii National Guard after a celebrated 40 years of service to our state and our nation.

As Hawaii's adjutant general, Major General Hara serves as commander of the Hawaii National Guard and the director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. In those roles, he has led the state's response to some of the most challenging and complex emergencies in Hawaii's history. In March 2020, just a few months after Major General Hara became the adjutant general, Governor Josh Green asked him to serve as the state's incident commander for the COVID–19 pandemic. Thanks to his leadership, Hawaii's response to the pandemic was among the most successful in the country.

Over the course of his career, Major General Hara also served as the dual status commander of Joint Task Force–50 in response to the Kīlauea eruption and Hurricane Lane in 2018 and as commander of Task Force KOA after the 2006 Hawaii Island earthquake. And as a First Lieutenant over thirty years ago, he played a key role in supporting the state's response to Hurricane Iniki in 1992.

But what I will most remember Major General Hara for is his role in leading the state's response to the August 2023 wildfires on Maui and supporting their recovery. As the freshman representative for Hawaii's Second Congressional District that spans all eight of our islands, I am grateful to Major General Hara for his work in coordinating the state's response to this unprecedented disaster in our state's history alongside our local and federal partners.

Throughout his career in the National Guard, Major General Hara deployed three times. In 2005, he deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as commander of the 299th Infantry's 2nd Battalion. In 2008, he deployed to Kuwait as deputy commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. Then, in 2012, this time as commander of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, he deployed to Kandahar in Afghanistan.

His many awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Aviator Badge, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Major General Hara's career continued a legacy of service that began with his late father, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Hara. Alongside his three brothers, Major General Hara has ensured that the Hara name is synonymous with service to our state and the nation.

This career dedicated to service has also been a family commitment, and I would be remiss if I did not also thank Major General Hara's wife Myoung and his children Kristin, Julia, Nichole, Justin, and Alicia. Their support and sacrifice made his success possible for all of us.

As he and his entire family transition to a new chapter, I proudly join them in celebrating a tremendous career that will continue to inspire and motivate future generations of leaders. But even more importantly, I wish them all the best in enjoying a well-earned retirement.

Mahalo to Ken for all that he has done and given to Hawaii and our country.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT DONALD LYNN MCDONALD, USMC, RETIRED WITH A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor retired USMC Staff Sergeant Donald Lynn McDonald of Groesbeck, Texas, by presenting him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His dedication to veteran's causes in retirement reflects the ideals of our Country's core values.

Born in Mexia, Texas, Donald McDonald answered the call to serve by joining the United States Marine Corps in the 1970s. Over more than six years of active duty, he demonstrated exceptional commitment and skill. Serving as an Electric Systems Technician, he began his active service in 1971 in Beaufort, South Carolina. His exemplary performance earned him the M–14 Marksman Classification, the National Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and a Letter of Appreciation, highlighting his professionalism and dedication to duty.

Upon his honorable discharge, Staff Sergeant McDonald continued his legacy of service within Limestone County. He became an active member of the Limestone County History Committee, where he focused on locating individuals in cemeteries and assisting families in finding their lost relatives. His efforts have provided closure and solace to many families, underscoring his compassion and commitment to his community.

Currently, he serves as the Limestone County Veteran Service Officer. In this role, he has achieved accreditation and has been instrumental in assisting numerous veterans throughout the community. His tireless work ensures that veterans and their families receive the benefits and support they have rightfully earned. Donald's unwavering dedication reflects a deep respect for the sacrifices of his fellow service members and a genuine desire to enhance their quality of life.

This nomination is not only a tribute to Donald's profound commitment to his fellow citizens but also a recognition of the entire Veterans of Foreign Wars community in Limestone County. His selfless dedication embodies the highest ideals of service and citizenship.

I am honored to award retired USMC Staff Sergeant Donald Lynn McDonald with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

CELEBRATING RIDGWAY, PA BICENTENNIAL YEAR

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ridgway, Pennsylvania's Bicentennial year.

