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No. 171

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 19, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL MEUSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I have good news and bad news to share as we celebrate National Apprenticeship Week. Let's get the bad news out of the way first.

The Biden-Harris administration has taken steps that would destroy the apprenticeship model. Just look at the Department of Labor's nearly 800-page proposed apprenticeship rule.

This is irresponsible and reckless because we know apprenticeships are a proven strategy in closing the Nation's skills gap. With 8 million open jobs in the U.S., expanding apprenticeships will be critical to keep the American economy growing.

Not only does the Department of Labor's proposed apprenticeship rule blatantly circumvent Congress, but more to the point, it sets up a regulatory gauntlet that will limit employer and sponsor participation in apprenticeships. This will effectively close a route into the workforce for Americans seeking an alternative to a baccalaureate degree.

Currently, registered apprenticeship programs in the United States constitute only 0.3 percent of the labor force, a significantly lower share than many other developed countries. Further, these apprenticeships have yet to gain a foothold in growing industries like healthcare and information technology. One reason for this is that employers are discouraged from participating, and the NPRM only provides them with more reasons to stay away.

Instead of buoying up the sinking ship, the administration's proposed rule smothers an already underutilized system with more red tape and a one-size-fits-all mandate. In fact, even President Biden seems to recognize that the rule will deter sponsors and employers from voluntary participation since he had to issue an executive order directing Federal agencies to coerce job creators to subject their apprenticeship programs to Federal control.

What is more, the proposed rule expands Federal control over apprenticeships, injects political ideology and DEI mandates into the apprenticeship system, and imposes significant burdens on apprenticeship sponsors and employers.

Here is just one example of the NPRM's expansion of control: It elimi-

nates the competency-based model that currently permits registered apprenticeship programs to measure skill acquisition through the demonstrated attainment of competencies instead of the amount of time spent on the job learning. Competency is increasingly becoming the currency of the labor market as more employers are focusing on the skills a worker possesses, not how long it takes to acquire them.

Why would the Department of Labor move apprenticeships in the opposite direction and eliminate the competency-based model, a model that has been referred to as the "bread and butter" of apprenticeship expansion?

The people most injured by the current administration's regulatory overreach are American workers who are eager to find routes to economic independence that avoid the ballooning costs and depreciating values of a baccalaureate degree.

Now it is time for the good news. Under the second Trump administration, Americans can look forward to an apprenticeship liberation that benefits students, workers, and job creators. In his previous administration, President Trump presided over a booming workforce that emphasized on-the-job learning, upskilling and reskilling opportunities for American students and workers. His industry-recognized work program was part of this success.

Under the second Trump administration, we look forward to a renewal of this expansion of apprenticeship opportunities, which is so central to maintaining America's economic leadership in the world.

Job creators are on the front lines of their respective industries every day, and they understand the exact skills workers need to be successful. We should empower them to provide their workers with tools for success, and we look forward to doing so under the second Trump administration through the expansion of the apprenticeship program.

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

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



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HONORING DR. SANIA CHOUDHURY
IRWIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Dr. Sania Choudhury Irwin, a trailblazing civic leader from Glen Ellyn devoted to engaging and strengthening her community and our democracy. A respected leader, she works to address the important issues in our country, such as healthcare, education, immigration, press freedom, the impact of money in politics, and so much more.

As the vice president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, Sania works to inform constituents, empower voters, and defend our democracy across the country and in Illinois' Third Congressional District. She also leads nonpartisan initiatives to increase voter participation, ensuring that our local communities make their voices heard.

As the cofounder of One Community, Dr. Irwin works to advance social justice initiatives in DuPage County, focusing on programs and actions that build community. Her efforts and advocacy have resulted in the formation of a community relations commission in which she serves as the chair, spearheading policies, initiatives, and resources that create a more equitable and more inclusive society for all.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Dr. Irwin for her inspiring leadership, commitment to justice, and unwavering service to our community and our Nation. I thank Dr. Irwin.

HONORING SISTER MARTA CICHON

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sister Marta Cichon, a woman who has profoundly transformed the lives of Polish immigrant families and uplifted single mothers in Illinois.

Born in Zabkowiec, Poland, Sister Marta's duty to humanity has led her across the globe, serving in Australia before arriving in the United States in 2000. Here, she recognized a pressing need to support mothers and their children who are vulnerable to homelessness, hunger, and the lack of assistance.

Ultimately, Sister Marta established a single mothers home in 2008. The single mothers home offers essential services, from legal assistance to mental health support, empowering women to rebuild their lives.

For nearly 15 years, Sister Marta has provided refuge, hope, and a path to independence for over 140 mothers and 180 children, including those who have experienced domestic violence. To this day, these families maintain a close bond with Sister Marta, who considers them family.

I commend on this day Sister Marta for her compassion, resilience, unwavering community service, and commitment to ensure that all of us are seen.

May we be inspired by her. May we be encouraged by her and be reminded that it is our responsibility to serve others.

"Dziękuję" "thank you," Sister Marta.

IRS FAILS TO SERVE AMERICANS
HELD HOSTAGE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, there has been a sharp increase in hostile and adversarial nations kidnapping American citizens and holding them for ransom. While these Americans are being held hostage, the last thing that they and their families need is more bureaucratic red tape here at home.

The fact that the IRS has been charging these hostages with late fees and penalizing them for failing to file their tax returns is yet another sign of the agency's failure to serve the American people.

It is time for the House to pass the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act, which will address this issue and support these Americans during one of the most challenging times in their lives.

An equally important component of this bill is that it would revoke the tax-exempt status of organizations that support terrorist groups like Hamas. No organization that supports terrorist groups should have tax shelters here in the United States.

It is time to stand with our allies and Americans. We need to pass this bill. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.

CELEBRATING PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S
GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 161 years ago today, President Abraham Lincoln stood before a group of soldiers, citizens, and elected officials to deliver the Gettysburg Address.

His words offered a chance to reflect on the terrible cost that this battle had brought to Gettysburg, to the soldiers who had fought there, and to our Nation that was strained by years of a devastating Civil War.

Here in Congress, I have the honor to represent Gettysburg and the Gettysburg National Military Park. Today, the park does incredible work to tell the story of Gettysburg and to preserve the memory of all those who fought during this historic battle.

Please join me in remembering the words of President Lincoln: "That this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the Earth."

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
AMERICAN EDUCATION 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 today to recognize National American Education Week.

National American Education Week is a time to acknowledge the vital role education plays in shaping not just individual lives but the future of our great Nation.

Education is the foundation upon which our Nation was built, communities thrive, and progress is made. Every child who walks through the doors of a classroom carries with them the potential to lead, innovate, and inspire.

It is our collective responsibility as educators, parents, and community members to ensure that students have every tool and every opportunity to succeed. Every student across our Nation has the right to an education.

As a senior member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, I have advocated for commonsense legislation that uplifts our students and educators nationwide. Chief among these is the All Children Are Equal Act, or the ACE Act. This bipartisan legislation would reform the discriminatory title I formula to ensure equity and fairness for school districts with high concentrations of poverty. School funding should never be based on a child's ZIP Code, and I will continue to work to ensure that Federal funding is fairly and equitably distributed across our country.

Additionally, as co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am proud to continue my longstanding support and commitment to advancing CTE and investing additional resources in these highly successful programs that create rungs on a ladder of opportunity. CTE provides students with the skills they need to succeed in life, and I will continue to support efforts that help students and families of all ages make the right decisions for their careers.

□ 1015

I am proud to lead on the Counseling for Career Choice Act, which provides additional resources to school counselors so that they can better equip students with the knowledge and the information necessary to make informed decisions about their educational journeys and future careers. Students are our future, and the commonsense legislation I have supported uplifts students to create a skilled workforce.

National American Education Week is a celebration of everyone who makes education possible. First, we honor our teachers, the unsung heroes who dedicate themselves to the mission of shaping minds. Their passion, patience, and perseverance are the lifeblood of our schools. A great teacher does more

than deliver lessons. They ignite curiosity, build confidence, and cultivate a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

We also recognize the students who are the heart of the education system. Each one brings unique talents, challenges, and aspirations. It is their drive and determination that remind us of why this work is so important. They are the leaders of tomorrow, and investing in them today is the wisest decision that we can make.

Let us not forget the support staff, the counselors, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, and administrators. They create the environments in which learning can flourish. Their contributions, often behind the scenes, are essential in holding our schools together. Of course, we celebrate the families who support their children's education at home. Their encouragement and involvement play a crucial role in the student's academic success.

Mr. Speaker, National American Education Week is not just about education. It is about our Nation's values. It is about our belief in the promise of every child and the power of a community united behind them. Together, we can ensure that the doors of opportunity remain open to all, and in doing so, secure a brighter future for generations to come.

MILITARY FAMILY APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Military Family Appreciation Month, a time to honor the families who stand as the true backbone of our military community.

As someone from a proud military family, I know the sacrifices made by those who serve are only possible because of the unwavering support of their families. I enlisted at 18 and served for 24 years from the Vietnam era to the Gulf war, both on Active Duty and in the Reserves.

Throughout my years in the military, I had the privilege of serving alongside five of my eight siblings. My husband and my father also served our country. None of us would have been able to do this without the strength and support of our family.

This month, we celebrate military families, the silent heroes behind every servicemember's success. To all military families, we thank them for their sacrifices and their unwavering commitment to our Nation's freedom.

RECOGNIZING ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY VETERANS LEGACY PROJECT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Ambrose University Veterans Legacy Project, which is working to cement the legacies of over 25,000 of our veterans at Rock Island Arsenal in the Quad Cities.

Over Veterans Day weekend, I had the pleasure of meeting some of the individuals involved in this essential process. Their team of dedicated volunteers worked diligently to ensure the lives and careers of so many of our veterans are not forgotten.

They document the service and lives of veterans ranging from the Civil War until today. As a veteran, it inspires me to see young people who care so deeply about these personal sacrifices and American history. The detail and level of care which is put into this operation is breathtaking; speaking with friends and families of these servicemen and -women to ensure nothing is forgotten.

Without these men and women, many of whom gave the ultimate sacrifice, we would not be able to enjoy the freedoms we have today. It is my hope that this project can shine a spotlight on veterans' issues and the importance of safeguarding our history.

38TH ANNUAL STUDENT HUNGER DRIVE

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible students from over 16 Quad Cities high schools who raised 787,186 meals for the River Bend Food Bank during the 38th annual Student Hunger Drive.

Through their hard work, creativity, and leadership, these students have had a profound impact on their community. By organizing events like penny wars and competing to raise the most meals, they not only provided vital resources but also united the community in their fight against hunger. Every meal they collected will go to those in need.

I am incredibly proud to represent these young leaders in Congress, and I have no doubt they will continue to make a difference in the Quad Cities and beyond. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their dedication and commitment to service.

HONORING JON WEST

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Jon West, an exceptional Iowan who passed away far too soon.

Born on May 24, 1971, in Mason City, Jon was a devoted husband to Tammy, father to TJ and Ashley, and grandfather to Rhea Lou and Lyra Jon. He dedicated 30 years to Winnebago Industries, rising from an entry-level position to lead manufacturing engineer where his innovations benefited both the company and his community.

Jon served two terms on the city council of Forest City, showing his deep commitment to giving back. A fourth-generation Iowan, he cherished his heritage and loved farming with friends, Jay and Kevin.

Above all, Jon's greatest joy was his family. His legacy lives on through them and his impact on his community endures.

Jon was a proud Iowan dedicated to his family, his work, and his State. He will be deeply missed.

GO HAWKS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend on Saturday, November

23, the Iowa Hawkeyes play the Maryland Terrapins. Go Hawks.

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO AUSTIN HARRIS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I wish a very happy birthday to my good friend, Austin Harris.

RECOGNIZING KEITH FORTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone whose service and leadership has been instrumental to the welfare of constituents in Arizona's Eighth Congressional District, my district director, Keith Forte.

Keith began his service to the Eighth District in May of 2021 in Surprise, Arizona's, office, and has been a steadfast leader throughout his tenure.

A 21-year U.S. Air Force veteran, Keith brings exceptional leadership experience to guide staff, manage congressional operations, and solve Federal constituent issues.

He led our staff in the successful completion of over 5,000 cases, which put well over \$13 million back in the pockets of my constituents.

Keith has made an incredible impact on the lives of constituents and is an invaluable member of my team. Keith is dedicated, hardworking, honest, and loyal. He is a great employee, and a great human being.

I thank Keith Forte for his leadership and service to me and the Eighth Congressional District. His dedication, leadership, and effectiveness were critical in the success of our constituent service programs and improved the lives of those living in our district.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Keith for his service. He will be missed.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL TREE

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of my district staff, Michael Tree, for his dedication and service to the constituents of Arizona's Eighth Congressional District.

Michael Tree, a U.S. Air Force veteran, serves as the military and veteran community liaison in my Surprise, Arizona, district office.

Michael expertly navigated problems for over 1,000 constituents who had issues with various Federal agencies, but primarily fought to help veterans with the benefits they earned after service to our country.

As a result, he directly saved constituents over \$2.3 million, which is an incredible achievement in service to my constituents.

Michael also displayed leadership abilities by managing my yearly service academy nomination process and military and veteran advisory board.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Michael Tree for his leadership and service to the Eighth Congressional District. His dedication and determination were critical to the success of our constituent service programs and improved the lives of those living in our district.

HONORING 2024 IERC VOLUNTEER
FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR
KERRY SHEPHERD

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kerry Shepherd, who is the chief of the Cloverdale Township Volunteer Fire Department, for winning the 2024 Indiana Emergency Response Conference Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year Award.

Kerry Shepherd was nominated for his selfless and unwavering commitment to the Cloverdale Township Volunteer Fire Department. He became a volunteer firefighter over 35 years ago to promote safety and preparedness for the Cloverdale community. Kerry has consistently fostered strong relationships with the fire department and the community around him through volunteering and public service.

Kerry won the Volunteer Fire Chief of the Year Award for his outstanding leadership capabilities, his perseverance during full-time, night-shift jobs, and his continuous dedication to volunteer. I am grateful for his exceptional service to our central Indiana communities, and I congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING 2024 IERC FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR
DARRICK WIATT

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Darrick Wiatt of the Greencastle Fire Department for winning the 2024 Indiana Emergency Response Conference Fire Officer of the Year Award.

Darrick Wiatt has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication and was recently promoted to captain after 6 years as a lieutenant.

Darrick showed extraordinary commitment during an incident in February 2024 where he supported EMS staff in maintaining the well-being of a pediatric cardiac arrest patient.

Darrick is also active in his community through volunteering with other fire departments and taking part in peer mentoring and engaging with others who struggle with mental health.

Darrick won the Fire Officer of the Year Award for setting an exemplary standard of work, his outstanding professionalism, and his commitment to the continuous improvement of the fire department.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Darrick on winning this award.

□ 1030

IN MEMORY OF JOHNNY AND
MATTHEW GAUDREAU

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau.

Last month, my home team, the Columbus Blue Jackets, played their season opener against the Florida Panthers. Each player wore a patch on

their jersey bearing number 13, the number previously worn by their teammate Johnny.

Johnny, or “Johnny Hockey” to his friends, played 10 full seasons for the NHL and was about to begin his third season with the Blue Jackets. His brother, Matthew, was an up-and-coming hockey coach following a professional career as a player in the AHL, ECHL, and Sweden.

In August, Johnny and his brother, Matthew, were killed when they were struck by a drunk driver while out on a bike ride. It was the day before their sister’s wedding.

Johnny and Matthew were beloved by their family and their community. Johnny is survived by his wife, Meredith, and their two children, Noa and Johnny Jr. Matthew is survived by his wife, Madeline. Both Meredith and Madeline are expecting children.

The Columbus community will never forget Johnny and Matthew. While their athletic talents were extraordinary, we can still learn from their example. We can emulate their strong work ethic, their love for their family, and their spirit.

To all who loved them, may their memory be a blessing.

RECOGNIZING THE LONDON, OHIO, POLICE
DEPARTMENT

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the police department of London, Ohio. Last week, officers Dylan Fout and Denise Dye brought a missing autistic 5-year-old home to his family.

Last Tuesday, the officers were on patrol when they spotted a young boy walking alone. However, when they turned their cruiser around to check on him, he had disappeared. The officers continued their pursuit on foot, where they found the boy floating in a creek. He was conscious and breathing, but the 40-degree water could have quickly become a life-threatening issue.

Thanks to these officers and their quick action, the boy was rescued and the London Fire Department medics were able to provide the emergency care that he needed.

We commend Officer Fout and Officer Dye for their service to our community and share our gratitude that this boy could come home safe to his family.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CAREGIVER MONTH

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Caregiver Month.

Forty-eight million Americans are family caregivers. The care they provide allows their loved ones to age independently at home. From preparing meals, helping with bathing, feeding, and dressing, to assisting with financial and legal matters, the work done by family caregivers is essential.

In my home State of Ohio, family caregivers provide nearly 1.4 billion hours of care every year. That adds up to \$21 billion in unpaid labor per year, saving taxpayers billions.

We know that families want to support their loved ones through illness,

disability, and aging in place, but many of them can’t do so without our help.

We are proud to introduce the Credit for Caring Act, which would create a Federal tax credit for family caregivers who use their own money to take care of their loved ones.

This National Caregiver Month, I encourage my colleagues to stand with me and support family caregivers.

CONGRATULATING NANCY HOWELL
AGEE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight a remarkable individual from our great Commonwealth of Virginia, Nancy Howell Agee. Nancy was born at Roanoke Memorial Hospital, and it was here that she also began her journey into nursing at just 18 years old, a journey fueled by her passion for servant leadership.

Over the last 50 years, Nancy has dedicated herself to the health of our community. Starting as a nurse, she rose to the role of president and CEO of Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital, making her the only female top executive in that position.

Under her leadership, the hospital has flourished, forging vital partnerships with Virginia Tech to establish a new medical school and Radford University’s premier nursing program. These initiatives are essential to keeping world-class talent in the Roanoke Valley.

As she retires, we must recognize her contributions, especially the future projects she leaves behind, including the new Crystal Spring Tower and the highly anticipated Taubman Cancer Center.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Nancy Howell Agee for her unwavering service and the lasting impact she has made on the Roanoke Valley. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING WAYNE F. PRYOR

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary leader in Virginia agriculture, Wayne Pryor. This December, Wayne will retire as president of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation after 18 remarkable years of service as State president.

His dedication goes back even further, having previously served as vice president and as a member of the board since 1988. Wayne’s contributions to farming haven’t gone unnoticed. He was named Virginia Farm Bureau’s Eastern District Young Farmer of the Year early in his career and received the organization’s Warren Beach Award in 2005, a testament to his commitment to nurturing future leaders in the agriculture industry.

His accolades also include the Honorary American FFA Degree, highlighting his dedication to agricultural education and FFA.

Wayne's impact extends beyond Virginia. He serves on the board of the American Farm Bureau Federation and is involved with several key organizations within the agricultural community.

Additionally, "Virginia Business" magazine has recognized him multiple times in its annual "Virginia 500" list of the Commonwealth's most influential business, government, and political leaders.

Mr. Speaker, Wayne Pryor's leadership has made a lasting impact on the agricultural community and on Virginia itself. We thank him for his service and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE ROANOKE CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Roanoke Catholic School girls track and field team for winning the 2024 Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association Division II State Championship.

