



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024

No. 172

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 20, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARRELL ISSA 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.

BOLSTERING HEALTHCARE IN RURAL AMERICA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Rural Health Day. Every third Thursday in November, we observe National Rural Health Day.

Nearly 60 million Americans live in rural areas, and too often, they encounter limited access to primary care, specialists, and mental health services.

These gaps are worsened by transportation barriers and hospital closures. These challenges don't just affect individuals. They impact entire families and communities.

Before I was elected to serve in the House of Representatives, I spent nearly 30 years in the nonprofit healthcare field, assisting those with life-changing diseases and disabilities.

It can be challenging to obtain reasonably priced healthcare, and this is especially true in rural America, like much of the 15th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. As the Member of Congress representing nearly one-third of the landmass of Pennsylvania, one of the most rural districts east of the Mississippi, I am keenly aware of the problems my constituents face when accessing medical services.

We are facing a healthcare crisis in our Nation's rural areas. These often disadvantaged populations are still struggling to access affordable, quality care.

While these challenges are great, there have been a few positive developments in recent years that stand to greatly benefit these communities. For one, I commend the work being done at the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health. This office has stepped up on a number of occasions to assist distressed healthcare facilities throughout the Commonwealth and continues to work on policies that will bolster rural healthcare for years to come.

Additionally, I cannot overstate the impact and importance of expanded telehealth services. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, telehealth added tremendous reach and value to communities across the country, especially in rural America. Many of my constituents were able to access regular care without having to drive nearly an hour, in some instances, ensuring they could get diagnosed and treated in an efficient manner.

To ensure this success continues, I reintroduced the HEALTH Act, which

will allow community health centers and rural health clinics to continue providing telehealth services and receive fair reimbursement for doing so.

I also continue to support efforts to bolster our healthcare workforce in rural areas. One of the driving forces behind many shuttered hospitals, healthcare facilities, and other services in these communities is a lack of staff, whether it be physicians, surgeons, OB/GYNs, technicians, nurses, or any other folks critical to providing care.

As providers struggle to attract and retain a talented workforce in our rural communities, we must think outside the box to resolve these issues. For example, I support efforts to encourage medical programs to place residents in rural communities as part of their education, training, and rotations. We know that people are far more likely to remain in communities where they train and serve, and we must continue to build this pipeline and solidify our rural health workforce.

These policies promote access to care for all Americans, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure equitable care in our rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, in rural communities, healthcare costs have gone up and premiums have skyrocketed, but choices have decreased. That is not right. It is not fair and not feasible. There must be a better way.

I know that together we will work to find a stable transition to a 21st century healthcare system that works for everyone in America, especially rural America.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF MINNIE FORBES

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the life and career

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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of one of my incredible constituents, Minnie Forbes, the last living owner of a Negro League baseball team, the Detroit Stars.

Minnie Forbes was born in 1932 in Mississippi and eventually found her home in Grand Rapids with her uncle, Ted Rasberry, a player in the Negro Leagues. Her uncle taught her to play softball. As a young teen, she played on the Grand Rapids' Cook's Brown Dolls softball team.

Minnie found her true love for the game working behind the scenes in team management. By 18, Minnie was a secretary for her uncle and his multiple baseball teams—the Grand Rapids Black Sox, the Detroit Stars, and the Kansas City Monarchs.

Then, at just 24, she became the owner of the Detroit Stars. Minnie was shocked but felt prepared to take over the team, and thus became one of the few women ever to own a Negro League baseball team.

As an owner of the Detroit Stars, Minnie endured racism and prejudice toward herself and her players, especially while traveling for games. Players were often forced to sleep and eat on the bus, as the restaurants and hotels refused to accommodate and even feed Black Americans. Sometimes they were even chased out of town.

The players and Minnie persevered through strife and their love of the game. The ripple effects of that persistence echoed through the civil rights movement.

Minnie and her contemporaries made strides in changing American culture through sport. We are forever indebted for their sacrifices in pursuing a more equal and equitable future for all.

I am proud to step up to the plate to commend Minnie for her extraordinary legacy, a legacy that continues to live on in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the Ted Rasberry Youth League, where I have had the honor of serving as a volunteer coach.

JUST SAY NO TO SUBSIDIES

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, free market capitalism is the most democratic possible way to organize an economy.

In a free market, consumers vote every day with every dollar they spend on what they want the economy to produce, who will produce it, and what they are willing to pay for it. The prices decided every day in this never-ending plebiscite also convey vast information regarding every product, including the scarcity or abundance of the resources in it, the labor conditions that produced it, and the systems that distributed it.

It is a perfect system that requires only that government protect the freedom for a willing seller and a willing buyer to make an exchange according

to their own best judgment. No force is required because both act in their own self-interest.

The price signals of that simple exchange, multiplied infinitely throughout the day, guide the labor and resources of an economy to their highest and best use according to every person's own individual interests, needs, and judgment.

Yet, politicians love to interfere with this perfect mechanism through a variety of tools designed to direct the economy—that is, to replace the judgment of individual consumers and producers in the market with the judgment of politicians.

One of the most insidious and self-destructive ways they do this is by subsidizing the things that they think consumers should buy in order to make those things more attractive. This literally stuffs the economy's ballot box, diverting resources from their highest and best economic use for consumers to the highest and best political use for politicians. Worse, it corrupts the accurate price signals that are essential for consumers to make rational decisions over allocating their own resources and thus directing overall economic output.

Insurance, electric cars, mass transit, sugar, milk, solar panels, airline tickets, housing, tuition, healthcare, film production, green energy—it is hard to find a sector of the economy that isn't rife with subsidies. We also shouldn't forget the infinite subsidies that saturate our tax code.

True, these subsidies make the cost of favored products cheaper—and who can begrudge cheaper healthcare, tuition, or housing?—but that is an illusion. The reality is that sellers will always accept subsidies by raising their prices accordingly. Those receiving the subsidies are somewhat better off, but everyone else is much worse off.

As subsidies artificially inflate prices, more subsidies are required to ameliorate their effect in a continuing spiral. It is no coincidence that the prices in the most heavily subsidized sectors—like healthcare, housing, and tuition—are rising much faster than underlying inflation.

Provide first-time home buyers with a \$25,000 subsidy, and sellers accept that windfall by raising their prices on the entire housing stock. Subsidies not only cost hundreds of billions of dollars and inflate the prices of the things being subsidized, but they also misallocate resources and misdirect consumer decisions.

Insurance, for example, is how markets assign a dollar value to risk. It is risky to build a house in a flood zone, and high insurance premiums reflect that reality. Subsidized insurance rates invite people to take risks that high premiums would otherwise warn them against.

Accurate price signals are absolutely essential if consumers are to make rational decisions as they vote every day on what the economy should produce,

and they are just as essential if producers are to know what consumer demands they most need to fulfill.

Now, subsidies are so deeply ingrained in the economy that getting rid of all of them seems like a fool's errand. Every subsidy has a constituency, and the bigger the subsidy, the more powerful the constituency. Budget writers grappling with the largest Federal debt in history, and with an economy operating well below its potential, should be looking for every way to reduce, eliminate, or reform subsidies or substitute for them other mechanisms that can serve the same societal aims without doing so much damage.

Here is a modest proposal to Messrs. Musk and Ramaswamy: If you want to balance the budget and improve the economy, just say no to subsidies. Not only will such a hunt save hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars, but it will also reduce the overall cost of the things being subsidized and reinvigorate the economy by restoring the flow of capital to its most productive use.

ANTI-ARAB HATE CRIMES

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

Ms. TLAI. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the recent surge in anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and Islamophobic hate crimes in our country.

The constant dehumanization of Palestinians has very real and deadly consequences. The hateful rhetoric, including from many elected officials in this Chamber and in the media, is leading to violence in our communities and putting countless lives at risk.

Hisham, Kinnan, and Tahseen are childhood friends, all college students. They were spending Thanksgiving break with Hisham's family in Burlington, Vermont, when they were shot by a man sitting on his porch. They were targeted while wearing kaffiyehs and speaking Arabic. Hisham is now paralyzed from the chest down.

These hate crimes are not isolated incidents, Mr. Speaker. In October of last year, a man from Farmington Hills, Michigan, posted on social media, asking if anyone in the metro Detroit area wanted to come to my district to go hunt Palestinians.

This threat to commit mass murder horrified our community in Dearborn, many not wanting to open their doors, as they were already grieving the loss of so many loved ones and friends from the horrific genocide taking place.

□ 1015

Last month in Detroit, 7-year-old Saida—I wish people would take the time to actually listen to her interview as a Yemeni-American child of Muslim faith—was playing at her local park and was brutally attacked. A man approached her out of nowhere and slit her throat with a knife. Saida ran home to her parents covered in blood.

As a mother, I cannot fathom the horror her parents must have felt at that moment watching their little girl come running in, bleeding and terrified.

Saida survived but she would live with the trauma for the rest of her life. Nightmares keep Saida awake at night. She said she dreams her attacker is right next to her.

In Texas, a mother wearing a hijab was watching her children swim in the community pool when she was approached by a woman interrogating her about what language she was speaking.

The woman then jumped into the pool, attempted to drown her 3-year-old Palestinian daughter who was gasping for breath, for air, as she was pushed under the water in the deep end of the pool. The woman threatened to kill the whole family as the police were carrying her away.

Her mother said: We are American citizens originally from Palestine, and I don't know where to go to feel safe with my kids. My daughter is traumatized. Whenever I open the door, she runs away and hides telling me she is afraid that lady will come back and try to attack her again.

Here we go with Wadea. Everyone knows about Wadea, I hope. In Chicago, a 6-year-old child was brutally attacked in his own home by his landlord, of all people. His mother ran to the bathroom to call the police.

His attacker was yelling, you Muslims must die, while he stabbed little Wadea's body 26 times. They had to pull the knife out of his small body.

His mother came back, and she saw Wadea's lifeless body there. They were taken to the hospital and all she felt was just this sense that she will never ever be able to see her child.

"We are not animals. We are humans," Wadea's uncle, Yousef, said. These stories, as horrifying as they are—I am thinking of the fact that these are the ones who made the headlines. Behind them are countless others, unreported incidents with families living in fear and communities being targeted.

I was approached by a father who said his child was on her school bus and somebody tried to rip her hijab off.

I said, did you report it?

Who do I report that to, he said?

What terrifies me the most, again, are these acts of violence are born from a culture of dehumanization.

Where is the outrage from my colleagues in this Chamber?

Why don't my colleagues denounce Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Arab hate?

We must push back against dangerous rhetoric that fuels this violence and call out those that continue to push for dehumanizing narratives that contribute to and spread this kind of violence.

Stop using racist tropes that feed into this hate. I know firsthand what it feels like to be targeted with hate. I receive death threats, smears, hate mail,

and relentless harassment right outside of my office.

To the families of Wadea, Hisham, Kinnan, Tahseen, Saida, and so many others who we will never know about, I want them to know I see them, I grieve with them, and I stand with them.

NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. LOPEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address our national debt.

I say to my fellow Americans, we have a serious problem. In the past 40 years, Congress, which comprises both the Senate and the House of Representatives, has only passed a budget four times.

Only four times in the last 40 years has a budget been passed by Congress. That has contributed to our overwhelming national debt of over \$36 trillion, which grows by \$1 trillion every 100 days. If we continue to pass continuing resolutions and omnibus bills, our annual deficits will double, our interest payments will triple, and for every dollar we borrow, 50 cents will go just to paying interest on the debt.

The American people are tired of Congress not doing the hard work that is necessary to bring spending under control and stop the national debt from growing. As Members of Congress, we have an obligation to bring spending under control and ensure that present and future taxpayers are not forced to fund any Federal program that is duplicative, wasteful, and inefficient.

Every Member of Congress knows that passing continuing resolutions or omnibus bills does not bring spending under control, but simply adds to our \$36 trillion national debt. The current continuing resolution expires on December 20. Once again, in the next couple of weeks, Congress will debate on how we are going to fund the government in 2025.

What will it be?

Will it be a continuing resolution? Will it be an omnibus bill or will it be a balanced budget that will fund the government in 2025?

Speaker JOHNSON assures us that it will not be an omnibus bill and because CHUCK SCHUMER refuses to pass the appropriation bills passed in the House, some will argue that the only option left on the table so that we don't face a government shutdown is a continuing resolution.

Most Americans are not aware that there is a bogeyman that lurks in the Halls of Congress. This bogeyman shows up twice a year, sometimes three times a year. It first shows up in September, and then it appears again in December.

What is the name of this bogeyman that Congress is afraid to face? Its name is government shutdown.

For countless years, the leaders of Congress have lacked the courage and strength to take on this bogeyman for

fear of having to explain to the American people why we are unable or perhaps refuse to pass a formal budget as outlined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The American people are not afraid to shut down the government, and I stand with the American people. It is morally wrong for Congress to force the American people to carry a \$36 trillion national debt on their backs and to expect our children to carry this growing debt on their backs as well.

I say it is time for Congress to pass a formal budget that spends less than what it collects in taxes from the American people.

I say it is time for Congress to evaluate one by one the 1,200 unauthorized expired programs that are currently being funded by Congress to the tune of \$516 billion and vote to either reauthorize or terminate each one of them.

I hear in the Halls of Congress that if we want to be home with our families during Christmas, we must settle for a continuing resolution.

I would remind Congress that we have men and women in uniform that have taken the same oath of office that we did, and many of them will not be spending Christmas with their families because they have a duty to fulfill.

We also have a duty and obligation to fulfill to the American people: that is to bring spending under control and stop the national debt from growing. That responsibility comes before family or any holiday on the calendar.

Congress should not allow the leadership of either the Senate or the House of Representatives to lead us into 2025 with a shameful continued legacy that Congress is incapable of putting people over politics and passing a balanced formal budget that spends less than we receive from the taxpayers.

CHUCK SCHUMER should put his ego and pride aside and sit down with Speaker JOHNSON and develop a plan to utilize the appropriations process outlined in the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to fund the government in 2025 before the end of the year. There are plenty of days still left on the calendar to do this.

Where there is a will there is a way. Every Member of Congress should be committed to working long hours, if need be, to pass a formal budget for 2025. Together, let us roll up our sleeves and do what is right for the future of our Nation as it pertains to the budget.

Together, let us show the Nation that as Members of Congress, we are ready, willing, and able to fulfill the assignment the American people have bestowed upon us. Together, let us make history by stopping decades of wasteful spending, and together let us protect the purse of the people.

HONORING BEYONCE GISELLE KNOWLES-CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. LEE CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE CARTER: Mr. Speaker, as the proud Representative of the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas, I have the distinct privilege of serving a diverse, resilient, and caring community.

On this day, I am proud to honor someone who exemplifies those values, a favorite daughter, as I am, of the 18th Congressional District in Houston, Texas, Beyonce Giselle Knowles-Carter.

As a global music icon with a staggering 99 Grammy nominations, Beyonce stands as the most nominated Grammy artist in history. This year, her nominations hold particular significance as they honor “Cowboy Carter,” a poignant tribute often described as her American requiem and a celebration of her Southern heritage.

This groundbreaking album not only earned Beyonce her eighth number one album, but also made her the first Black woman to top the country album charts.

However, “Cowboy Carter” is not just a country album. It is a Beyonce album. She is not just a global music icon. She is also a champion for women and children.

Beyonce’s roots remain firmly planted in “H-town” where she has contributed so much to our community in ways that extend far beyond her music, through her tireless work in giving back to children in need.

One of the most notable aspects of Beyonce’s philanthropic efforts is her strong dedication to children and families, which perfectly aligns with today’s celebration of World Children’s Day, originally established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day 70 years ago.

This annual day promotes international togetherness, raises awareness of the needs of children worldwide, and underscores the importance of improving their welfare.

My mother, the late, great Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, cared deeply about children, and as a founding member and co-chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus, she championed their welfare with unwavering devotion. It is my hope that we never lose sight of how our work shapes the dreams and futures of children in the United States and across the world.

Children are the future, and Beyonce has always understood the importance of protecting and nurturing their well-being, education, and opportunities.

Through her BeyGOOD Foundation, which she launched more than a decade ago, Beyonce has championed economic equity initiatives to improve the lives of children and families in need.

One of her most significant contributions came in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The storm devastated Houston and surrounding areas, displacing over 30,000 families and causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage across Texas.

While many were overwhelmed by the scale of the destruction, Beyonce immediately stepped up for her beloved

hometown. Through BeyGOOD, she provided food, emergency housing, and financial support to families in crisis. Her collaboration with Bread of Life, a local nonprofit, ensured that children and their families had the resources they needed to recover and rebuild.

Beyond disaster relief, Beyonce has championed education by breaking down barriers for young people, particularly young Black women, through her Formation Scholars Award. This scholarship has empowered dozens of students to pursue higher education and create opportunities that changed their lives.

Beyonce’s efforts also encompass addressing the housing crisis with a focus on supporting unhoused families and youth who are disproportionately affected. Her collaboration on the Knowles-Roland House project in the 18th Congressional District provides housing, mental health support, and job training to vulnerable families in Houston, offering them a path toward freedom, stability, and hope.

With the love and support of her mother, Tina Knowles; father, Mathew Knowles; sister, Solange; husband and three children, she has shared her time, talent, and treasure to help others.

As we recognize World Children’s Day, we also celebrate leaders like Beyonce who use their influence to uplift communities. Her work reminds us that when we invest in our youth, we invest in a brighter future for everyone. Her example inspires all to do more to ensure every child grows up in an environment where they can thrive.

On behalf of Houston’s 18th Congressional District, I thank Beyonce for being an advocate for children and families. May we all get in formation to create better outcomes for children.

We look forward to welcoming Beyonce back to “H-town” on December 25 as the truly irreplaceable daughter who gives us energy and lets us know that girls can run the world.

HONORING VETERAN OF THE MONTH ANDREW VEASMAN

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our November Veteran of the Month, Andrew Veasman, who was an E4 specialist in the U.S. Army.

Andrew deployed to Iraq with the 504th Military Police Battalion from 2007 to 2008. While he was in Iraq, one of the main jobs he had was convoy security where he was responsible for providing protection from enemy attacks to ensure the safety of American troops and critical assets were in place.

Some of his duties in convoy security included reconnaissance, security, escorting, and establishing a combat reaction force.

Andrew’s fondest memory from his deployment was praying together for safety before each and every mission.

Andrew was honorably discharged in 2014 and joined the Missouri National Guard in 2024 as a mechanic.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Andrew for his dedication and his service.

□ 1030

HONORING CUMMINGS MEN’S WEAR

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our November Small Business of the Month from the Fourth Congressional District of Missouri, Cummings Men’s Wear, owned by Jennifer and David Cummings, friends of mine.

This fantastic business, on the historic downtown Clinton Square, just celebrated 40 years of outstanding business.

Mr. Speaker, in case you are looking for a new suit, they have got you covered. Cummings Men’s Wear offers a selection of suits, sport coats, dress shirts, polos, golf shirts, and so much more. From fun holiday socks to tuxedos, Cummings Men’s Wear has you covered.

Over the past four decades, Cummings Men’s Wear has become a trusted institution, known not only for its exceptional selection of men’s fashion but also for its personalized service and longstanding relationships with their customers, who aren’t just customers but they are friends.

This store is a symbol of excellence and style, sophistication, and professionalism with a loyal and appreciative clientele.