In 1817, Philadelphian shipping merchant Jacob Ridgway purchased 120,000 acres of land in Northwest Pennsylvania.

Forty thousand of these acres would officially become Elk County on April 18, 1843 with Ridgway as the county seat.

According to historians, the town of Ridgway was established in 1824 when one of Mr. Ridgway's nephews, James Gillis, convinced Ridgway that his land, which was filled with an abundance of lumber, could become a lucrative business opportunity.

In the past two hundred years, Ridgway has evolved into a thriving community where the lumber industry continues to flourish.

Ridgway is home to the Ridgway Chainsaw Carving Rendezvous.

What began as a shared passion of family and friends enthusiastic about wood carving has grown into the largest chainsaw carving gathering of its kind, attracting visitors from across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, Ridgway, PA, is home to a vibrant community, and I hope you will join me in wishing Ridgway a happy 200th-year celebration.

RECOGNIZING PAMELA EVETTE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Lt. Governor Pamela Evette, who was named a 2024 She Leads Woman of Distinction.

Pamela Evette, the 93rd Lieutenant Governor, and the first female Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, demonstrates God's love for families and children. She has worked to support early childhood education, school reading programs, school choice, and South Carolina non-profits. Pamela is also a staunch supporter of parental rights, the military, and law enforcement knowing the importance of a safe environment for the future of our country and the next generation.

An entrepreneur and businesswoman, Pamela has received numerous accolades, including the ATHENA Leadership Award and the Enterprising Woman of the Year Award. Since taking office in 2019, Pamela has been laser-focused on utilizing her professional background to highlight South Carolina's thriving small business ecosystem, attract new business to the state, and promote innovative public-private partnerships. To help highlight and protect South Carolina's natural resources,

Pamela created the Grab-A-Bag South Carolina annual statewide litter clean up initiative in partnership with Palmetto Pride. She also joined the SC7 Expedition to raise awareness for floodwater prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this inspiring woman of distinction.

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE AND CONTINUED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF MR. SCOTT BIELER

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the remarkable and continued leadership and service of Mr. Scott Bieler.

As the President and CEO of West Herr, Scott leads the largest privately-owned automotive group in New York State, and one of the biggest in the United States. All told, there are over 3,000 employees across 39 locations in Erie, Niagara, Monroe, and Ontario counties, with new expansions and locations always on the horizon.

Scott has continued to go above and beyond, and while he is known as generous—few know the extent of his philanthropy throughout the community. Scott is actively involved and supports many charitable and community initiatives, including the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation, Visit Buffalo Niagara, and Daemen University.

On Thursday, September 26th, Mr. Scott Bieler will be honored at Buffalo Niagara Partnership's Second Annual Economic Development Summit, where he will receive the 2024 Industry Leader Award. On behalf of Western New York, I am proud to congratulate my friend on his many accomplishments, and I join him in celebrating this well-deserved award.

I therefore ask that this legislative body now join me in celebrating Mr. Bieler's accomplishments, along with his continued dedication to leadership and community service.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 13

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Matthew James Marzano, of Illinois, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Matthew Kaplan, of Maryland, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Great Lakes Authority, and 43 General Services Administration resolutions.

SD–406

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 9747, Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6387–S6469

Measures Introduced: One hundred twenty-nine bills and forty-three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5164–5292, S.J. Res. 111–116, S. Res. 856–890, and S. Con. Res. 42–43. **Pages S6435–41**

Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 3891, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States. (S. Rept. No. 118–233)

H.R. 1823, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the ''Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building''.

H.R. 3354, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the ''Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6810, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the ''U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building''.

H.R. 6983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the ''Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office''.

H.R. 7180, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the ''Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office''.

H.R. 7385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the ''John Mercer Langston Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7417, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the ''Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the ''George Henry White Post Office Building''.

H.R. 7893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the ''Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building''.

S. 3181, to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the ''Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit''.