After finishing second or third in the last three years, the Celtics were determined to improve. With hard work in technique, strength training, and practice, they made their championship dreams a reality.

This achievement reflects the dedication of both the athletes and their coaches, JASON SMITH, Sara Planta, P.J. Moyer, Erika Barger, and Brandie Smith. I especially recognize Jason for being named VISAA Girls Outdoor Division II Coach of the Year.

This year's exceptional roster—Aubrey Aaron, Sophia Bradley, Allison Brundrett, Eva Coniglione, Bailey Cundiff, Barrett Cundiff, Charlie Floyd, Annie Kovats, Justinne Llavore, Nicole Medina-Salinas, Mickie O'Herron, Ellie Patel, Karly Smith, Natalie Smith, and Sydney Whitt—had the honor of bringing home this historic title, marking the first girls track and field championship for Roanoke Catholic and the first private school to win a team title at the Cosmopolitan Invitational.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Roanoke Catholic School girls track and field team on this remarkable achievement. It is a great honor to have such talent in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEONARD KRAEMER

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the remarkable life of a true patriot from Virginia's Sixth District, Mr. Leonard Kraemer, who recently passed away at the remarkable age of 100.

Leonard exemplified what it means to serve our country. During World War II, he proudly served in the United States Navy as an electrician on the USS *Erben*, a *Fletcher*-class destroyer in the Pacific. His bravery earned him six battle stars, showcasing his dedication and sacrifice.

Beyond his military service, Leonard was a pillar of the community. He led as president of the Winchester Host Lions Club for three terms, supported Little League Baseball programs, and

even had the honor of playing baseball with Joe DiMaggio at Yankee Stadium. His generous spirit and love for his community continue to inspire us all.

As we remember Mr. Leonard Kraemer, let us celebrate his extraordinary life, his wartime sacrifices, and his lifelong commitment to Virginia and our Nation.

We thank Leonard for his service and dedication. May he rest in peace.

HISPANIC VOTE

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Hispanic community. On November 5, our Nation turned a page of history with an election of a Republican President and a Republican-controlled Congress.

This is a defining moment in our Nation's history, as a sleeping giant has arisen that will forever determine the future of our Nation: the Hispanic vote.

For the first time in American history, nearly 50 percent of my Hispanic brothers and sisters voted their values of faith, family, and freedom and voted Republican.

To my Republican brothers and sisters, I urge you to seize this moment. I firmly believe that the Hispanic vote not only saved America but also saved the American Dream that we all aspire to achieve by electing President Trump.

Why do I believe that? I am glad you asked.

First, I firmly believe that our misguided brothers and sisters of the Democratic Party would still be in positions of leadership if it wasn't for the Hispanic voters who decided to fire them and hire new leadership.

Let me remind you that we are all Americans, and as Americans, we want leaders who care about us, who understand us and, most importantly, who listen to what we have to say and treat us with respect.

We believe in work and opportunity. We believe that dignity and respect come from hard work and providing for our families. We believe we play a role in the tapestry and future of America, and we are one of the many communities that are the lifeblood of this Nation. I am a living example of this belief.

Second, the American Dream, something that for generations so many of us came to this country to pursue, is being destroyed as job opportunities are dwindling and the cost of living is becoming unbearable. Soaring inflation has made it increasingly difficult for families to make ends meet and for our children to achieve the American Dream.

As an American from Mexican descent, I am proud to stand here today and witness my community break free from the Democratic Party. It is a shift that not only reflects the frustration many of us feel but also the rec-

ognition that the values that truly resonate with the Hispanic community, values such as faith, family, and freedom, are in line with the core principles of the Republican Party.

These are not just abstract concepts. They are the foundation of our lives and the very essence of what made this country great.

Faith has always been an essential part of the Hispanic community. It is our guiding light in times of trial and our source of hope for the future. We want our newly elected Republican President to stand firm in his commitment to protecting religious freedom. Whether it is defending the rights of churches to operate freely or standing up for the religious freedoms of all Americans, the Republican Party is a party that understands the importance of faith in daily lives.

Family is another cornerstone of our community. Hispanic families are close-knit, resilient, and supportive. We prioritize our families above all else, and we want to ensure that our next generation has the opportunity to thrive in a country that offers them safety, prosperity, and the ability to achieve their dreams.

Under the leadership of the Republican Party, we will again see policies that continue to promote family values, policies such as tax cuts helping working families and support for school choice. These are the kinds of policies that truly uplift families, and they are policies that have resonated with Hispanic Americans.

Finally, freedom. We live in a country where each person has the opportunity to pursue their dreams, to work hard, and to succeed on their own terms. It is what drew so many of us to America in the first place. The Republican Party will continue to stand strong in defending individual freedoms, whether it is economic freedom, the right to bear arms, or the freedom to speak our minds.

November 5 was a pivotal day in American politics. It wasn't just a victory for one party or one candidate. It was a victory for the values that have always been at the heart of the Hispanic community.

Latinos are rejecting the extreme agenda of the Democratic Party, and they are finding a new home in the Republican Party, one that will put their interests first, defend their values, and ensure their voices are heard.

This is only the beginning. The Hispanic community in America is waking up to the reality that the Republican Party offers a better path forward.

Mr. Speaker, 2025 marks the beginning of a new chapter for the Hispanic community, a chapter that will be defined by prosperity, safety, and opportunity, all of which will return under the leadership of President Trump.

As we look to the future, let us be clear: The Hispanic community is no longer a guaranteed vote for the Democratic Party.

We are standing up, we are speaking out, and we will never stop. Together,

we will continue to build a future where every American, regardless of their background, can achieve the American Dream.

AMERICA HAS SPOKEN

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, America has spoken. Our country has told us clearly: It is time to go in a new direction. It is morning in America. As the sun rises, it brings hope, optimism, and opportunity, but it also brings the realization that we are in a mess.

President-elect Trump appointed Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to lead the Department of Government Efficiency. Their goal is to dismantle the out-of-control bureaucracy, cut wasteful programs, and restructure Federal agencies.

Taking on crazy town is no easy task. Elon and Vivek will need partners in Congress to accomplish many of the cuts that are necessary to rein in the unelected bureaucrats who have enjoyed unchecked power for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have created the Delivering Outstanding Government Efficiency Caucus. The DOGE Caucus will work with President Trump, Elon, and Vivek to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse. Together, we will take bold steps to end Washington's reckless spending addiction.

I invite my colleagues to join us in this effort. Together, we will strengthen the America First agenda. Let's go get 'em.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING STANTON COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL ON NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows that Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, Florida, is home of the Blue Devils, but I just heard some news that blew me away. Stanton is now home to a National Blue Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanton for earning a brand-new blue ribbon from the Department of Education. From over 100,000 eligible schools, Stanton was one of the 356 nationwide to be given the very prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

As Duval County's first magnet school, Stanton specializes in getting the very best out of students and launching them to new heights, but they don't just excel in the classroom. To get the National Blue Ribbon Award, Stanton also proved its excellence in extracurricular activities and athletics.

Stanton is known for fostering an extremely positive and supportive environment to ensure that students succeed in every arena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating everyone at Stanton College Preparatory

School for this monumental achievement. The Blue Devils will wear those blue ribbons proudly.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 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 (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at noon.

PRAYER

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

On this day, Lord, hear our voices as we speak from the depths of our hearts our innermost concerns and our deepest fears. Listen to our intent as we speak with our actions our profound desire to get things done and to make things better in our communities and in this country.

God, You are not pleased with wickedness. Forgive us our grievous injury, both unintentional and calculated, to our colleagues and those closest to us. The arrogant cannot stand in Your presence. Help us in the face of all that feeds our pride to humble ourselves before You.

If we have done wrong, we pray Your mercy. For the lies we have told and lived, we pray Your reconciliation. For the deceit we slip into so easily, we pray Your truth will redeem us.

O God, our king and Savior, listen to our words, both spoken and unspoken, and consider our contrite hearts as we lay our requests before You and wait expectantly for You to answer.

In Your merciful name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

CONGRATULATING ENERGY SECRETARY CHRIS WRIGHT

(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. Mr. Speaker, American families have suffered under disastrous Biden-Harris energy policies, including regulatory attacks, destroying jobs, and increasing prices. Biden-Harris halted sales for liquefied natural gas, financing war criminal Putin, and the murderous Iranian regime, hurting allies purchasing American energy.

Since Biden, Americans have lost over \$4,400 in higher energy costs. Gas prices reached a historic high of over \$5 a gallon and reduced the American strategic stockpile to a 40-year low. House Republicans support energy independence this week with the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act to increase geothermal leases.

President Donald Trump has nominated Chris Wright as Secretary of Energy, and as a former Reagan Energy Department alumnus myself representing the Savannah River Site, I know his background will lead to the development of small modular nuclear reactors.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators puts all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstate existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

RECOGNIZING JUNIPER HELPS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juniper Helps, a nonprofit organization in Worcester, Massachusetts, doing remarkable work to improve food security among Worcester public school students.

Led by Julie McDonald, Juniper Helps runs food pantries in six public schools in my hometown of Worcester, offering snacks and easy-to-make meals for students who need them the most.

Many of these young people face the heartbreaking reality of unstable housing. For them, a nutritious meal isn't just food, it is a source of stability and hope.

Julie saw this critical need in our community and has rallied a powerful coalition of local businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to make sure local students have nutritious meals and snacks when school is out of session.

Food is love, Mr. Speaker, and Juniper Helps is reminding us all of our responsibility to ensure that every child has continued access to nutritious food. Their work is inspiring and a critical safety net for kids as we work to end hunger now for all.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of the Virgin Islands' students on their accomplishments in the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association Essay Contest, which gives youths throughout the Caribbean the opportunity to advance their scholastic endeavors.

I am immensely proud of these students for their unique perspective on how to promote sustainable cruise-line tourism.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Rachel Guzman Ramirez on her first place in the senior division, and Mr. Tyler Ian Antonio Chung for his second place in the junior division.

One of the Virgin Islands' economic mainstays is tourism, which is heavily impacted by the cruise ship industry. In the 2023-2024 season, cruise tourism contributed more than \$258 million to the Virgin Islands' economy.

It is imperative that we in Congress continue to support sustainable tourism that accounts for climate change, community investment, and environmentally friendly practices so that the Virgin Islands can continue to be America's paradise, and we can compete with other Caribbean islands.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1449, COMMITTING LEASES FOR ENERGY ACCESS NOW ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 9495, STOP TERROR-FINANCING AND TAX PENALTIES ON AMERICAN HOSTAGES ACT

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1576 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1576

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1449) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the re-

port, may be offered only 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 in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 9495) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States nationals who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we are here to debate the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 9495 and H.R. 1449.

The rule provides for H.R. 1449 to be considered under a structured rule. It provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources, or their designees.

The rule further provides for H.R. 9495 to be considered under a closed rule, providing for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the

chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, or their designees.

The rule provides for a motion to recommit for each bill.

Mr. Speaker, we have had our eyes opened to a lot in the wake of last year's horrifying October 7 attack in Israel. We have been reminded of how much anti-Semitism still somehow exists in our own country. As we saw American citizens taken hostage by Hamas, we were also sadly reminded of the many Americans who have been taken hostage or illegally detained across the world.

H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act is twofold.

First, it directs the IRS to disregard the time during which a person being held hostage for purposes of when that person filed their tax returns, paid income taxes, or filed a claim. This will also be true for their spouses.

This is a small thing, given the circumstances they have endured, but an obvious one. It is so obvious that it sounds silly to say it out loud that someone should not have to worry about missing the deadline to file their taxes because they were being held hostage.

This bill also addresses abuses within the nonprofit sector that support terrorism by prohibiting these organizations from maintaining their tax-exempt status if they are found to have provided material support or resources to a terrorist or terrorist-supporting organization.

After October 7 and the anti-Semitism that spread rapidly across campuses, the House Ways and Means Committee began investigating tax-exempt organizations to make sure they were not making contributions that would benefit terrorists.

It seems fairly obvious that if your organization is supporting terrorist activity in any way, shape, or form, you should at a minimum lose your tax-exempt status.

This bill is so sensible it should have been able to pass under suspension, and yet, somehow the Democrats still did not understand the wish of the American people. Americans want to protect their citizens and not support terrorism. It is that simple. I cannot understand how many of my colleagues voted against this bill last week, but I will be proud to vote for it again.

This rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1449, the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act, or the CLEAN Act, which will provide certainty for U.S. geothermal energy projects.

Right now, the Department of the Interior is required to have a competitive lease sale every 2 years. However, some States have not had a lease sale for much longer than that. Under this legislation, the Secretary of the Interior must hold these sales annually and must respond to the permit applications within 30 days of receipt to let

the applicant know if their application is complete. If it is, the Secretary has 30 days to issue a final decision.

Geothermal energy is clean and renewable, making it a great way to expand America's energy portfolio and meet our growing demand domestically rather than relying on other Nations. I look forward to supporting these two bills.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1449, the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act enforces unreasonable deadlines on geothermal energy permitting that shuts the public out of the process, so my colleagues on the other side can do their favorite thing: Shut out the American people and rush things through in a way that could harm the environment and hurt public safety. That is what they are good at.

□ 1215

The second bill is the so-called Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act. Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that families who are held hostage shouldn't be responsible for paying IRS fines or penalties. I think that is a no-brainer. I know that it has already passed the Senate. We could take up that bill and pass it today, send it right to the President's desk, or we could pass a House bill that has been introduced which would do the same thing, ensure that hostage victims don't get charged IRS fines.

If my friends had brought either of those bills up, they could be sent to the President's desk and signed very, very quickly, as I said. That is not what we are doing, and that is not what we are voting on. This bill, the one they are bringing up, has been hijacked and turned into a vehicle to give the incoming administration the ability to revoke the nonprofit status of any advocacy group they want simply by labeling them as terrorist sympathizers. That means the President will acquire the power to just unilaterally accuse an American group of terrorism and then shut them down.

I have to tell you, I just came back from a codel in El Salvador, that is how they do things down there. The government doesn't like you, boom, you are a terrorist.

I am sure the party that talks so much about weaponizing the government, that talks so much about reining in the Federal Government, they have put some guardrails in here, right? Wrong. There are no guardrails, no guardrails for an administration that says it will go after the enemy within, just a bill that gives them the power to do it on day one. This is nuts.

A university has too many protests against Donald Trump: terrorists. An

environmental group suing the administration in court; terrorists. Think tanks that think differently than Donald Trump: terrorists. That is what this bill does.

People say the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Mr. Speaker, the road to fascism in America is paved with a million little votes that slowly erode our democracy and make it easier to go after anyone who disagrees with the government. There is no due process or right to appeal in this bill, no proof required. Donald Trump says you are a terrorist, so you are a terrorist. It is beyond nuts. My friends on the other side of the aisle know that, even if they don't want to admit it.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge a "no" vote on this rule and on the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My Democrat colleagues continue over and over and over to try to demonize and vilify President-elect Trump. They just spent months trying to turn him into the boogiemaster who is going to destroy this country and create chaos. Voters flatly rejected this attempt by Democrats to paint President-elect Trump as a fascist or dictator, all kinds of names they came up with. Instead, they sent him back to the White House and gave him a majority in the Senate and a majority in the House.

Yet, here my Democrat colleagues are again trying to use Donald Trump to scare their voters. The truth is, under President Trump's previous administration, we had terrorists on the run, and Americans at home and abroad were safer than they have ever been under this administration.

While my Democrat colleagues are desperately trying to find a way to justify allowing American nonprofits to send money to terrorists, House Republicans stand ready to defund terrorism and make America safe again.

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

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

I just respond to the gentlewoman by saying it wasn't me but it was Donald Trump who said he would be a dictator on day one. It was Donald Trump who talked about the enemy from within and actually mentioned individuals who are in the United States House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate.

Forgive me if I am a little concerned about somebody who would say such things on the campaign trail and now coming into power again. Forgive me if I am a little concerned about how he might abuse the power that my friends on the other side of the aisle seem so eager to give him. There would be no due process, no nothing. If Donald Trump says we don't like you, he will label you as a terrorist and will shut you down.

They are talking now about recess appointments in the United States Senate. They don't want to do FBI background checks. They don't want to do confirmation processes where Members of both sides of the aisle get to question potential Cabinet officials and be able to find out whether they are fit for office. No, rush everything through, no questions asked, just take him at his word.

I am on the floor today sounding the alarm bells. We should be concerned. We should be concerned. Maya Angelou had this great line. She said: When somebody shows you who they are, believe them the first time.

People did not vote for the stuff that we are doing today. People did not vote for recess appointments. People voted their pocketbooks, and I understand why.

I just want the record to reflect that there are some of us who are raising the alarm bells because this is the time, quite frankly, when people should be concerned, when we can actually do something about it, when we can put some guardrails into place so the excesses that the President-elect talked about on the campaign trail don't become reality.

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

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

I do think it is rich that the Democrats are talking about President Trump going after these groups because the Democrats, both under President Obama and under President Biden, have gone after conservative groups trying to make them look like terrorists and trying to call them terrorists.

I think the bill simply wants to stop real terrorists and stop those groups from receiving favored tax status under our tax laws and making sure that we are addressing terrorism in the United States and abroad.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up H.R. 12, a bill that would ensure that every American has full access to essential reproductive healthcare, including abortion care.

Since the Dobbs decision, there are now 21 States that have banned or restricted abortion across the country. Without this fundamental right, women are suffering. In Texas, in Georgia, and in Indiana, the number of preventable deaths due to abortion bans is rising.

This is the grim landscape that the incoming administration wants to maintain and even worsen. I wish I could say that it won't get worse, but we know Republicans are fighting tooth and nail to strip more and more rights from Americans.

That is why we must pass H.R. 12, to ensure that every American has full access to reproductive healthcare and to

make sure that women's rights are protected no matter where they live.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, once again, I do not believe that any of what my Republican friends are talking about on the floor today is in line with what the American people voted for. They voted for cheaper groceries, not whatever the hell this stuff is.

They are asking us to vote for a bill, my Republican friends, that would give the incoming administration the ability to revoke the nonprofit status of any advocacy group they want just by labeling them as a terrorist sympathizer, a bill that would give President-elect Trump a new power to just unilaterally accuse an American group of terrorism and then shut them down. Again, there are no guardrails for an administration that says it will go after the enemy within, just a bill that gives them power to do that on day one.

Meanwhile, every decision that has been made by this incoming administration so far has not been about the American people. It has been about them. I am reading in the newspaper again this morning that they want to issue blanket pardons to those who committed crimes on January 6. Republicans call them political prisoners. These are people who were arrested, indicted, tried, and convicted by juries and judges in courtrooms across this country for violently attacking our brave law enforcement officers, people who smashed cops in the head with metal barricades, who jammed them in doors until blood was coming out of their mouths, and the incoming administration is thinking about pardoning them? Let that sink in. Let that sink in.

Before I am accused of harping on January 6, I am not the one bringing it up. The incoming President-elect is. He won't shut up about it.

When I am talking about my concerns over the bill we are considering here today, understand that these are not unfounded fears. The new administration is leaking plans to court martial military officers who are not sufficiently loyal. Isn't that usually how things go in authoritarian dictatorships? They purge the military of anybody who might have a spine and refuse to obey an unlawful order. What the hell is going on here?