Missouri’s Fourth District is grateful to have such a community-invested, family-owned business.

Congratulations to David and Jennifer Cummings for menswear on the square, for 40 years of success and great men’s clothing.

RECOGNIZING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LIAISONS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the family and community engagement liaisons across Orange County and this Nation.

Family and community liaisons play an important role in collaborating with health facilities and community resource centers to ensure that families have access to the support they need in their academic, professional, and overall community success.

In my own district, Santa Ana Unified School District is home to 54 dedicated liaisons who work around the clock to bridge the gap between schools and families, to ensure that every child and parent feels supported, empowered, and included in the local campuses.

I hope my colleagues join me today in recognizing November as Family Engagement Month and November 16 as National Family and Community Engagement Liaison Worker Day.

I thank every community liaison around Orange County and around the

country for their good work and for helping our local communities be successful.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT GORDON LEE HOGAN

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and sacrifice of Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Gordon Lee Hogan.

An Orange County native, Staff Sergeant Hogan served our Nation bravely in Korea and Vietnam, and he made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting for our values in Vietnam.

During his 19 years of service, Staff Sergeant Hogan had many roles. He worked on trucks as a motor transport chief, waged the invisible war as a psychological operations specialist, and made relationships with civilians as a civil affairs officer.

In his many roles, Staff Sergeant Hogan would go on to be recognized with many awards and commendations. Among these, the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Presidential Unit Citation, and a Purple Heart. These are just a few that I am naming today.

Sadly and tragically, on April 1, 1967, Staff Sergeant Hogan made the ultimate sacrifice when his unit was ambushed by the Viet Cong while on patrol in Thua Thien province in Vietnam. His body would be sent back home to Orange County where he would be laid to rest in our very own Westminster Memorial Park.

Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Gordon Lee Hogan was a model soldier, a model American, and a true patriot.

THE MANDATE

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, when I last spoke on this floor, I laid out the choice the country had before us. Then, on November 5, 2024, America made its choice loud and clear. America gave Washington, D.C., a mandate endorsing the greatest political comeback in American history with the election of President Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States and Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate.

Kansas and the Big First District rejected 4 more years of the chaos we have experienced under President Biden and Vice President HARRIS. They voted for a government that works for the people and makes their lives easier, not one that handcuffs them and their families with overreaching regulations. They voted for a government that enforces the law and seeks commonsense solutions, not open-border policies that put our national security at risk. They voted to reduce Federal spending, to end the weaponization of the Federal Government once and for all, and for our future.

When I came to Congress almost 4 years ago, America was strong, our streets were safe, and our border was much more secure. House Republicans

and President Trump had passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, putting more money in the pockets of American families and spurring economic growth that led to the strongest U.S. economy in decades.

The Trump administration had spearheaded historic trade agreements and peace agreements across the globe that kept Americans competitive and secure.

Rather than capitalizing on that momentum and strength, the Biden-Harris administration wasted 4 years pushing through partisan, trillion-dollar spending packages and using the Federal Government to air its grievances with the previous administration. America clearly said: No more.

Mr. Speaker, those days are long gone. This House Republican majority, alongside President Trump and the incoming Senate Republican majority, are ready to restore American greatness and the American Dream. We are committed to securing a future American families can feel optimistic about.

When I ran for Congress, I promised to fight for agriculture and our conservative Kansas values. That commitment stands. While there is a lot of work to do to get this Nation back on track, I humbly accept that challenge. I am committed to working with my colleagues to unleash American energy and finally rein in energy prices that have crippled American families for the past 4 years. I will fight to make the 2017 tax cuts permanent and once again empower working and middle-class families who have been strangled by the record-level inflation caused by Washington Democrat spending. I will work for commonsense policies that don't empower the Mexican cartels or incentivize illegal immigration. Americans deserve an immigration system that makes it easier for people to come here legally and more difficult for people to come here illegally. That should not be controversial.

The task before us is a big one, but I have never been more confident in our ability to deliver for America and get this country back on track.

FAREWELL TO SYDNEY ROBINSON

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, for the past 2½ years, my family and team have been blessed and honored to call Sydney Robinson a colleague and, most importantly, a friend. Sydney is a fellow believer, an incredibly hard worker, and one of the best that Capitol Hill has to offer.

Sydney joined my team in 2022 and has served as staff assistant, scheduler, and, most recently, as our director of operations. She often served as the face of the front office, ensuring that whether it was a Kansans' first or fiftieth trip to our office, they were met with enthusiasm, kindness, and professionalism. Over the years, she oversaw our internship program; assisted Kansans during their visits to the Nation's Capital; balanced an ever-changing schedule, prioritizing time in the district, votes, and committee activity; and much more.

On top of all that, Sydney helped our team host weekly prayer breakfasts for Members of Congress and the 2024 National Prayer Breakfast. As the co-chair of the National Prayer Breakfast, I am honored to plan and host the event for congressional leaders, the President of the United States, and spiritual leaders. It is no easy task, but Sydney served as a partner in bringing every detail and logistic to life.

Sydney will always be part of Team Mann, and Audrey and I are deeply grateful for her service to our team, my family, and to the Big First District of Kansas. She will be deeply missed in Cannon 344, but we will all be praying for her and rooting for her in the days ahead.

I thank Sydney for serving so incredibly well. She makes everything she touches better. It is an honor and privilege to call her a friend.

CONGRATULATING DR. JEFFREY NASSE

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Jeffrey Nasse on his recent selection as Pima Community College's new chancellor.

As my alma mater, I am a proud product of Pima Community College and can confidently say that it helped shape me into who I am today. It equipped me with the tools and knowledge I needed to pursue my own American Dream.

Dr. Nasse brings over 20 years of experience across multiple areas of higher education and is committed to helping his students succeed.

His focus is on improving student outcomes, scaling online and flexible learning modalities for students, and raising the graduation rate.

As a Marine Corps veteran, Dr. Nasse has dedicated his life to service, first to our Nation and now to our students.

His story of commitment and dedication is just one example of the American Dream that we all cherish. I am grateful for his hard work safeguarding that American Dream for our next generation.

I know Dr. Nasse is well suited to continue leading Pima Community College into an even brighter future. I look forward to working with him to support and uplift the college and its students and, along with that, our community.

REMEMBERING GREG JOHNSON

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sierra Vista Councilman Greg Johnson. Greg was a Marine Corps veteran, businessman, lawyer, professor, and devoted public servant.

Before his time on the city council, Greg served on the board of directors of various chambers of commerce and hospitality and tourism organizations.

While he was a staunch advocate for fiscal responsibility, Greg believed

deeply in making strategic investments in his community that grew the economy and improved the quality of life for everyone.

He was passionate about the causes he believed in and had an unwavering commitment to the residents of Sierra Vista. I saw this firsthand for many years.

Laura and I will hold his amazing wife, Suzanne, their family, and his loved ones in our prayers. His work and legacy will continue to have a positive impact in our community long into the future as he always desired.

HONORING CRAIG MCFARLAND

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Craig McFarland for his outstanding tenure as mayor of Casa Grande.

Since his tenure began in 2016, Mr. McFarland has been a pillar of his community, a devoted public servant, a strong local partner for me, and a dear, dear friend.

From diversifying the economy in Casa Grande through companies like Lucid Motors and others, to expanding the I-10 and protecting the region's water, Mayor McFarland has ushered in growth throughout Casa Grande and Pinal County.

Then, in fiscal year 2025, Mayor McFarland and I partnered together to provisionally secure \$2.8 million in Federal funds for Casa Grande to invest in a new community center for students and expand access to affordable housing for our educators.

Luckily, despite his tenure ending as mayor, Craig will continue to serve Casa Grande and Pinal County as the new president and CEO of Pinal Partnership, one of the leading economic development organizations in the region. They regularly host informative discussions on important issues such as water security, infrastructure, and economic development with key stakeholders and industry leaders, as well.

I look forward to working together alongside Craig McFarland to continue advancing Casa Grande, Pinal County, and our entire region forward.

□ 1045

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOSIE-TATUM CARLSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Josie-Tatum Carlson of Blackshear, Georgia.

At the age of 21, Josie-Tatum leaves behind a legacy of service, compassion, and love for her savior, Jesus Christ.

Josie-Tatum grew up in Blackshear, Georgia, where she graduated from Pierce County High School as the class valedictorian. She attended Mercer University and was awarded the prestigious Presidential Scholarship.

Upon graduation from Mercer University, she married her high school sweetheart, Ethan Carlson.

Josie-Tatum will be remembered for her servant's heart and her willingness to help others. She was a shining light in a world of darkness and will be dearly missed by those who knew her and loved her.

Our hearts break for this young lady and her family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of them.

CELEBRATING COACH MARK STROUD

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Coach Mark Stroud's career at Calvary Day School in Savannah, Georgia.

Following this season, Mark Stroud will be concluding his time as the head football coach of the Cavaliers.

Stroud has coached the Cavaliers for 16 seasons, boasting an incredible 148 wins and 43 losses. During his 16 years at Calvary Day School, Stroud led his team to six regional championships, including the last 4 years in a row.

Stroud began his legacy as a head coach in 1992 at Toombs County High School and coached the school's program for 16 seasons until 2007. He also amassed an impressive record with the Toombs County Bulldogs, winning five regional championships.

Over the course of his 33 seasons, Stroud put together a remarkable career in the State of Georgia, winning 272 games and earning himself the second-most all-time wins in south Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Stroud on his outstanding career at Cavalry Day School.

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RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

A thousand years in Your sight are like a day when it has passed, or a watch stood in the night. These last 1,000 days and nights of the assault on Ukraine's sovereignty, soldiers, and civilians keeping watch every hour, are naught in light of Your immeasurable and eternal strength.

You alone have upheld the resolve of the Ukrainian people, and Your sure protections have maintained their spirit of faithfulness despite weapons of hate and hegemony firing ceaselessly into their homeland.

For their faith and fortitude in the face of the enemy's audacious offenses, they have given the free world a testimony that cannot be silenced, a witness to the unwavering certainty of Your divine presence in the valley of the shadow of the death around them.

It is You, O Lord, who have gone before them. You, O Lord, will ever be with them. You will not fail or forsake them. By this promise, may their fear never overwhelm them or their dismay ever overcome them.

Would that all of us in times of such testing and torment turn to You with the same faith in Your sovereign protections. Grant Ukraine Your peace and Your people Your divine provision in the face of all evil.

In Your merciful name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIM of California 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.

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

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

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a very important topic, carbon monoxide poisoning, particularly in relation to the

dangers that come with operating an automobile.

According to the CDC, there are over 400 deaths and 20,000 emergency room visits each year as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is often referred to as the “silent killer” because of its undetectable traits. When people inhale certain amounts of carbon monoxide, the gas enters the bloodstream and prevents the intake of oxygen, which could result in death.

On September 2, 2021, Suzan “Suzie” Marie Hanna of Bridgewater Township tragically passed away from carbon monoxide poisoning while driving from her job in Flemington to her home, due to floodwaters preventing the movement of her automobile.

Suzie Hanna, a graduate of Bridgewater-Raritan High School and Raritan Valley Community College, was known for her kindness, selflessness, and always brightening the mood of people around her.

We are joined today by her family. In memory of their daughter and their sister, they have fought to urge drivers to acquire and use safety hammers in their cars to prevent tragedies like Suzie’s from happening again.

Additionally, the family started a foundation called Suzie’s Mission. This foundation hosts fundraisers that directly support local organizations and keeps Suzie’s memory alive.

Mr. Speaker, I thank her family for joining me today and making the U.S. and New Jersey a safer place.

HONORING KATHLEEN “KITTY” PFEIFFER

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Kathleen Pfeiffer, known as Kitty to those of us who knew her and loved her.

For 8 years, Kitty served as a staff member in my offices in the Pennsylvania State House and here in Congress. On Monday, she passed away at 83 years old.

Kitty was a dedicated public servant, helping more than 10,000 constituents in her time working with my staff and me. She was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was someone who brought warmth and kindness into every room she entered.

While I offer my condolences to her family and friends during this sad time, I am also filled with gratitude. I am grateful to have had the privilege of knowing Kitty and calling her both one of my favorite staff members and more importantly my friend.

Kitty will always be loved and missed.

COPD AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, November marks Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, COPD, Awareness Month.

COPD is a respiratory disease that is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and affects one in eight Americans over the age of 45.

An estimated 30 million Americans are affected by COPD, but only 17 million Americans are diagnosed. We unfortunately see COPD impact neighbors in southern California with more than half of Californians who suffer from COPD living in our area.

Today, on COPD Awareness Day, and throughout this month, we recommit to raising awareness and finding ways to mitigate the impacts of this disease. I will do my part.

CELEBRATING VA COMPETES

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of my bipartisan bill, the VA COMPETES Act and what this means for veterans in my district and across the country.

My bill improves care for veterans by finally allowing the VA to pay doctors the salaries that they deserve. It is no secret that the VA has struggled to hire and retain healthcare staff, and low salaries are a big piece of that.

When the VA is understaffed, our veterans are the ones who suffer. Last year, when the Stockton VA Clinic went from eight primary care physicians to just four, wait times skyrocketed to over 100 days. Our veterans couldn’t get appointments, prescriptions filled, or access to the basic care that they needed.

I am proud to have worked with our local clinic staff in the VA to fix this issue, bringing wait times down to just 16 days. My bill is going to help ensure that no other clinic experiences a shortage like we did last year.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be part of the solution and thank everyone who made this possible.

CONGRATULATING WILLIAMSPORT SALVATION ARMY

(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 congratulate Williamsport Salvation Army on a record-breaking Red Kettle Kickoff.

As the holiday season unfolds, a sound fills the air, not just the laughter of children or the joyful notes of carolers, but the familiar ring of the Salvation Army’s red kettle bells.

Since 1897, the Salvation Army’s iconic Red Kettle Campaign has become synonymous with Christmas. This year, at the sixth annual Red Ket-

tle Kickoff breakfast, the Williamsport Salvation Army exceeded its goal, bringing in \$52,000 to start their holiday bell-ringing season.

This money, as well as future funds, will assist local underserved populations during the holiday season. The Salvation Army in Williamsport helps residents with rental and utility assistance, food donations, hygiene supplies, and toys and blankets for children, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, this time of year can bring challenges for low-income families. The Williamsport Salvation Army’s Red Kettle fundraiser ensures that the families in our community wake up to the magic of Christmas morning knowing that they haven’t been forgotten.

HONORING CLARENDON HILLS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, 2024 has been a year of celebration for the people of Clarendon Hills in my district as they commemorate their centennial.

Known as the volunteer village, the founders of Clarendon Hills were some of the most independent, hardworking individuals. From its very beginning, the Clarendon Hills community recognized the importance of local governance, coming together to elect their first board of trustees and establish their first neighborhood, businesses, churches, and schools.

Although a lot has changed over the past 100 years, the spirit of independence and hard work that first defined the people of Clarendon Hills still lives today. It is a village that I am proud to represent.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Clarendon Hills on their 100 years.

RECOGNIZING CONNOR YOUNG

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

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an integral member of my team, my senior legislative assistant, Connor Young.

Connor started in my office as a legislative correspondent and has risen the ranks to lead our legislative team. Connor is a dedicated and committed member of our staff, and his work has been essential to serving the constituents of Arizona’s Eighth Congressional District.

A proud LSU Tiger, originally from Memphis, Tennessee, Connor began his public service as an intern here in the U.S. House of Representatives and has shown his commitment to this institution and our Nation.

As I leave Congress, I have no doubt Connor will go on to great things as he

continues his public service. I appreciate his hard work and wish him nothing but the best in all of his future endeavors.

USL EASTERN CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, RHODE ISLAND FC

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

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United Soccer League Eastern Conference Champions, Rhode Island FC.

Let me tell you, this team is special. This team never says die. Coming into this season, their first as an expansion team, Rhode Island FC wasn't projected to make the postseason. However, led by their head coach, Khano Smith, they put together a magical playoff run.

Earlier this month, they took down top-seeded Louisville City FC. On Saturday, they held off a late surge by the Charleston Battery to win a 2-1 thriller. Make no mistake, this team plays wicked good soccer.

Anchored in community, this team is bringing Rhode Islanders together and giving us something to root for.

I congratulate the Rhode Island FC on winning the United Soccer League Eastern Conference Finals. I wish them good luck as they take on Colorado Springs in the final. The whole State of Rhode Island will be cheering them on.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN HOSTAGES

(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, sadly, there are currently 46 Americans around the world wrongfully detained or held hostage. The unbearable trauma on their families is made even worse as the Internal Revenue Service currently charges late fees and penalties for overdue tax payments.

Currently, tax codes do not provide relief beyond 1 year for detainees. This must be corrected.

This week, House Republicans will consider the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act to prevent the IRS from imposing charges and allow the affected families to focus on their safe return.

This bill also revokes the tax-exempt status of American nonprofit organizations that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups, such as Hamas and others.

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

□ 1215

RURAL HEALTHCARE ISSUES

(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, this being Rural Healthcare Month, I will point out how critical it is that we pay attention to rural healthcare issues, such as in my district and so many around this country.

You have the challenges of rural residents living pretty far from sophisticated healthcare systems, good-sized hospitals, et cetera, so the local clinics are pretty critical. Also important is the continued expansion of telehealth, with more broadband reaching into rural areas, to make it so that local clinics can get images, get x-rays, other methods of getting information, and send them off to the urban centers that can analyze those tests and see what really needs to be done before maybe something more extreme such as transporting a patient a long way to a hospital or even in some cases where they send a helicopter to move them around.

We face these issues in northern California and so many places across the country that are rural. Such things as teaching health centers help keep people on site. They can learn as well as serve. I appreciate those objectives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolutions:

S. RES. 872

Whereas Daniel "Dan" Evans was born in Seattle, Washington, in 1925;

Whereas Dan Evans graduated from Roosevelt High School in Seattle in 1943;

Whereas Dan Evans enlisted in the United States Navy in 1943, and served a 3-year tour of duty as an ensign aboard an aircraft carrier in the Pacific during World War II;

Whereas, after World War II, Dan Evans earned a bachelor of science degree and a master of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Washington and worked as a civil engineer in Seattle;

Whereas, in 1951, Dan Evans was recalled to the United States Navy for the Korean War, where he served as an operations officer on a destroyer with the rank of lieutenant and later as an aide to Admiral William K. Mendenhall during peace negotiations at Panmunjon;

Whereas Dan Evans married the late Nancy Bell Evans of Spokane, Washington, in 1959 and is survived by three sons, Daniel Jr., Mark, and Bruce;

Whereas Dan Evans was first elected to the Washington State House of Representatives in 1956 and served as the Republican floor leader from 1961 to 1964;

Whereas Dan Evans was first elected Governor of the State of Washington in 1964 and became the first person in Washington State history to serve 3 consecutive terms as Governor, winning reelection in 1968 and 1972;

Whereas Dan Evans served as Chair of the National Governors Association from 1973 to 1974;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the President of Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, from 1977 to 1983;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the first Chair of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power and Conservation Planning Council from 1981 to 1983;

Whereas, in 1983, Governor John Spellman appointed Dan Evans to the Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of former Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson of Washington;

Whereas Dan Evans was elected to the Senate in a special election in 1983, and served as the Senator from Washington from 1983 to 1989;

Whereas Dan Evans served as Vice-Chairman of the Select Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate from 1987 to 1989;

Whereas, in 1993, Governor Mike Lowry appointed Dan Evans to the Board of Regents of the University of Washington;

Whereas Dan Evans served as the President of the Board of Regents of the University of Washington from 1996 to 1997;

Whereas, in 1999, the University of Washington Graduate School of Public Affairs was renamed the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance; and

Whereas, in 2017, the Olympic Wilderness in Olympic National Park was renamed the Daniel J. Evans Wilderness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Daniel J. Evans, former member of the Senate;

(2) the Senate will communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Daniel J. Evans.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 599. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3500 West 6th Street, Suite 103 in Los Angeles, California, as the "Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office".