S. 4404, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the ''Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office''.

S. 4634, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the ''Representative Maxine Bell Post Office''.

S. 4803, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 31143 State Highway 65 in Pengilly, Minnesota, as the ''First Lieutenant Richard Arne Koski Post Office''. **Page S6435**

Measures Passed:

Certify Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Report: Senate agreed to S. Res. 837, authorizing the President of the Senate to certify the report of the Committee on Health, Education,

Labor, and Pensions of the Senate regarding the refusal of Dr. Ralph de la Torre to appear and testify before the Committee. **Pages S6405–08**

Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act: By 78 yeas to 18 nays (Vote No. 255), Senate passed H.R. 9747, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, by the order of the Senate of Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative. **Page S6408**

Lieutenant Osvaldo Albarati Stopping Prison Contraband Act: Senate passed S. 5284, to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility. **Page S6415**

Rural Broadband Protection Act: Senate passed S. 275, to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6464**

Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act: Senate passed S. 1570, to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening. **Page S6465**

Strengthening the Commercial Driver's License Information System Act: Senate passed S. 3475, to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Transportation to designate an authorized operator of the commercial driver's license information system. **Page S6465**

Words Matter for the District of Columbia Courts Act: Senate passed S. 3698, to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to revise references in such title to individuals with intellectual disabilities. **Page S6466**

Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex: Senate passed S. 4293, to designate the United States courthouse annex located at 310 South Main Street in London, Kentucky, as the ''Eugene E. Siler, Jr. United States Courthouse Annex''. **Page S6466**

Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of S. 4489, to designate the Federal building located at 50 United Nations Plaza in San Francisco, California, as the ''Senator Dianne Feinstein Federal Building'', and the bill was then passed. **Page S6466**

Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 7189, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a national congenital heart disease research, surveillance, and awareness program. **Page S6466**

Authorizing the Use of Emancipation Hall: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 127, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the unveiling of a statue of Martha Hughes Cannon. **Page S6466**

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act: Senate passed H.R. 7777, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2024, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. **Pages S6466–67**

Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act: Senate passed H.R. 4190, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to repay the estates of deceased beneficiaries for certain benefits paid by the Secretary and misused by fiduciaries of such beneficiaries. **Page S6467**

Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act: Senate passed S. 5292, to amend the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 to modify a provision relating to the acquisition of a Coast Guard icebreaker. **Page S6467**

National Principals Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 876, designating October 2024 as ''National Principals Month''. **Page S6467**

National Community Policing Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 877, designating the week of October 6, 2024, through October 12, 2024, as ''National Community Policing Week''. **Page S6467**

James Earl Jones: Senate agreed to S. Res. 878, honoring the life, legacy, and contributions of James Earl Jones. **Page S6467**

Permitting the Collection of Clothing, Toys, Food, and Housewares: Senate agreed to S. Res. 879, permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in the Senate buildings. **Page S6467**

Lights On Afterschool: Senate agreed to S. Res. 880, supporting afterschool programs and Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of afterschool programs held on October 24, 2024. **Page S6467**

Day of the Deployed: Senate agreed to S. Res. 881, designating October 26, 2024, as the ''Day of the Deployed''. **Page S6467**

National Clean Energy Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 882, designating the week of September 23

through September 27, 2024, as "National Clean Energy Week". Page S6467

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America 120th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 883, recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of America on its 120th anniversary. Page S6467

Gold Star Families Remembrance Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 884, designating the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week". Page S6467

Energy Efficiency Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 885, designating October 2, 2024, as "Energy Efficiency Day" in celebration of the economic and environmental benefits that have been driven by private sector innovation and Federal energy efficiency policies. Page S6467

Bat Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 886, expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2024, to October 31, 2024, as "Bat Week". Page S6467

National 4-H Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 887, expressing support for the designation of October 7 through October 12, 2024, as "National 4-H Week". Page S6467

James Ralph Sasser: Senate agreed to S. Res. 888, honoring the life of James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee. Page S6467