Their Cabinet picks so far, these are like beyond insane: someone who is

credibly accused of having sex with an underage girl; someone who sucks up to foreign dictators and has attracted major concern that they can't be trusted to protect America's secrets from our adversaries; someone who paid hush money to cover up a sexual assault accusation to lead our military—he is picked because Donald Trump likes him on FOX News; and someone who says that tap water turns kids gay? This is the dream team? Really?

Seriously, it would be funny if it weren't so sad. Hopefully, the United States Senate has a backbone and insists on a thorough confirmation process.

The truth is that this is not what people voted for. They voted for their pocketbooks, and, frankly, I don't blame them.

You know who I do blame? I blame the billionaires who have rigged our country against working people and spent the last four decades squeezing every penny they could out of people. I blame the politicians, including the incoming administration, who have abandoned workers and who have done nothing while the rich get richer and everyone else gets screwed.

□ 1230

My friends on the other side want to blame trans people. Guess what, Mr. Speaker? Trans people aren't the ones raising people's grocery prices. Big corporations are. They want to blame immigrants, and here is the deal: Immigrants aren't the ones denying health insurance claims, Mr. Speaker. It is the billion-dollar insurance companies that do that on a daily basis.

They want to blame woke this and woke that. What is woke about thinking special interests should not be able to buy tax breaks? What is woke about telling Chevron and Exxon that they can't dump toxic chemicals into our air and water? What is woke about thinking it is wrong to give tax breaks to billionaires while the rest of us get screwed?

It is time for us to get serious about fixing this country and making sure it works for everyone. Instead, we have BS bills that allow the new administration to go after any group that disagrees with the government and shut them down.

My friends on the other side can keep doing whatever the hell this is. Good luck with that. Democrats will be talking about the economy. We are going to talk about how we will make housing more affordable and lower your grocery bills. We are going to talk about taking on corporate greed and standing up to the donor class that buys off tax breaks for the rich and powerful. We are going to talk about the fact that billionaires pay less in taxes than teachers and police officers.

There is something deeply wrong with that, and it needs to change. We are hearing from the Republicans already that they are planning a tax package that will what? Not help the

middle class, not help those struggling to get into the middle class, but, again, more tax breaks for the well off and the well-connected.

Really? Mr. Speaker, do you think that is what the American people voted for?

We Democrats are going to talk about the inequality that has risen in this country under Democratic and Republican Presidents, quite frankly, and the wages that have stagnated for decades and decades as prices go up and people get left behind.

Democrats will be the party of working people in this country, and we are not going to go down every absurd rabbit hole that this majority digs in order to divide and distract us from our mission.

As I have said before, and I am going to say it again today: We will show up, and we will fight for the American people.

Our allegiance is to the American people, not to Elon Musk, not to the billionaires and big donors, not to the oil tycoons and the insurance company CEOs who rip people off on a daily basis. Our allegiance is to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, as I just mentioned, we will show up, and we will fight tooth and nail every one of these policies that is designed to advantage those who are rich and powerful at the expense of those who work hard for a living, regular people: teachers, police officers, firefighters, and people who work in factories. Those are the people whom we will champion, and we are going to do everything we can to make sure that their voices are heard as my Republican friends move forward their agenda that really is about rewarding those who are well-off and well-connected.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge a "no" vote on this rule, and I urge a "no" vote on this lousy legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, again, my colleague can't move on from the tired old lines. It is the same rhetoric we have heard for the last 4 years. Throughout the election, we have heard it and heard it, but I want to say that the election is over. I urge the Democrats to please stop telling the American people what they voted for or what they should think and start listening to the American people.

The House Republicans are committed to the security and prosperity of the American people, and the two bills before us are further evidence of that.

The CLEAN Act supports domestic geothermal drilling, expanding our energy portfolio, and bringing more safe and efficient energy jobs to our country. It also ensures a timely application process through the Department of the Interior.

The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act

takes away a small part of the burden for those who return to our country after experiencing the horrors of being held hostage, and it ensures that non-profits that are receiving favored tax status are not contributing to the terrorist organizations in any way.

These are straightforward pieces of legislation that are good for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule and the underlying legislation.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 1576 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 12) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 12.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1576; and

Adoption of House Resolution 1576, if ordered.

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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1449, COMMITTING LEASES FOR ENERGY ACCESS NOW ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 9495, STOP TERROR-FINANCING AND TAX PENALTIES ON AMERICAN HOSTAGES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 1576) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1449) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 9495) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States nationals who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 199, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 468]
YEAS—210

Aderholt	Ciscomani	Foxx
Alford	Cline	Franklin, Scott
Allen	Cloud	Fry
Amodei	Clyde	Fulcher
Arrington	Cole	Garbarino
Babin	Collins	Garcia, Mike
Bacon	Comer	Gimenez
Baird	Crane	Gonzales, Tony
Balderson	Crawford	Good (VA)
Banks	Crenshaw	Gosar
Barr	Curtis	Graves (LA)
Bean (FL)	D'Esposito	Graves (MO)
Bentz	Davidson	Green (TN)
Bergman	De La Cruz	Greene (GA)
Bice	DesJarlais	Griffith
Biggs	Diaz-Balart	Grothman
Bilirakis	Donalds	Guest
Bishop (NC)	Duarte	Guthrie
Boebert	Duncan	Hageman
Bost	Ellzey	Harris
Brecheen	Emmer	Harshbarger
Buchanan	Estes	Hern
Buchson	Ezell	Higgins (LA)
Burchett	Fallon	Hill
Burgess	Feenstra	Hinson
Burlison	Ferguson	Houchin
Calvert	Finstad	Hudson
Cammack	Fischbach	Huizenga
Carey	Fitzgerald	Hunt
Carl	Fitzpatrick	Issa
Carter (GA)	Fleischmann	Jackson (TX)
Carter (TX)	Flood	James
Chavez-DeRemer	Fong	Johnson (LA)

Johnson (SD)	Meuser	Scott, Austin
Jordan	Miller (IL)	Self
Joyce (OH)	Miller (OH)	Sessions
Joyce (PA)	Miller (WV)	Simpson
Kean (NJ)	Miller-Meeks	Smith (MO)
Kelly (MS)	Mills	Smith (NE)
Kelly (PA)	Molinaro	Smith (NJ)
Kiggans (VA)	Moolenaar	Smucker
Kim (CA)	Mooney	Spartz
Kustoff	Moore (AL)	Stauber
LaHood	Moore (UT)	Steel
LaLota	Murphy	Stefanik
LaMalfa	Nehls	Steil
Lamborn	Newhouse	Steube
Langworthy	Norman	Strong
Latta	Nunn (IA)	Tenney
LaTurner	Obernolte	Thompson (PA)
Lawler	Ogles	Tiffany
Lee (FL)	Owens	Timmons
Lesko	Palmer	Turner
Lopez	Pence	Valadao
Loudermilk	Perry	Van Drew
Lucas	Pfleger	Van Duyne
Luetkemeyer	Posey	Van Orden
Luna	Reschenthaler	Wagner
Luttrell	Rodgers (WA)	Walberg
Mace	Rogers (AL)	Weber (TX)
Malliotakis	Rogers (KY)	Webster (FL)
Maloy	Rose	Westerman
Mann	Rosendale	Wied
Massie	Rouzer	Williams (NY)
Mast	Roy	Williams (TX)
McCaul	Rulli	Wilson (SC)
McClain	Rutherford	Wittman
McClintock	Salazar	Womack
McCormick	Scalise	Yakym
McHenry	Schweikert	Zinke

NAYS—199

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

Thompson (CA) Torres (NY) Wasserman
Thompson (MS) Trahan Schultz
Titus Underwood Waters
Tlaib Vargas Watson Coleman
Tokuda Vasquez Wild
Tonko Veasey Williams (GA)
Torres (CA) Velázquez Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—24

Armstrong Gottheimer Pettersen
Connolly Granger Scott, David
Dunn (FL) Jackson (NC) Sherrill
Edwards Johnson (GA) Swalwell
Evans Kiley Trone
Gallego Larsen (WA) Waltz
Garamendi Letlow Wenstrup
Gooden (TX) Moran Wexton

□ 1355

Mr. PALLONE, Ms. STEVENS, and Mrs. FOUSHEE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 468.

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a vote today on the Motion Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 1576. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 468.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 212, noes 203, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 469]

AYES—212

Aderholt Crane Graves (MO)
Alford Crawford Green (TN)
Allen Crenshaw Greene (GA)
Amodei Curtis Griffith
Arrington D’Esposito Grothman
Babin Davidson Guest
Bacon De La Cruz Guthrie
Baird DesJarlais Hageman
Balderson Diaz-Balart Harris
Banks Donalds Harshbarger
Barr Duarte Hern
Bean (FL) Duncan Higgins (LA)
Bentz Edwards Hill
Bergman Ellzey Hinson
Bice Emmer Houchin
Biggs Estes Hudson
Bilirakis Ezell Huizenga
Bishop (NC) Fallon Hunt
Boebert Feenstra James
Bost Ferguson Johnson (LA)
Brecheen Finstad Johnson (SD)
Buchanan Fischbach Jordan
Bucshon Fitzgerald Joyce (OH)
Burchett Fitzpatrick Joyce (PA)
Burgess Fleischmann Kean (NJ)
Calvert Flood Kelly (MS)
Cammack Fong Kelly (PA)
Carey Foxx Kiggans (VA)
Carl Franklin, Scott Kim (CA)
Carter (GA) Fry Kustoff
Carter (TX) Fulcher LaHood
Chavez-DeRemer Garbarino LaLota
Ciscomani Garcia, Mike LaMalfa
Cline Gimenez Lamborn
Cloud Gonzales, Tony Langworthy
Clyde Good (VA) Latta
Cole Gooden (TX) LaTurner
Collins Gosar Lawler
Comer Graves (LA) 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

Nehls Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obermolete
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)

NOES—203

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

Vasquez Wasserman Wild
Veasey Schultz Williams (GA)
Velázquez Waters Wilson (FL)
Watson Coleman

NOT VOTING—18

Armstrong Gottheimer Scott, David
Burlison Granger Sherrill
Connolly Issa Swalwell
Dunn (FL) Jackson (NC) Trone
Evans Jackson (TX) Waltz
Gallego Kiley Wexton

□ 1403

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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE BRIAN FITZPATRICK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable BRIAN FITZPATRICK, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 19, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, the Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick, U.S. Representative for the 1st Congressional District of Pennsylvania, have been served a third-party subpoena to produce documents in litigation before the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

BRIAN FITZPATRICK,
Member of Congress.

COMMITTING LEASES FOR ENERGY ACCESS NOW ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1449.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1576 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. 1449.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1409

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. 1449) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of

1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes, with Mr. LALOTA 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 Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

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

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 1449, the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act, or the CLEAN Act.

First, I thank my friend and colleague Representative RUSS FULCHER for being a leader on geothermal energy and for his dedication to this issue.

Geothermal energy is poised to be an important part of America's energy portfolio. Some predictions indicate that geothermal energy can provide up to 90 gigawatts of electricity by 2050. These are great metrics and goals to strive for, but we will never reach this goal if we keep the status quo for permitting and leasing geothermal energy.

Current law requires multiple layers of environmental review for geothermal projects, which leads to higher costs and longer development timelines compared to our power production efforts.

H.R. 1449, the CLEAN Act, would streamline the Federal leasing and permitting process for geothermal energy and spur the development of this renewable energy source in the United States.

California is a prime example of a Western State with huge geothermal potential, but a lease sale has not been held by the DOI in that State since 2016.

H.R. 1449 would fix lapses like this by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to hold annual geothermal lease sales rather than once every 2 years. It will also force the Secretary to hold a replacement lease sale if one is missed.

In addition, this bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to notify an applicant whether or not its geothermal drilling permit application is complete within 30 days of receiving the application. If Interior determines that the application is complete, then it must issue a final decision on the applications within 30 days.

Some may argue that these deadlines are too fast and don't allow adequate time for the bureaucracy to complete reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act and other environmental laws, but this simply is not the case.

The bill itself does not waive the agency's responsibilities under current environmental laws. We all know from experience that agencies will not issue permits until they meet the necessary legal requirements.

The potential for geothermal energy in this country cannot be understated. There are myriad hot spots in the West that are prime for developing this kind of energy. We must do all we can to ensure that bureaucratic red tape does not hamper this resource moving forward.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chair, I am happy to be here once again on another set of energy bills and amendments. While I certainly support the goal of this bill to deploy more clean, renewable geothermal energy on our public lands, unfortunately I and other members of our Caucus are unable to support this bill in its current form and urge opposition to the bill.

□ 1415

Throughout this Congress, geothermal energy has been a bright spot of bipartisanship. Geothermal is an extremely promising and growing source of sustainable and reliable renewable energy.

We have heard from geothermal developers that there can be challenges to permitting new plants and new facilities, so we understand the intent of this bill. That is why our committee has worked on a bipartisan basis to get to solutions that will help support the industry and deploy more renewable energy.

I am grateful to my colleagues who have taken up this issue, bills like the Geothermal Cost-Recovery Authority Act from Ranking Member OCASIO-CORTEZ, the GEO Act from Representative CURTIS, and H.R. 6474 from Representative STEEL and others.

I was pleased to see these responsible permitting solutions pass the House, and I hope to see Senate action on them soon and continued bipartisan work.

Unfortunately, this bill is not in a place where we can offer bipartisan support.

H.R. 1449, the CLEAN Act, does contain some important provisions that we would be supportive of, but it also contains some serious technical flaws that could create major constraints and unintended consequences for geothermal projects.

First, the bill mandates that more geothermal lease sales happen. Democrats, in general, support this. We want to see additional geothermal facilities and the use of our Federal resources where appropriate to do that. We would love to see more resources offered through our agencies so that they can actually do this work, but we will take it as it is.

Next, however, the bill says that the Department of the Interior must notify

an applicant for a geothermal drilling permit as to whether the application is complete within 30 days. When the Department of the Interior testified on the bill, they recommended increasing the timeline to 90 days to provide sufficient time for the limited situations where staffing, project size, or complexity would prevent an office from complying. For example, let's say an office is understaffed at the moment.

We offered this change in committee and again today are offering it on the House floor. Ranking Member GRIJALVA's amendment would change the first deadline from 30 days to 90 days, an easy fix. We are willing to negotiate on the exact number, but unfortunately, we have not had willing partners in that negotiation. They are continuing to insist on a timeline that is not workable for our Federal Government.

Next, and most problematically, the bill would require that the Department of the Interior make a final decision on a permit, either approving or denying it, within 30 days of the application being complete. The Department has called this essentially impossible to achieve. Issuing a decision within 30 days would not allow adequate time to complete the analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. There are other permits from other agencies, like Fish and Wildlife, EPA, and Tribal consultation that must occur before a permit can be issued.

In the best case scenario, this bill would result in uncoordinated, rushed approvals where the Department and our communities barely understand the potential environmental and cultural impacts required by law, which would result in lawsuits and delay projects even further.

In a worst case scenario, good, worthy projects could get denied simply because an agency doesn't have sufficient staffing and time to comply with the deadline in the bill.

All the possible scenarios here are just a bad deal for geothermal developers and a bad deal for Americans who would like to see clean energy deployed responsibly, effectively, and quickly. To solve this, we filed several amendments at markup for consideration on the floor to provide necessary flexibility and time to complete the reviews and prevent avoidable denials, but unfortunately, those were not taken up at the committee level.

I will also point out that the House passed a bill along these lines by voice vote earlier this year. The GEO Act from Representative CURTIS of Utah addresses similar permitting concerns but directs the Department to issue a decision on a permit within 60 days of the completion of the review under NEPA and other laws. That is a Republican-led bill that the agency believes they can work with, so we have a possibility of a path forward.

Even in the Senate, we have a Manchin-Barrasso bipartisan permitting bill that would adopt similar language to make a more workable timeline, which is similar to the amendment offered by Ranking Member GRIJALVA today.

We hope that our colleagues across the aisle will come to the negotiating table if this bill does move forward. It is important that we fix these timelines. I understand that we are trying to expedite and improve the deployment and permitting of these projects, but we have to make sure that they are workable from a practical standpoint within our communities and agencies.

We want positive outcomes, clean energy, and geothermal. This is a bipartisan issue. We can do this. Let's come to the table and get something done that we can all support. Unfortunately, today, I have to urge opposition to this bill.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER), who is the author of the bill.

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Chair, I thank the good chairman from Arkansas for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1449, the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act, or the CLEAN Act.

To begin developing geothermal resources on Federal land, developers must first obtain a lease. While there is significant potential in this resource, 90 percent or thereabouts of the Nation's viable geothermal resources are located on Federal land. It makes lease sales crucial to the expansion of this energy source.

On the map behind me, Mr. Chair, you can tell just some of the regions where this resource is available, and it is vast. However, the time and costs associated with multiple environmental reviews, as well as the overall leasing and permitting processes, result in development schedules longer than many other power production projects.

The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 currently requires the Secretary of the Interior to hold "a competitive lease sale at least once every 2 years for land in a State that has nominations pending." However, this timeline is not always adhered to. As the chairman mentioned before me, some States, like California, have not held a competitive geothermal lease sale since 2016. If any State needs to be doing more proactive work for clean baseload, it would be our friends in California.

This legislation, H.R. 1449, amends the Geothermal Steam Act to require annual lease sales, instead of once every 2 years, for geothermal energy exploration on Federal land. Prioritizing geothermal exploration on Federal land will increase certainty for domestic companies looking to explore for geothermal resources while still re-

quiring a full environmental assessment if the resources prove exploitable.

In addition, this bill requires the Department of the Interior to notify an applicant whether or not their application for a geothermal drilling permit is complete within 30 days of receiving the application.

I noticed my good friend across the aisle mentioned the resource concern for the Department of the Interior. There are some 70,000 employees in the Department of the Interior. If some need to be redirected, I am sure that can be accommodated.

If the Department of the Interior determines that an application is complete, then it must issue a final decision on the application within 30 days of the date the Department of the Interior sent the notification.

Securing American energy independence should be a top priority for Congress, and geothermal is a renewable, clean power source that can help us accomplish that goal.

Idaho already plays a leading role in geothermal energy production.

It is critical that we leverage every available resource to ensure that our Nation is self-sufficient and resilient in meeting its energy needs. Geothermal is a proven, clean, and efficient means to provide reliable baseload power.

Geothermal energy is one of the most promising and underutilized energy sources in the United States and has the potential to provide consistent power available 24/7, 365 days a year. The Department of the Interior projects that U.S. geothermal capacity could increase from the current 16 gigawatts to 38 gigawatts by 2035 and 90 gigawatts by 2050.

By expanding access to geothermal resources, we can increase energy production, create jobs, and reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources, which are oftentimes not friendly to the United States.

By ensuring geothermal lease sales are held annually, we can provide more certainty for energy developers, reduce delays in the development process, and create good-paying jobs, all while helping to meet our energy goals and reduce our dependence on foreign energy.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I look forward to working with each of my colleagues to advance reliable domestic energy for all Americans.

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

Mr. Chair, I want to respond to one comment that was just made about the employees of the Department of the Interior.

For many folks who are not familiar with the Department of the Interior, I will note that there have been people in history who have called it the department of everything because it manages our public lands, water resources and reservoirs, wildlife through the Fish and Wildlife Service, and mineral leasing. It does our geologic sur-

veys. It manages and provides programs and responsibilities to our Tribal nations. The reason why there are 70,000 employees in the Department of the Interior is because they work across all of those bureaus and missions.