H.R. 807. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

H.R. 1060. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1663 East Date Place in San Bernardino, California, as the "Dr. Margaret B. Hill Post Office Building".

H.R. 1098. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 50 East Derry Road in East Derry, New Hampshire, as the "Chief Edward B. Garone Post Office".

H.R. 1505. An act to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

H.R. 3608. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28081 Marguerite Parkway in Mission Viejo, California, as the "Major Megan McClung Post Office Building".

H.R. 3728. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 25 Dorchester Avenue, Room 1, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the "Caroline Chang Post Office".

H.R. 5476. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1077 River Road, Suite 1, in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania, as the "Susan C. Barnhart Post Office".

H.R. 5490. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to expand the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5640. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12804 Chillicothe Road in Chesterland, Ohio, as the “Sgt. Wolfgang Kyle Weninger Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5712. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street, in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the “Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building”.

H.R. 5985. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 517 Seagaze Drive in Oceanside, California, as the “Charleetta Reece Allen Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6073. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9925 Bustleton Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, as the “Sergeant Christopher David Fitzgerald Post Office Building”.

H.R. 6249. An act to provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6651. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the “Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7192. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 333 West Broadway in Anaheim, California, as the “Dr. William I. ‘Bill’ Kott Post Office Building”.

H.R. 7199. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at S74w16860 Janesville Road, in Muskego, Wisconsin, as the “Colonel Hans Christian Heg Post Office”.

H.R. 7423. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 103 Benedette street in Rayville, Louisiana, as the “Luke Letlow Post Office Building”.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2546. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the “Jim Kolbe Memorial Post Office”.

S. 3946. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1106 Main Street in Bastrop, Texas, as the “Sergeant Major Billy D. Waugh Post Office”.

S. 4077. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 180 Steuart Street in San Francisco, California, as the “Dianne Feinstein Post Office”.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3012) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3012

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 “North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-333; 22 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.) and subsequent reauthorizations of such Act aimed to promote the protection of human rights, documentation of human rights violations, transparency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the importance of refugee protection.

(2) According to the State Department’s 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, there are “widespread reports of political prisoners and detainees. . . most external estimates were between 80,000 and 120,000; some NGOs placed the figure as high as 200,000.”

(3) North Korea continues to hold a number of South Koreans and Japanese abducted after the signing of the Agreement Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the “Korean War Armistice Agreement”) and refuses to acknowledge the abduction of more than 100,000 South Koreans during the Korean War in violation of the Geneva Convention.

(4) According to the State Department’s 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, there are significant human rights violations in North Korea, which include “arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings; enforced disappearance; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment; . . . and extensive gender based-violence.”

(5) The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and North Korea’s strict lockdown of its borders and crackdowns on informal market activities and small entrepreneurship have drastically increased food insecurity for its people and given rise to famine conditions in parts of the country.

(6) North Korea’s COVID-19 border lockdown measures also include shoot-to-kill orders that have resulted in the killing of—

(A) North Koreans attempting to cross the border; and

(B) at least 1 South Korean official in September 2020.

(7) The Government of the People’s Republic of China is aiding and abetting North Korea’s human rights violations by forcibly repatriating North Korean refugees to North Korea where they are sent to prison camps, harshly interrogated, and tortured or executed.

(8) The forcible repatriation of North Korean refugees violates the People’s Republic of China’s freely undertaken obligation to uphold the principle of non-refoulement, as a state party to the the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223)).

(9) North Korea continues to deny freedom of religion and persecute religious minori-

ties, especially Christians and followers of Shaminism. Eyewitnesses report that Christians in North Korea have been tortured, forcibly detained, and even executed for possessing a Bible or professing Christianity.

(10) The position of Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues was vacant from January 2017 to December 2022, even though the President is required to appoint a Senate-confirmed Special Envoy to fill this position in accordance with section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817). In January 2023 President Biden nominated Julie Turner as Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights and Issues She was confirmed in July 2023.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) The human rights and humanitarian conditions within North Korea remain deplorable and have been intentionally perpetuated against the people of North Korea through policies endorsed and implemented by Kim Jong-un and the Government of North Korea.

(2) promoting information access in North Korea continues to be a successful method of countering DPRK propaganda and the United States Government should continue to support nongovernmental radio broadcasting to North Korea and promote other emerging methods in this space;

(3) because refugees among North Koreans fleeing into the People’s Republic of China face severe punishments upon their forcible return, the United States should urge the Government of the People’s Republic of China—

(A) to immediately halt its forcible repatriation of North Koreans;

(B) to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this section as “UNHCR”) unimpeded access to North Koreans within China to determine whether they are refugees and require assistance;

(C) to fulfill its obligations as a state party to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at Geneva July 28, 1951 (and made applicable by the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, done at New York January 31, 1967 (19 UST 6223) and the Agreement on the upgrading of the UNHCR Mission in the People’s Republic of China to UNHCR branch office in the People’s Republic of China, done at Geneva December 1, 1995;

(D) to address the concerns of the United Nations Committee Against Torture by incorporating into domestic legislation the principle of non-refoulement; and

(E) to recognize the legal status of North Korean women who marry or have children with Chinese citizens and ensure that all such mothers and children are granted resident status and access to education and other public services in accordance with Chinese law and international standards;

(4) the United States should continue to promote the effective and transparent delivery and distribution of any humanitarian aid provided in North Korea to ensure that such aid reaches its intended recipients to the point of consumption or utilization by cooperating closely with the Government of the Republic of Korea and international and nongovernmental organizations;

(5) the United States currently blocks United States passports from being used to travel to North Korea without a special validation from the Department of State, and the Department of State should continue to take steps to increase public awareness about the risks and dangers of travel by United States citizens to North Korea;

(6) the United Nations has a significant role to play in promoting and improving

human rights in North Korea and should press for access for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea, as well as for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(7) North Korea should repeal the Reactionary Thought and Culture Denunciation Law and other draconian laws, regulations, and decrees that manifestly violate the freedom of opinion and expression and the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;

(8) the United States should expand the Rewards for Justice program to be open to North Korean officials who can provide evidence of crimes against humanity being committed by North Korean officials;

(9) the United States should continue to seek cooperation from all foreign governments—

(A) to allow the UNHCR access to process North Korean refugees overseas for resettlement; and

(B) to allow United States officials access to process refugees for possible resettlement in the United States; and

(10) the Secretary of State, through diplomacy by senior officials, including United States ambassadors to Asia-Pacific countries, and in close cooperation with South Korea, should make every effort to promote the protection of North Korean refugees, escapees, and defectors.

SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY PROGRAMS.—Section 102(b)(1) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7812(b)(1)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(b) ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.—Section 104 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(c) REPORT BY SPECIAL ENVOY ON NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.—Section 107(d) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817(d)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(d) REPORT ON UNITED STATES HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Section 201(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7831(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(e) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED OUTSIDE OF NORTH KOREA.—Section 203 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7833) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “103(15)” and inserting “103(17)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “2018 through 2022” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 305(a) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7845(a)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION.

Title I of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7811 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 103(a), by striking “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and inserting “United States Agency for Global Media”; and

(2) in section 104(a)—

(A) by striking “Broadcasting Board of Governors” each place such term appears and inserting “United States Agency for Global Media”;

(B) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(i) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as clauses (ii) through (iv), respectively;

(ii) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated the following:

“(i) an update of the plan required under subparagraph (A);” and

(iv) in clause (iii), as so redesignated, by striking “pursuant to section 403” and inserting “to carry out this section”.

SEC. 6. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

Section 107 of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7817) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) REPORT ON APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL ENVOY.—If the position of Special Envoy will remain vacant for 1 year or longer without any presidential nomination to appoint a new Special Envoy, not later than 90 days before the date on which such position becomes vacant for 1 year, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes the efforts being taken to appoint a new Special Envoy.”.

SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING KOREAN AMERICAN DIVIDED FAMILIES.

It is the sense of Congress—

(1) the United States and North Korea should begin the process of reuniting Korean-American divided family members with their immediate relatives through ways such as—

(A) identifying divided families in the United States and North Korea who are willing and able to participate in a pilot program for family reunions;

(B) finding matches for members of such families through organizations such as the Red Cross; and

(C) working with the Government of South Korea to include American citizens in inter-Korean video reunions;

(2) the institution of family is inalienable and the restoration of contact between divided families whether physically, literarily, or virtually is an urgent need; and

(3) the United States and North Korea should pursue reunions as a humanitarian priority of immediate concern.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Kim Jong Un regime continues to oppress the North Korean people through torture, forced labor, imprisonment, and starvation to continue expanding North Korea’s nuclear weapons program. The regime also severely represses the security of the United States and the world by advancing its missile and nuclear weapons programs.

Recent intercontinental ballistic missile tests and an alarming increase in the number of nuclear warheads in North Korea’s arsenal are clear demonstrations of its growing threat to global peace and stability.

North Korea has abducted Japanese and South Korean citizens and has caused the death of U.S. citizens while in North Korean custody. These acts of state-sponsored kidnapping and unlawful detention have caused immense suffering to the victims and their families. The regime’s blatant disregard for human life and international law is a violation of basic human rights and an affront to global justice.

The North Korean Human Rights Act ensures that the Kim regime’s human rights abuses do not go unchecked and reinforces the United States’ commitment to promoting human rights in North Korea. By shining a spotlight on these atrocities, the Act seeks to hold the regime responsible for its abuses and to give hope to the North Korean people who continue to endure unimaginable oppression.

This bill extends critical efforts to break the regime’s information control over the North Korean people, to protect North Korean defectors and refugees, especially from forced repatriation by China. It also ensures that the regime does not have opportunities to divert international assistance for military purposes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3012, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act.

I start by thanking Representatives KIM and BERA for their leadership on this bill. Initially passed in 2004, the North Korean Human Rights Act was landmark legislation that promoted accountability for human rights violations in North Korea. We are here today because the underlying tenets of this bill are as necessary today as they were 20 years ago.

Since rising to power in 2011, Kim Jong Un has doubled down on the brutal, authoritarian rule of his father and grandfather. His government has committed untold human rights violations, including arbitrary and extrajudicial killings, mass detention, forced labor, and torture.

Under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pyongyang used lockdowns to intensify its repression, including through shoot-to-kill orders on its borders and draconian policies that have driven segments of the North Korean population into famine.

Today, North Korea remains one of the most, if not the most, repressive countries in the world. It is critical that we reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act today, and I urge the Senate to pass this bill immediately so that President Biden can sign it into law this year. It is essential that we reauthorize the bill now to make the United States’ commitment on this issue clear and irreversible.

We must not ignore the horrific human catastrophe taking place in North Korea. It is disappointing that

the Trump administration did not appoint a Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues, which the North Korean Human Rights Act mandates. Congress must ensure that does not happen again.

This bill will enable thorough legislative oversight of the administration's North Korea policy, including by requiring the administration to answer to Congress should it fail to appoint a Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues in an expedient fashion.

H.R. 3012 would also provide the incoming administration with the tools necessary to elevate the cause of human rights in North Korea while extending reporting requirements that will allow Congress to ensure that the United States does not ignore Pyongyang's brutal treatment of its own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the chair of the Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOYLAN for yielding and for his leadership as well as my good friend Representative MANNING for moving this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 3012, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act.

This bill updates the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 that was enacted to provide humanitarian aid to North Korean refugees, allow for information access for the North Korean people, and appoint a U.S. Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues.

H.R. 3012 reauthorizes, streamlines, and strengthens oversight of these programs through 2028 and calls for Korean-American families to be reunited with their immediate relatives in North Korea.

We need someone at the State Department dedicated entirely to North Korean human rights issues, especially as Kim Jong Un's brutality against his own people grows. Why?

Because North Korean women and children face the most inhumane treatment in the world, child labor is institutionalized in North Korea, and women are forced into sex trafficking organized by government officials and human traffickers; because an estimated 100,000 North Koreans are subject to forced labor in factories with inhumane conditions in the People's Republic of China; and because torture, forced disappearances, imprisonment, forced sterilization, and religious persecution are tools regularly used to consolidate the North Korean regime's power.

From January 2017 to December 2022, the special envoy position was vacant; that is nearly 6 years. If the position is ever vacant again for more than 180 days, my bill requires the State De-

partment to report on ongoing efforts to fill the position.

The authorization for the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 lapsed in 2022. We must get this legislation signed into law this Congress. We cannot ignore the threat posed by North Korea, and holding the North Korean regime accountable without supporting human rights is a nonstarter.

Failing to reauthorize this landmark human rights initiative sends a signal to Kim Jong Un that the United States will allow human rights abuses in North Korea and around the world to fall on deaf ears.

I thank Representative AMI BERA for co-leading this bill with me, and I thank our chairman of the full committee and his staff for their leadership and commitment to human rights and freedoms for the North Korean people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 3012.

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

We must be just as committed today to supporting the human rights of North Koreans as we were in 2004, which is why I support this bipartisan reauthorization of the North Korean Human Rights Act through 2028.

While much of U.S. policy toward North Korea is focused on its nuclear and missile programs, we cannot ignore the gross human rights abuses within the country. We can and must address both.

I thank Representatives KIM and BERA for shining a light on the struggle of the North Korean people. I hope my colleagues will join me and support this important bill.

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

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

In closing, I thank Representatives KIM and BERA of California for working together on this important legislation that reinforces the United States' commitment to promoting human rights in North Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3012, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENTS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8234) to authorize the Secretary of State to designate additional persons eligible to serve as passport acceptance agents, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8234

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE AGENTS.

Section 6109(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (22 U.S.C. 213a(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) A United States citizen who, as determined by the Secretary, is employed by and provides services through a reputable, established company or institution and is commissioned or appointed as a notary or notary public or otherwise authorized to perform a notarization under the laws of a State, district, or territorial government.”.

SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HAND-CARRY COURIER SERVICES FOR PASSPORT APPLICATIONS AND PASSPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall take such actions as may be necessary to—

(1) facilitate an increase in the number of companies certified to provide hand-carry courier services; and

(2) increase the daily maximum number of applications for United States regular passports, by service type, that such companies may submit to a passport agency of the Department of State (commonly referred to as “meeting slots”) as part of the hand-carry courier services of such company.

(b) HAND-CARRY COURIER SERVICE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “hand-carry courier service” means—

(1) the transport of applications for United States passports to a passport agency of the Department of State for processing; and

(2) the retrieval of newly issued United States passports for delivery, directly or indirectly, to the passport holder.

SEC. 3. DATE OF EXPIRATION OF UNITED STATES PASSPORTS.

The Secretary of State shall take such actions as may be necessary to provide that each United States regular passport issued or renewed on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act expires on the same month and day of the month as the date of birth of the individual associated with such passport.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans use U.S. passports as their official travel documents each year. Passports are what open doors to faraway foreign destinations.

The problem, though, is that certain Americans are having a difficult time applying for them. What should be a simple administrative step is anything but.

That is where my colleague Mr. MAST's bill comes in. H.R. 8234 would level the playing field, assisting those Americans who currently face unnecessary obstacles.

First, the bill would authorize new institutions to serve as passport acceptance agents. Passport acceptance is the process of verifying the applicant's identification documents.

Currently, most civilian passport acceptance is done by designated employees of the U.S. Postal Service. With the recent closure of many U.S. post offices and with fewer post offices offering passport services, however, access points for passport acceptance have been significantly reduced. This reduction has led to delays in some citizens' ability to schedule a passport appointment.

We feel this acutely on Capitol Hill. Scarcely a day goes by when Members of Congress like myself do not hear from frustrated constituents experiencing some sort of passport problem.

□ 1230

Allowing new entities, like public notaries, to become passport acceptance agents will ensure that the citizen application process is easier, faster, and more seamless. For example, if the notaries at all UPS Stores and AAA Travel offices nationwide were to become registered passport acceptance agents, then the number of passport acceptance sites would increase by 10,000 locations.

The second thing this bill would do is assist Americans in rural areas and nonmajor cities apply for their passports. The so-called hand-carry courier program helps citizens who otherwise would be unable to travel to a passport agency due to time, cost, or distance constraints. Through the program, they would be able to secure an urgent or emergency passport using a third-party registered agent.

H.R. 8234 would allow for more companies to participate in the hand-carry program. By expanding the program, we make emergency passports more readily available to citizens who need them, especially for those who don't live in or near a major city.

Finally, Mr. MAST's bill would align a passport's expiration date with the

applicant's birthday, making it easier for him or her to remember when it is time to renew. This will help reduce the application spikes surrounding popular travel seasons and prevent new backlogs and delays.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting H.R. 8234, which is an important step in making passport services more accessible and more reliable, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of H.R. 8234. As the world has reopened following the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for passports last year skyrocketed, leading to significant delays. Under Secretary of State Antony Blinken's leadership and the tireless efforts of consular officials, the State Department successfully tackled this backlog and restored processing times to prepandemic levels. Moreover, this administration has partnered closely with Congress to advance modernization of the Department's consular processing to be better prepared to handle future surges in demand.

The provisions in H.R. 8234 aim to further strengthen our passport processing infrastructure, particularly to help ensure that all Americans, especially those in rural or remote areas, have reasonably convenient access to passport services. This includes permissive authorities for the Department of State to better enable applicants to utilize private couriers, access passport acceptance agents, and remember to renew their passports before expiry. These provisions can help those in underserved communities who may not have a passport acceptance facility nearby.

There is no single solution to the challenges in providing passport and visa services at a sustained and high level, and the Department's efforts must be driven not by the preferences of courier companies or potential new acceptance agents but by the Americans who need passports.

We must work together and in a smart way to ensure the State Department has the authorities and resources it needs to carry out its mission securely and efficiently with respect to passport processing, and H.R. 8234 can help provide additional practical tools, where and as necessary, to improve service delivery and meet the needs of American travelers.

Therefore, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), who is the chair of the Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for their work and support on H.R. 8234.

It is a bill to reduce the passport barriers that American travelers face with just a few commonsense solutions to

help make it a more seamless process for Americans and a more intuitive process for when their passport might expire. It would help prevent the emergency situations that all of us as Members of Congress face for our constituents to get the passports they need.

Getting a passport, for many, is the closest that Americans will get to seeing the work of our State Department, and when they see delays and backlogs, that shakes their confidence in what they believe the State Department and many of our other institutions can do.

The backlog is especially troublesome for our citizens who live in rural areas without easy access to the few passport agencies or centers that we have around the country.

If the State Department can't get those small things done right now in a timely fashion and competent way, then it is hard to convince the American people that the State Department can handle bigger things—except a passport is not a small thing for most people, most families, and most individuals. For our constituents, that is a business trip, family vacation, wedding, or, God forbid, funeral.

We urgently need reforms to address the passport backlog and prevent any future backlog from occurring.

H.R. 8234 enhances U.S. passport applicants' customer experience in three ways that have been mentioned already.