Murder of James Wright Foley: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 805, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the murder of James Wright Foley and calling for the moral courage to prioritize the return of Americans held captive abroad and take all necessary efforts to deter international hostage taking and arbitrary detention, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendments proposed thereto. Pages S6468–69

Schumer (for Shaheen/Graham) Amendment No. 3300, in the nature of a substitute. Page S6468

Schumer (for Shaheen/Graham) Amendment No. 3301, to amend the preamble. Page S6468

Measures Considered:

Budget Resolution: By 39 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 252), Senate did not agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 41, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034. Pages S6396–97

Appointments:

Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107–12, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Trevor Whipple of Vermont. Page S6464

Social Security Advisory Board: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, pursuant to Public Law 103–296, reappointed the following individual as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board: Robert Charles Joondeph of Oregon. Page S6464

State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader and the Republican Leader, pursuant to Public Law 110–298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Juan Figueroa of New York. Page S6464

Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: The Chair, on behalf of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, pursuant to Public Law 117–263, announced the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Reform and Modernization of the Department of State: Jay Snyder of New York. Page S6464

Forgotten Heroes of The Holocaust Congressional Gold Medal Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the passage of S. 91, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust, Schumer (for Hagerty) Amendment No. 3299 to the bill, to amend the title, be agreed to. Page S6464

Signing Authority—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senators Bennet and Schumer be authorized to be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from September 25, 2024, through September 27, 2024. Page S6464

Authorizing Leadership to Make Appointments—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that, notwithstanding the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Majority and Minority Leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate. Page S6464

Pro Forma Sessions—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the

Senate adjourn, to then convene for pro forma sessions only, with no business being conducted, on the following dates and times, and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Friday, September 27, 2024, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 1 p.m.; Friday, October 4, 2024, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.; Friday, October 11, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.; Friday, October 18, 2024, at 10 a.m.; Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 8 a.m.; Friday, October 25, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.; Friday, November 1, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.; Monday, November 4, 2024, at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 12 noon; and Friday, November 8, 2024, at 12 noon; and that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, November 8, 2024, it next convene at 3 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. **Page S6469**

Perry Nomination—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the nomination of April M. Perry, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. **Pages S6408–15**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture with respect to the nomination be withdrawn; and that Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. **Page S6415**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed during the session of the Senate of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, ripen on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. **Page S6469**

Hawley Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. **Page S6415**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Wednesday, September 25, 2024, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. **Page S6415**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6415**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6415**

Huitema Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics. **Pages S6415–16**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois. **Pages S6415–16**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6415**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6415**

Fung Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court. **Page S6416**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics. **Page S6416**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6416**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6416**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 58 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 254), Byron B. Conway, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. **Pages S6387–96, S6397–98, S6404–05**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 58 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 253), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6397**

Ann C. Fisher, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring October 14, 2030.

Ashley Jay Elizabeth Poling, of North Carolina, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2030.

Jeffrey Samuel Arbeit, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Benjamin A. Guider III, of Louisiana, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service.
Pages S6398, S6416

Messages from the House: Page S6431

Measures Referred: Pages S6431–32

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S6432

Executive Communications: Pages S6432–34

Petitions and Memorials: Pages S6434–35

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S6441–44

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6444–62

Additional Statements: Pages S6429–31

Amendments Submitted: Pages S6462–63

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Pages S6463–64

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—255) Pages S6397, S6405, S6408

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late James Ralph Sasser, former Senator for the State of Tennessee, in accordance with S. Res. 888, at 9:48 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, September 27, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6469.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

HOUSING UNAFFORDABILITY

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine economic risks from housing unaffordability, focusing on the costs of inaction, after receiving testimony from K. Joseph Shekarchi, Rhode Island House of Representatives, Providence; Paul E. Williams, Center for Public Enterprise, Brooklyn, New York; Greta J. Harris, Better Housing Coalition, Richmond, Virginia; Edward Pinto, American Enterprise Institute Housing Center, and Jack Salmon, Philanthropy Roundtable, both of Washington, D.C.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner, Thomas. B. Chapman, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Lanhee J. Chen, of California, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, who was introduced by Senator Romney, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