The reality is, if you have ever had to work with the Federal Government, Mr. Chair, is that many of these kinds of decisions are made at the most local level in a field office in the Bureau of Land Management, which is the agency responsible for permitting at the most local level. Oftentimes, the agencies find themselves with staff vacancies, a lack of resources, or they have multiple permits come across the desk of a local resource manager.

To expect somebody who is working in a field office, potentially in a rural or remote area of the United States, to process a sophisticated permit and all the related interagency and inter-bureau coordination and Tribal consultation required in 30 days is just not realistic. While I appreciate the assertion, that is just not how it works.

Let's be reasonable. We all want the same outcome. Let's not create a law that just results in lawsuits and difficulties for our Federal agencies so that we can move on and get this done.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate the debate. Democrats are strong proponents of geothermal energy and support the intent of this bill. This technology is critical for the clean energy transition, jobs, and replacing other kinds of energy.

We want to see responsible development in relation to our public lands. To make that goal a reality, Democrats have supported bipartisan legislation that increases efficiency in permitting processes and other legislation that gets at the same challenges that this bill is trying to address without taking away the necessary environmental and community input.

Unfortunately, there are technical aspects of this bill, including the timelines, that are just not realistic.

In addition to those arbitrary timelines that would undercut community voices and potential protections in sensitive places, this would make projects themselves more vulnerable to delays should lawsuits happen or there are shoddy reviews or a lack of outside input.

I want us to be good bipartisan partners to all of you in this work, but we really do have to come up with some commonsense fixes.

Mr. Chair, as I mentioned just a few moments ago, I hope that we can work together to resolve those technical issues. I ask my colleagues to vote "no" on the bill as it is currently drafted, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I again urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 1449.

As has been said, geothermal energy in the U.S. has potential to generate 90

gigawatts of power. To put that in perspective, that would be like 150 to 200 large power-producing plants.

It is energy, electricity, coming from non-carbon-emitting sources and from a renewable resource.

This should be a no-brainer for both sides of the aisle as we face challenges with as much as an increased rate of three times per year more electricity demand than what we have seen in the past. We know we need energy from anywhere we can get it in greater volumes than we have had before.

Just this last week, we passed a bill that would streamline the permitting process for geothermal plants on State and private lands. This bill is another commonsense solution that will help bring our lagging geothermal industry online.

It is time we build more geothermal plants to reach our full geothermal potential in this country and unleash America's energy resources for our citizens and allies around the world.

It is imperative that we increase the rate of leasing geothermal plants so that American citizens can enjoy the low-cost, reliable, and renewable energy that comes from these plants.

Again, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1449, 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 bill is considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1449

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 "Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act" or the "CLEAN Act".

SEC. 2. GEOTHERMAL LEASING.

(a) ANNUAL LEASING.—Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking "2 years" and inserting "year";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(3) after paragraph (2), by inserting the following:

"(3) REPLACEMENT SALES.—If a lease sale under paragraph (1) for a year is canceled or delayed, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a replacement sale during the same year.

"(4) REQUIREMENT.—In conducting a lease sale under paragraph (2) in a State described in that paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer all nominated parcels eligible for geothermal development and utilization under the resource management plan in effect for the State."

(b) DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF GEOTHERMAL DRILLING PERMITS.—Section 4 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF GEOTHERMAL DRILLING PERMITS.—

"(1) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an

application for any geothermal drilling permit, the Secretary shall—

"(A) provide written notice to the applicant that the application is complete; or

"(B) notify the applicant that information is missing and specify any information that is required to be submitted for the application to be complete.

"(2) ISSUANCE OF DECISION.—If the Secretary determines that an application for a geothermal drilling permit is complete under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall issue a final decision on the application not later than 30 days after the Secretary notifies the applicant that the application is complete."

The CHAIR. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 118-754.

Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

□ 1430

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 118-754.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. 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 4, line 7, strike "30" and insert "90".
Page 4, strike lines 17 through 23 and insert the following:

"(2) DECISION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which an applicant submits a complete application for a geothermal drilling permit under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

"(A) grant or deny the application, if the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and any other applicable law have been completed; or

"(B) defer the decision on the application and provide to the applicant notice—

"(i) that specifies steps that the applicant can take for the decision on the application to be issued; and

"(ii) of a list of actions that need to be taken by the agency in order to comply with applicable law, and timelines and deadlines for completing those actions."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1576, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment, which I offered a version of at the markup nearly a year ago, would have addressed all the concerns. If adopted, I would be happy to support H.R. 1449.

This amendment extends the timeline for the Department to determine permit completeness, as the Department requested in its testimony, and gives flexibility to issue a final determination on a permit when environmental review is actually complete.

This will ensure permitting is done in a timely manner, in accordance with Federal law, reducing the risk of litigation and promoting responsible development.

There are a few things to note on this amendment. The first thing is, for the 90-day timeline for determining permit completeness, I point my colleagues to H.R. 6011 from Republican Representative VALADAO.

That bill directs the Secretary to notify a right-of-way applicant, which is the permit needed for a transmission line or a pipeline to cross Federal land, that their permit is complete or not within 90 days of submission.

My amendment proposes that same standard for geothermal drilling permits.

For my amendment piece about flexibility, I point my colleagues to the Manchin-Barrasso permitting proposal.

I have plenty of concerns with that bill, but even those Senators saw the same issues with approving or denying a permit within 30 days. That is why their bill includes the same environmental review backstop language for geothermal as is included in my amendment here.

These are bipartisan and Republican-endorsed ideas. My colleagues should take yes for an answer and accept that.

This amendment is a reasonable solution to the issues we raised almost a year ago and have continued to raise since.

If this amendment passes, it will be a bipartisan win for geothermal and a demonstration of good-faith cooperation from the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" on my amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arkansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, it is good to see my colleague, Mr. GRIJALVA, here in the Chamber today. Although it is good to see him presenting his amendment, I oppose the amendment.

This amendment attempts to mirror the language in the Mineral Leasing Act for oil and gas production on Federal lands, but, unfortunately, there are some key differences. If my colleagues look at it in its whole, the amendment would make it more difficult to lease geothermal resources than to lease oil and gas.

In fact, this amendment would triple the timeline for an agency to respond to a project applicant on whether their geothermal drilling permit application is complete or deficient.

This is not a timeline for permit approval. It is a timeline for simply letting someone know if they submitted a complete application.

Under current law, the BLM is already required to provide similar affirmation on oil and gas permit applications within 10 days. This amendment

would create a timeline for geothermal permit applicants nine times longer than those BLM is already held to for oil and gas.

The amendment also states that the NEPA review must be complete before final permit approval. This language is unnecessary. The bill does nothing to waive NEPA requirements.

Additionally, the amendment would create a new option for the BLM to deny geothermal permits, effectively pulling the rug out from under energy projects at the last step in the permitting process.

Mr. Chairman, for these reasons, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) to address this amendment.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, I support this amendment.

I am glad to see that many of my Republican colleagues are taking a real interest, obviously, in clean air and energy production, but clean energy projects can't truly be considered clean if the permitting agencies don't have the proper time to conduct real NEPA reviews.

Again, the National Environmental Policy Act is there in place and wanting to extend the time, saying it is unnecessary without actually putting it in writing to have the necessary time. We are talking about drilling permits here.

Congressman GRIJALVA knows the challenges facing the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management, as many of my colleagues know. He has heard directly from staffers who review these permit applications that the timelines in this bill will not work.

Our amendment makes simple changes to make the timelines in this bill more realistic and, in the process, protect many of our communities while we develop the clean, renewable energy we need in our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the staffers who review these applications and support this commonsense amendment that gives the Bureau of Land Management's staffers the time that they need to review the permit applications.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, my amendment consists of reasonable fixes that Republicans have previously supported. If adopted, Democrats would unanimously support the final passage of this bill.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, again, the bill does nothing to waive NEPA requirements. It just simply speeds up the timeline.

It shouldn't take an agency 90 days to notify an applicant if an application is complete or not. We need more of this clean, renewable energy. To get more of it, we need to get a permitting process that works.

Unfortunately, this amendment would slow down the process even more. That is why I am opposed to the amendment. I encourage others to vote against it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 118-754.

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

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date on which the Secretary of the Interior certifies that the Bureau of Land Management and other relevant Federal permitting agencies have received adequate funding to resolve permitting staff shortages required to meet the deadlines established under this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1576, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment says that this act cannot take effect until the Secretary certifies that the Bureau of Land Management and other Federal permitting agencies have sufficient staff and funding to actually comply with the deadlines established by this act.

The tight deadlines in this bill are part of what has become the classic Republican permitting playbook of complaining that agencies don't move fast enough, gut their funding, and then impose deadlines impossible to achieve.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to impose these deadlines, let's make sure the agencies can actually do the work.

Mr. Chair, I might add that that is exactly what Democrats did with the IRA. Democrats secured \$1 billion for the Federal permitting offices so that they can do their jobs and they can do the jobs that are required by the IRA. It is already working.

The Biden-Harris administration cut 6 months off from the median time it takes for agencies to complete environmental impact statements, a 16 percent time savings compared to the Trump administration.

The Department of Energy has cut environmental review timelines in

half, and the Department of Transportation has cut time by more than one-third. These are real permitting improvements, not wishful thinking like we have in this bill.

That is what is dangerous about this bill, the timelines are so short that many good project proposals will get permit denials unnecessarily, not because the application couldn't pass the environmental review, but because the bill forces a decision before the review is completed.

Instead of letting the applicant wait a few more days to get the review completed, the bill forces the agency to move ahead and deny the permit. This is going to set geothermal back right when we should be supporting it the most.

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

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

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Arkansas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. It would gut the bill by conditioning enactment on a determination by the Secretary of the Interior that the Bureau of Land Management and other relevant Federal permitting agencies have received adequate funding to resolve permitting staff shortages.

If Members felt the urge to laugh when I stated that, they are probably not too far off because this amendment doesn't really pass the laugh test.

I have never heard of a Federal agency admitting to having enough funding or enough staff, and this amendment simply is a poison pill because the action it is conditioned on simply will never happen.

The issue is not DOI staff capacity but burdensome permitting processes that take years, produce duplicative reviews, and consume thousands of hours for regulators and project proponents alike.

Actually, we passed a bill just last week that will help resolve any issue that may be there. H.R. 7409 would decrease the administrative load on staff and field offices by not requiring a Federal permit for geothermal energy produced on State and private lands. That bill would rapidly streamline the approval process by relying on the States' permitting procedures rather than the duplicative Federal process.

My friends on the other side of the aisle had a chance last week to free agency staffers from their redundant work, but many opposed the bill.

Let's not forget that last Congress, as the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) stated, the Democrats rammed through a reconciliation package with a billion dollars for permitting. DOI had \$150 million, and from that bill, it was to provide for the hiring and training of personnel, the development of programmatic environmental documents, the procurement of technical or scientific services for environmental reviews, the development of

environmental data or information systems, stakeholder and community engagement.

In fact, the Department has grown by 4,000 full-time equivalents from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2023.

More funding and bureaucrats aren't what is needed now. What is needed is for DOI to recognize energy permitting as a priority and create a plan for meeting the required timelines.

We must continue working here to pass more permitting reform measures to help alleviate the permitting burden on important energy projects. These measures will also reduce the redundant permitting tasks performed by the Federal workforce.

H.R. 1449 will hold the Department's feet to the fire by forcing them to act on geothermal leasing and permitting in a timely manner. For those reasons, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would prevent this bill from creating a situation where the agency is required to decide on permits before the applicants have had a chance to go through environmental reviews.

Without my amendment, this bill will force the administration to deny permits to good geothermal projects that we should be supporting.

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

□ 1445

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I think we have to ask ourselves, do we want environmental growth in this country to be based on growing the bureaucracy and spending more money on permits, or do we actually want to make things? Do we want to produce energy? Do we want to use the resources that we have?

Geothermal operators are often required to complete six separate NEPA reviews to get a Federal permit: one for exploration, another if there is a subsurface anomaly, a third for drilling a slim confirmation hole, a fourth to develop the well field, a fifth for the power plant itself, and a sixth if the project is speculative exploration on lands not previously leased.

The status quo is a duplicative and wasteful process and prevents the United States from developing this very clean energy source. Performing NEPA six times does not provide six times the environmental benefit, rather less duplicative NEPA reviews will actually increase the rate at which these clean energy resources come online.

This bill is an attempt to put more clean energy resources on the grid at a faster pace. This amendment would undermine that goal. I oppose it, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

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

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA).

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

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

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WESTERMAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. LALOTA, 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. 1449) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LANGWORTHY) at 4 p.m.

COMMITTING LEASES FOR ENERGY ACCESS NOW ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1576 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. 1449.

Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) kindly take the chair.

□ 1600

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. 1449) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes, with Mr. CRAWFORD (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, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 118-754 offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments

printed in House Report 118-754 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. GRIJALVA of Arizona.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in House Report 118-754, offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 200, noes 210, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 470]

AYES—200

Adams	Eshoo	McCollum
Aguilar	Espaillet	McGarvey
Allred	Fletcher	McGovern
Amo	Foster	McIver
Auchincloss	Foushee	Meeks
Balint	Frankel, Lois	Menendez
Barragan	Frost	Meng
Beatty	Garamendi	Mfume
Bera	Garcia (IL)	Moore (WI)
Beyer	Garcia (TX)	Morelle
Bishop (GA)	Garcia, Robert	Moskowitz
Blumenauer	Goldman (NY)	Moulton
Blunt Rochester	Gomez	Mrvan
Bonamici	Gonzalez, V.	Mullin
Bowman	Green, Al (TX)	Nadler
Boyle (PA)	Grijalva	Napolitano
Brown	Harder (CA)	Neal
Brownley	Hayes	Neguse
Budzinski	Himes	Nickel
Bush	Horsford	Norcross
Caraveo	Houlihan	Norton
Carbajal	Hoyer	Ocasio-Cortez
Carson	Hoyle (OR)	Omar
Carter (LA)	Huffman	Pallone
Cartwright	Ivey	Panetta
Casar	Jackson (IL)	Pappas
Case	Jacobs	Pelosi
Casten	Jayapal	Peltola
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Perez
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Peters
Cherfilus-	Kamlager-Dove	Petterson
McCormick	Kaptur	Phillips
Chu	Keating	Pingree
Clark (MA)	Kelly (IL)	Plaskett
Clarke (NY)	Kennedy	Pocan
Cleaver	Khanna	Pressley
Clyburn	Kildee	Quigley
Cohen	Kilmer	Ramirez
Correa	Kim (NJ)	Raskin
Costa	Krishnamoorthi	Ross
Courtney	Kuster	Ruiz
Craig	Landsman	Ruppersberger
Crockett	Larsen (WA)	Ryan
Crow	Larson (CT)	Salinas
Cuellar	Lee (CA)	Sanchez
Davids (KS)	Lee (PA)	Sarbanes
Davis (IL)	Lee Carter	Schakowsky
Davis (NC)	Leger Fernandez	Schiff
Dean (PA)	Levin	Schneider
DeGette	Lieu	Scholten
DeLauro	Lofgren	Schrier
DelBene	Lynch	Scott (VA)
Deluzio	Magaziner	Sewell
DeSaulnier	Manning	Sherman
Dingell	Matsui	Slotkin
Doggett	McBath	Smith (WA)
Escobar	McClellan	Sorensen

Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)

Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaih
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez

KIM of California, Messrs. JOHNSON of South Dakota, MCCAUL, and CLINE changed their vote from "aye" to "no." Messrs. TAKANO, MFUME, CLEAVER, JOHNSON of Georgia, SORENSEN, LARSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. TRAHAN changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for: Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 470.

Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sanchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier

Scott (VA)
Sewell
Sherman
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)

Titus
Tlaih
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOES—210

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Fry

Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Moylan
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Schalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dуйne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GRIJALVA The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2, printed in House Report 118-754, offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes 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 196, noes 215, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 471]

AYES—196

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
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
Correa
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Españillat
Fletcher
Poster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Cohen
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)
Lee Carter
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
Norton
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peltola
Petersen
Pingree
Pocan

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxy
Fry
Garbarino

NOES—215

Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
James
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalifa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Lopez
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Molinaro
Moolenaar

Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Moylan
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Schalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dуйne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wied
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—27

Armstrong
Connolly
Donalds
Evans
Gallego
Gonzalez, V.
Gonzalez-Colón
Gottheimer
Kiley
Granger
Ivey
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Kiley
Lee (NV)
Lesko

NOT VOTING—28

Armstrong
Cárdenas
Connolly
Evans
Franklin, Scott
Gallego
González-Colón
Gottheimer
Granger
Greene (GA)
Hudson
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Kiley
Lee (NV)
Massie
McHenry
Porter
Radewagen
Sablan

□ 1629

Messrs. LUETKEMEYER, CLOUD, MORAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mmes. BICE,

Graves (LA)	Mace	Rosendale
Graves (MO)	Magaziner	Rouzer
Green (TN)	Malliotakis	Roy
Greene (GA)	Maloy	Rulli
Griffith	Mann	Rutherford
Grothman	Manning	Salazar
Guest	Massie	Salinas
Guthrie	Mast	Scalise
Hageman	McCaul	Schweikert
Harder (CA)	McClain	Scott, Austin
Harris	McClintock	Self
Harshbarger	McCormick	Sessions
Hern	McHenry	Simpson
Higgins (LA)	Meuser	Smith (MO)
Hill	Miller (IL)	Smith (NE)
Hinson	Miller (OH)	Smith (NJ)
Houchin	Miller (WV)	Smucker
Houlahan	Miller-Meeks	Spanberger
Hoyer	Mills	Spartz
Hoyle (OR)	Molinaro	Stauber
Hudson	Moolenaar	Steel
Huizenga	Mooney	Stefanik
Hunt	Moore (AL)	Steil
Issa	Moore (UT)	Steube
James	Moran	Strong
Johnson (LA)	Moskowitz	Suozzi
Johnson (SD)	Moulton	Tenney
Jordan	Mrvan	Thompson (PA)
Joyce (OH)	Murphy	Tiffany
Joyce (PA)	Nehls	Timmons
Kean (NJ)	Newhouse	Turner
Kelly (MS)	Norman	Valadao
Kelly (PA)	Nunn (IA)	Van Drew
Kiggans (VA)	Obernolte	Van Dуйne
Kim (CA)	Ogles	Van Orden
Kustoff	Owens	Vasquez
LaHood	Palmer	Wagner
LaLota	Panetta	Walberg
LaMalfa	Pappas	Weber (TX)
Lamborn	Peltola	Webster (FL)
Langworthy	Pence	Wenstrup
Latta	Perez	Westerman
Lawler	Perry	Wied
Lee (FL)	Peters	Williams (NY)
Lesko	Pettersen	Williams (TX)
Letlow	Pfluger	Wilson (SC)
Lopez	Posey	Wittman
Loudermilk	Reschenthaler	Womack
Lucas	Rodgers (WA)	Yakym
Luetkemeyer	Rogers (AL)	Zinke
Luna	Rogers (KY)	
Luttrell	Rose	

Schiff	Stevens	Trahan
Schneider	Strickland	Underwood
Scholten	Sykes	Vargas
Schrier	Takano	Veasey
Scott (VA)	Thandear	Velázquez
Sewell	Thompson (CA)	Wasserman
Sherman	Thompson (MS)	Schultz
Slotkin	Titus	Walters
Smith (WA)	Tlaib	Watson Coleman
Sorensen	Tokuda	Wild
Soto	Tonko	Williams (GA)
Stansbury	Torres (CA)	Wilson (FL)
Stanton	Torres (NY)	

SUPPORTING FARM BILL PASSAGE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to implore my colleagues to immediately move a clean farm bill to the floor, including a disaster supplemental to support American farms, businesses, and rural communities.