First, it authorizes the Secretary of State to allow qualified notaries to accept and certify the relevant paperwork. Certify doesn't mean that they are issuing a passport. It means they are identifying that all the t's have been crossed, the i's have been dotted, and the blanks are filled in so that the application doesn't get kicked back by the State Department.

Currently, citizens who live in rural areas need to mail in their paperwork or try to get to a certain employee in a place like the post office. They have few or inconsistent hours to actually go see those individuals, and it delays their application process. By expanding the number of people who can accept and certify the paperwork to include these qualified notaries, we greatly expand the options for Americans who do not live near these passport acceptance centers.

Second, my bill requires the State Department to devote more resources to nontraditional applicants—again, often from rural areas—who utilize private courier services for emergency passport services. Since 2007, the number of slots these private courier services have to process Americans' applications has decreased, while the number of Americans who live at least 250 miles away from a passport acceptance office has substantially increased over that same period of time.

These services are an effective alternative for Americans who need urgent passports and don't live near those offices, and expanding these resources will help serve the citizens by adjusting to population migration patterns

that we have seen over the last two decades.

Finally, my bill would make it easier for Americans to remember to renew their passports by changing the passport expiration dates to coincide with their birthdays, just like most of us do with our driver's licenses. This simple change in awareness will make it so that many people remember to renew their passports early instead of realizing it at the last second because it is not on an intuitive date, which leads to the surges in applicants in the system and creates those backlogs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for their work on this legislation, and I urge adoption of this bill.

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

The Department of State's passport application processing has shown welcomed improvement. The bipartisan provisions in this bill would help them make even more progress and connect more Americans to a U.S. passport.

By helping the State Department increase access and meet higher demand, I hope we can prove that the government can adapt and work faster.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I hope we can advance further measures to support consular services in a bipartisan fashion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we need to make passport services more accessible to Americans who don't live in major cities. This bill, H.R. 8234, would actually do that by authorizing new actors like public notaries to serve as passport acceptance agents.

It would also allow more companies to participate in the hand-carry courier program and open up slots for those companies at passport agency offices across the country.

Americans who don't live in major cities shouldn't have to have a harder time getting travel documents than anyone else.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8234, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COORDINATOR FOR AFGHAN RELOCATION EFFORTS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8368) to establish a Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts in the

Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8368

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 "Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COORDINATOR.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall appoint a Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts ("Coordinator"), who shall be responsible for—

(1) relocating and resettling eligible Afghan allies and facilitating the departure of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents who request United States assistance to leave Afghanistan, except that the Coordinator shall prioritize the facilitation of such departures before the relocation or resettlement of allies; and

(2) working with other offices of the Department of State, as well as with appropriate counterparts at other Federal departments and agencies, to ensure integrated United States support for such relocation efforts.

(b) AUTHORITIES.—The Coordinator is authorized—

(1) to enter into personal services contracts for a period ending not later than the date described in section 3;

(2) to extend and maintain through such date personal services contracts entered into pursuant to the authority provided by section 2401 of the Afghanistan Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-43);

(3) to hire temporary personnel who are United States citizens, except that to the extent possible the Coordinator should use Foreign Service limited appointments to fill such positions both in the United States and abroad in accordance with section 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3949); and

(4) subject to the availability of appropriations—

(A) to accept, in the form of reimbursement or transfer, amounts from other Federal departments or agencies as appropriate to carry out the duties described in subsection (a); and

(B) to reimburse such other departments or agencies as the Coordinator may determine appropriate to carry out such duties.

(c) DETAILEES AND ASSIGNEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed or assigned to the Office of the Coordinator, with or without reimbursement, consistent with applicable laws and regulations regarding such employee, and such detail or assignment shall be without interruption or loss of status or privilege.

(d) NOTIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO TRANSFERS OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Coordinator shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of each use of the transfer authority made available under subsection (b)(4)(A) not later than 15 days before the completion of such transfer.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 3. SUNSET.

This Act and the authorities provided by this Act shall terminate on the date that is

3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation to codify the establishment of the Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts.

When the Biden administration executed its disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, we left behind thousands of Afghans who had risked their lives to assist the United States' mission in Afghanistan.

The subsequent Taliban takeover put these brave individuals at serious risk, and we have seen many Afghans who worked for the U.S. be targeted in reprisal killings and forced disappearances. It is our duty as Americans to help bring these vulnerable Afghans to safety in the U.S.

The Office of the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts has worked tirelessly in 2021 to support the resettlement of eligible Afghans in the United States. After undergoing the most thorough security vetting processes, CARE assists Afghans as they complete the final stages of the resettlement process, preparing them for their new lives in the United States.

At a time when there is little hope for Afghans to pursue a life of prosperity amidst the brutal Taliban regime's crackdown on human rights and archaic restrictions on women, it is more important than ever that the U.S. fulfill our duty to our Afghan allies and help them come to the United States.

I have been happy to see that CARE has demonstrated increased efficiency in processing Afghan relocation cases, enabling our vetted Afghan partners to come to the United States.

Codifying this office ensures that every eligible, properly vetted Afghan may be moved to the U.S. and establish a new, safe life for their family far from the threat of the Taliban.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to show their support for our Afghan allies and support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 8368. There is one thing I believe unites us on the issue of Afghanistan, and that is unwavering commitment to the Afghan allies who stood by us during our nearly two-decade mission in the country. This bill is about honoring that commitment.

H.R. 8368 formally authorizes the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts, or CARE, which has been leading the essential work of supporting those who risked their lives to assist the United States by helping eligible Afghan applicants and their families relocate to the United States.

By providing a clear bipartisan mandate, along with the authorities that the State Department has requested, this legislation sends a strong message of support for CARE's mission that can't simply be waved away. It demonstrates that Congress stands firmly behind the creative, tenacious efforts by the CARE office to relocate and protect our deserving Afghan partners.

These are individuals who risked everything to support our mission. They served as interpreters, guides, and partners in some of the most dangerous conditions imaginable. To turn our backs on them now would be unconscionable.

Let's remember that our commitment is not just a matter of policy or party, but it is a matter of principle. This bill is a step in the right direction, but it cannot be the final word on our support for our Afghan allies, particularly since Congress will need to continue to act to ensure Afghan special immigrant visas remain available and CARE's work is appropriately resourced during the period authorized by this bill. There are bipartisan bills we can bring to the floor in this Congress to accomplish exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill introduced by Representative TITUS, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same so that we can continue to uphold our promises to those who stood by us in Afghanistan.

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

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), an esteemed member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the author of this measure.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge and thank my Republican colleague from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD) for joining me on this bipartisan legislation to establish the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act, H.R. 8368.

Over the course of our 20-year mission in Afghanistan, more than 300,000 Afghans worked shoulder to shoulder with U.S. servicemembers, diplomats, and aid workers. They provided valuable support for nearly 800,000 U.S. troops who rotated through Afghanistan. They served primarily as trans-

lators, guides, and informal advisers to U.S. personnel on the ground.

These are, in every sense of the word, our valued allies. They stood with us through difficult conditions, advancing U.S. interests.

In August 2021, the U.S. conducted an historic and heroic evacuation that carried 70,000 Afghans to safety along with tens of thousands of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, as well as citizens from other countries.

Since July 2021, the State Department has worked around the clock to relocate U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents from Afghanistan who wanted to depart and who were eligible Afghan allies who worked with us.

Secretary Blinken has made this a top priority for the Department and has said that there is no deadline for this important work. He underscores the commitment that the Biden administration has to this effort and the promise of Operation Enduring Welcome.

In 2022, to solidify these relocation efforts, the State Department established a specialized office called the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts, appropriately known as CARE.

CARE serves as the hub for a whole-of-government priority, working closely with various Federal departments and agencies, international partners, veterans groups, former diplomats, government officials, and NGOs to ensure the safe and efficient relocation of individuals who have qualified to immigrate to the U.S., either as special immigrants or refugees, during the 20-year U.S. mission to Afghanistan.

The Afghan Special Immigrant Visa program, also stood up by Congress and relying on our regular reauthorization of additional visa numbers to meet demand, long faced challenges and processing delays, but the situation changed dramatically early in 2021, when the Biden administration ramped up resources to clear an SIV processing backlog that had accumulated in the prior administration.

Working together, Congress and the administration have prioritized and streamlined the Afghan SIV program to meet evolving demand and uphold our moral obligation.

In fiscal year 2023, the administration issued the most SIVs in a single year since the start of the program in 2009. In the most recent report, the Department issued 1,894 SIVs, ensuring that almost 8,000 additional Afghan allies and their families had a pathway to safety.

Similarly, the State Department has announced the establishment of a new P-2 category for refugees, in addition to the P-1 referrals, to expand available pathways for persecuted Afghans. As a result, we have welcomed more than 130,000 Afghans to safety.

The CARE program has been the linchpin of this work, serving as a valuable conduit for all of the different organizations I mentioned and Afghans

themselves as they navigate a pathway to their new home. The work, however, is not codified in statute. It exists across a number of agencies and programs.

Congress should be unambiguous here. We support this work. We want to see the job continue, and we should do so by authorizing it as a new agency.

That is what this bill would do. It would authorize the CARE office in the State Department for 3 years and grant it important authorities to continue this work as an identified legislative priority for the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, to acknowledge the obligation that we have, our moral obligation to help those who helped us so much, and to fulfill our promise to all of those who stood with us.

I thank Ranking Member MEEKS and Chairman MCCAUL of the Foreign Affairs Committee for their support in helping move this bill to the floor, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, for over 20 years, our Afghan allies risked everything to support the U.S. mission, and we must not turn our backs on them now. The CARE office deserves a clear, bipartisan mandate. I hope my colleagues will join me and support this important bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this administration failed the Afghan people by abandoning them to the Taliban rule. It is our responsibility as Americans to remedy this failure. I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8368, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

AFFIRMING THE NATURE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITY SURVIVORS OF GENOCIDE IN IRAQ

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the

resolution (H. Res. 554) affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 554

Whereas national, ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities and indigenous peoples, including Yezidis, Turkmen, Shabak, Sabaean-Mandaeans, Kaka'i, and indigenous Christians (including Chaldean, Syriac, Assyrian, Armenian, and Melkite communities), among others, have been an integral part of the cultural fabric and history of Iraq and the broader Middle East;

Whereas these same religious and ethnic minorities have made and continue to make invaluable contributions to the prosperity and well-being of societies across the Middle East and the world, including in the United States;

Whereas, according to the 2017 Report on International Religious Freedom, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria ("ISIS") is responsible for carrying out a "campaign of violence against members of all faiths, in particular non-Sunnis";

Whereas ethnic and religious minorities were subjected to innumerable atrocities by ISIS, including forced religious conversion, kidnapping, slavery, human trafficking, unlawful forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, torture, sexual violence, and sex trafficking, among other crimes;

Whereas the Secretary of State declared on March 17, 2016, and on August 15, 2017, that ISIS is responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities against religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq and Syria, including Shia Muslims, Christians, and Yezidis, among other religious and ethnic groups;

Whereas the Iraq and Syria Genocide Relief and Accountability Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-300) affirms that it is the policy of the United States to ensure that assistance for religious and ethnic minorities is directed towards those most in need, including those that the Secretary of State declared were targeted for genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes, and have been identified as being at risk of persecution, forced migration, genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes;

Whereas members of these religious and ethnic minority communities continue to face daily insecurity, discrimination, and hardship;

Whereas religious and ethnic minorities continue to face significant challenges to returning to their ancestral homelands, including in Mosul, Baaj, Sinjar, the Nineveh Plain, and other Yezidi places, due to security concerns, economic hardship, and shifting demographics; and

Whereas the restoration and stabilization of these regions will provide an opportunity for diverse ethnic and religious communities to flourish: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commits to protecting and upholding internationally recognized human rights of members of religious and ethnic minority communities;

(2) supports the restoration of security, stability, and economic opportunity of, as well as the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of, internally displaced persons, including those originally from the territories of Mosul, Baaj, Sinjar, and the Nineveh Plain;

(3) supports the restoration of religious and cultural heritage sites in Iraq, including,

churches, and other religious sites, and community buildings of religious and ethnic minority communities in these regions; and

(4) supports equal and inclusive representation for religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq in line with article 125 of the Constitution of Iraq and encourages the Secretary of State to promote opportunities for affected minority groups to further that objective.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan resolution addressing ongoing challenges that face religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq after ISIS' brutal genocide.

ISIS overran wide swaths of Iraq and Syria 10 years ago, subjecting millions of people to their so-called caliphate.

ISIS perpetrated widespread atrocities, including forced religious conversion, kidnapping, slavery, human trafficking, unlawful forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, torture, sexual violence, and sex trafficking. Religious and ethnic minority groups were singled out and subjected to particular cruelty.

The United States repeatedly found that ISIS is responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and other atrocities against religious and ethnic minority groups in Iraq and Syria, including Shia Muslims, Christians, and Yazidis.

Just this year, a Yazidi woman was rescued in Gaza. She had been kidnapped at the age of 11 by ISIS. She was held in captivity for 10 years.

While ISIS no longer rules over these communities, the caliphate left widespread damage, displacement, and trauma. Religious and ethnic minorities continue to face widespread discrimination and displacement in Iraq, undermining efforts to promote their recovery.

Addressing these problems is critical for religious and ethnic communities and for the overall success of the Iraqi State, helping ensure it achieves its full potential as a vibrant, prosperous country.

This resolution reaffirms our commitment to protecting the rights of these religious and ethnic minorities and the need to help them return to their homes and rebuild their lives.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 554, affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution introduced by Representative SLOTKIN, which shines a much-needed spotlight on the significant contributions of Iraq's religious and ethnic minority communities, as well as the profound suffering they have endured.

Iraq is home to a rich tapestry of communities, each contributing to the nation's cultural heritage. Among them are the Yazidis, Shabak, and Chaldean, Syriac, and Assyrian Christians. These groups are not just a part of Iraq's history, but they are integral to its identity.

The persecution faced by these communities is well-documented, especially during the rise of ISIS. The brutal terrorist group committed unimaginable horrors against Iraq's minorities. The list of atrocities is long: kidnappings, torture, public executions, arbitrary detentions, and systematic rape. The scale of this cruelty led the State Department, under Secretary Kerry in 2016, to formally declare ISIS' actions as genocide and crimes against humanity.

While the territorial defeat of ISIS was achieved through the courageous efforts of the Iraqi Security Forces with critical support from the United States and our international partners, efforts at recovery are far from over.

Many of the communities that suffered most during ISIS' reign of terror continue to face challenges in rebuilding their homes, reclaiming their heritage, and securing representation in Iraq's national fabric.

This bipartisan resolution is a testament to the resilience of these communities and a call to action. It acknowledges the immense suffering they have endured, recognizes their invaluable contributions to Iraqi society, and underscores the need for continued U.S. engagement.

This resolution is not just about remembering the past, but it is about supporting a future where these communities can thrive once again. It emphasizes the importance of rebuilding, not just physically, but also restoring the cultural and historic sites that are central to their identity.

I extend my gratitude to Representatives SLOTKIN and JAMES for their leadership on this critical issue. Let us stand together in support of this resolution, which not only honors the legacy of Iraq's diverse communities, but also reaffirms our commitment to their future.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1300

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

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I join my Michigan colleague, Representative SLOTKIN, in support of H. Res. 554.

This resolution is an important bipartisan affirmation of our support of religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq who experience violent persecution for their religious beliefs.

Chaldean Christians are a religious minority in Iraq, and they have been subjected to countless atrocities and genocide over the last decade at the hands of ISIS terrorists.

They have been displaced from their homes, coerced into converting their religion, tortured, and forced into slavery. Churches and other religious sites have been destroyed, and they still face discrimination for their beliefs.

No one should ever be persecuted for their religious beliefs. The Chaldean community has made outstanding contributions to my home State of Michigan. They deserve to know that Congress supports Chaldeans and other religious and ethnic minorities and their human rights here at home and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), my good friend and fellow Michigander, the author of this important resolution.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 554, a bill affirming the importance of U.S. support for religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

Michigan has been home for more than a century to a vibrant Iraqi community, the largest outside the Middle East. Many are Chaldeans, Iraqi Christians who have faced incredible persecution and challenges in recent Iraqi history.

I am very proud to have done this bill with Congressman MOOLENAAR, Congressman JAMES, and other bipartisan support from the Michigan delegation.

When I traveled to the Middle East as part of a congressional delegation in 2022, I met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad and Erbil to discuss the challenges of Iraq's Chaldeans and what the U.S. can do to help.

This is on the heels of me being a CIA officer, a Pentagon official, and having done three tours in Iraq alongside the military and seeing these issues up close and personal for myself in 2004, 2006, and 2008.

I took what I heard from that most recent trip back to Washington to work on this resolution, which would put this House on record as supporting the human rights and dignity of religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

Over the decades, Chaldeans and other religious groups, such as Yezidis, have suffered greatly from the brutality of vicious and violent groups such as ISIS.

ISIS subjugated and carried out countless atrocities against many of these communities, including murder, systematic rape, and kidnapping. As Iraq continues to rebuild after years of conflict and efforts to defeat ISIS, it is critical that U.S. support the security, stability, integration, and political representation of these minorities in their homeland.

This resolution expresses support not just for Iraqi Christians, but for all Iraqi minorities' fundamental rights, security and economic opportunity, community infrastructure, and representation in government.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just an issue of importance to the Chaldeans and other religious minorities living in Iraq, but also to hundreds of thousands of American citizens. Roughly half a million Chaldeans live in the United States, including more than 160,000 in southeast Michigan.

These families are a vibrant, active thread in the fabric of our community. Roughly 60 percent of Michigan's Chaldeans own a business and a sizable fraction own two or more businesses. They support our economy. They are active in our communities. They support churches and schools and foundations, and they are active participants in every aspect of civic life.

These Americans who feel a deep connection to and concern for their ancient homeland are looking to us to speak up for thousands of Iraqis threatened by continued persecution and discrimination. As Americans, they are looking to us to stand up for American values.

Mr. Speaker, I thank again the bipartisan group of Michiganders and other Members who supported this bill and, in particular, Congressmen MOOLENAAR and JAMES.

This legislation was passed out of the Foreign Affairs Committee by an overwhelming bipartisan majority, and I urge my colleagues today to support the same here on the floor.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), the chair of the Africa Subcommittee.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this very, very important and special bill, H. Res. 554, a resolution affirming America's support for religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

A special thank you to Senator-elect SLOTKIN, Representative MOOLENAAR, Representative McCLAIN, and Representative BERGMAN, and, most importantly, the Chaldean community in my district and in southeast Michigan for getting us here.

I am truly blessed to be a part of this, and I am proud to have shepherded this bill through committee.

I vowed since coming to Congress to be a voice not just for the Chaldean community in my district but for all those fighting for religious freedoms abroad. That is why for one of my very first congressional hearings, I questioned Secretary Blinken about the

plight and the struggles of Christians and ethnic minorities in Iraq. I believe that advocating for religious liberties abroad is vital to our moral standing not just in the United States but around the world.

This resolution authored by Senator-elect SLOTKIN expresses more than just America's support for the restoration of the rights and dignities given to religious and ethnic minority communities in Iraq. With untrustworthy actors aligned with Iran and ISIS continuing to be an obstacle to freedom in Iraq, this resolution is a powerful first step.