REMOTE SALES TAX COLLECTION

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth concluded hearings to examine providing small business relief from remote sales tax collection, after receiving testimony from Joseph Bishop-Henchman, National Taxpayers Union Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Craig Johnson, Streamlined Sales Tax Governing Board, Westby, Wisconsin; and Diane L. Yetter, Sales Tax Institute, Chicago, Illinois.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 4667, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish the Life Sciences Research Security Board, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5105, to require a report by the Secretary of Homeland Security regarding the failed assassination attempt on the life of Donald J. Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13, 2024, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4900, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize certain preparedness measures, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 131, to amend chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to cover, for purposes of workers' compensation under such chapter, services by physician assistants and nurse practitioners provided to injured Federal workers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2924, to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the management of improper payments, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5067, to improve individual assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

S. 4898, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include extreme heat in the definition of a major disaster, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3926, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to ensure that other transaction agreements are reported to USAspending.gov, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4679, to amend title XLI of the FAST Act to improve the Federal permitting process, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5098, to require certain agencies to develop plans for internal control in the event of an emergency or crisis, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5133, to establish a tracker for Senate-confirmed executive branch positions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5109, to amend section 3520A of title 44, United States Code, to extend the Chief Data Officer Council's sunset and add new authorities for improving Federal agency data governance, including to enable reliable and secure adoption of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5093, to sunset the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5092, to amend the Northern Border Security Review Act to require updates to the northern border threat analysis and northern border strategy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 5099, to prescribe requirements relating to the management of the Federal property commonly known as Plum Island, New York, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3181, to designate the Air and Marine Operations Marine Unit of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection located at 101 Km 18.5 in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, as the ''Michel O. Maceda Marine Unit'';

H.R. 5799, to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the ''James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint'';

S. 4404, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 840 Front Street in Casselton, North Dakota, as the ''Commander Delbert Austin Olson Post Office'';

S. 4803, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 31143 State Highway 65 in Pengilly, Minnesota, as the ''First Lieutenant Richard Arne Koski Post Office'';

S. 4634, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the ''Representative Maxine Bell Post Office'';

H.R. 1823, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 East Fort Dade Avenue in Brooksville, Florida, as the ''Specialist Justin Dean Coleman Memorial Post Office Building'';

H.R. 3354, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 North Hatcher Avenue in Purcellville, Virginia, as the ''Secretary of State Madeleine Albright Post Office Building'';

H.R. 6810, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 518 North Ridgewood Drive in Sebring, Florida, as the ''U.S. Army Air Corps Major Thomas B. McGuire Post Office Building'';

H.R. 6983, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 15 South Valdosta Road in Lakeland, Georgia, as the ''Nell Patten Roquemore Post Office'';

H.R. 7180, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 1st Street in Kingsland, Arkansas, as the ''Kingsland 'Johnny Cash' Post Office'';

H.R. 7385, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 29 Franklin Street in Petersburg, Virginia, as the ''John Mercer Langston Post Office Building'';

H.R. 7417, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 West Spring Street in Titusville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Edwin L. Drake Post Office Building'';

H.R. 7606, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1087 Route 47 South in Rio Grande, New Jersey, as the ''Carlton H. Hand Post Office Building'';

H.R. 7607, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at Block 1025, Lots 18 & 19, Northeast Corner of US Route 9 South and Main Street in the Township of Middle, County of Cape May, New Jersey, as the ''George Henry White Post Office Building''; and

H.R. 7893, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 Pickens Street in Marion, Alabama, as the ''Albert Turner, Sr. Post Office Building''.