Both the House and Senate have released a farm bill. It is long overdue for the Republican leadership to act. The farmers, producers, and growers we serve need certainty from their lawmakers.

Farms are businesses. They must know what to expect. We cannot run out their clock.

Farmers need a plan for the next season now, especially with all the enormous crop losses across the country. What equipment can they afford to buy? Will they get a deduction for it? What will be reference prices for their crops? What will be their insurance rates? Above all, what disaster assistance will exist to recover from both last season's and this season's crop losses?

Look at this chart. Imagine you are an Ohio farmer. Imagine you don't even know what disaster assistance will be available before the next growing season. How can you plan? Farmers need clarity now.

If we don't support our farmers, there will be no food on the table. Congress must pass a farm bill with disaster relief funding now. That will strengthen the farm safety net and the financial well-being of our farmers.

What America makes and grows makes and grows America.

HONORING JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT SAVANNAH BUSINESS HALL OF FAME HONOREES JEFF KOLE AND DIANA MORRISON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jeff Kole and Diana Morrison for their achievements as the 2024 honorees of the Junior Achievement Savannah Business Hall of Fame.

Jeff Kole is the president of Kole Investment Co. and is actively involved in improving the Savannah community through numerous boards and charity organizations. In addition, he is the founding facilitator and board chair of East Savannah United, a nonprofit that will open a new library and children's center next year.

Diana Morrison is the founder and CEO of Ad Specialty. She built her successful business up from just the trunk of her car.

Diana contributes her time to many organizations in the Savannah area and has been honored by the Savannah

NOT VOTING—18

Armstrong	Granger	Scott, David
Connolly	Jackson (NC)	Sherrill
Evans	Jackson (TX)	Swalwell
Ferguson	Kiley	Trone
Gallego	LaTurner	Waltz
Gottheimer	Lee (NV)	Wexton

□ 1649

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted NO on Roll Call No. 468, NO on Roll Call No. 469, AYE on Roll Call No. 470, AYE on Roll Call No. 471, AYE on Roll Call No. 472, and NO on Roll Call No. 473.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, my votes were not recorded today. Had they been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 470, YEA on Roll Call No. 471, YEA on Roll Call No. 472, and YEA on Roll Call No. 473.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Adoption Month.

Adoption is all around us, even if we don't see it. Every day, there are children adopted into loving families across the country. Each year, more than 100,000 children in the United States foster care system wait for permanent homes. They wait for parents who will cheer them on at soccer games, comfort them through tough days, and celebrate their successes.

Although it is estimated that between 2 to 4 percent of Americans have adopted, more than one-third have considered it.

National Adoption Month is our opportunity to raise awareness, break down barriers, and encourage more families to consider opening their hearts and homes to these children.

Mr. Speaker, adoption is more than a legal process. It is an act of love and commitment that changes lives forever. For children, it means stability, safety, and belonging. For parents, adoption means fulfilling a calling to nurture, guide, and unconditionally love a child. Together, adoption creates families built not by blood but by heart.

NAYS—171

Adams	DelBene	Leger Fernandez
Aguilar	Deluzio	Levin
Amo	DeSaulnier	Lieu
Auchincloss	Dingell	Lofgren
Balint	Doggett	Lynch
Barragán	Escobar	Matsui
Beatty	Eshoo	McBath
Beyer	Españillat	McClellan
Bishop (GA)	Fletcher	McCollum
Blumenauer	Foster	McGarvey
Blunt Rochester	Foushee	McGovern
Bonamici	Frankel, Lois	McIver
Bowman	Frost	Meeks
Boyle (PA)	García (IL)	Menendez
Brown	García, Robert	Meng
Brownley	Gomez	Mfume
Bush	Green, Al (TX)	Moore (WI)
Carbajal	Grijalva	Morelle
Cárdenas	Hayes	Mullin
Carson	Himes	Nadler
Carter (LA)	Horsford	Napolitano
Cartwright	Huffman	Neal
Casar	Ivey	Neguse
Case	Jackson (IL)	Nickel
Casten	Jacobs	Norcross
Castor (FL)	Jayapal	Ocasio-Cortez
Castro (TX)	Jeffries	Omar
Cherfilus-McCormick	Johnson (GA)	Pallone
Chu	Kamlager-Dove	Pelosi
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Phillips
Clarke (NY)	Keating	Pingree
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)	Pocan
Clyburn	Kennedy	Porter
Cohen	Khanna	Pressley
Correa	Kildee	Quigley
Costa	Kilmer	Ramirez
Courtney	Kim (NJ)	Raskin
Crockett	Krishnamoorthi	Ross
Crow	Kuster	Ruiz
Davids (KS)	Landsman	Ruppersberger
Davis (IL)	Larsen (WA)	Ryan
Dean (PA)	Larson (CT)	Sánchez
DeGette	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes
DeLauro	Lee (PA)	Scanlon
	Lee Carter	Schakowsky

Area Chamber of Commerce twice for her accomplishments.

I am proud to have leaders like Jeff and Diana in our district. I wish them both the very best.

□ 1700

RURAL COMMUNITIES NEED HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Rural Health Month. One-third of Oregon's counties are frontier counties, which have even more struggles accessing healthcare than our rural communities.

We need to make sure that the people who are feeding our country—our farmers, our fishermen, and our ranchers—can access the healthcare that they need. The barriers are great.

I was just able to get \$2 million to build a chemotherapy care clinic in Curry County. It would take 7½ hours for people needing chemotherapy to be able to go get treatment, having to travel by car on dangerous roads. We need to do better.

These people are the heart of our country, and we need to invest in healthcare for our rural communities.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SERGEANT KESTER B. HARDMAN

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Kester B. Hardman of Ritchie County, located in the beautiful Second District that I represent.

Sergeant Hardman, a dedicated serviceman of the Army's Second Infantry Division in the Korean war was reported missing in action after intense combat near Suncheon, South Korea.

North Korean authorities reported he had died in 1951 as a prisoner of war, but his remains were never identified. In 1954, 848 unidentified remains were recovered from North Korea and laid to rest among countless other unidentified servicemen at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

After 70 years of being unidentified, in May of this year, the fantastic lab of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency was able to use dental and medical records to identify Sergeant Hardman and notify his family.

Sergeant Hardman was finally laid to rest on October 17 of this year in his hometown of Smithville with the honor and dignity he deserves.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP BY REV. EREND DR. MARCUS D. COSBY

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

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church's great leader, Dr. Marcus D. Cosby for 20 years of pastoral leadership. Wheeler Avenue Baptist is located in the 18th District of Texas.

The church, founded in 1962 by the late great Reverend Dr. William A. Lawson, has a rich history of faith and standing for social justice.

Dr. Cosby was the immediate selection of Dr. Lawson. In 2008, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Under Dr. Cosby's leadership, the congregation has grown to over 15,000 dedicated members, many in the 18th Congressional District. Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church is dedicated to community service. They have a robust food pantry, meal distribution programs, and scholarships for students where they focus on closing the academic achievement gap. In 2024, to honor Dr. Lawson's legacy, Dr. Cosby and the church donated \$1 million to five universities.

Dr. Cosby is married to the lovely first lady, Mrs. Audrey Marie Cosby. They have five children, including: daughters, Adrienne, Ashley, Aliyah; and two sons, Marcus D. Cosby, II, and Matthew D. Cosby. They also have one grandson.

I celebrate Marcus D. Cosby for 20 years of pastoral leadership. I ask that we join together in congratulating this remarkable leader and look forward to his good and faithful service for many years to come.

TAX RELIEF FOR HOSTAGES

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.

Ryan Corbett, who grew up in my district, has been held hostage by the Taliban in Afghanistan for 832 days. It is inconceivable that Americans like Ryan, who endure such brutal hardship, should come home only to face a tax bill or penalties from our government, but that is what the current law prescribes.

Our Tax Code offers Americans held hostage just 1 year of relief before late fees and interest begin to accrue. This bill ensures that those individuals can return home without the added burden of financial fallout, allowing them to rebuild their lives.

This legislation also strengthens our stance against terrorism by revoking

tax-exempt status from U.S. nonprofits that provide financing to groups like Hamas. Just as captors holding American citizens should not receive a dime in American taxpayer aid, neither should terrorist sympathizers receive tax relief from our Federal Government.

VETERAN HOMELESSNESS IS UNACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an issue of great importance to the veterans in North Carolina's First Congressional District and across our Nation: veteran homelessness.

In traveling across my district, I have heard from veterans and constituents about how unacceptable it is that so many veterans who have put their lives on the line for our freedoms are without homes.

While recent data from the VA shows a nearly 60 percent reduction in the unsheltered, there is still so much work to be done.

The House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 8371. It requires the VA to implement a strategic plan expanding services to help veterans secure permanent housing, access basic needs, and receive healthcare and job support. Congress must continue to support such legislation to end veteran homelessness.

AMERICAN FOOD SUPPLY CONCERNS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, recently Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has been raising concerns that a lot of people have been thinking about for a while, about what is in our food, including yellow dye No. 6, or its chemical name, Acid Yellow 23, commonly found in many snack products and things like popcorn.

This synthetic dye has been linked to allergic reactions such as hives and asthma and may contribute to behavioral issues like hyperactivity in children. It has also been criticized for potential long-term health risks, including anxiety, learning difficulties, and even possibly cancer risks when consumed in large amounts over time.

Despite being FDA approved, there are growing concerns over the safety of artificial dyes, prompting some companies to remove them from their products. I notice also that in Europe a lot of these products aren't in their foods, but they are somehow for some reason in the United States' forms of it.

Coal tar byproducts, like tartrazine, are found not only in food, but also personal care products like toothpaste, shampoo, and lotions. These synthetic

dyes can cause allergic reactions, skin rashes, headaches, and asthma, and have been linked to behavioral issues in children as well.

It is time we demand more transparency from manufacturers as well as the FDA in checking more closely about them and push for safer, better alternatives or maybe just leave them out. Maybe we don't have to have a perfectly colored potato chip. Instead, let's let it be a little more what it is. Let's support companies that prioritize health and choose products free of harmful synthetic dyes. Our health is worth it.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Family Caregivers Month and to honor the important work of the more than 48 million American family caregivers across our country.

Every day, Americans provide physical and emotional support for their older parents, spouses, siblings, grandparents, and other loved ones so that they can live independently in their homes. These caregivers help with everything, including meals, bathing, medical care, transportation, often balancing their jobs and their family responsibilities at the same time.

In Congress, we must do our part to make caregivers' lives easier. That is why I introduced the Alleviating Barriers to Caregivers Act, a bicameral, bipartisan bill that will reduce paperwork and red tape and make it easier for caregivers to navigate the resources and benefits that they are entitled to.

Family caregivers work around the clock to make a difference in the lives of their loved ones, and it is time that our country make a difference in theirs.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEANNE CARTER LUCKEY

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I stand here today before you to honor the life and legacy of Jeanne Carter Luckey, who passed away earlier this month.

Jeanne was not only a dedicated trustee for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, but a tireless advocate for education and the future of our State.

Throughout her distinguished career, Jeanne worked with unwavering passion to ensure that our universities and students had the resources they needed to succeed.

Her leadership on the board of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning was marked by wisdom, in-

tegrity, and a deep commitment to Mississippi's educational system. She understood that education was the key to unlocking opportunities for generations to come.

Jeanne was a fierce believer in service to her community, her State, and to the future of our children. She leaves behind a remarkable legacy that will continue to inspire those of us in public service for years to come.

On behalf of the people of Mississippi, I extend my deepest condolences to Jeanne's family, friends, and colleagues. We will miss her leadership and her unshakable dedication to making Mississippi a better place.

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JAMES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, I am proud to lead my colleagues today in celebrating National Rural Health Month.

With 61 million people, roughly 20 percent of the United States population, living across 97 percent of the country's landmass, delivering healthcare to every corner of America has required unique and innovative approaches and remains an ongoing challenge.

As the primary growers and producers of the food, fuel, and fiber that keeps our country running, rural Americans are also quickly becoming older and more ethnically diverse, dealing with the challenges of keeping up with a world increasingly dependent on broadband activity to support all aspects of life, including healthcare delivery, can be a challenge.

Since 2011, National Rural Health Day has been recognized annually on the third Thursday of November—coming up soon, on November 21—to highlight the dedication of healthcare providers and communities in addressing the healthcare needs of rural Americans.

For those of us representing rural and remote parts of this country, every day is Rural Health Day, as we fight to provide access to even the most basic care services and to work to improve health outcomes and the life expectancy of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BUDZINSKI).

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. I rise today to celebrate National Rural Health Month and bring attention to rural healthcare challenges.

In the communities that I am so proud to represent in central and southern Illinois, independent pharmacies are a lifeline. However, for too long, predatory drug middlemen, called PBMs, have squeezed independent phar-

macies out of business through their unfair, anticompetitive practices.

I recently hosted a roundtable, where I heard from several independent pharmacists throughout my district, including Michelle Dyer, the owner of Michelle's Pharmacy in Carlinville, Illinois. In 2022, as PBM s consolidated, she was forced to close multiple locations of her business, leaving three rural towns in Macoupin County without access to a reliable pharmacy.

Our conversation made clear that we must take action to rein in PBMs, who have gone unchecked for far too long. We must pass the Pharmacists Fight Back Act to provide transparency, accountability, and guardrails. We need to protect independent pharmacists and support the health of our rural communities.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for hosting this Special Order hour and for yielding me some time.

This month, Americans celebrate National Rural Health Month, where we believe every American should have access to quality, affordable healthcare regardless of their ZIP Code.

The Big First District of Kansas is made up of 60 primarily rural counties and is home to more critical access hospitals than any other district in the Nation, several rural emergency hospitals, and a number of rural health clinics, community health centers, and federally qualified health centers. This network of care facilities is an essential pillar for providing everyday health services and lifesaving care to Kansans.

I am committed to supporting this network and networks like it, removing red tape that handcuffs providers from providing care to rural communities, advocating for increase in telehealth services, and supporting programs that provide a safety net for rural America.

While this still is very much a work in progress, we celebrate the dedicated rural healthcare workers, hospitals, and service providers who provide care day in and day out to rural America. We are incredibly grateful for their service this rural healthcare month and every month.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues today in highlighting the accomplishments and ongoing challenges facing access to high-quality healthcare in rural and remote parts of our United States.

Healthcare providers in areas like Michigan's First District work every day to provide the best possible care for patients while overcoming struggles unlike anything facing those in urban or suburban areas.

□ 1715

Unfortunately, we have seen a significant increase in rural provider closures, and many of those still operating today are doing so at the razor's edge of financial viability and stability.

In my own district, Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital ended all hospital and emergency room operations earlier this year and consolidated into a rural health clinic. A single provider closing their doors could result in patients having to travel hundreds of miles further to receive treatment, including lifesaving emergency care.

In 2020, Congress took an important step to address this crisis by creating the Rural Emergency Hospitals, or REH designation. Under this designation, rural hospitals receive direct financial support, more than \$3 million annually, and increased Medicare reimbursement in exchange for maintaining 24-hour emergency departments, as well as observation beds and other key health services.

However, when Congress created this designation, REHs were not included as eligible facilities under the 340B drug discount program.

Mr. Speaker, 340B provides significant revenue for critical access hospitals and other rural providers, helping them improve access to prescription drugs and essential health services in underserved and underinsured areas.

This oversight has severely hindered the usefulness of the REH program and made it less likely for rural hospitals facing potential closure to keep their emergency departments open.

That is why I introduced H.R. 8144, the Rural 340B Access Act of 2024, along with my colleague from Michigan, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL. This bipartisan bill will make a commonsense correction and include facilities under the rural emergency hospitals designation as eligible for 340B.

This will further our work to stop rural hospital closures and ensure patients in rural and remote areas can continue to receive essential emergency care. Our rural and remote health providers will continue to do everything in their power to provide top-of-the-line care to their patients.

In turn, Congress must continue to address rural health priorities and remove the barriers in the way of that future success.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I will now make remarks about this very important month and some of my own experiences I have had in my district.

Coming out of the pandemic, the health workforce shortage crisis in the U.S. remains one of the greatest challenges to healthcare, and we must take immediate transformational action to address it.

Increasing the number of healthcare professionals is critical to expanding access to care in rural areas and keeping rural hospitals and clinics open, just as my colleague was talking about.

One way to address this issue is by ensuring providers are adequately compensated for their services. The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule is fundamentally broken. The Medicare payment rates have fallen by 29 percent over the last two decades, while the cost of running a practice is estimated to have increased by 3.6 percent.

We need longer-term solutions that provide greater stability and certainty to our clinicians. Congress must pass legislation to stabilize Medicare physician pay so that doctors receive adequate reimbursement to cover the actual costs of providing care, especially in areas of rural America where these costs are higher.

For doctors in my district, I am also advocating for increasing geographic adjustments to ensure provider pay more accurately reflects the uniquely higher cost of healthcare delivery in remote areas like Hawaii.

That is why I am introducing the Protecting Access to Care in Hawaii, or the PATCH Act, which would provide a roughly 24 percent increase in Medicare physician payments to Hawaii physicians so that they receive a similar boost to their counterparts in other remote States like Alaska.

For family physicians like Dr. Michelle Mitchell, higher reimbursements could have made the difference with helping her keep her practice in Hawaii and serving the community she cared for and loved.

From 2008 to 2021, Dr. Mitchell owned Hawaii Family Health in Hilo, Hawaii, where she provided primary care services and offered specialty services, like nutrition intervention and behavioral health to meet the needs of her patients.

However, at the end of the day, after covering her overhead, including paying staff, utilities, and rent, she would only bring home enough money to qualify for food stamps, but she persisted. In an effort to lift herself out of poverty, she started conducting telemedicine visits for patients on the continent where reimbursements were much higher, but this was not sustainable.

In the midst of the pandemic, she left Hawaii and moved to Kansas where she can have a more sustainable practice, leaving behind patients who have struggled to find a new doctor to care for them.

In rural places like Hawaii, we lose too many good doctors, and as a result, too many loved ones who can't get the care they need to survive. Nationally, the United States is facing a shortage of 40,000 to 60,000 physicians, and the shortage is expected to grow to 139,000 physicians by the year 2033.

In my home State alone, the shortage of physicians is 757 statewide, and this is only expected to get worse. Over the past year, we have had 42 physicians retire, 4 have passed away, 55 moved away, and 212 decreased their work. Over 22 percent, nearly a quarter, of our physicians are already over

the age of 65, meaning they should be retiring soon, or will be retiring soon. The sad reality is that they can't retire because there are too many lives literally at stake to lose even just one more doctor in Hawaii.

Unfortunately, given the low physician reimbursement levels in Hawaii along with the high cost of living and limited affordable housing options, it remains a challenge just to recruit and retain new physicians to our State and encourage our own, quite frankly, our "children," our "keiki", to join the profession too.