To my fellow Iraqi Catholic and Christian brothers and sisters, this moment is a long time coming, but more is yet to come.

My hope is that the leadership in Baghdad hears us loud and clear today. Congress is watching, and we stand ready to act.

I appreciate Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for allowing this resolution to come to the floor. I know our Chaldean community in Sterling Heights and across the State of Michigan have prayed hard and advocated for this very moment.

Mr. Speaker, in this moment here today, with my bipartisan colleagues, we will be able to show Chaldeans here and those around the world who pray for religious freedom that our God truly does answer prayers.

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution shines a critical light on the lives, opportunities, and cultures lost in Iraq due to ISIS' campaign of terror.

The State Department rightfully declared ISIS responsible for genocide in 2016, but Congress had been too late to respond. The Yezidis, Shabak, as well as Chaldean, Syriac, and Assyrian Christians deserve equitable representation in the recorded history of Iraqi society. I am proud to stand with my bipartisan colleagues in supporting Iraqi religious and ethnic minorities who, for too long, have gone unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 554, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, there is still much work to be done to help Iraq and its people heal from the horrors unleashed by ISIS. This is particularly true with respect to the country's religious and ethnic minority communities.

This resolution serves as a commitment to ensure the United States continues to press for progress and to advocate for the rights of religious and ethnic minorities. I am proud to support this bipartisan legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 554, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REAFFIRMING THE TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 837) reaffirming the ties between the United States and the Philippines, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 837

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the Philippines on July 4, 1946, and the two countries have since enjoyed expanded and positive relations;

Whereas there are over 4,000,000 United States citizens of Philippine ancestry in the United States;

Whereas the United States and the Philippines have a strong and mutually beneficial trade relationship, with more than \$18,900,000,000 in goods and services traded during 2020;

Whereas the People's Republic of China continues to use its Coast Guard and its Merchant Marine to violate the Philippines sovereignty, including in the Scarborough Shoal,

Whereas Chinese Communist Party propaganda now assert claims based on a so-called "ten-dash line", after a United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea arbitral tribunal ruled that China's nine-dashed line had "no legal basis";

Whereas in 1994, the People's Republic of China unlawfully seized Mischief Reef and have since constructed 20 artificial islands that extends the operational capabilities of the People's Liberation Army with the aim of expanding its presence and reinforcing their illegitimate claims to the South China Sea;

Whereas the People's Republic of China is asserting its sweeping claims over the South China Sea by disrupting the regular resupply of the BRP Sierra Madre, a Philippine Navy transport ship, based in the Second Thomas Shoal, by shooting water cannons at Philippine Coast Guard vessels and using military-grade lasers to blind its crew;

Whereas, on April 3, 2023, the Biden administration announced plans today to expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Arrangement to include four new sites to strengthen interoperability and allow the United States and the Philippines to better address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region;

Whereas, on August 5, 2023, the United States Department of State reaffirmed that "an armed attack on Philippine public vessels, aircraft, and armed forces—including those of its Coast Guard in the South China Sea—would invoke U.S. mutual defense commitments under Article IV of the 1951 U.S. Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty";

Whereas, on October 22, 2023, the Chinese Coast Guard rammed a Philippines Coast Guard cutter escorting supplies to the Second Thomas Shoal within the Philippines exclusive economic zone;

Whereas, on April 11, 2024, the leaders of Japan, the Philippines, and the United States held a trilateral summit in Washington, D.C., to expand trilateral cooperation and bolster a free and open Indo-Pacific and an international order based on international law; and

Whereas, on June 17, 2024, PRC vessels tried to deny the Philippines from lawfully delivering humanitarian supplies to service members stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre through the dangerous use of water cannons, ramming, blocking maneuvers, and towing which damaged Philippine vessels and injured Philippine service members: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the United States unwavering commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines if an armed attack against the Philippines assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is committed in the South China Sea;

(2) calls on the United States and Philippines to conduct more joint patrols in the South China Sea, including with other like-minded partners, to underscore the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight;

(3) firmly objects to the People's Republic of China's false sovereignty claims to the South China Sea;

(4) strongly condemns and calls on the People's Republic of China to cease its aggressive and dangerous actions against Philippine vessels in the South China Sea;

(5) welcomes swift implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to ensure we adhere to our commitments to the Philippine people, and to foster a free and open Indo-Pacific for all;

(6) emphasizes that respecting the shared values of democratic institutions, human rights, and the rule of law, especially with regard to the rights of trade unionists, journalists, human rights defenders, critics of the Government, faith and religious leaders, and civil society activists, will strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Philippines; and

(7) reaffirms the United States unwavering commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines, in accordance with constitutional processes, if an armed attack against the Philippines assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is committed in the South China Sea.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 837, a resolution that reaffirms the enduring partnership between the United States and the Philippines.

This resolution is a testament to the deep-rooted bonds of friendship, shared

values, and mutual interests that have defined our relationship for over a century.

The Philippines is not only a close ally in the Asia-Pacific region, but also a vital partner in promoting peace, stability, and prosperity.

Our two nations share a long history of cooperation from the fight for freedom during World War II to our joint efforts in addressing global challenges today.

Whether it is combating terrorism, the Chinese Communist Party's aggression, or advancing trade, the U.S.-Philippines partnership is instrumental in shaping a safer and more secure world.

In addition to our strategic alliance, the Filipino-American community is an invaluable bridge between the two countries. More than 4 million Filipino Americans contribute to the fabric of America's society, enriching our culture and economy.

Furthermore, this resolution strongly condemns the People's Republic of China's aggressive action against the Philippine vessels in the South China Sea. These provocative maneuvers threaten the peace and stability of the region and violate international law.

We stand in full support of the Philippines' sovereignty over its territorial waters and call on China to respect the rights of all nations in the South China Sea.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 837, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 837, which reaffirms the vital partnership between the United States and the Philippines. I thank Delegate MOYLAN and Representative BOBBY SCOTT for bringing forward this important and timely resolution.

The relationship between our two democracies is more than just a long-standing alliance; it is a cornerstone for stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

Over the past year, Beijing has persistently and illegally bullied the Philippines in the South China Sea. The Chinese Coast Guard and maritime militia have intensified their harassment of Philippine fishing vessels in contested waters as well as within the Philippines' own exclusive economic zone.

Chinese security forces have used water cannons, wielded axes and machetes, engaged in ramming and blocking maneuvers, and interfered with humanitarian supply missions of the Philippine Coast Guard.

These actions are dangerous and unacceptable. Beijing's military coercion and provocation threaten the Philippines' sovereignty as well as peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Philippine President Marcos has spoken passionately about the daily harassment faced by his nation's fishermen and coast guard at the hands of China's maritime militia, coast guard, and navy. His message has been clear:

The Philippines need international support to uphold international law and safeguard its sovereignty.

By passing this resolution today, we are offering that support. Amidst Beijing's flagrant and irresponsible actions, H. Res. 837 makes clear that the United States stands with the Philippines and reaffirms our commitment to defending the Philippines in the event of an armed attack against it. The resolution also upholds the importance of freedom of navigation and the rule of law on the seas, condemns the PRC's dangerous tactics, and rejects its unlawful maritime claims.

Over the past 4 years, the Biden administration has strengthened our alliance with the Philippines. We have bolstered our interoperability with the Philippines Armed Forces through a vital expansion of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to four new sites.

The United States has also promoted partner collaboration with the Philippines, principally by hosting President Marcos in D.C. for the inaugural U.S.-Philippines-Japan Trilateral Summit and strengthening security coordination with Australia, Japan, and the Philippines.

□ 1315

Congress also did its part by passing the critical National Security Supplemental earlier this year with funds for our partners and allies in the Indo-Pacific.

Passing this resolution advances those efforts by reaffirming the alliance, as well as our shared resolve to uphold peace, stability, and the rule of law in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and a strong supporter of the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and the Philippines.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 837 which reaffirms the ties between the United States and the Philippines.

This resolution highlights the important partnership between our two nations and makes it clear that we will firmly stand by our allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

I also thank the gentleman from Guam, Mr. MOYLAN, for both leading this resolution and for co-chairing the U.S.-Philippines Friendship Caucus with me.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to meet with the President of the Philippines, along with members of the Philippine House of Representatives, to discuss the important bilateral relationship between our two countries.

These conversations between Members of the United States Congress and elected officials in the Philippines solidify the bonds between our two nations and help identify areas of mutual interest and concern in the Indo-Pacific region. In these discussions we emphasized our shared vision of keeping peace and freedom, particularly in the South China Sea.

We are putting these goals into action. Earlier this year, Congress passed the Indo-Pacific Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, recommending \$500 million in foreign military financing go to the Philippines.

Following the passage of the amendment, Secretaries Blinken and Austin announced \$500 million in military funding to help monetize the Philippines military and Coast Guard and boost collaboration.

This resolution reaffirms the United States' commitment to invoke the 1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty if Philippine assets are attacked in the South China Sea and welcomes a swift implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

I was pleased to see the Biden administration expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to include four new military training sites. This will allow the United States and the Philippines to better address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

I look forward to continuing our work to strengthen the ties between our countries. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), a very strong supporter of our partners in the Pacific.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I join my friend from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and my friend from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) and many colleagues in strong support of H. Res. 837, reaffirming our country's enduring ties with the great Republic of the Philippines.

The strength of the U.S.-Philippines relationship endures on a foundation of shared heritage, history, and values, from Filipinos being the first documented Asian ethnic group in North America to the still-growing population of Filipino Americans today, numbering over 4.6 million, now the third largest group of Asian descent in our country, to our mutual vibrant democracies, and so much more.

In my own Hawaii, I am the very proud Representative for the congressional district with the highest number of Filipino Americans of any district in our country, some 204,000 today. For over a century, we in Hawaii have had experience in understanding how Hawaii and our Nation have greatly benefited from the significant contributions and accomplishments of our Filipino community.

The U.S.-Philippines relationship has perhaps never been as strong as it is today, and it is these people-to-people ties that are the foundation behind the security partnership outlined in the

1951 U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty. It recognizes an attack in the Pacific on either of us would endanger the peace of both of us and that we must act in concert to meet common dangers.

This security relationship is critical today, given continued aggression by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea and elsewhere in the Indo-Pacific. This congressional reaffirmation comes on the heels of Secretary of Defense Austin's recent visit to Palawan where he reaffirmed the ironclad U.S. commitment to the Philippines and reiterated that the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty extends to Armed Forces, public vessels, and aircraft of both countries, including those of the Coast Guard anywhere in the South China Sea.

That is just one of many reasons why the reaffirmation of our relationship with the Philippines by this United States Congress, as well as this resolution, is more important now than ever.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our critical U.S.-Philippines relationship. "Thank you very much and God bless," "Maraming salamat po and Dios ti agngina."

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

Mr. Speaker, the U.S.-Philippines alliance is imperative to both our security and the security of the Indo-Pacific region. Today, the Philippines is on the front lines in Beijing's attempts to flout international law and upend the status quo in the South China Sea. As Philippine vessels face threat and intimidation from Beijing, we must work together to ensure that our friends are not alone and that they do not waver.

By agreeing to H. Res. 837, we can send a clear message: The United States stands with the Philippines against Beijing's coercion and intimidation as we work to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 837.

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

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

I thank Representative SCOTT for leading this resolution with me and my good friend, Mr. CASE, for his testimony.

This resolution sends a clear message: The United States stands firmly with the people of the Philippines and reaffirms our unwavering commitment to invoke our Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines in accordance with constitutional processes.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 837.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I wish to underscore my strong support of H. Res. 837 introduced by Mr. MOYLAN, our colleague from Guam, on Reaffirming Ties Between the United States and the Philippines. It is both timely and critical, as we see the People's Liberation Army Navy and the Chinese

Coast Guard intrude on Philippines territorial waters and engage in increasingly belligerent and lawless behavior.

My one quibble with the Resolution is the continued use of the term “South China Sea” to refer to that term for the sea west of the Philippines. Why not “West Philippines Sea,” an important semantic change that rejects the PRC’s claims on Philippines territory and reinforces the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea arbitral panel ruling that the PRC’s maritime territorial claims have no basis?

Indeed, even the term in Chinese makes no explicit reference to China. It is simply “South Sea.”

We have seen repeated aggression by PLA naval and coast guard vessels in the West Philippines Sea. We routinely see Filipino fishing boats harassed and surrounded by a flotilla of navy and coast guard vessels.

There was also an incident this past summer where a Chinese coast guard vessel engaged in a piratical ramming attack against Filipino vessels. Eight Filipino sailors were injured, including one who lost his thumb.

The PLA Navy is playing a dangerous escalation game. A war was once fought over a sailor’s severed ear—1739’s War of Jenkins’ Ear. Will a war now be fought over a severed thumb?

Not if we are resolute. There is a quotation attributed to Lenin: “You probe with bayonets: if you find mush, you push. If you find steel, you withdraw.”

This describes the strategy of the PLA Navy. Probing with bayonets. Unfortunately, up until now, they have only encountered mush. Steely resolution is what is needed to deter war.

It is my hope that the incoming Trump Administration show resolve which sadly has been lacking, including conducting naval exercises in conjunction with our Philippines treaty ally in the West Philippines Sea, and sending ships to escort the Filipino navy in resupplying Filipino sailors and Marines who are staffing an outpost on the Second Thomas Shoal—something that was bravely done just this past week by our stalwart ally.

I thank Representative MOYLAN for his resolution, underscoring this House’s resolve to stand by an ally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 837, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE ACTIONS OF THE RAPID SUPPORT FORCES AND ALLIED MILITIAS IN THE DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN AGAINST NON-ARAB ETHNIC COMMUNITIES AS ACTS OF GENOCIDE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1328) recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support

Forces and allied militias in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1328

Whereas Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (in this preamble referred to as the “Genocide Convention”), adopted at Paris on December 9, 1948, defines genocide as “any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”;

Whereas the genocide that began in 2003 in Darfur perpetrated by the Government of Sudan and its proxy Janjaweed militia, explicitly targeting the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit ethnic communities through mass killings, forced displacement, the razing of villages and cropland, widespread rape, aerial bombings of civilians, and the blocking of humanitarian assistance, killed at least 200,000 civilians and displaced 2,000,000 people;

Whereas, on July 22, 2004, Congress declared, with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 467 (108th Congress) and Senate Concurrent Resolution 133 (108th Congress), that atrocities occurring in Darfur were genocide, and the administration of President George W. Bush declared genocide in Darfur on September 9, 2004;

Whereas, in 2013, the Government of Sudan, under the administration of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) and the command of the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), formed the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), a formal paramilitary force composed primarily of Janjaweed militia;

Whereas Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (commonly known as “Hemedti”), a Janjaweed militia leader during the genocide in Darfur that began in 2003, served as head of the RSF and became the deputy head of the Transitional Military Council, which took power from the President of Sudan Omar al-Bashir in 2019, and the deputy chairman of the successor Sovereign Council;

Whereas the elevation of individuals who served in leadership of the parties responsible for such genocide, including Hemedti and General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan of the SAF, into leadership roles in the transition government in 2019 only heightened the risk of atrocities recurring across Sudan, including genocide in Darfur;

Whereas fighting between the SAF and the RSF broke out in Khartoum on April 15, 2023, and quickly spread to Darfur, where the RSF has taken control of four of five regional capitals in Darfur: Nyala, Geneina, Zalingei, and El Daein;

Whereas, on August 16, 2023, CNN issued an investigative report on the June 15, 2023, atrocity in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur, describing the atrocity as “one of the most violent incidents in the genocide-scarred Sudanese region’s history”, explaining how “the powerful paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and its allied militias hunted down non-Arab people in various parts of the city . . . reviving a genocidal playbook”, and in which survivors reported that identifying as Masalit “was a death sentence”;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated, “We are deeply alarmed by reports that women and girls are being abducted and held in inhuman, degrading slave-like conditions in areas controlled by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Darfur”;

Whereas, on November 14, 2023, the United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Wairimu Nderitu, expressed extreme concern with the “serious allegations of mass killings” in Ardamata, which “may constitute acts of genocide”, citing reports that the violence killed more than 800 people and displaced 8,000 Sudanese individuals to Chad;

Whereas, on December 6, 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken determined that, since the fighting between the SAF and the RSF began on April 15, 2023, Sudan has experienced war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing in “haunting echoes of the genocide that began almost 20 years ago in Darfur”, including Masalit civilians being “hunted down and left for dead in the streets, their homes set on fire, and told that there is no place in Sudan for them”;

Whereas a December 15, 2023, Reuters special investigative report detailed the targeted killing of Masalit men and boys by the RSF, about which an emergency protection officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees explained that “the objective of the killings seems to be the elimination of future fighters as well as the line of ancestry of a specific ethnic group”, referring to the Masalit people;

Whereas the RSF has killed Masalit political and traditional leaders in El Geneina, West Darfur, including Khamis Abdullah Abbakar, the Governor of West Darfur, and Farsha Mohamed Arbab, a prominent leader of the Masalit Sultanate;

Whereas, on May 9, 2024, Human Rights Watch reported that attacks by the RSF and allied militias in El Geneina, the capital city of Sudan’s West Darfur state, killed thousands of people and left hundreds of thousands as refugees, from April to November 2023;

Whereas there is significant evidence of widespread, systematic actions against the non-Arab ethnic communities of Darfur, including the Masalit people, committed by the RSF and allied militias that meet one or more of the criteria under Article II of the Genocide Convention, including—

(1) killing members of the non-Arab ethnic communities in Darfur in mass killings of civilians, including summary executions in the streets and shootings of civilians fleeing across the Wadi Kaja river and to the Chad border, targeted killings of men and boys, targeted killings of Masalit leaders, and burials in mass graves;

(2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of such communities, including through extrajudicial detention, torture and beatings, extortion, sexual and gender-based violence, mass rape, sexual slavery, and forced displacement; and

(3) deliberately inflicting on such communities conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part, including the annihilation of villages, targeted attacks on marketplaces and schools, widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and telecommunication, the looting of homes and hospitals, assaults on camps for displaced persons, the destruction of humanitarian facilities, the killing of aid workers, and restrictions on humanitarian aid and access; and

Whereas credible descriptions of the RSF’s objective of elimination of the line of ancestry of the non-Arab tribes of Darfur, survivors’ statements reporting that identifying

as Masalit is a death sentence, and reports that the RSF made clear that there is no place in Sudan for the Masalit, against the backdrop of the prior genocide in Darfur, evince a specific intent on the part of the RSF to destroy the Masalit and other non-Arab ethnic groups in Darfur in whole or in substantial part: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns atrocities, including those that amount to genocide, being committed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and allied militias against the Masalit people and other non-Arab ethnic groups in Darfur, and the roles of the RSF and Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) in perpetrating atrocities, humanitarian catastrophe, and the destruction of Sudan;

(2) calls for an immediate end to the war and all violence and atrocities in Sudan;

(3) urges the Government of the United States—

(A) to take immediate steps with the international community, including through multilateral fora, to protect civilians, including by establishing safe zones and humanitarian corridors, enforcing the United Nations Security Council arms embargo on Darfur, and brokering a comprehensive cease-fire between the warring parties in Sudan;

(B) to support the consistent and transparent documentation of atrocities and genocidal acts in Sudan by instituting a mechanism that will, to the greatest extent possible, publicly release such documentation on a consistent and regular basis;

(C) to immediately identify mechanisms through which to fund local, community-based organizations that are currently providing nonlethal assistance to the Sudanese people in conflict-affected areas that traditional implementing partners cannot reach, including for the delivery of food, medical aid, and shelter to individuals impacted by the war in Sudan; and

(D) to review and update the atrocities determination for Sudan every 180 days for 3 years from enactment;

(4) supports tribunals and international criminal investigations to hold the RSF and allied militias accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; and

(5) calls on the Atrocity Prevention Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review of its efforts to prevent, analyze, and respond to atrocities in Sudan, in alignment with the 2022 United States Strategy to Anticipate, Prevent, and Respond to Atrocities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1328 recognizing the actions of the Rapid Support Forces and allied militias in the Darfur region of Sudan against non-Arab ethnic communities as acts of genocide.