BOEING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations concluded a hearing to examine FAA oversight of Boeing's broken safety culture, after receiving testimony from Michael Whitaker, Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation.

AI

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety concluded a hearing to examine preparing workers for AI, after receiving testimony from Karin Kimbrough, LinkedIn, Sunnyvale, California; Alex Kotran, aiEDU, San Francisco, California; Kenneth Meyer, SHRM, New York, New York; and Denzel Wilson, SeedAI, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 465, to require Federal law enforcement agencies to report on cases of missing or murdered Indians, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2908, to assist Tribal governments in the management of buffalo and buffalo habitat and the reestablishment of buffalo on Indian land, with an amendment; and

S. 4370, to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, with an amendment.

INDIAN AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 4444, to take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow Tribe of Montana, S. 4633, to provide for the settlement of the water rights claims of the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, S. 4643, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Zuni Indian Tribe in the Zuni River Stream System in the State of New Mexico, to protect the Zuni Salt Lake, S. 4705, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Yavapai-Apache Nation in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and S. 4998, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the Rio San Jose Stream System in the State of New Mexico, after receiving testimony from Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Frank White Clay, Crow Nation, Crow Agency, Montana; Buu Nygren, Navajo Nation, Window Rock, Arizona; Timothy Nuvangyaoma, Hopi Tribe, Kykotsmovi, Arizona; Johnny Lehi Jr., San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Tuba City, Arizona; Arden Kucate, Zuni Tribe, Zuni, New Mexico; and Tanya Lewis, Yavapai-Apache Nation, Camp Verde, Arizona.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Anthony J. Brindisi, and Elizabeth C. Coombe, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of New York, Sarah Morgan Davenport, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico, who was introduced by Senators Heinrich and Lujan, Sharad Harshad Desai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, who was introduced by Senator Sinema, Tiffany Rene Johnson, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, who was introduced by Senator Warnock, and Keli Marie Neary, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senator Casey, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

SEXUAL ASSAULT IN U.S. PRISONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism concluded a hearing to examine sexual assault in U.S. prisons two decades after the Prison Rape Elimination Act, after receiving testimony from Kenneth James, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, Lexington; Julie Abbate, Just Detention International, Washington, D.C.; Kelsey Bolar, Independent Women's Forum, Winchester, Virginia; Brandy Moore White, Council of Prison Locals, Forrest City, Arkansas; Bonnie Hernandez, Lee's Summit, Missouri; and Breane Wingfield, Dallas, Texas.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 65 public bills, H.R. 9794–9858; and 23 resolutions, H.J. Res. 208–209; H. Con. Res. 131; and H. Res. 1500–1519, were introduced. **Pages H5826–30**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5832–33**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Lopez to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5751**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:49 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H5763**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Stuck On Hold Act: H.R. 6656, amended, 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; **Pages H5776–77**

Deliver for Veterans Act: H.R. 522, amended, 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; **Pages H5777–78**

Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2024: H.R. 7323, amended, 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; **Pages H5778–80**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "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, and for other purposes"; **Pages H5778–80**

Head Start for Our Future Act: S. 656, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include child development and early learning as community services under the Federal work-study program; **Pages H5780–81**

Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025: H.R. 9747, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2025, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 341 yeas to 82 nays, Roll No. 450; and **Pages H5781–91, H5800–01**

Confirmation Of Congressional Observer Access Act: Concurred in the Senate amendment to 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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 413 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 449. **Pages H5791–92, H5800**

Sanctioning Tyrannical and Oppressive People within the Chinese Communist Party Act: The House passed 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, by a yea-and-nay vote of 243 yeas to 174 nays, Roll No. 452. **Pages H5767–72, H5801–03**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs now printed in the bill, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–705, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Pages H5769–72**

Agreed to:

Amo amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–705) that adds engaging in efforts to interfere in U.S. federal, state, and local elections to List of Qualifications for "SANCTIONABLE CONDUCT"; **Page H5771**