That is why it is so vital we fix physician payment models for rural places like Hawaii and to really make sure that we support our rural communities throughout this great country.

For my constituents from the island of Lanai, they say it is difficult to be born and to die in the place that they call home, in the place that they love. That is because of their inability to see the appropriate provider and get the care that they need for their health.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to finally fix our Nation's broken Medicare payment system. When we give our doctors a fighting chance to serve, we give their patients, our constituents, a better chance to live and to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), my co-chair for the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, an amazing individual, and a leader in the field of health and pharmacy.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and co-chair, Representative TOKUDA. You know, there is not a whole lot of difference—there is as far as distance—between Hawaii and Tennessee, but we have the same health challenges in rural health to be exact.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Rural Health Day and to highlight the work and cause of the Congressional Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus, which I am proud to co-chair with my colleague, Representative TOKUDA of Hawaii.

Over 60 million hardworking, everyday Americans live in rural communities throughout the United States, and as my co-chair, Representative TOKUDA, is fond of citing—with nearly 97 percent of our Nation being designated as rural.

Compared to their counterparts living in urban and suburban areas, rural Americans experience lower life expectancy, poorer health status, and more difficulty accessing quality and affordable healthcare.

Rural patients face these challenges due to the limited number of rural healthcare providers; higher rates of people being underinsured and uninsured, and long journeys to healthcare providers, sometimes people lacking transportation entirely.

Having served as a community pharmacist in rural east Tennessee for over 37 years, I understand the unique

healthcare challenges and obstacles faced by our patients and healthcare providers each and every day.

It is crucial that Congress takes action to address the issues that rural healthcare providers and patients grapple with, such as workforce shortages, supply scarcities, and reimbursement challenges, limited access to telehealth, and difficulties ensuring their patients receive the care they need.

The Congressional Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus is here to provide a forum for Members of Congress to advocate for legislative action that will help increase access to quality, affordable healthcare and mental health services for all rural Americans.

As co-chair, I will continue to work to advance the cause of ensuring the long-term sustainability of rural communities.

This Congress, I introduced the bipartisan Rural Physician Workforce Production Act, which improves Medicare reimbursements and enhances the current structure of the Medicare-funded graduate medical education program, bringing more medical residents and doctors to rural areas in need.

I also worked with my fellow colleagues in the Tennessee delegation to introduce the Rural America Health Corps Act, which would provide incentives for healthcare professionals to work in rural health facilities in exchange for forgiving medical school loans.

In addition to these bills, I am a proud cosponsor of the Save Rural Hospitals Act, bipartisan legislation that will aid in curbing hospital closures in rural communities by ensuring fairness in Medicare hospital payments.

This legislative work is absolutely critical. This week, I am pleased to help introduce with Representative TOKUDA and other members of the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Rural Health Day.

National Rural Health Day is the third Thursday of every November, and it was established to honor rural communities and the contributions and efforts of rural healthcare providers to address the unique challenges faced by the patients they serve.

Given the healthcare disparities faced by rural Americans and the continued difficulty experienced by rural healthcare providers in just keeping their doors open, it is vital that Congress prioritizes improving patient care and access in rural areas.

Our rural healthcare professionals and patients showcase a selfless and community-minded spirit, and it is altogether fitting and proper that we celebrate rural healthcare providers and the millions of Americans that rural healthcare providers serve.

In recognizing and celebrating National Rural Health Day, we join a diverse coalition of rural healthcare stakeholders to express a commitment to advancing policies to improve healthcare accessibility and affordability in rural areas in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TOKUDA and my colleagues for joining in this cause.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, as you have seen here today, both Democrat and Republican, it doesn't matter which side of the aisle that we may sit and serve on, but at the end of the day, it is about taking care of all of our constituents and everyone that lives in rural and remote America.

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of rural America is considered medically underserved and faces significant barriers to care, including geographic distances and lack of reliable transportation, fewer healthcare providers and medical facilities, lack of primary care and specialty services, and limited insurance options. As a result of these barriers, rural residents often experience worse health outcomes than their urban counterparts simply because of their inability to access healthcare.

Rural residents have a higher risk of dying early from cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, heart disease, stroke, and unintentional injuries. Many of these deaths are absolutely 100 percent preventable.

In my district, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders experience greater rates of heart disease, hypertension, and diabetes, and Asian Americans often experience higher rates of late-stage cancer diagnoses.

To ensure people living in rural and remote communities have access to quality healthcare, we must do more to keep more rural hospitals and clinics open, increase capacity and support for rural providers, and eliminate barriers to care for our rural patients, all things you have heard from my colleagues today.

Before the end of the year, Congress has a long to-do list for rural health. As we go home to celebrate the Thanksgiving weekend, let's keep a few of these important, critical actions in mind for our constituents.

Number one, extending critical rural health programs.

Congress must pass legislation reauthorizing a number of rural health programs that are set to expire at the end of 2024. This includes extending key programs like: The National Health Service Corps, which helps recruit and train aspiring health professionals to rural and underserved areas;

The Community Health Center Program, which supports 1,400 clinics to provide comprehensive health services to more than 31 million Americans, regardless of their ability to pay; and

The Medicare Flex Program, which provides technical assistance to help struggling, small rural hospitals increase quality of care and improve hospital operations. These programs play an important role in strengthening the rural health safety net.

Number two on Congress's to-do list: Safeguarding telehealth.

During the pandemic, telehealth flexibilities allowed providers to care for their patients remotely through the use of a computer or a telephone.

The utilization of telehealth and telephonic care in rural areas has been vital to reducing the challenges and burdens experienced by both rural patients and their providers. That is why we must support extending COVID-era flexibilities beyond 2024 and even making them permanent so that patients can receive timely access to care beyond brick-and-mortar settings.

□ 1730

We must also take action to prevent an impending 3.37 percent reduction in Medicare reimbursements to patients. If Congress does not act this year, Medicare payments will have been cut by almost 10 percent in the last 4 years alone, which is simply unsustainable and could force providers and medical groups to eliminate services, furlough staff, and implement hiring freezes.

Congress must act to ensure Medicare providers have the financial support they need to care for our Nation's seniors in rural America and across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I have a few more points to make, but at this time it is my pleasure to yield the floor to my colleague.

I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Rural Health Caucus, I join my colleagues in celebrating Rural Health Month. I want to highlight the great work of rural healthcare providers across my district.

I represent rural communities across western New York and the Southern Tier, the counties along the Pennsylvania line. Many of my constituents will tell you that their access to high-quality, affordable healthcare is a lifeline, whether it is preventive care, managing chronic conditions, or emergency treatment.

In rural areas, healthcare providers are often the first and sometimes the only line of defense against serious illness.

One example in my own district is an innovation by Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center with their mobile lung cancer screening facility that they call EDDY, which I had the opportunity to tour earlier this month. This program and vehicle takes healthcare directly into our rural communities, offering screenings that catch lung cancer earlier and improve survivor rates.

It is not the large medical centers doing this alone, but community health centers across my district that are stepping up to fill a gap, like the Southern Tier Health Care System based in Olean or Schuyler Hospital in Montour Falls or the Chautauqua Center with locations across the Southern Tier. There are too many excellent rural healthcare providers to name them all.

These centers are the cornerstone of rural healthcare, providing essential services like primary care, mental

health support, and preventative education to populations that might otherwise go without care.

I also want to speak to the importance of our community pharmacists. They play a critical role in rural healthcare. These local pharmacists are often the most accessible healthcare providers for rural residents that they have the most access to, offering guidance for everything from medication to chronic disease management and advice on appointments.

However, our rural communities and their healthcare providers face significant challenges. For many families, the nearest hospital or specialist could be hours away. It makes it difficult and sometimes impossible to get timely care. At the same time, rural areas struggle to recruit and retain skilled doctors and nurses and other professionals, leading to shortages and burn-out.

On top of that, many rural hospitals and clinics operate at razor-thin margins, and too many have been forced to close their doors. When these facilities shut down, entire regions, counties, and communities lose access to essential services, forcing residents to travel even farther for care.

That is why I will always fight for commonsense policies that strengthen rural healthcare, ensuring that no one is left behind because of where they live.

I am proud to lead the Rural Telehealth and Education Enhancement Act, which reauthorizes critical funding for programs that expand telemedicine and distance learning in rural areas. This bill, which is included in the House Republicans' farm bill, would invest in new ways for patients to connect with medical experts, improve access to specialized care, and enhance health outcomes in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank every single healthcare provider who has dedicated their time and talents to serving Americans in rural communities. The work they do saves lives and makes our country stronger.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of National Rural Health Month.

Everyone, no matter where they live, deserves access to high-quality healthcare, but I have heard so many stories from my constituents in rural areas who have to drive for hours to the nearest hospital or they don't have reliable internet for healthcare for telehealth.

Today, though, I will share a story celebrating the positive impact of rural healthcare. This mother and her family thrived because they had access to obstetric care in their rural hometown.

A local woman from Danville, a town in a rural county of my southern Illinois community, successfully delivered preterm twins because they lived by a

hospital with a full labor and delivery unit. The mom and her babies remained at OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center with both of the babies in a level 2 nursery where they could receive 24/7 care.

The parents were able to spend the maximum time to bond with their babies while the mom recovered from the delivery. The dad was able to go to work because the hospital was close to their home. The mom could be with their newborns and focus on breastfeeding with one-on-one lactation support.

A nearby medical center was especially valuable to these parents who had limited resources and the additional challenge of a language barrier. If OSF Sacred Heart didn't have a birthing center, the mom's only choice would have been a hospital almost an hour away.

Imagine going into early labor with twins, driving to an emergency department, and then being told you have to drive even farther. No mother should have to go through that nightmare. I am so grateful that this mother was able to safely deliver her healthy babies.

We can hear more success stories when there is a greater access to maternal healthcare in every corner of our Nation. As co-chair of the bipartisan Maternity Care Caucus, I introduced the Rural Obstetrics Readiness Act to support the creation of rural healthcare facilities.

As a healthcare equity champion in Congress, I commit myself to deploying additional digital tools in Danville, across my district, and our Nation to supplement rural health in-person care.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, to continue now my long to-do list for Congress that needs to get done by the end of the year for our rural and remote Americans to make sure that they have the healthcare that they need, number three, we need to fund the government for fiscal year 2025.

The House and Senate appropriation bills contain roughly \$730 million for grant programs and initiatives that directly address the growing healthcare crisis in rural America.

Rural health discretionary spending is vitally important for preserving and improving access to care for individuals living in rural America. This funding includes resources to support rural hospitals, cybersecurity, including funding to help small, rural hospitals purchase health IT and equipment and address the growing threats on digital patient records. We read about this every single day in the newspaper. They need the support to be able to safely maintain both their health records and take care of their patients.

This funding also includes funding for community health interventions, including to address the various crises facing rural America in maternal health, as we have just heard from our colleague, opioid abuse, and mental health.

That is why I will keep fighting to ensure we pass a final spending bill that preserves increased funding for rural healthcare programs.

Lastly, number four, Congress needs to pass a disaster aid package. Earlier this week, President Biden submitted a request to Speaker JOHNSON on urgently needing funding to support the Federal response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton and other natural disasters, including the August 2023 wildfires on my island of Maui.

Over the past year, rural communities in the United States have been inundated by several natural disasters, including 17 storm events, 4 tropical cyclones, 1 wildfire event, and 2 winter storms.

In June, New Mexico faced two major wildfires, and Iowa experienced record flooding from the Big Sioux River, which caused mudslides, washed away roads, and required evacuations. In September, Hurricane Helene caused catastrophic flooding, power outages, and property destruction in North Carolina.

Rural communities are on the front lines of natural disasters, which can have far-reaching effects on health and well-being in the immediate aftermath. In the long-term, generationally, it has impacts and trauma that are felt.

Damage to infrastructure caused by storms can compromise emergency response efforts, limit access to basic needs, and disrupt access to necessary healthcare and prescription medication.

Storms can also have long-lasting mental health impacts. That is why it is critical Congress pass a disaster supplemental package this year.

The President's disaster aid request includes a total of \$2.7 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services, of which \$260 million would be used to support health center infrastructure and ensure continued access to high-quality healthcare services in impacted areas.

This funding request also includes \$244 million to expand substance use and mental health prevention and treatment services and \$159 million to restore services needed by people with disabilities and older adults.

Across the country, natural disasters have devastated communities, homes, farms, and businesses and disproportionately impacted rural America, which is why I am urging all of my colleagues to support a disaster aid package that addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of impacted rural Americans.

Mr. Speaker, today, you have heard from our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. The bipartisan Rural Health Caucus is now entering its second year and proudly going into its second Congress, having been restarted by myself and Representative HARSHBARGER, and proudly boasts 64 members on both sides of the aisle and quickly growing.

In closing, I want to reiterate our shared commitment to ensure rural

health remains a priority as we wrap up this 118th Congress and head toward the 119th Congress in January.

We will continue working with our colleagues to ensure that we finish our to-do list for rural healthcare this year, continue our bipartisan work in the years ahead, and make sure that every Member of this Congress understands the plight, the need, the challenges, but, yes, the opportunity and the hopes of rural America.

Together, we can and must ensure everyone, regardless of where they live, how much money they have, or their life circumstances, has access to high-quality, affordable, lifesaving healthcare.

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

AN HONEST DISCUSSION ABOUT MATH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, first, I am going to ask everyone's—let me extend an apology. I have fairly severe asthma and just got off an attack, so I am pumping down some inhaled steroids, just routine.

Also, last weekend, I lost my voice. Should I be worried that my wife said it was the best weekend of our marriage and that staff was thrilled and upset I got my voice back?

Here we go. This is like my therapy hour, because I have some things I think we need to share. One of the number one things I want to accomplish tonight is please let there be some of our incoming Members' future staff and the Members themselves listening.

I know there is no one in the room. That is the way it is supposed to be. People are supposed to be in their meetings and reading and trying to understand what is going on. Don't fuss at people for not sitting here. We are on probably a thousand televisions around the Capitol campus.

One of my frustrations is—we just got off election season. Would you believe during elections, people—what is the term? Oh, yeah—make crap up. We need to have an honest discussion about something called math. Let's actually have some fun.

□ 1745

Have you ever had someone say that we are going to grow ourselves out of the debt and deficit?

Let's actually do some math off the top of our heads. This year's debt is going to be \$2 trillion. How much does the economy have to grow to produce enough tax receipts to cover \$2 trillion? It is actually fairly simple math.

Mr. Speaker, 1 point of GDP is about \$300 billion, so you get about 17, 18 percent of GDP in tax receipts. So let's see

if \$300 billion, 17 percent is \$48 billion, so if 1 percent of GDP growth only gets me \$48 billion, you do realize that means you, in a single year, have to have 40, 41, 42 percent GDP growth to cover the debt and deficit of this year.

It is absurd. I beg of people: Learn your math. Mr. Speaker, don't let the political consultants make crap up and then put it on our brochures and then tell you to go out and say it.

It is now time to do adult-like math and the understanding—and I am going to do this three or four times tonight—every dime of deficits from today through the next 30 years is the very thing we are not supposed to talk about.

It is demographics. We got older as a society. Our brothers and sisters who worked their 40 quarters and who paid into the system now start to get their benefits.

Mr. Speaker, if you actually look at the inputs of debt the last decade, but particularly what we expect the next three decades, healthcare, Medicare, interest—then, 9 years from now, do we backfill Social Security or do we double senior poverty when the trust fund is empty?

We are not supposed to talk about those things. Actually, I need to share something. I believe the Democrats engage in something—I won't call it evil, but it is absolutely dystopian and cruel when they basically attacked members of the Republican Party for actually talking about ways to save Social Security. Even mentioning it and having the conversation, they do an attack ad on you, and then you wonder why they come back and say that we need bipartisanship, that we are going to work together—except you are not allowed to actually say anything that actually has a basis in a calculator. It is perverse.

Mr. Speaker, is the left actually okay, in 9 years, doubling poverty of seniors in America? We already have reports right now of baby boomers who have retired and are becoming homeless because of the inflationary cycle we just went through not being able to pay their rent. It is just this level of cruelty.

The solution isn't spending more and more money because we don't have it.

Let's actually walk through a couple of the other bits of math here. I was talking to some constituents this week. Actually, I was listening to them because I had almost no voice. One of them was talking about some things they saw in the press: What would happen if we got rid of this department or this department? I did the math for them.

For the entire civilian nonuniform workforce in America, last year's salary cost was about \$213 billion. Think about that, Mr. Speaker. If we are borrowing \$2 trillion, if you fired every nonuniform person in the Federal Government, every one, they are all gone, you just covered 10 percent of the shortfall this year.

There is a lack of understanding of the scale, so we are going to actually do a little bit of that.

First, I thought tonight I would come to the floor and say that we just crossed \$36 trillion. We are close. We are very close. It looks like the Treasury may have reached into a little bit of their cash supply.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, Treasury sometimes keeps from \$400 billion to \$800 billion of cash. \$500 billion is more normal, but we will hit this before the week is over.

Think of that, Mr. Speaker. We clicked off another \$1 trillion, from \$35 trillion to \$36 trillion, and we did it in about 113 days. The projection is that we will go from this \$36 trillion to \$37 trillion in about 100 days.

Think of that, Mr. Speaker. We are functionally borrowing about \$70,000-plus a second.

Walk through this math. Let's actually try to get a sense of what is going on. This chart is a little hard to read, but I want to make a point. I have done entire floor presentations here of showing here are all the tax hikes that the Democrats have proposed and have been scored, and then you do the economic adjustment and functionally get about 1.5 percent of GDP. The things we want to cut, if you go to nondefense discretionary, Mr. Speaker, and cut almost one-third of nondefense discretionary, it is about 1 percent of GDP. You have our 1 percent, their 2.5, you add that together—excuse me, 1.5, our 1 percent, you have 2.5 percent.

We borrowed just a little under 7 percent of the economy this year. Does anyone see a math problem when the left's tax hike solutions and our cut solutions get you 2.5, and we are borrowing close to 6?

The reason I have this chart here, functionally, in 9 budget years, we go from a little under 6 percent of the entire economy being borrowed money by the Federal Government to 9.2. That basically means, in about 9 budget years, we are borrowing close to \$4 trillion a year, and that is on the baseline right now. That is with all of our taxes going up after next year. That is with none of the new programs and none of the new spending. That is just where we are at today. That is current law.

Does anyone see a math problem? At what point does the bond market come in here and say that you guys are, by the end of the decade, approaching 9-plus percent of the entire economy in borrowed money, so maybe we need a higher interest rate?

Has anyone paid attention to the bond market the last 3 weeks? Mr. Speaker, have you noticed that even though the Fed started to lower interest rates, we are still sitting 4.4 or 4.5 on a 10? Does anyone understand that is almost a full point higher than we expected at this point in the cycle?

Mr. Speaker, do you understand what 1 point of interest means? Today, interest is the second biggest expense in the Federal Government. Last fiscal year,

14.1 percent of all of our spending was just interest.

We have an economist as part of the Joint Economic Committee, and we are trying to model at what point does interest and the obligation to pay it start to consume so much of our future.

Then, you get yourself in the debt spiral where interest rates keep going up because you are considered riskier, and you are in this interest trap. You almost don't have enough to cut. We are going to show that to actually deal with the interest trap.