The war in Sudan has been raging since April 2023. Sadly, the civilians of Sudan have disproportionately paid the toll with nearly 9 million people internally displaced.

While both the Rapid Support Forces and Sudanese Armed Forces have committed atrocities during this conflict, the Rapid Support Forces are reverting to their old ways from 2003 and, once again, committing genocide in Darfur.

Congress must act to declare this genocide as such and stress our support for the Sudanese people and urge a swift end to the conflict.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1328, which condemns atrocities in Sudan, including those that amount to genocide.

I support this resolution because it is imperative we turn the world's attention to the dire situation unfolding in Sudan. The scale of suffering there is nothing short of horrific. It is the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Yet, the response from the international community has been alarmingly silent.

Since April 2023, the conflict between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese Armed Forces has had devastating consequences. The violence has claimed up to 150,000 lives and forced more than 14 million people to flee their homes. According to reports from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, more than half of Sudan's population now faces severe food insecurity, including some in Darfur who are experiencing famine.

The humanitarian needs are escalating by the day. Yet both the RSF and SAF have systematically obstructed humanitarian efforts. It is a moral outrage.

This resolution takes a firm stand against the atrocities that have come to define this conflict, including war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. It also condemns acts of violence that may amount to genocide, especially against the Masalit people and other non-Arab ethnic communities in Darfur.

The evidence of wide-ranging atrocities being committed in Sudan is overwhelming. We cannot turn a blind eye. It is essential that we hold those responsible to account for such crimes. That is why we have called on the administration to take decisive action, urging a determination under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act for gross violations of human rights by the RSF.

Last December, Secretary Blinken rightfully acknowledged that ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are being committed in Sudan. The United States has taken steps to sanction those fueling this conflict, including new sanctions on an RSF commander just last week.

However, more needs to be done, including by Congress, which is why my colleagues are working currently on additional legislative efforts to ensure smarter sustained action to end this crisis.

The resolution before us today urges our government to continue updating its assessment of the situation to ensure that the voices of the Sudanese people are not lost in the fog of war.

It urges immediate steps to protect civilians who are subjected to sexual and gender-based violence, torture, and murder by warring parties.

It is now time for other nations to step up, too. Whether through increased humanitarian aid, support for documenting these heinous crimes, or sanctions against those perpetrating this violence, every effort counts. Those who are providing material support to the warring parties, like the UAE, Russia, and Iran, must immediately stop prolonging the conflict.

Innocent civilians are dying every day. We cannot afford to let Sudan's cries for help go unanswered. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and, by doing so, to stand in solidarity with the people of Sudan.

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

□ 1330

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES), the chair of the Africa Subcommittee.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Africa Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have time and time again brought attention to the crises going on on the African Continent while the rest of the world looks the other way.

Mr. Speaker, where is the press? Where are the celebrities? Silent.

Today, Sudan is the largest humanitarian crisis in the world, with close to 9 million people internally displaced. Over 800,000 people face catastrophic hunger. Sudanese civilians are scattered around the region as they flee escalating violence by warring parties: the RSF and SAF.

Diplomatic efforts have failed, and the war rages in Khartoum and Darfur, where an abundance of evidence points to genocide being committed by RSF forces against the Masalit and likely against other non-Arab communities, as well.

In West Darfur, the RSF has systematically targeted the Masalit ethnic group. From April to June 2023, up to 15,000 people were killed in a series of coordinated attacks. Survivors said they were targeted explicitly because they were Masalit, according to a report compiled by the Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights. The RSF has attacked, burned, and destroyed homes, entire villages, IDP camps, and shelters that primarily hosted Masalit people.

The governor of West Darfur was executed by the RSF shortly after he publicly decried the ongoing genocide,

calling for international intervention to protect the remaining population.

My resolution will formally declare the atrocities committed by the RSF and their allied militia as acts of genocide. For far too long, the world has stood by as we watch a repeat of history and as external actors, including the UAE, Russia, and Iran, fuel the slaughter of innocents and the rape of women and children without repercussion.

In 2003, the Government of Sudan and its proxy, Janjaweed militia, explicitly targeted the non-Arab Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit ethnic communities through mass killings, forced displacement, destruction of farms, horrific violence against women and girls, aerial bombings of civilians, and the blocking of humanitarian assistance. Today, the RSF, formed out of these elements of the Janjaweed militia, continues and is using the exact same playbook.

In 2004, it was Congress that took the lead to bring attention to these heinous acts. President George W. Bush's administration followed by declaring genocide in Darfur. By September 2004, we had executed. The Bush administration and Congress were clear-eyed in addressing the plight of the Sudanese people.

Sadly, today, President Biden has failed the Sudanese people and has left another part of the world on fire for President Trump's new administration. For now, Congress will again take the lead.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of H. Res. 1328, which passed out of committee on a unanimous, bipartisan basis.

The evidence is clear. The RSF's actions are unequivocally amounting to genocide and must be declared as such. The press must do their duty to the world and report on this heinous genocide and crime against humanity or they are failing in their mandate. They cannot talk about defending freedom of speech if they do not defend the lives of people in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, I call on all parties and their backers to bring an end to this devastating war. We, for our part, in a bipartisan manner, will do everything we can to support the Sudanese people without delay.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

It is imperative that the U.S. takes this firm stance against the crimes against humanity waged by the Rapid Support Forces, their allied militias, and the Sudanese Armed Forces.

What is happening in Sudan right now, as I speak, is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Famine, food insecurity, death, and destruction linger over millions of people.

This resolution recounts only some of the significant documented evidence of the Sudanese people's plight. While its passage is just one small step, it is a critical one. It sends a clear message: The world is watching, and we will not stand idle in the face of such suffering.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 1328, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

The current administration has been derelict in their duty to act, failing to declare the Rapid Support Forces' actions as genocide. Congress must stand on the right side of history and strongly support an end to the conflict. The Sudanese people cannot wait any longer.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) for introducing this resolution, which passed the Foreign Affairs Committee on a bipartisan, unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1328, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1328.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING THE GLOBAL RISE OF ANTISEMITISM AND CALLING UPON COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO COUNTER ANTISEMITISM

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1449) condemning the global rise of antisemitism and calling upon countries and international bodies to counter antisemitism.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1449

Whereas antisemitism is a threat to the fundamental freedoms, rights, security, and diversity of all citizens, societies, and countries;

Whereas there has been an increase of antisemitic rhetoric and acts in many countries around the world;

Whereas, in the months since the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attack against Israel, Jewish communities around the world have experienced a significant increase in antisemitic threats;

Whereas, in the Berlin Declaration of April 29, 2004, participating states of the Organization for Security and co-operation in Europe condemned antisemitism and committed to take specific actions to combat it;

Whereas, in 2016, the 31 member states of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance adopted a legally nonbinding "working definition" of antisemitism, an important internationally recognized tool to increase understanding of antisemitism;

Whereas, on May 25, 2023, the White House issued the United States National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, making clear that

the fight against antisemitism is a national, bipartisan priority that must be successfully conducted through a whole-of-government-and-society approach;

Whereas, on July 17, 2024, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the United States and partners unveiled the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism;

Whereas the Global Guidelines constitute a multilateral framework encompassing 12 areas of public policy, including: Jewish community protection, the need for leaders to speak out against antisemitism, uniform collection of data about antisemitism, and education of the Holocaust and Jewish heritage;

Whereas the Global Guidelines include policies to monitor and combat antisemitism that can be implemented and adapted to a wide variety of national, regional, and cultural contexts; and

Whereas more than 40 states and international bodies have endorsed the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the rise of antisemitism in countries around the world;

(2) welcomes the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism unveiled by the United States and partners in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on July 17, 2024;

(3) calls upon states and international bodies to take action to counter antisemitism, including by endorsing and embracing the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism; and

(4) encourages greater action and international cooperation to counter antisemitism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, coordinated mobs roamed the streets of Amsterdam, attacking Israelis in town for a soccer match, in a chilling, premeditated assault. Dozens of people were injured, and scores were running and hiding in fear.

The anti-Semitic, anti-Israel attack is the latest terrifying development in a global spike in anti-Semitic, anti-Israel vitriol since October 7. We have seen it here in the United States on our college campuses, at local synagogues, and even a few miles from us in the Nation's Capital, where a kosher restaurant had its windows smashed earlier this month.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights documented a 400 percent increase in anti-Semitic activity since Hamas' October 7, 2023, assault on

Israel. The European Union also found that 96 percent of Jews encountered anti-Semitism in their daily lives.

Countering anti-Semitism needs to be a top priority at home and abroad. We need to be honest with ourselves and recognize that it is happening and that our solutions so far have been insufficient to stop this rising tide of hate.

We need to work with our partners to respond quickly and effectively to protect Jewish people in our countries and communities from violence. This is why we are considering Representative MANNING and Representative SMITH's bipartisan resolution condemning the global rise of anti-Semitism and calling upon countries to counter anti-Semitism.

For decades, when we talked about the Holocaust, the world said: "Never again."

The events of last week in Amsterdam and around the globe in the last year prove that we have failed Jews around the world. We failed to recognize the potency of this hate, and we have failed to keep them safe.

This resolution is our demonstration of our intent to remedy this problem and to live up to our promise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to continue to support H. Res. 1449, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in strong support of H. Res. 1449, a bipartisan House resolution I introduced with my dear friend, Congressman CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, supporting global efforts to counter anti-Semitism.

It has been an honor to serve alongside Representative SMITH as a co-chair of the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Antisemitism.

I thank House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member GREG MEEKS for their leadership and support in advancing this important measure through committee and to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, we know that anti-Semitism is on the rise around the world. We know what a threat this is not just to the Jewish community but also to democracies around the world and to the very fabric of our own societies.

Today, not even 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz, anti-Semitism has grown, taken on new forms, and spread to more parts of the world. As we have seen since the Hamas terrorist attack of October 7, 2023, the single deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust, anti-Semitism around the world has skyrocketed.

That explosion of anti-Semitism started on October 8, long before the IDF went into Gaza. In fact, it started while Hamas terrorists were still in Israel, attacking innocent civilians.

We saw shocking anti-Semitism rear its ugly head in Amsterdam earlier this month, where a violent mob planned a coordinated attack on Jews who attended a soccer match with an Israeli soccer team. It is deeply chilling that

this attack happened around the 86th anniversary of Kristallnacht, and as the specter of violence against Jews in Europe rises again. It is equally chilling that the perpetrators of that violence live streamed their atrocities.

Here in the United States, FBI data shows that anti-Jewish hate crimes increased in 2023 by nearly 63 percent from 2022, totaling the highest number recorded in almost three decades. We are talking about violence, destruction, and the murder of Jews in this country simply because they are Jews.

Jewish Americans make up only 2 percent of the U.S. population, yet anti-Semitic hate crimes account for more than 15 percent of all hate crimes reported by the FBI and two-thirds of all religious-based hate crimes.

Even though we face a significant global challenge, we must not despair. We must take action. We must continue to make progress in the fight against anti-Semitism through resolutions like this one.

In 2004, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the OSCE, acknowledged that anti-Semitism assumed new forms and posed a new threat to security and stability in the region.

In 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance built international consensus around a valuable working definition of anti-Semitism.

In recent years, many countries around the world have appointed special envoys or coordinators or advanced national strategies to deal with the rise of hate against Jews.

In 2021, Congress passed—and President Trump signed into law—bipartisan, bicameral legislation to elevate the position of U.S. Special Envoy to the rank of ambassador.

In 2023, the Biden administration issued the first-ever "U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism." This July, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt unveiled the Global Guidelines for Countering Antisemitism, a new landmark international framework for acting against anti-Semitism, which countries around the world can sign on to and embrace.

□ 1345

I commend my good friend, Ambassador Lipstadt, and her team at the State Department for their excellent work on these guidelines. We now have a multilateral international framework that can provide guidance to other governments and to our own embassies about our shared obligation and responsibility to counter anti-Semitism.

This includes clearly and unequivocally condemning anti-Semitism, providing physical protection and security for Jewish communities, enforcing hate crimes laws, and educating future generations about the Holocaust and the long history of conspiracy theories and hate targeting Jews.

I am pleased that more than 40 countries and international bodies have al-

ready endorsed these guidelines, and we are working hard to make sure that more countries in different regions join them in the coming months.

H. Res. 1449 condemns the rise of anti-Semitism in many countries around the world, expresses our support for the global guidelines and other international efforts to counter anti-Semitism, and it calls on more countries around the world to endorse and embrace these guidelines.

I thank our colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support. What we are doing today is just the start, but we must do more. I deeply appreciate the leadership on both sides of the aisle and the commitment to this issue.

Before coming to Congress, I was fortunate to be involved in efforts to protect Jewish communities around the world for decades. Working together to make real progress in this fight, and on an issue where we can find agreement, has been a real highlight in my career and my time in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is wrong. It is dangerous. It deserves to be condemned, countered, and eradicated by all governments around the world. That is the purpose of our bipartisan resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chair of the Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank MICHAEL MCCAUL, our chairman, for very quickly bringing this important resolution to the floor along with the great support of GREGORY MEEKS, the ranking member.

I especially thank KATHY MANNING for authoring this extraordinarily timely resolution condemning the despicable rise of anti-Semitism around the world and calling on our international organizations and countries to embrace the global guidelines for countering anti-Semitism.

KATHY has done a wonderful job. It has been a privilege to serve with her as co-chair of the House Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism. This resolution says it all. I thank her for doing it and doing it so well.

I want to make a few points. One, the spiritual cancer of anti-Semitism is metastasizing, not only in our country, but in many countries as well, at a rate that is both shocking and sickening. The evidence of it is everywhere, including in our college campuses and university campuses—and just not Harvard and NYU. In my own State at Rutgers University, I was there when people were camping out, and I was accosted verbally by some people. The hatred was just pouring out of their lips and their eyes. The hatred for Jews is unconscionable.

Of course, one of the most recent horrors, as was pointed out, was the Amsterdam pogrom earlier this month, the horrific mob assault on Israeli soccer fans.

It was repulsive on at least two levels. First, the brutal evil of the attackers themselves, but also the so-called respectable opinion-makers who just said: Oh, they shifted the blame. This is all about anti-immigrant sentiment or prejudice and even Israel.

Natan Sharansky is one of the greatest human rights individuals who has ever lived. I had him testify at two hearings. I tried to visit him and actually was in Perm Camp 35 in the 1980s where the Soviet Union had housed him. Frank Wolf and I went there.

When he got out, he came and testified, and he said: You know, if you don't chronicle the hatred—and that is included in these global guidelines—you can't combat it. It must be defined very clearly, especially by law enforcement, so it is not just brushed off as hooliganism or other kinds of things. You need to define it, and to do so with specificity.

He also talked about the three Ds that we are seeing manifesting vis-à-vis Israel every day of the week, and that is demonization, double standard, delegitimization, those three Ds. He talked about that and said that is a cover for anti-Semitism. Disagree with Knesset all you want or with Netanyahu, but once you lower yourselves into those—we see it at the U.N. every day.

I chaired four hearings this Congress alone, more than three dozen over the years, combating anti-Semitism about how the U.N. is rife—including the U.N. Human Rights Council—with anti-Semitism. It is just unbelievable how bad it is.

UNRWA is filled, overflowing with Hamas sympathizers and Hamas activists who teach children each day of the week to hate Jews and to kill. Just read the Hamas charter. It says: If you see a Jew behind a rock, kill him or her. That is what is being funded by the U.S. Government and funded—not right this minute—but it has been funded in the recent past. We should never do it again.

Let me also say that the guidelines—and I encourage every Member to read them—are very simple. They parallel the OSCE Conference that was held in 2002 and then the Berlin Conference in 2004. The idea of the conference came out of a hearing I chaired in 2002. I recommended it, and the OSCE took it up. The Bush administration took it up, and that conference had the Berlin Declaration in 2004. Rabbi Baker from the AJC did a masterful job—and a few others, but especially him—in wordsmithing a tremendous action plan. Of course, these global guidelines certainly parallel that—and as mentioned, certainly Ambassador Lipstadt.

Just for the record, I authored that legislation. We got it passed here in a bipartisan way, and it took months,

years for the U.S. Senate to take it up. They finally did and the Ambassador at Large of the Special Envoy, Ambassador Lipstadt, is doing a magnificent job.

Silence is not an option. We know it. In the fight against anti-Semitism we need government at all levels to denounce, chronicle, and prosecute where these thoughts matriculate into evil deeds.

We know that if you just stand by idly, you are enabling. You need to call it out. This is a very fine resolution, and I thank Ms. MANNING for authoring it. It calls out this anti-Semitism and says stop it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purposes of closing.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank my dear friend and colleague, Representative CHRIS SMITH, for not just his work, but his passion on this critically important issue and his work for many, many years to combat anti-Semitism. I greatly value our friendship.

Mr. Speaker, throughout history, the persecution, expulsion, torture, and murder of Jews has not just destroyed Jews and their vibrant communities, it has brought decay and destruction to the countries that have committed those atrocities.

Sadly, we are seeing that happen today, even as we see Jews being blamed for their own destruction by their evil perpetrators. We must learn from history.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution condemns the frightening rise of anti-Semitism we are seeing today across the world in civilized communities. This resolution calls on countries around the globe to take specific actions to combat anti-Semitism by endorsing and embracing the landmark Global Guidelines for Countering Anti-Semitism.

Throughout history, as Jews were persecuted and tormented and expelled and murdered, those acts were perpetrated, fermented, and allowed by governments. Today, we have a different scenario because here in the United States, our government is standing firm against anti-Semitism and joining in the fight to combat anti-Semitism.

With these guidelines, we ask countries around the globe, we ask their governments, to join us in combating this horrific rise of anti-Semitism.

Once again, I thank my Republican cosponsor, CHRIS SMITH, for his leadership and for his bipartisan cooperation. I thank all of the leadership and my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee, as well as the leadership in Congress for bringing this resolution so swiftly to the House floor for a vote.

Now, more than ever, the United States and countries around the world must stand strong and must stand together in the fight against anti-Semitism and all forms of hatred. I urge my

colleagues to stand up and stand with me in supporting H. Res. 1449.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Ms. MANNING and Mr. SMITH, for this important, timely, and bipartisan resolution. It is critically important that we speak with one voice in countering anti-Semitism.