Ogles amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–705) that clarifies that alternate members of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party are also subject to the sanctions described in subsection (c) of Section 4; **Pages H5771–72**

Ogles amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–705) that requires the President to certify that the PRC and CCP have ceased their oppression of the Tibetan people as a condition of terminating sanctions; and **Page H5772**

Nunn amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–705) that adds to the sanction list under section 4 any Chinese State-Owned Enterprise that knowingly manufactures or distributes any chemicals used in the production of illicit fentanyl (by a recorded vote of 419 ayes to 1 no, Roll No. 451). **Pages H5770–71, H5801–02**

H. Res. 1486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3334), (H.R. 8205), (H.R. 8790), and the resolution (H. Res. 1469) was agreed to yesterday, September 24th.

Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act: The House passed 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, by a yea-and-nay vote of 255 yeas to 161 nays, Roll No. 454. **Pages H5772–76, H5803–04**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit fraud in connection with posting bail.". **Page H5806**

Rejected the Cárdenas motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 212 nays, Roll No. 453. **Pages H5775–76, H5803**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–51 shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in the bill. **Page H5772**

H. Res. 1486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3334), (H.R. 8205), (H.R. 8790), and the resolution (H. Res. 1469) was agreed to yesterday, September 24th.

Ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan: The House agreed to H. Res. 1469, ensuring accountability for key officials in the Biden-Harris administration responsible for decisionmaking and execution failures throughout the withdrawal from Afghanistan, by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 455. **Pages H5792–H5800, H5804–05**

H. Res. 1486, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3334), (H.R. 8205), (H.R. 8790), and the resolution (H. Res. 1469) was agreed to yesterday, September 24th.

Recess: The House recessed at 5:24 p.m. and reconvened at 5:52 p.m. **Page H5806**

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated 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. **Page H5806**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Horsford announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 1500) censuring Representative Glen Clay Higgins of the 3rd Congressional District of Louisiana. **Page H5806**

Senate Referral: S. 815 was held at the desk. **Page H5817**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H5751 and H5817.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5800, H5801, H5801–02, H5802–03, H5803, H5803–04, and H5804–05.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 9716, the ''Increasing Baseline Updates Act''; H.R. 9751, the ''Executive Action Cost Transparency Act''; H.R. 9714, the ''CBO Oversight Act''; H.R. 9711, the ''Congressional Budget Office Scheduling Reform Act''; H.R. 9686, the ''HEALTH Panel Act''; and H.R. 8068, the ''Stop the Baseline Bloat Act of 2024''. H.R. 9716, H.R. 9751, H.R. 9714, H.R. 9711, and H.R. 9686 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 8068 was ordered reported, as amended.

INNOVATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION: PROPERLY EQUIPPING AMERICA'S EDUCATORS

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled ''Innovative Teacher Preparation: Properly Equipping America's Educators''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

REGULATORY RECIPE FOR ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY: THE ENDLESS BASEL ENDGAME AND AN ONSLAUGHT OF HURRIED RULEMAKING UNDERTAKEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled ''Regulatory Recipe for Economic Uncertainty: The Endless Basel Endgame and an Onslaught of Hurried Rulemaking Undertaken by the Administration''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3386, the ''Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Enhancement Act''; H.R. 4406, the ''DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2023''; H.R. 9668, the ''SHIELD Against CCP Act''; H.R. 9689, the ''DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program Act''; H.R. 9722, the ''CATCH Fentanyl Act''; H.R. 9752, the ''Tren de Aragua Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act''; H.R. 9749, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to abolish the reorganization authority of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; H.R. 9769, the ''Strengthening Cyber Resilience Against State-Sponsored Threats Act''; H.R. 9768, the ''Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative Act''; H.R. 9762, the ''DHS International Cyber Partner Act of 2024''; H.R. 9748, the ''Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act''; H.R. 5729, a bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to establish a Homeland Intelligence Experts Group, and for other purposes; H.R. 5840, the ''Transportation Security Screening Modernization Act''; H.R. 7311, the ''Combatting International Drug Trafficking and Human Smuggling Partnership Act of 2024''; H.R. 7365, the ''VETS Safe Travel Act''; H.R. 8119, the ''PEARL Act''; H.R. 9469, the ''Pipeline Security Act''; H.R. 9731, the ''Special Interest Alien Reporting Act of 2024''; H.R. 9770, the ''Cyber PIVOTT Act''; and H.R. 3169, the ''Port Crane Security and Inspection Act