A point of reference, think of this, Mr. Speaker, the United States is number 14 on the credit stack, meaning there are 13 other countries that can sell a 10-year bond cheaper than we can. When Greece today can sell a 10-year bond cheaper than the United States, when Greece today is actually paying down its debt from the last decade, and we are borrowing \$71,000 a second, does anyone see a problem?

How many people have you seen come behind these mics and how many people on the election trail stood up in front of you, Mr. Speaker, and said that we have a problem?

I can stand here and promise you all sorts of stuff, buy your vote, that we have actually no money to pay for so we are going to just put it on your retirement or your kids' credit cards because that is what we are doing.

Understand, Mr. Speaker, we have almost made a decision that, in the next couple of years, Congress isn't going to run this government and the President isn't going to run this government. The bond market is.

Last year, we had to bring in almost \$10 trillion to market, \$2 trillion new issuances, and everything else was refinanced.

If anyone is a finance or bond geek, the bonds we are issuing, we have been staying very short in the curb, meaning we refinance and refinance. It means you become very fragile to little hiccups in interest. God forbid the bond vigilantes figure out there is some way to start to screw with U.S. sovereigns. This is important. This is just the baseline math. In 9 budget years, 9.2 percent of this economy will just be what we borrow in debt, and this is a calculation with no wars, no pandemics, and no recessions.

Mr. Speaker, do you really think we are going to go the next decade without a moment when the wheels are coming off?

We are living on the edge, yet do our brothers and sisters and does our new incoming freshman class understand how dangerous and fragile we are about to make the greatest republic in human history?

Remember, Mr. Speaker, the world, not only the United States, but the world needs the United States to be prosperous. Prosperity is moral, and we are squandering it.

Let's actually just work through some basic math. Here is one of my

great, intense frustrations. Here is basically fiscal year 2024 to date. We shouldn't have done to date. We should have just done the whole date, but we didn't want to reprint the board.

The ratio I want to point out is that everything you see here in the red, Mr. Speaker, is individual income taxes. We are a country that lives on individual income taxes.

Do you see this big blue there? That is functionally Social Security, but we don't touch Social Security. Social Security functionally goes to Social Security. A bit of it is unemployment, and a little bit of Medicare, but we don't get to touch the FICA tax. The fact of the matter is every month what we collect in payroll taxes for Social Security actually isn't enough money for the checks that go out that month.

Every single month, we collect the payroll taxes from your labor. It comes into the Treasury, actually, and then it is sent over to Social Security. Then, Social Security sends a little note over to Treasury saying: Hey, I am holding a couple trillion of your bonds. I need you to cash in \$50 billion, \$60 billion—whatever they are short—and send us the money so we can get our checks out the door.

That is why the trust fund continues to shrink. They are cashing in every month because payroll taxes don't cover all the benefits going out the door, so you don't get to touch that.

Over here in the powder blue or whatever color that is, it will be in about \$450 billion when it is all done. This is corporate income tax. What I want you to understand, Mr. Speaker, is if you take a look at all of these tax revenues, when you strip out Social Security, and then you realize that almost all that revenue barely covers our baseline spending, meaning every dime a Member of Congress votes on this year, every dime in defense and every dime of nondefense discretionary, will be borrowed money.

So you have a Member of Congress here, a brand-new Member of Congress: I get to go vote.

Every dime is borrowed.

The way structurally we are, we are also going to have to borrow probably \$300 billion of what goes into earned benefits.

Does that sound screwed up to people? Have you had other Members explain this to you, Mr. Speaker? Think of that. Every dime a Member of Congress votes on is borrowed.

If you come to me and start to say, let's do this exercise—look, these charts are going to be unreadable, but I want to point out that I am trying to make a point. This is actually a bunch of the outlays. Go through all the outlays, and we are going to basically do it chart by chart.

Then, the next outlay, what would happen if I came and said that we are going to cut, but we can't cut Social Security, Medicare, and mandatory spending? Those are earned benefits, but we are going to get rid of all defense. All right, defense is gone.

Then, we will go to our next chart. We will get rid of defense, and let's just get rid of a whole bunch of the discretionary budget. We go through and get rid of foreign aid, not just Ukraine, all foreign aid is gone. Let's close the IRS. Let's close all these programs. Go through and basically wipe out—can't touch Social Security, Medicare, and interest on the debt.

Remember, interest on the debt last year was almost 14.1 percent of all our spending, but you have to pay your bills. You continue to just get rid of all government.

At what moment are you in balance? It turns out—and I know these are unreadable, but trust me on the point—you can get rid of every dime of defense, every dime of discretionary spending, and if you keep your promises of paying back your bonds, keep your promises to Social Security and Medicare and a couple of the other mandatory programs, so you just got rid of all government, got rid of all the military, Mr. Speaker, you still would have to borrow money.

When you get the brain trust that goes: If we just got rid of foreign aid, we would be fine, and you do the math and show them it is like a week, 1½ weeks of borrowing, and they just look at you with these daggers because they saw it on some brilliant Russian-sponsored X or Twitter saying that if you just got rid of this, you would be fine. Learn the math.

□ 1800

You will hear the Democrats say: Well, we are going to cover it with a tax gap. We will give \$80 billion to the IRS, and we will just raise more. We came here a couple of months ago, and we have done that for 2 years now. It looked like we had spent \$13 billion or so, so far, in trying to do tax collections of people over \$400,000, and they collected \$1 billion. They had raised a fraction of a fraction of a fraction, what they were able to get the Joint Tax and CBO to score.

One of the first things we have to do when we start is we have to go back and rescure all of the frauds because it turns out there may be a tax gap out there. However, you are not going to do it with an army of people you can't hire; you are going to do it with technology.

I am going to show you the board that I get the most complaints about because almost no one wants to hear this, but how do you fix things if you are not willing to tell the truth?

Think about what a crap place this was last week. We had people come to the floor here and spend \$200 billion without offsetting it, and they go: But I had constituents that wanted this money.

Great. Find a way to pay for it. In our own, we added earmarks again. We chose not to prioritize the Debt and Deficit Commission because those things would be hard.

You get up in front of a room and say: Every dime of debt for the next 30

years is demographics. As soon as I say it, you can actually see people running for the exits because, if you don't know it, you don't have to go tell the truth to your constituents. It is math. It is not Republican. It is not Democrat. It is demographics.

This is Medicare. This is Social Security in 9 years when the trust fund is gone, but this is the rest of government. This is the CBO's score on baseline right now, where the taxes are going up next year, where there are no wars, no recessions, no pandemics. This is the baseline. They still functionally have us at \$115 trillion of debt.

Do any of you have kids?

Do any of you have grandkids? Do you like them?

Is it moral?

I have a 2½-year-old. Yes, I think that is moral. It is the greatest thing that has ever happened. I have a 9-year-old also, same birth mother. My wife and I, it is the greatest thing that ever happened to us, to be able to adopt these kids.

How do I explain to that 2-year-old that, when he hits 21, 22 years old, baseline says United States has to double every single tax—every excise tax, every corporate tax, everything—just to hold current services, and that our kids will be the first generation in American history to be poor?

This is the morality of this place, and it doesn't have to be that way. There are incredible solutions to disrupt the cost of government. For a bunch of the Members here, it almost seems easier for them to go cut something or raise a tax than actually pass pieces of legislation saying: We are going to adopt technology to crash the price of government. Even though it would be moral, you could make people healthier, you could make the air quality cleaner, and you just change the current bureaucratic model.

We all walk around with these supercomputers. You do realize this is part of the solution?

If anyone is listening, the four or five people who may give a damn enough to watch this, environmental crowdsourcing—YouTube SCHWEIKERT, I have a little YouTube video that is 90 seconds that I did 7 or 8 years ago. I have been trying to do that as a piece of legislation that says: Why don't we just crowdsource air quality?

You could wipe out the bureaucracy like this.

You could have a building permit, but if you screw up, we catch you instantly. It would be really good for the environment and really pro-growth and it would wipe out the absurdity that shoving paper in file cabinets makes the air look cleaner. It is basically documentation for the trial lawyers.

Do you think I could ever get a hearing here? It is creative, it is disruptive, and the air quality engineers are going to come lobby against it.

How about the ginormous drone that flies the pipeline path? We all have had this conversation over and over. We need permitting reform.

Great. Let's do permitting reform. You have to change the inputs on how you do your NEPA, your environmental study.

What happens if you could have that ginormous drone, put ground-penetrating LiDAR under it, and it runs back and forth over the pipeline path, the power line path, and it does your archeologicals, it does your soil, and it does your plant inventory? With technology, you could get much of your NEPA report written in 6 days by AI. That is thinking disruptively.

I am incredibly hopeful that our incoming President really will follow through with the brains of people like Elon Musk and others who are willing to think, saying: Is there a better, faster, and cheaper way where it is moral, our world gets better, healthier, but we crash the costs and crash the size of government?

When you show charts like this, the Democratic solution always turns out being: Well, the way we will take care of healthcare is we are going to subsidize it more.

How about if we embrace the technology that made it less expensive?

The thing you blow into that tells you, you have a virus, that orders your antivirals. Do you know that technology exists?

It is just illegal because we are allowing an algorithm to write a prescription.

We can crash the price of healthcare. Remember, the ACA, ObamaCare, was a finance bill: Who gets subsidized, and who has to pay?

The Republican alternative was better. Actuarially, it was better, but it was still a finance bill. The Medicare for All Act is a finance bill. They are not discussions of what it takes to lower the cost of healthcare.

My Joint Economic economists did something we thought was really risky, and it was shocking. We even had Democrats and Republicans who said: Yeah, you are going the right way.

Last March, we did a study. What do you think obesity will cost in America over the next 10 years?

It turns out we calculated it could be \$9.1 trillion in additional healthcare costs, plus the fact that our brothers and sisters are dying. This may be the fifth year in a row where prime-age males are dying younger.

The concept of making America healthier, it may mean having to do things that are hard. It may mean re-examining the farm bill, what we do in nutrition support, how we help our brothers and sisters, but our brothers and sisters are dying.

Also, it would be great fiscal policy because it turns out obesity is the single biggest cost in government. It is moral.

Is that Republican, or Democrat?

I am sure we will make it partisan because someone will contribute to one side or the other and then we will go to war over it.

The fact of the matter is there are actual solutions that are not hacking apart government or raising everyone's taxes, but it is changing how we do things.

Right now, when 31 percent of Medicare spending is just diabetes, why do we do this to ourselves?

Why is it so hard to think disruptively, to think morally, to challenge the armies of lobbyists who are walking up and down our hallways—remember, those lobbyists aren't always corporates. They are good government groups. They are societies that just want to be subsidized. They are bureaucrats—and basically looking at all of them and saying: What is more moral: Making people healthier, or sticking more cash into the maintenance of your misery because the model right now is we spend a fortune maintaining your misery?

Put the money in things that produce cures. We are going to talk a little bit about that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about how serious we are on this. We have been trying to do simple things. If you read some of the stories, The Wall Street Journal gets amazing credit. Over the last few months, they have done amazing stories on Medicare fraud.

We have pieces of legislation that functionally would use AI because it is data science. The fastest way you find fraud in government, particularly in things like Medicare and Medicaid, is data, not an army of lawyers. It is data scientists. We think we can get you \$60 billion a year just on that.

Clean claims. What would happen if, just by using technology, the constant battle between the doctor and the insurance company and the healthcare provider, we just say: Look, we are going to use technology that meets the doctor's notes, meets the insurance contract. Pay it. We think we can get you \$31 billion a year just doing that. It is technology.

We have looked at other things. This is already a piece of legislation, just wiping out some of the fraud in some of the employee retention. We can still pay the people that we owe the money to, we wipe out the fraud, and we think we just got you \$79 billion a year.

Those are just a couple of the bills we already have. You add that up. Didn't I just show you almost \$150 billion?

We need \$400 billion a year to cover the tax hikes that are coming.

My point is: The way that you cut the price of government, yes, there are a whole bunch of programs we need to get rid of, but you have to understand that some of the discussions are much tougher.

If you take a look at the \$800-and-some billion that is in the nondefense discretionary, you realize about 38, 40 percent of that is money we take, we borrow, and we send it to entities around the country—your city, your town, your State—that have their own taxing authority. They are programs

we love, such as justice grants, other things. They are good programs, but we are doing it with borrowed money, and we are giving it to entities that have their own taxing authority. That is a tough conversation.

Mr. Speaker, when we get back in December, I am going to do a much more detailed presentation on this because this is one of those topics that most idiots like me that are in public office are terrified to talk about.

We actually spent part of our summer really digging into the math of immigration and illegal border crossing and what it does and affects because you are seeing these articles, particularly in the leftwing press: Hey, these several million undocumented immigrants or asylum seekers, look at the economic growth we are getting.

Then we overlaid it with: What is the cost? The social services, the populations, and where you are in the tax—it is not personal. It is just math.

Well, it turns out, when we dug into it, let's say you did a talent-based immigration system in America, like Great Britain, like New Zealand, like Australia, like Canada, basically the rest of the world. Okay. Let's make a point.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the world fought for hydrocarbons. Remember, no war for oil. In the last decade, it was rare earths.

The literature makes it very clear that, from today through probably the next 20, 30 years, nations are going to battle for smart people.

Remember, there is math out there. If you go look at the data on the Census Bureau's own website, it could be from 11 years to about 16, 18 years where the United States will start having more deaths than births.

We are a dying society. If we don't fix things, we are a dying society. Think of that. The shortest on the numbers is 11 years, more deaths than births.

What if I came to you and said we are going to move to a talent-based immigration system because it turns out people with advanced degrees pay a boatload of taxes, they grow the economy, and they expand GDP?

Our brothers and sisters, they may be wonderful people, but it turns out the economic effects of those without a lot of skills when they come into the United States, they actually squeeze out and lower the labor value of your domestic population that is often in those lowest quartiles.

You are the couple that didn't finish high school, but you are out hanging drywall and you are working your heart out. All of a sudden, you bring in how many people with a similar skill set. What happened to your labor rates?

That is the cruelty. What this administration did on the border was incredibly cruel to the working poor.

What if I tell you, if we do some things right in the tax code fixes, like we want expensing on research and development so we are always inno-

vating; well, it turns out, for that to really take off and grow the economy, we need a lot more smart people.

Is it sane to be a country that invites people from around the world to come do your graduate degree, get your college degree, and then say: Congratulations. You learned the American technology, the American ethos. Oh, you have got to get the hell out of here; send them back home?

We are out of our minds, but we are the last country functionally on Earth that still has a familial immigration system, where you come to America because of who your family is. I know that seems compassionate, but, right now, I am trying to figure out how to pay for the promises we have made.

□ 1815

Ideas like we need to move to a talent-based immigration system while doing other things because it is a unified theory. I need this to make this work so they both raise money for the government so we grow.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for being patient with me losing my voice. The point I will make is, there is hope. There is a way you can make the math work, but you can't continue to live in this fantasy world of, oh, don't worry about debt and deficits, that it is somehow magically just going to disappear. It is magically going to do this. It is magically going to do that.

There is a way to make the math work and this becomes another American century, but we can't keep doing public policy by our feelings. We actually have to do it by a calculator and good quality economics. It is how we will stay a free people because do you understand the dystopian life our world will be when we smash up against the debt crisis?

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

WE HAVE TO CUT SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona battling through as he is recuperating from illness to come down on the floor and make sure that the American people fully understand the fiscal state of our country. He does it well. He does it eloquently, but it is about time we turn it into action as I know the gentleman from Arizona agrees.

My friend from Arizona was holding a chart that said \$36 trillion because our country is about to cross the Rubicon of \$36 trillion of debt. We will be starting at well over \$40 trillion of debt within the next year and a half.

If there is anything that should guide the Republican majority in the House of Representatives, the Republican majority in the United States Senate, and President Trump in the White House, it

is that we must stop this disastrous spending of other people's money by the Federal Government in such a way that we are destroying the future of our kids and grandkids.

The problem is, I will say this here tonight and my friend from Arizona will say this, but what are we going to do about it?

Let me just lay out a couple of thoughts about this. As we come out of this historic win by President Trump with Republicans controlling the White House, the House, and the Senate, what are we going to do with it?

Well, I will tell you what we have to do, we have to actually deliver on the promises that we made that we campaigned upon. As my friend from Ohio, Congressman JIM JORDAN likes to say, do what we said we would do. It is time. There is no room for excuses.

What are some of the excuses I am already hearing? We don't have 60 votes in the Senate. I was hearing that excuse last summer before we even had the elections. I heard one of my colleagues go on national television and talk about how we can't deport the people that have been released into the United States, backing away from the sign that was on the front of the building at the RNC that said mass deportations.

The American people will remember whether we respond and do what we said we would do.

In Britain, the Tories said we are going to stop all of the illegal immigration. We are going to remove people that came here illegally. They didn't do it, and they were sent to the ash bin of history. They were removed. The United Kingdom right now is struggling. That cannot be where we go as Americans.

President Trump was ushered in with a mandate. Republicans in the House were ushered in with a mandate. Republicans in the Senate were ushered in with a mandate. The mandate was to make the cost of living affordable again for the average American family so they can live their lives, pay their bills, afford a house, afford a car, afford healthcare, afford a school for their kids, and remove their kids from trapped, failing public schools.

The other part of the mandate was to secure the border of the United States, secure our country, restore sovereignty, and remove the people who are illegally and illegitimately dumped into the United States lawlessly, illegally by President Biden, Vice President, border czar Kamala Harris, and impeached, disgracefully, Homeland Secretary Mayorkas.

What will we do as Republicans?

It is my view and the view of many in this Chamber that we must immediately secure the border of the United States and provide President Trump what is necessary to do so, both in terms of resources, but also in terms of law.

We, I am proud to say, passed the strongest border security measure we

have ever passed a year and a half ago, H.R. 2. We should pass that bill in January. We should send it to the Senate. We should force that debate in the Senate. We should make those seven Democrats have to answer to their constituents about whether they want to secure the border of the United States. We should not be afraid of that.

We should send over a reconciliation package from the House of Representatives that immediately addresses remittances to Mexico. We should take fees on the remittances sent there and other countries around the world when people come to our country illegally and wire money back home, we should tax those remittances. Take that money and use it to pay for the wall, to pay for ICE agents, to pay for Border Patrol.

Apply fees, parole fees, to the parolees that were released unlawfully into the United States with notices to appear in court all the way into the 2030s, make them pay fees, and they can pay those fees and then go through the process or they can leave.

We are going to have to take all of those folks and remove them from the country and in the process, they can pay fees while we wait and figure out their notices to appear that were given to them, I believe, unlawfully. We can use that to pay for the process while we deport criminals, while we deport the people who came here who were got-aways, while we deport the 1 million people who have already been issued orders of removal. We can then line up the people who were given those notices to appear, take those fees, process those claims, and remove the vast majority of them.

We should do all of that as soon as we can in January, but we have got to do that here in the Chamber with a reconciliation package that will empower the President, give him the tools necessary to secure the border, and put pressure on those who are here illegally.

We also need to repeal these subsidies that were in the so-called Inflation Reduction Act that are jacking up the cost of energy and utilities for the vast majority of the American people, empowering our enemies, empowering China, actively engaging in corporate cronyism that are enriching the few at the expense of the many.