We have been fighting against this hatred for centuries. We can only make progress if we work together.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 1449, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1449.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE TO REVIEW AND MODIFY ITS DECISION TO SUSPEND ADOPTION BY FOREIGN NATIONALS WITH A VIEW TO RESUMING SUCH ADOPTIONS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 915) urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and of the United States can be substantially addressed.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 915

Whereas adoption, including the adoption of child nationals of one country by adult nationals from another country, can be a profoundly beneficial way to unite children in need of parents with families that are eager and able to open their hearts and homes to children, providing the benefit of a permanent family to children who are orphaned or whose biological parents are otherwise unable to care for them;

Whereas adoptions require government safeguards to insure that they promote the best interest of the child and in order to prevent the abduction, sale, exploitation, or trafficking of children;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has not acceded to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, and the circumstances of Russia's unprovoked war against Ukraine render its accession currently difficult;

Whereas, since at least 1992, the Government of Ukraine has facilitated the adoption of Ukrainian children by United States citizens through its domestic law and process, and in the ensuing decades both Ukraine and the United States demonstrated that they shared the concern to protect and ensure the best interests of the child;

Whereas, as a direct result of the Russian Federation's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Government of Ukraine temporarily suspended any adoption proceedings and protocols for the placement or adoption of its children with foreign nationals, on March 13, 2022;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine had very significant reasons to suspend intercountry adoption in March 2022, including that it was faced with the urgent and temporary displacement of Ukrainian children, including those who had been previously placed in institutional settings and orphanages, and the impossibility or extraordinary difficulty of conducting official business to protect and ensure the best interests of the child while under the shock of invasion and occupation of Ukrainian territory;

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has substantially restored its ability to conduct official business, including resuming the process of adoptions by Ukrainian nationals since May 31, 2022; and

Whereas the Government of Ukraine has not lifted its suspension of the processing of adoptions by foreign nationals, including United States citizens, nor has it identified a time-frame or protocol for doing so: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoptions and preadoptive placements of Ukrainian children by United States citizens, and to actually and in good faith resume such adoptions in cases where the mutual concerns of the Government of the United States and of Ukraine to protect and ensure the best interests of the child can be substantially addressed;

(2) recommends as particularly urgent cases in which prospective adoptive United States parents have already complied with the requirements under Ukrainian domestic law for the adoption of Ukrainian children and that process has confirmed the legitimacy of the adoptability of these children, and cases in which the prospective adoptive United States parents have completed the process set forth under domestic Ukrainian law and have had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian Government before the suspension of the adoptions by foreign nations on March 13, 2022;

(3) recommends that in those cases in which Ukrainian children had already participated in "hosting" programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individual families within the United States prior to the suspension of adoptions by foreign nationals, that regarding those children which have already been determined by the Ukrainian Government to be legally adoptable, the United States parents be permitted to initiate the process for adoption and be permitted to receive the preadoptive placement of such children during the Ukrainian domestic adoption process; and

(4) recommends that in those cases in which Ukrainian children had already participated in "hosting" programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individual families within the United States prior to the suspension of adoptions by foreign nationals, that regarding those children whose status regarding legal adoptability remains uncertain at this time, the United States parents be permitted to make

application to receive such children in preadoptive placements until the Ukrainian Government either establishes their adoptability or locates or identifies their biological parents.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a brutal, unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In the almost 3 years since that dark day, Ukraine has suffered countless atrocities committed by Vladimir Putin's forces.

Russian forces are responsible for murdering more than 12,000 civilians with millions more displaced. However, Putin's war of aggression has impacted one demographic group the most, Ukraine's children.

Since the beginning of the war, over 500 children have been murdered by Russian forces and over 19,000 Ukrainian children have been forcibly abducted into Russia. According to the National Social Service of Ukraine, over 1,800 Ukrainian children have been orphaned. These children belonged to loving, caring families that were ripped apart by Putin's war of aggression. They have been brutalized and traumatized by almost 1,000 days of the most horrific conflict that Europe has seen in decades.

These children deserve a loving home and a second chance at a happy life. Thankfully, there are many families in the United States who wish to welcome these children with open arms.

On March 13, 2022, the Government of Ukraine temporarily suspended adoption proceedings and protocols for the placement or adoption of its children with foreign nationals.

□ 1400

This decision was made in the best interests of the children as the Ukrainian Government struggled to conduct official business under the shock of the early days of the invasion. However, since then, the government has substantially restored its ability to conduct official business.

This resolution urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoptions and preadoptive placements of Ukrainian children by U.S. citizens.

Recently, the Ukrainian Government confirmed that they will process inter-

country adoptions in limited circumstances and for persons who have already received an official referral from the National Social Service.

While this is a very positive step, more can be done to work with the Government of Ukraine to speed up adoptions.

These children deserve a second chance at life. American families stand ready with open arms to provide a healthy, safe, and stable environment for these children.

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

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

I rise in support of H. Res. 915, urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and the United States can be substantially addressed.

In the beginning of this Congress, my colleague from Texas and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman MCCAUL, held a number of hearings that underlined the evil actions and aims of Russia's war against Ukraine. We looked at oversight issues, questions regarding strategic goals, and other aspects of U.S. support for Ukraine. All of that committee work was designed to shore up support for the freedom of Ukrainians ahead of difficult decisions and difficult votes about the United States' support for Ukraine's sovereignty and its ability to defend itself against wanton, unjustified Russian assaults.

One of the fundamental reasons to support Ukraine in this war boils down to truth and justice, whether we will decry the depravity of Putin's actions in Ukraine or whether we will look away. No other issue brings this better into focus than the forcible transfer and deportation of Ukraine's children to camps promoting indoctrination. These are brutal war crimes, plain and simple.

We were able to meet some of these children who were able to escape Russia at a committee hearing, and it was heartbreaking.

Due to Russia's renewed war of aggression, Ukraine limited intercountry adoptions, including Americans seeking to adopt Ukrainian children. On June 1, 2023, the Government of Ukraine amended its suspension of adoptions by allowing relatives of orphaned children to adopt. Ukraine is also processing intercountry adoptions for persons who have already received an official referral from its National Social Service to adopt.

We must recognize the positive steps that Ukraine has taken to permit intercountry adoptions while promoting the welfare and safety of Ukrainian orphans. I commend the Ukrainian Government and the Department of State for working to address

such concerns, including by allowing American families the opportunity to adopt Ukrainian children and provide them a second chance at a life free of the miseries of war.

Furthermore, in March 2024, the United States, under President Biden's leadership, was proud to join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children. The goal is to ensure the safe return of all Ukrainian children who have been unlawfully deported or forcibly transferred by Russia to Russia and to promote accountability for those responsible.

Unfortunately, this Russian war has left Ukraine wounded, its families destroyed, and its children orphaned. H. Res. 915 paves the way for a path forward, empowering the Department of State to continue its diplomatic engagements with the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy, the National Social Service of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington to help provide these children with families to help raise them.

I encourage my colleagues to join in supporting this measure, in supporting freedom and democracy for Ukraine, its people and its children, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chair of the Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, when Russia launched its brutal invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, Matt and Deidre Gordon of New Jersey were in the final stage of adopting Bogdan and Galena, an orphaned brother and sister from Ukraine.

The Gordons had been vetted and approved as adoptive parents by both the United States and Ukrainian Governments. They had a strong bond and relationship, they had a deep love, and they have a deep love for those two children and had spent precious time with them at their home in New Jersey, including regular contact and two long home stays totaling 5 months.

In March of 2022, however, during the first weeks of the Russian invasion, the Gordons had an appointment in Kyiv to be officially matched with the kids. It was at that point, however, that the Ukrainian Government temporarily suspended intercountry adoptions.

Arguably, the Government of Ukraine had reasons to suspend some adoptions, because of the fog of war and the difficulty in doing the requisite due diligence to safely and effectively process new adoption requests, but the Gordon case wasn't new. Matt and Deidre and many other Americans, hundreds of Americans, were nearing the end of the process when it all grounded to a halt leaving, in this case, these two children, and hundreds of other children, stranded.

Because of their deep love for their children, the Gordons have continued to visit Bogdan and Galena, who are in an institutional setting in Poland.

Let me just say, I did contact and wrote letters to President Zelenskyy, and this one goes back to July, asking for a remedy and to resolve this. We didn't even get an answer.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD my letter to President Zelenskyy.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

July 28, 2023.

His Excellency VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY,
President of Ukraine, Via: Oksana Markarova,
Ambassador, Washington, DC.

YOUR EXCELLENCY: I write to urge you to review and modify your government's decision to suspend intercountry adoptions from Ukraine, particularly in cases in which the adoptive Ukrainian children have already participated in American homestays approved and facilitated by Ukrainian officials before the suspension of the adoption process on March 13, 2022.

Throughout my tenure in the U.S. Congress, I have focused much of my work on promoting human rights, freedom and democracy around the world, including supporting democratic reform in Ukraine since 1991. Similarly, I have led numerous efforts to secure the rights and dignity of children across the world who, due to their age and vulnerabilities, are often tragically neglected and abused.

As the author of landmark legislation on issues pertaining to children—including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act and the International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation, as well as proposals that increased federal tax incentives to help overcome the upfront costs of adoption—I am acutely aware of the complexity of issues facing children internationally and the need for government oversight of intercountry adoption to fully ensure the "best interest of the child" throughout the process.

Notwithstanding your government's reasons for initially suspending intercountry adoptions in 2022, I now urge that Ukraine's Ministry of Social Policy (MSP) revise that decision with a view to resuming intercountry adoptions in cases where our mutual concerns to protect and benefit children can be substantially addressed.

Principal examples of this include cases in which, first, the American adoptive parents have already had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian government, and, second, the Ukrainian children have been determined to be adoptable by the Ukrainian government, and, third, the Ukrainian children have already participated in homestays with the American families—such cases are few and were at or very near the end stage of the process on February 24, 2022. In such situations, Ukrainian children have come to know and feel themselves as part of American families. I urge your government to seek solutions in these cases that recognize the deep bonds that have grown between the children and parents and, consistent with Ukrainian law and regulations, permit adoptions to be finalized.

One family that finds itself in this situation is that of Matt and Deidre Gordon of New Jersey, and a boy and a girl—natural siblings—of Ukraine. After the Ukrainian government approved the Gordons' adoption dossiers in December 2021, their previously scheduled final appointment with MSP officials was cancelled in the wake of the invasion. The children, whom the Gordon parents have already come to know, now endure the agony of war while awaiting the day when they can reunite. Any immediate assistance you could provide in this urgent matter will be greatly appreciated. Having worked with

the family, please know I stand ready to provide additional information or assist in any way you deem appropriate.

Intercountry adoption is a profoundly beneficial way to help children in need of parents and families that are eager and able to open their hearts and homes to benefit children. I sincerely thank you for your strength and courage in defending your country in the face of Russia's brutal onslaught and urge you to help unite American families and Ukrainian children in new family environments that will enhance the love and lives of both parents and children.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,

Member of Congress.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, there are hundreds of other children and U.S. families in the same or similar situations, as I have indicated.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 915, which respectfully urges the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals for adoptive parents like the Gordons and their children.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution makes specific recommendations, which I will put in the RECORD, including cases in which adoptive U.S. parents have already completed, as I mentioned, the requirements under the Ukrainian domestic law for the adoption of Ukrainian children and in which the adoptability of these children has already been confirmed and also which the adoptive U.S. parents have already had their dossiers vetted and approved by the Ukrainian Government.

We ask them to please not delay any longer. Those kids want a loving home, and there is one awaiting them as we speak.

Second, there are also cases in which Ukrainian children have already participated in hosting programs facilitated by the Government of Ukraine and placed with individuals within the U.S. before suspension of adoption by foreign nationals.

Mr. Speaker, those kids have suffered much, certainly being in that kind of isolation. Orphanages are there, but it is so much better to be in a loving home. We have got a remedy sitting right at our fingertips. I am calling on the Ukrainian Government and President Zelenskyy, especially, to do so.

Let me also say, the Ukrainian Government resumed domestic adoptions and did that in June of 2022. There is an apparatus, there is a capability and a capacity to do this job.

I thank Matt and Deidre Gordon from New Jersey for bringing the needs of these Ukrainian children to my attention.

For his extraordinary leadership and compassion, I thank former State Senator Ray Lesniak for first suggesting that the House pass this resolution.

Special thanks to my good friend and colleague DONALD NORCROSS, who helped us craft this resolution and has been there every step of the way as the lead Democrat cosponsor. I thank Donald so much for his leadership on this important issue.

I also thank Mark Milosch, the Republican staff director of the Lantos Commission. Previous to that, when I chaired the Helsinki Commission, he was my chief of staff there, as well. He is very, very capable and really understands the European theater and the politics, and he helped us draft this, as well. I also thank Trent Bunker.

This resolution deserves the full support of this body, and I urge its adoption.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS), my friend and the lead Democrat on this important resolution.

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MANNING for yielding.

I rise in support of H. Res. 915. I rise today for the Ukrainian children, those without a family, and for the Americans who wish to give them one.

It has been over 1,000 days since Russia invaded Ukraine. Ukraine suspended adoptions, for obvious reasons, by foreign nationals to protect the safety of their children, but as this war continues, the need to place these children in loving homes only grows.

Many Americans were in the process of adopting, some of those stories we just heard. These kids are stuck in limbo as war rages on.

In my home State of New Jersey, Andres and Farrah Meha were right in the middle of the process of adopting two of these children. They had formed strong bonds with these kids, and they had hosted them in their homes.

Right before this was going to work its way through the bureaucracy, an invasion began and changed everything. A few weeks later, those children had to return to Ukraine because of what Putin did and when war arrived in their home cities.

□ 1415

That is why I am urging the Ukrainian Government to resume adoptions by American citizens. There are no allies stronger than the U.S. Families across the U.S. stand ready with open arms to provide a healthy, safe, and stable environment for these children who deserve better.

I thank Ray Lesniak, who called me up to remind me that we need this passed. He is a wonderful friend whom I have served with in the New Jersey Senate. I thank CHRIS SMITH for what he continues to do each and every day.

The idea of these children who lost their families being in limbo, there is light at the end of this rainbow, and that is the American families who want to call them part of theirs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to engage and vote for H. Res. 915.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an unimaginable and agonizing time for the Ukrainian people, especially for the

Ukrainian children who, sadly, have been pawns in this terrible war.

It has been agonizing for adoptive parents like those we heard about today who have been waiting to give some of these children warm and loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is about doing what is right for Ukraine and for the children of Ukraine who have already endured such tragedy and hardship.

By working with Ukraine to reopen pathways for intercountry adoption, we are extending a lifeline to children who have been caught in the crossfire of an unjust war.

Let's make sure that, even in the darkest of times, we are creating pathways to brighten futures.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 915, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Mr. SMITH and Mr. NORCROSS, for introducing this important resolution.

International adoption is a profound way to unite vulnerable children with families who are eager to open their hearts and homes. There are numerous families across the United States who want to be the light for Ukrainian children who have been surrounded by the darkness of Putin's war. We can offer hope to children who have been robbed of it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 915, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 915.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1646

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CAMMACK) at 4 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution as is follows:

Directing the Committee on Ethics to preserve and publicly release records of the Committee's review of the alleged violations of the House Code of Conduct and Federal law by Representative Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida.

Whereas, Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida served in the House of Representatives from January 3, 2017, through November 13, 2024;

Whereas, Clause 2 of Section 5 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States establishes that: "Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings [and] punish its Members for disorderly behavior";

Whereas, clause 3(a)(2) of rule XI of the House of Representatives provides the Committee on Ethics the authority to investigate alleged violations by a Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House of the Code of Official Conduct or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of such Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee in the performance of the duties or the discharge of the responsibilities of such individual;

Whereas, on April 9, 2021, the Committee on Ethics initiated review of allegations that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and/or illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused State identification records, converted campaign funds to personal use, and/or accepted a bribe, improper gratuity, or impermissible gift, in violation of House rules, laws, or other standards of conduct in violation of Federal law and the rules of the House;

Whereas, on June 18, 2024, the Committee on Ethics released a statement acknowledging the Committee's continued review of allegations that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts, dispensed special privileges and favors to individuals with whom he had a personal relationship, and sought to obstruct government investigations of his conduct;

Whereas, if Representative Gaetz engaged in the alleged violations while serving as a Member of this body, such conduct would affect the rights of the House of Representatives and the integrity of the legislative process;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Committee on Ethics shall—

(1) preserve all documents and investigative materials related to any review of Matthew Louis Gaetz II's conduct while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives; and

(2) make public the Committee's report regarding the alleged violations of the House Code of Official Conduct or of a law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct by Matthew Louis Gaetz II while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Tennessee will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

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:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

- H.R. 3012;
- H.R. 8368; and
- H. Res. 1449.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 2-minute votes.