of 2023''. H.R. 3386, H.R. 4406, H.R. 9668, H.R. 9689, H.R. 9722, H.R. 9752, H.R. 9749, H.R. 9769, H.R. 9768, H.R. 9762, and H.R. 9748 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 5729, H.R. 5840, H.R. 7311, H.R. 7365, H.R. 8119, H.R. 9469, H.R. 9731, H.R. 9770, and H.R. 3169 were ordered reported, as amended.

HEARING ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Committee on the Judiciary: Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government held a hearing entitled ''Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government''. Testimony was heard from Michael E. Horowitz, Inspector General, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7137, the ''Trafficking Survivors Relief Act of 2024''; H.R. 9563, the ''Protecting Americans from Russian Litigation Act of 2024''; and H.R. 9151, the ''Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2024''. H.R. 7137 and H.R. 9151 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 9563 was ordered reported, without amendment.

KITCHEN TABLE ECONOMICS: HOW FAILED BIDEN-HARRIS POLICIES CONTINUE TO HURT CONSUMERS

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled ''Kitchen Table Economics: How Failed Biden-Harris Policies Continue to Hurt Consumers''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE BORDER CRISIS: THE COST OF CHAOS

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled ''The Border Crisis: The Cost of Chaos''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 9720, the ''AI Incident Reporting and Security Enhancement Act''; H.R. 9710, the ''Small Modular Reactor Demonstration Act of 2024''; H.R. 9671, the ''Department of Energy Artificial Intelligence Act of 2024''; and H.R. 9723, the ''National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2024''. H.R. 9720 was ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 9710, H.R. 9671, H.R. 9723 were ordered reported, as amended.

AVENUES TO SUCCESS: EXAMINING WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR EMPLOYEES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled ''Avenues to Success: Examining Workforce Training Programs for Employees''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7671, the ''Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act''; and H.R. 9750, the ''Natural Disaster Recovery Program Act of 2024''. H.R. 7671 was ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 9750 was ordered reported, as amended.

EXAMINING THE ROLE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF BUILDING CODES IN MITIGATING AGAINST DISASTERS

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Role and Effectiveness of Building Codes in Mitigating Against Disasters''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ALWAYS READY: A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A U.S. COAST GUARD SENTINEL

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled ''Always Ready: A Day in The Life of a U.S. Coast Guard Sentinel''. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Thomas Allan, Jr., Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, U.S. Coast Guard; and Master Chief Heath B. Jones, Master Chief Petty Officer, U.S. Coast Guard.

EVERYDAY HEROES: SUPPORTING THE VETERAN CAREGIVER COMMUNITY

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Everyday Heroes: Supporting the Veteran Caregiver Community''. Testimony was heard from Colleen Richardson, Executive Director, Caregiver Support Program, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled ''United States Postal Service's Role in 2024 Election Mail Readiness'', 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled ''Examining Puerto Rico's Electrical Grid and the Need for Reliable and Resilient Energy'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Technology Modernization, hearing entitled ''Ensuring Timely Access: Challenges in VA Scheduling'', 9 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled ''Digital GI Bill in Disarray: Holding the Biden-Harris Administration Accountable for VA's Costly Mismanagement'', 1 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Ongoing Investigation of the Butler, Pennsylvania Security Failure: The Secret Service's Reliance on State and Local Law Enforcement'', 9:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Friday, September 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Friday, September 27

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10 a.m.

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