I look straight at big corporate America, including some of our folks in Texas in Big Oil and Big Gas that are now saddling up to the trough to take these great big subsidies. Your time is up. It has got to be up because while I have some colleagues here in the Chamber, including on my side of the aisle, who are running around to the microphone talking about how we are going to need to lift the caps, get rid of the caps that are currently in place on the deductions that people can take for State and local taxes, i.e., a Federal subsidy for high-tax jurisdictions, particularly in the northeast, but I will look in the mirror as that includes

property taxes in Texas, which are off the charts, embarrassingly so, we shouldn't do that.

The Federal Government should not be subsidizing high-tax jurisdictions. While some of my colleagues here from States that have allowed it to fester to become high-tax jurisdictions, we shouldn't subsidize that.

If we get rid of the cap that was put in place in the 2017 deal that will cost over a trillion dollars over 10 years. Let me put that in perspective.

If we were to renew the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 from President Trump's agenda, according to the Congressional Budget Office, that would cost somewhere over \$5 trillion over 10 years, or \$500 billion a year for 10 years.

That does not factor in economic growth. There would be some, but the corporate rates are permanent. The provisions in the TCJA, by all objective measures, would not generate the revenue to pay for themselves, so we are going to have to cut spending so that we can leave that money in the hands of the American people as the TCJA set out to do. That means you are going to have to cut the Inflation Reduction Act. We are going to have to do it.

This isn't a debatable proposition, Mr. Speaker. If you want to have anything resembling a deficit neutral, tax reconciliation package, we must cut the Inflation Reduction Act. We must repeal it. We must roll back the abusive student loan forgiveness programs. We must make changes that were dotted throughout the discretionary spending with respect to the IRS expansion, leftover COVID moneys. We should restore nondefense spending to pre-COVID levels, which would save somewhere around \$200 billion a year.

My point is, Republicans are going to have to actually put up or shut up. We cannot walk out of here, throw up a board, and say we are going to just pass all of these tax cuts or restore the existing tax cuts and then pretend like we don't need to cut spending at the same time.

We do. We must, and we mustn't remove the tax pay-fors that enabled that bill to pass in the first place, including those limits on the deduction for high-tax jurisdiction State and local tax deductions.

The fact of the matter is, if we are going to serve our country well—I think this is really important for everybody to know.

It is going to be pitched battle for some of us to convince our own Republican Party that we need to fight to get it to even deficit neutral. If we get it to deficit neutral, deficit neutrality, we are still losing \$2 trillion a year.

We spend about \$6.5 trillion, almost \$7 trillion. We bring in about \$4.5 trillion to \$5 trillion.

My friend from Arizona put up all the charts on the mandatory spending. He is right. We need reforms. We need innovation, but most of all, we need a

backbone and a willingness to actually address the problem.

However, if my friends are going to come in in January and say, we are just going to throw out all these tax policies but we are not going to deal with spending, then we are going to leave our country in a worse place.

There are a lot of things we could consider. President Trump has talked about doing tariffs. That would certainly bring in revenue. There are pros and cons to tariffs, and we certainly should consider the pro of significant revenue you can bring in.

□ 1830

Let's be very clear. If you are going to do a tariff, which is a tax, and you are going to tax goods and services that are coming in from overseas, fine. There might be some upsides to that in terms of American manufacturing.

Then we should consider what that impact is on the average, hardworking family. When tariffs were put in place 8 years ago, we then had to pass a bill for \$45 billion to bail out farmers.

I am just trying to lay down a marker for my colleagues and for my constituents and for people viewing at home that we have to deliver. To deliver means being serious, and being serious means we must stop spending money we don't have.

We have to balance the budget of the United States, which we have been talking about for four decades. We need to enact good, sensible tax policy that will create growth. It can't be blind. When you are ignoring our duty to cut the size and scope of government and reduce spending, you can't just pretend, throw it out, and say: Oh, this will all pay for itself.

If taxes are cut all the way to zero, I am for it; but stop spending money. I will take bets right now on whether we have the willpower to do the actual cutting that is necessary.

Watch for the games that are played. Oh, we can't get it done in 10 years. Well, let's make it a 4-year deal. If it is a 4-year deal, then maybe you can pay for it. You can afford it. Then what does that do? That sets up another cliff in 4 years.

Do you want to get investment going in the United States? Make low tax rates permanent. Do you want to get capital formation moving? Stop letting the tax rates expire in 2 years, 4 years, or 6 years. Set sensible tax policy, make it permanent, and make it responsible. Then get the hell out of the way of America's innovators, entrepreneurs, inventors, and strong businessmen and businesswomen. I am not sure we are going to do that.

K Street would love to walk in here and say the TCJA has to get done. We need our R&D and expensing. We need to go cut some spending over here. No, no, no, don't cut my subsidies. You have Exxon and Big Oil and Big Gas companies in here saying: No, no, no, I want to keep those subsidies.

Why do they need subsidies? Why are we paying them to build inefficient,

nonreliable energy? Why are we subsidizing electronic vehicles which won't dent CO₂ production, but we are subsidizing China and the battery production in China and the mining of minerals by China? That is what we are doing. Then nineteen Republicans signed a letter in August, saying we shouldn't repeal the Inflation Reduction Act.

I have multiple Members of this body saying we have got to lift the SALT cap. A lot of people are saying the tax cuts will pay for themselves. Some will. Some won't. Nobody is saying we should cut spending other than on the margins. That is not going to work. That math will not add up.

The fact is we have great news coming out of the President's transition team with Elon and Vivek and a lot of people around the President, talking about the Department of Government Efficiency. For what it is worth, I would prefer it be called the department of government elimination. I think that would be better. I am not looking for an efficient government. I am looking for a much smaller government.

I love what I am hearing out of Elon and Vivek and others that they want to slash and burn all the waste, fraud, and abuse. It is overdue. We need to fire the bureaucrats. We need to downsize and cut the bureaucracy.

Whatever programs should exist under the Constitution should be small, minimal. Blocks should be granted to the States. Get the Federal Government out of the way. Let the Federal Government do its job. Secure the border. Secure our communities by removing illegal aliens who are dangerous. Get people off of the social welfare States. Get every person who is here illegally, anybody who is here and not a citizen, off of the social welfare State. Strengthen our military. Destroy the woke policies and DEI and critical race theory that are killing the military. Get rid of it.

End endless wars. Rebuild our military to be modern but sparingly used. Take care of our veterans by giving them what they need to go to doctors and communities rather than a big, bloated bureaucracy that I think is now the fifth biggest line item on our budget.

These are all things we can do if we have the willpower to do it. Reform Medicaid. Reform Medicare. Do the things that we need to help the average American.

What are we going to do about healthcare? My friend, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who was nominated by the President, talks about making America healthy again. He is right. Much like the corruption in our energy world where big corporate America and the big wind and solar are getting big subsidies from the government to build inefficient energy, so, too, are insurance companies, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies getting rich off of taxpayers, getting subsidies, getting man-

dates, getting monopolies to roll right over the American people. All while we have collusion between USDA and NIH and CDC and all the rules and regulations they make that subsidies through the SNAP program, subsidizing sugary drinks, subsidizing processed food, making America unhealthy, making them sicker. Then they are prescribing medicine, overprescribing medicine, over-vaccinating so they get 50 shots by the time you are 20 for 14 or 15 vaccines—overmedicating people, medicating them for depression.

Then they are taking away their ability to go to the doctor of their choice because they have given all the power to insurance bureaucrats who tell them what their healthcare looks like. They have given all the power to big, monopolistic hospital corporations buying up regional hospitals and making it impossible for physicians to own hospitals while they allow private equity firms to own hospitals.

What are we doing? We are destroying the doctor-patient relationship. We are destroying American healthcare. If we want to save it, we need to embrace healthcare freedom.

In our reconciliation package, we must be aggressive in expansive health savings accounts, expansive direct primary care. Pull out the bias toward the employer-provided care by allowing employers to give employees the same subsidy for the same tax break into a health savings account and an American citizen who doesn't work for a big corporation can put their money for the same tax break in the same health savings account.

They can take that and go to the market and pay for a doctor and pay for medicine. They can go to direct primary care. They can get insurance in a market that is not overly regulated so they can actually get healthcare. Right now the American people aren't getting it. The American people are getting screwed. They are getting fatter. They are getting sicker. They are unhealthy because of government bureaucracy, because of government regulation, and because we refused, as Republicans, to deliver on what we have been saying for three decades: We would get government out of the way.

It is not about repealing ObamaCare. It is about repealing the alphabet soup of government regulation that is constraining the ability for innovation, the entrepreneurial spirit, the ability of doctors and patients to be able to provide the care that is necessary.

We can do it. We just have to decide to do it. We are going to have one or two or three bites at this apple early this year to deliver for the American people.

ObamaCare was passed on reconciliation. If you are familiar with COBRA, COBRA is that thing that allows you to extend between your employment, when you get a gap in employment, to get insurance coverage. Do you know why it is called COBRA? It is the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act.

COBRA was passed on a reconciliation bill. We do this all the time. Frankly, it is not the best way to make policy. We need to use the reconciliation tool in the House Chamber and send over to the Senate transformational policy changes, not nibbling around the edges.

It is time to transform this country. If we don't do it now, we are going to lose it. If we don't constrain spending now, if we don't set the trajectory of lower debt now, we will not have a dollar. We will not have a strong economy. If we don't set our country on the trajectory to healthcare freedom now, we will lose it. We will be jammed with single-payer healthcare and left with a life of begging some bureaucrat in an insurance company being run by people on Wall Street that are basically being told what to do by government bureaucrats. That is how you get your healthcare in a worse-than-single-payer system if we don't act right now.

If we don't act right now, we are not going to secure the border permanently. We are going to give lip service. We can't do that. It is not enough to reinstate remain in Mexico. It is not enough to reinstate title 42. It is not enough to stop the flow at the border to 30,000 instead of 180,000. If I recall, when President Trump ran in 2016, and he said build the wall, that is what the numbers were.

Republicans have to remember to not let them shift the Overton window and then beg for the crumbs to go partly back. If we repeal the Inflation Reduction Act fully right now, we just restore the status quo from 2022. I didn't run for Congress in 2018 to get my butt kicked in 2022 with a crappy bill and then beg to try to get it back to the place right before the crappy bill.

We can't do that. I didn't come here to say that we are \$36 trillion in debt, man, God bless America. I really hope that we are only going to be \$59 trillion in debt instead of \$62 trillion in debt in 10 years.

I just made those numbers up. They are probably not even close.

My point is that we have to transform the country. We have American people right now who are inspired, inspired for change. They sent us here to secure the border, not to make excuses. They sent us here to stop the flow, deport the people illegitimately put in our country, freeze legal immigration, modernize our system, figure out what our labor supply is, and figure out what the workforce looks like.

We need to train American citizens. Let those citizens go to trade academies to learn how to do the jobs we need. We need to get all of these American workers who are sitting on the couch who are upside-down in the workforce while we import people but American citizens aren't working, fix that, and then talk to me about more immigration.

Don't come in here with your Chamber of Commerce talking points. I don't want to hear it. I am sick of it. The

Chamber of Commerce and all of big corporate America and Wall Street have been screwing this country for two or three decades. They have. It is because of them and the editorial page of The Wall Street Journal that we haven't fixed our border over the last three decades. If we don't do our job now, we are going to be sent to the ashbin of history as Republicans.

Secure the border—no excuses. Mass deportations—no excuses. Freeze immigration. Fix the system. Pass budgets that balance and cut spending. Reduce the debt. Reduce the bureaucracy. Cut the bureaucrats. Fire the people who need to be fired. Don't make excuses about why you can't do it.

Give the American people the healthcare freedom they deserve. Give them expanded health savings accounts. Give them access to direct primary care. Give them access to real insurance products. Allow them to choose.

Don't keep empowering big corporate America. Don't keep empowering pharmaceutical companies and insurance companies. Empower Americans. Empower doctors. Empower entrepreneurs. Empower small businesses. Empower American energy.

Repeal the Inflation Reduction Act. Stop subsidizing China. Stop subsidizing Big Oil with the subsidies they are taking on wind and solar.

President Trump is creating a team that wants to go through and dismantle the bureaucratic state. God bless him for it.

Tom Homan as the border czar, God bless him. He is a good friend, and I expect him to do a great job.

Bobby Kennedy, Jr., I don't agree with him on everything. I don't. He knows that. We talk about it. I do expect him to challenge the status quo. I expect him to try to make America healthy again. I expect him to try to make sure that the American people have the truth about the food they eat, the vaccines they take, and the medicine they take.

End the corruption and the revolving door between all the entities that are making money and the people in the government that are helping them make money while we don't get the truth on what food we are putting in our body, what medicines we are putting in our body, and then free up the American people.

Tulsi Gabbard, a good friend, was herself targeted by the intelligence community. I hope she will break that down.

We will have MIKE WALTZ as National Security Advisor.

Brendan Carr at the FCC—he believes in free speech, but more importantly in stopping Big Tech stomping on our rights.

MARCO RUBIO is nominated as Secretary of State.

Matt Gaetz at the Attorney General's Office in the Department of Justice.

We need people who are going to root out corruption, who are going to root

out all of the weaponized state over in the bureaucracy.

□ 1845

However, the President can't do it alone. We are Article I. We are the people's House. We have an obligation in this body to do the job the American people sent us here to do. Each of us represents 750,000 people. I represent 750,000 Texans. I answer to them; I answer to God; and I answer to the Constitution. That is it. I don't answer to party leadership. I don't answer to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. I answer to them.

That should guide us. We should come together so that we are all responding to the people who sent us here to change this town. No more doing the same old thing. The time is up. We cannot look at our kids and grandkids and believe that we are going to pass down a country to them if we continue to do the same old thing.

We have been given an opportunity, and we should take it. I do not want to have to give another speech on the floor of the House in which I say to "name one thing." I want to be able to say: "Name a 100 things that we have done for the American people. Name a 100 things that we have accomplished."

Those things should be shrinking government, cutting spending, empowering people, restoring liberty, securing the country, doing the things the Constitution gave us the power to do—nothing more, nothing less. That is our obligation. That is our mandate.

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

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on November 15, 2024, the following bills were presented to the President of the United States for approval:

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.

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.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6096. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on U.S. Compliance with the Authorization for Use of Military Force in Iraq Section 4 of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1541 note; Public Law 107-243, Sec. 4(a); (116 Stat. 1501); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6097. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on Section 508 of the Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024, pursuant to Public Law 118-50, Sec. 508(a)(1); (138 Stat. 921); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6098. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a periodic report on the National Emergency with respect to the advancement by countries of concern in sensitive technologies and products critical for the military, intelligence, surveillance, or cyber-enabled capabilities of such countries that was declared in Executive Order 14105 of August 9, 2023, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6099. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to global illicit drug trafficking that was declared in Executive Order 14059 of December 15, 2021, 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-6100. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Yemen that was declared in Executive Order 13611 of May 16, 2012, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 6394. A bill to provide for the creation of a Congressional time capsule in commemoration of the semiquincentennial of the United States, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-755, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4529. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act regarding guidance documents of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-756). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6394 referred to the

Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CORREA, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 10165. A bill to amend the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to authorize the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to make security clearance determinations and access determinations for political appointees in the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 10166. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to designate a Coordinator for Engagement with PFAS-impacted defense communities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HERN (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. LUCAS, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. BRECHEEN):

H.R. 10167. A bill to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the James Mountain Inhofe VA Medical Center; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 10168. A bill to amend the Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act to require the Secretary of State to provide additional information to Congress regarding United States nationals detained abroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 10169. A bill to provide for international protection of digital freedom, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 10170. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semiquincentennial anniversary of the establishment of the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:

H.R. 10171. A bill to encourage local government reform of zoning and permitting to enhance housing affordability and economic growth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and 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. THANEDAR (for himself, Mr. BERA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. CORREA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr.

DELUZIO, Mr. EVANS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. FROST, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. STANTON, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 10172. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit payments under the Medicaid program for conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.J. Res. 223. 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 "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CRAIG, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KILMER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WEXTON):

H. Res. 1581. A resolution expressing support for the designation of "Prematurity Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mrs. MCBATH):

H. Res. 1582. A resolution honoring the lives of those who passed away in the tragic gangway collapse on Sapelo Island, Georgia; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. AGUILAR):

H. Res. 1583. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 20, 2024, as "National GIS Day"; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

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

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 10165.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Legislating

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H.R. 10166.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section VIII, Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
PFAS

By Mr. HERN:
H.R. 10167.

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. HILL:
H.R. 10168.

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:
American wrongful detainees

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:
H.R. 10169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I Sec. 8 Cl. 18).

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill creates the role of Coordinator for Digital Freedom in the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy in the United States Department of State.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 10170.

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:

This bill directs the Department of the Treasury to mint and issue \$25.00 gold coins, \$2.50 silver coins, 25 cent clad coins, and proof silver \$2.50 coins in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the United States.

By Mr. SMITH of Washington:
H.R. 10171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prefabricated construction for affordable housing.

By Mr. THANEDAR:
H.R. 10172.

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 title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit payments under the Medicaid program for conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:
H.J. Res. 223

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 "Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions".

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 12: Mrs. LEE CARTER.
H.R. 525: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 827: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 1012: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1077: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1273: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1344: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 1582: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1666: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 1691: Ms. STEVENS.
H.R. 1719: Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. CAMMACK,
and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 2407: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 2923: Mr. CLYBURN.
H.R. 2955: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 3039: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 3524: Mr. WIED.
H.R. 3933: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio and Ms.
HOULAHAN.
H.R. 4363: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4456: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 4483: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4633: Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 4777: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4818: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4914: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 5420: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 5532: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms.
KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr.
BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. COLE, Mr. BERA,
Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 5741: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 5864: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6643: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 6652: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 6756: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6944: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 6986: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 7027: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 7142: Mr. WOMACK and Mrs.
CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
- H.R. 7379: Mr. CURTIS.
H.R. 7380: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 7573: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 7591: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 7600: Mr. LANDSMAN and Mrs. RAMI-
REZ.
H.R. 7623: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia and
Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 7629: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 7634: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 7812: Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms.
MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SCANLON, Mr.
THANEDAR, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms.
CROCKETT, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CORREA, Mr.
GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. TORRES of New
York, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ESCOBAR,
Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr.
COSTA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. DAVIS of Illi-
nois.
H.R. 7849: Mr. FROST and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 8032: Mr. MRVAN, Mr. KILMER, Mrs.
MCBATH, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. COSTA, Ms.
PETTERSEN, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. CARBAJAL, and
Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 8064: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 8312: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 8514: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 8753: Ms. HAGEMAN and Ms.
PETTERSEN.
H.R. 8839: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 8936: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 9096: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia,
Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 9151: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 9218: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 9233: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 9264: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 9351: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 9382: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 9501: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. BOYLE of
Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 9556: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 9602: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 9614: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 9625: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 9648: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 9675: Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 9794: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 9805: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 9807: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 9817: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 9859: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 9878: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 9889: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 9904: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 9922: Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 9928: Mr. RULLI.
H.R. 9950: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. VAN DREW,
and Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 9964: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 9970: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 9985: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 10044: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr.
CASTRO of Texas, Ms. OMAR, Ms. WILLIAMS of
Georgia, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. TITUS, Mr.
MEEKS, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 10045: Mr. FRY.
H.R. 10073: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. KELLY of Mis-
sissippi, and Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 10079: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 10099: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 10113: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 10124: Ms. TOKUDA.
H. Res. 1155: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H. Res. 1562: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H. Res. 1570: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H. Res. 1579: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois and
Mr. ROSENDALE.