NORTH KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3012) to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 335, nays 37, not voting 60, as follows:

[Roll No. 474]

YEAS—335

Adams	Balint	Blunt Rochester
Aderholt	Barr	Bonamici
Aguilar	Barragán	Bost
Alford	Beatty	Bowman
Allred	Bentz	Boyle (PA)
Amo	Bera	Brown
Amodei	Bergman	Brownley
Auchincloss	Bice	Buchanan
Bacon	Bilirakis	Bucshon
Baird	Bishop (GA)	Budzinski
Balderson	Bishop (NC)	Burgess

Bush	Hayes	Nunn (IA)
Calvert	Hern	Obernolte
Cammack	Higgins (LA)	Ocasio-Cortez
Caraveo	Himes	Omar
Carbajal	Hinson	Owens
Cárdenas	Houlahan	Pallone
Carl	Hoyle (OR)	Palmer
Carson	Hudson	Pappas
Carter (GA)	Huizenga	Pelosi
Carter (LA)	Issa	Peltola
Carter (TX)	Ivey	Pence
Cartwright	Jackson (IL)	Perez
Case	Jacobs	Peters
Casten	James	Petterson
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Pfluger
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Pingree
Chavez-DeRemer	Johnson (SD)	Pocan
Cherfilus-	Joyce (OH)	Posey
McCormick	Kamlager-Dove	Pressley
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Quigley
Clarke (NY)	Kean (NJ)	Ramirez
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)	Raskin
Cline	Kelly (MS)	Reschenthaler
Clyburn	Kennedy	Rogers (AL)
Cohen	Khanna	Rogers (KY)
Cole	Kiggans (VA)	Ross
Collins	Kiley	Rouzer
Comer	Kilmer	Ruiz
Correa	Kim (CA)	Rulli
Costa	Kim (NJ)	Rutherford
Courtney	Krishnamoorthi	Ryan
Craig	Kuster	Salazar
Crawford	LaHood	Salinas
Crenshaw	LaLota	Sarbanes
Crockett	LaMalfa	Scalise
Crow	Lamborn	Scanlon
Cuellar	Landsman	Schakowsky
Curtis	Langworthy	Schiff
D'Esposito	Larsen (WA)	Scholten
Dauids (KS)	Latta	Schweikert
Davidson	LaTurner	Scott (VA)
Davis (NC)	Lawler	Scott, Austin
De La Cruz	Lee (CA)	Sessions
Dean (PA)	Lee (FL)	Sherman
DeGette	Lee (NV)	Simpson
Deluzio	Lee (PA)	Slotkin
DeSaulnier	Lee Carter	Smith (NE)
Diaz-Balart	Leger Fernandez	Smith (NJ)
Dingell	Lesko	Smith (WA)
Doggett	Letlow	Smucker
Duarte	Levin	Sorensen
Duncan	Lieu	Soto
Dunn (FL)	Lofgren	Spanberger
Edwards	Lopez	Stansbury
Ellzey	Loudermilk	Stanton
Emmer	Lucas	Stauber
Escobar	Luetkemeyer	Steel
Eshoo	Mace	Stefanik
Españalat	Magaziner	Steil
Estes	Malliotakis	Stevens
Ezell	Maloy	Strickland
Fallon	Mann	Strong
Feenstra	Manning	Swalwell
Ferguson	Mast	Sykes
Finstad	Matsui	Takano
Fischbach	McBath	Tenney
Fitzgerald	McCaul	Thanedar
Fitzpatrick	McCain	Thompson (CA)
Fleischmann	McClellan	Thompson (MS)
Flood	McCollum	Thompson (PA)
Fong	McGarvey	Tiffany
Foster	McGovern	Timmons
Foushee	McHenry	Titus
Foxx	McIver	Tlaib
Frankel, Lois	Meeks	Tokuda
Franklin, Scott	Meng	Torres (CA)
Frost	Meuser	Torres (NY)
Gallego	Mfume	Trahan
Garamendi	Miller (IL)	Turner
Garbarino	Miller (OH)	Underwood
Garcia (IL)	Miller (WV)	Valadao
Garcia (TX)	Miller-Meeks	Van Drew
Garcia, Robert	Molinaro	Van Dуйne
Gimenez	Moolenaar	Van Orden
Golden (ME)	Mooney	Vargas
Goldman (NY)	Moore (UT)	Vasquez
Gomez	Moran	Veasey
Gonzales, Tony	Morelle	Velázquez
Gonzalez, V.	Moskowitz	Wagner
Gouden (TX)	Moulton	Walberg
Graves (LA)	Mrvan	Wasserman
Graves (MO)	Mullin	Schultz
Green, Al (TX)	Murphy	Waters
Griffith	Nadler	Watson Coleman
Grijalva	Napolitano	Webster (FL)
Grothman	Neguse	Wenstrup
Guest	Newhouse	Westerman
Guthrie	Nickel	Wied
Harder (CA)	Norcross	Wild

Williams (GA)	Wilson (FL)	Yakym
Williams (NY)	Wittman	
Williams (TX)	Womack	

NAYS—37

Allen	Fulcher	Nehls
Babin	Good (VA)	Norman
Banks	Gosar	Ogles
Bean (FL)	Green (TN)	Perry
Biggs	Hageman	Rose
Boebert	Harshbarger	Rosendale
Burchett	Kustoff	Self
Burlison	Luna	Spartz
Cloud	Luttrell	Steube
Clyde	Massie	Weber (TX)
Crane	McClintock	Zinke
Donalds	Mills	
Fry	Moore (AL)	

NOT VOTING—60

Armstrong	Harris	Neal
Arrington	Hill	Panetta
Beyer	Horsford	Phillips
Blumenauer	Houchin	Porter
Brecheen	Hoyer	Rodgers (WA)
Carey	Huffman	Roy
Casар	Hunt	Ruppersberger
Chu	Jackson (NC)	Sánchez
Ciscomani	Jackson (TX)	Schneider
Connolly	Jayapal	Schrier
Davis (IL)	Jordan	Scott, David
DeLauro	Joyce (PA)	Sewell
DelBene	Keating	Sherrill
DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)	Smith (MO)
Evans	Kildee	Suozi
Fletcher	Larson (CT)	Tonko
Garcia, Mike	Lynch	Trone
Gottheimer	McCormick	Waltz
Granger	Menendez	Wexton
Greene (GA)	Moore (WI)	Wilson (SC)

□ 1712

Mr. FRY, Mrs. LUNA, Messrs. BABIN, MILLS, and ROSE changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. VAN DUYNE changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I experienced a delay in returning from a memorial service. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I was not present during Roll Call No. 474. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474.

COORDINATOR FOR AFGHAN RELOCATION EFFORTS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8368) to establish a Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts in the Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 334, nays 63, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 475]

YEAS—334

Adams Feenstra Lofgren
 Aderholt Ferguson Lucas
 Aguilar Fitzpatrick Luetkemeyer
 Alford Fleischmann Luttrell
 Allred Fletcher Magaziner
 Amo Flood Malliotakis
 Amodei Fong Maloy
 Auchincloss Foster Mann
 Babin Foushee Manning
 Bacon Foxx Mast
 Baird Frankel, Lois Matsui
 Balderson Franklin, Scott McBath
 Balint Frost McCaul
 Barr Fulcher McClain
 Barragán Gallego McClellan
 Beatty Garamendi McCollum
 Bentz Garbarino McGarvey
 Bera Garcia (IL) McGovern
 Bergman Garcia (TX) McHenry
 Beyer Garcia, Robert McIver
 Bice Gimenez Meeks
 Bilirakis Golden (ME) Menendez
 Bishop (GA) Goldman (NY) Meng
 Bonamici Gomez Meuser
 Bost Gonzales, Tony Mfume
 Bowman Gonzalez, V. Miller (OH)
 Boyle (PA) Gooden (TX) Miller (WV)
 Brown Graves (LA) Miller-Meeks
 Brownley Graves (MO) Molinaro
 Buchanan Green (TN) Moolenaar
 Bucshon Green, Al (TX) Mooney
 Budzinski Griffith Moore (WI)
 Bush Grijalva Moran
 Calvert Guest Morelle
 Caraveo Guthrie Moskowitz
 Carbajal Harder (CA) Moulton
 Cárdenas Hill Mrvan
 Carey Himes Mullin
 Carl Hinson Nadler
 Carson Houchin Napolitano
 Carter (GA) Houlihan Neguse
 Carter (LA) Hoyer Newhouse
 Carter (TX) Hoyle (OR) Nickel
 Cartwright Hudson Norcross
 Casar Huffman Nunn (IA)
 Case Huizenga Obernolte
 Casten Issa Ocasio-Cortez
 Castro (TX) Ivey Omar
 Chavez-DeRemer Jackson (IL) Owens
 Cherfilus- McCormick Pallone
 Ciscomani James Palmer
 Clark (MA) Jayapal Panetta
 Clarke (NY) Jeffries Pappas
 Cleaver Johnson (GA) Pelosi
 Clyburn Johnson (SD) Peltola
 Cohen Joyce (OH) Pence
 Cole Joyce (PA) Perez
 Comer Kamlager-Dove Peters
 Correa Kaptur Pettersen
 Costa Kean (NJ) Pfluger
 Courtney Keating Pingree
 Craig Kelly (IL) Pocan
 Crawford Kelly (PA) Pressley
 Crenshaw Kennedy Quigley
 Crockett Khanna Ramirez
 Crow Kiggans (VA) Raskin
 Cuellar Kildee Reschenthaler
 Curtis Kiley Rodgers (WA)
 D'Esposito Kilmer Rogers (KY)
 Davids (KS) Kim (CA) Rose
 Davis (IL) Kim (NJ) Ross
 Davis (NC) Krishnamoorthi Rouzer
 De La Cruz Kuster Ruiz
 Dean (PA) Kustoff Rulli
 DeLauro LaHood Ruppersberger
 Deluzio LaLota Rutherford
 DeSaulnier Lamborn Ryan
 Diaz-Balart Landsman Salazar
 Dingell Langworthy Salinas
 Doggett Latta Sanchez
 Duarte LaTurner Sarbanes
 Duncan Lawler Scalise
 Dunn (FL) Lee (CA) Scanlon
 Edwards Lee (FL) Schiff
 Ellzey Lee (NV) Schneider
 Emmer Lee (PA) Scholten
 Escobar Lee Carter Schrier
 Eshoo Leger Fernandez Schweikert
 Espallat Letlow Scott (VA)
 Estes Levin Sherman
 Ezell Lieu Simpson

Slotkin Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Sorensen
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Steel
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Strong
 Suzzo
 Swalwell
 Sykes

NAYS—63

Allen Fischbach McClintock
 Arrington Fitzgerald Miller (IL)
 Banks Fry Mills
 Bean (FL) Good (VA) Moore (AL)
 Biggs Gosar Nehls
 Bishop (NC) Grothman Norman
 Boehert Hageman Ogles
 Brecheen Harris Perry
 Burchett Harshbarger Posey
 Burgess Hern Rosendale
 Burlison Higgins (LA) Roy
 Cammack Jackson (TX) Self
 Cline Jordan Sessions
 Cloud Kelly (MS) Spartz
 Clyde LaMalfa Steube
 Collins Lesko Tiffany
 Crane Lopez Timmons
 Davidson Loudermilk Van Orden
 Moran Luna Waters
 Fallon Mace Wied
 Finstad Massie Zinke

NOT VOTING—35

Armstrong Granger Phillips
 Blumenauer Greene (GA) Porter
 Blunt Rochester Hayes Rogers (AL)
 Castor (FL) Horsford Schakowsky
 Chu Hunt Scott, David
 Connolly Jackson (NC) Sewell
 DeGette Larson (CT) Sherrill
 DelBene Lynch Smith (NJ)
 DesJarlais McCormick Trone
 Evans Moore (UT) Waltz
 Garcia, Mike Murphy Wexton
 Gottheimer Neal

□ 1716

Mrs. CAMMACK changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 3012, the North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act, as amended, and H.R. 8368, the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts Authorization Act, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 474 and YEA on Roll Call No. 475.

CONDEMNING THE GLOBAL RISE OF ANTISEMITISM AND CALLING UPON COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO COUNTER ANTISEMITISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1449) condemning the global rise of anti-

semitism and calling upon countries and international bodies to counter antisemitism, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 21, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 476]

YEAS—388

Adams Curtis Houchin
 Aderholt D'Esposito Houlihan
 Aguilar Davids (KS) Hoyer
 Alford Davidson Hoyle (OR)
 Allen Davis (IL) Hudson
 Allred Davis (NC) Huffman
 Amo De La Cruz Huizenga
 Amodei Dean (PA) Issa
 Arrington DeGette Ivey
 Auchincloss DeLauro Jackson (IL)
 Babin DelBene Jacobs
 Bacon Deluzio James
 Baird DeSaulnier Jayapal
 Balderson Diaz-Balart Jeffries
 Balint Johnson (GA) Dingell
 Banks Doggett Johnson (SD)
 Barr Donalds Jordan
 Barragán Duarte Joyce (OH)
 Bean (FL) Duncan Joyce (PA)
 Beatty Dunn (FL) Kamlager-Dove
 Bentz Edwards Kaptur
 Bera Ellzey Kean (NJ)
 Bergman Emmer Keating
 Bice Escobar Kelly (IL)
 Bilirakis Eshoo Kelly (MS)
 Bishop (GA) Espallat Kelly (PA)
 Bishop (NC) Estes Kennedy
 Blunt Rochester Ezell Khanna
 Bonamici Fallon Kiggans (VA)
 Bost Feenstra Kildee
 Bowman Ferguson Kiley
 Boyle (PA) Finstad Kilmer
 Brown Fischbach Kim (CA)
 Brownley Fitzgerald Kim (NJ)
 Buchanan Fitzpatrick Krishnamoorthi
 Bucshon Fleischmann Kuster
 Budzinski Fletcher Kustoff
 Bush Flood LaHood
 Calvert Burgess Fong
 Carbajal Foster LaMalfa
 Cárdenas Foushee Lamborn
 Carey Foxx Landsman
 Carl Frankel, Lois Langworthy
 Carson Franklin, Scott Larsen (WA)
 Carter (GA) Frost Larson (CT)
 Carter (LA) Fry Latta
 Carter (TX) Fulcher LaTurner
 Cartwright Gallego Lawler
 Casar Garamendi Lee (CA)
 Case Garbarino Lee (FL)
 Casten Garcia (IL) Lee (NV)
 Castro (TX) Garcia (TX) Lee (PA)
 Chavez-DeRemer Garcia, Robert Lee Carter
 Cherfilus- McCormick Gimenez Leger Fernandez
 Ciscomani Golden (ME) Lesko
 Clark (MA) Goldman (NY) Letlow
 Clarke (NY) Gomez Levin
 Cleaver Gonzales, Tony Lieu
 Clyburn Gonzalez, V. Lofgren
 Cohen Gooden (TX) Loudermilk
 Cole Graves (LA) Lucas
 Collins Graves (MO) Luetkemeyer
 Comer Green (TN) Luna
 Correa Green, Al (TX) Luttrell
 Costa Griffith Mace
 Courtney Harris Magaziner
 Craig Hayes Malliotakis
 Crawford Hern Maloy
 Crenshaw Hill Mann
 Crockett Himes Manning
 Crow Hinson Mast
 Cuellar Horsford Matsui
 McClintock

McCollum	Plunger	Stefanik
McGarvey	Pingree	Steil
McGovern	Pocan	Steube
McHenry	Posey	Stevens
McIver	Pressley	Strickland
Meeks	Quigley	Strong
Menendez	Ramirez	Suozi
Meng	Raskin	Swalwell
Meuser	Reschenthaler	Sykes
Mfume	Rodgers (WA)	Takano
Miller (IL)	Rogers (AL)	Tenney
Miller (OH)	Rogers (KY)	Thanedar
Miller (WV)	Rose	Thompson (CA)
Miller-Meeks	Ross	Thompson (MS)
Mills	Rouzer	Thompson (PA)
Molinaro	Ruiz	Tiffany
Moolenaar	Rulli	Timmons
Mooney	Ruppersberger	Titus
Moore (AL)	Rutherford	Tokuda
Moore (UT)	Ryan	Tonko
Moore (WI)	Salazar	Torres (CA)
Moran	Salinas	Torres (NY)
Morelle	Sánchez	Trahan
Moskowitz	Sarbanes	Turner
Moulton	Scalise	Underwood
Mrvan	Scanlon	Valadao
Mullin	Schakowsky	Van Drew
Murphy	Schiff	Van Dуйne
Nadler	Schneider	Van Orden
Napolitano	Scholten	Vargas
Neal	Schrier	Vasquez
Neguse	Schweikert	Veasey
Nehls	Scott (VA)	Velázquez
Newhouse	Scott, Austin	Wagner
Nickel	Self	Walberg
Norcross	Sessions	Wasserman
Norman	Sewell	Schultz
Nunn (IA)	Sherman	Waters
Obermole	Simpson	Watson Coleman
Ocasio-Cortez	Slotkin	Weber (TX)
Ogles	Smith (MO)	Webster (FL)
Owens	Smith (NE)	Wenstrup
Pallone	Smith (NJ)	Westerman
Palmer	Smith (WA)	Wied
Panetta	Smucker	Wild
Pappas	Sorensen	Williams (GA)
Pelosi	Soto	Williams (NY)
Peltola	Spanberger	Williams (TX)
Pence	Spartz	Wilson (FL)
Perez	Stansbury	Wilson (SC)
Perry	Stanton	Wittman
Peters	Stauber	Womack
Pettersen	Steel	Yakym

NAYS—21

Biggs	Crane	Jackson (TX)
Boebert	Good (VA)	Massie
Brecheen	Gosar	Omar
Burlison	Hageman	Rosendale
Bush	Harshbarger	Roy
Cloud	Higgins (LA)	Tlaib
Clyde	Hunt	Zinke

NOT VOTING—23

Armstrong	Garcia, Mike	Phillips
Beyer	Gottheimer	Porter
Blumenauer	Granger	Scott, David
Cárdenas	Greene (GA)	Sherrill
Castor (FL)	Jackson (NC)	Trone
Cannolly	Lopez	Waltz
DesJarlais	Lynch	Wexton
Evans	McCormick	

□ 1721

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CASTEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

House Resolution, directing the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to release to the public the Committee's report on its investigation into allegations against former Representative Matt Gaetz.

Whereas, on April 9, 2021, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives announced that it had begun to review allegations that Representative Matt Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused State identification records, converted campaign funds for personal use, and accepted a bribe, improper gratuity, or impermissible gift in violation of the rules of the House, laws, or other standards of conduct;

Whereas, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives has completed its review into allegations pursuant to Committee Rules 14(a)(3) and 18(a) that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts, dispensed special privileges and favors to individuals with whom he had a personal relationship, and sought to obstruct government investigations of his conduct;

Whereas, on November 13, 2024, President-elect Donald Trump announced his nomination of former Representative Matt Gaetz to serve as Attorney General;

Whereas, on November 13, 2024, Representative Matt Gaetz announced his resignation from Congress;

Whereas, there is precedent for the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to release reports on former Members of the House of Representatives, should information in those reports remain relevant to the function of Congress;

Whereas, the decision by the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives not to release its report on its investigation into the serious allegations against former Representative Matt Gaetz impedes the ability of the Senate to provide advice and consent on this nomination; and

Whereas, a failure of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to release its report on its investigation impedes the dignity and integrity of the legislative proceedings of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives shall immediately release to the public the committee's report on its investigation into allegations against former Representative Matt Gaetz, including any conclusions, recommenda-

tions, attachments, exhibits, or accompanying material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Illinois will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1730

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1585

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Ms. Lee Carter of Texas.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 6887 AND H.R. 6598

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 6887 and H.R. 6598.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

RECOGNIZING SAMARITAN'S PURSE AND MOUNTAIN WAYS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I recognize the incredible work being done by Samaritan's Purse run by Franklin Graham and Mountain Ways run by my friend Joe Baker in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

When the storm left countless families without homes, power, or hope, these organizations stepped up immediately. They didn't wait for a list of instructions or wonder how they would

get it done. They got to work delivering food, supplies, and hands-on assistance to those hit hardest.

Samaritan's Purse and Mountain Ways embody the best of who we are as Americans: neighbor helping neighbor, faith in action, and compassion when it is needed most. Their efforts have been a lifeline for the victims of Helene, providing not just relief but dignity and hope.

We need to take a hard look at how FEMA funds are distributed. Using these funds as flow-throughs to organizations like Samaritan's Purse and Mountain Ways will get resources where they are needed faster and more efficiently.

The truth is these groups know the communities, they know the needs, and they deliver the results because they live there.

Mr. Speaker, when push comes to shove and people need help the most, it is organizations like these that come through and save the day, not the Federal Government.

I would ask everybody to remember these folks in their prayers this weekend as apparently there is going to be some pretty bad snowstorms up there, and those people are just living in tents, Mr. Speaker, still waiting on aid from FEMA.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS IN CALIFORNIA

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the brave firefighters and first responders who swiftly responded to and recently contained the Mountain fire, a destructive and devastating wildfire that burned over 20,000 acres in the hillsides of Camarillo in my district of Ventura County, California.

Ignited on the morning of November 6, the blaze, fueled by 80-mile-per-hour winds, quickly spread. While many homes were damaged and destroyed in this disaster, fortunately no lives were lost thanks to the swift and strategic response of emergency personnel.

I join a very grateful community in thanking the men and women of the Ventura County Fire Department, CAL FIRE, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement, and the unified command of 3,000 personnel on the ground who responded to this incident and protected the lives and livelihoods of so many.

I remain deeply inspired by the heroism of our firefighters and first responders and our community's unwavering support for one another as we enter the recovery process and rebuild a stronger Ventura County.

REMEMBERING SPENCER LAWTON, JR.

(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 celebrate the life of famed Chatham County District Attorney Spencer Lawton, Jr.

After graduating from the University of Georgia's law school, Lawton worked in his family's firm and founded his own law firm before winning the 1980 election for Chatham County District Attorney.

Lawton served as the Chatham County DA for over 28 years where he modernized his management office, built an incredible team, and created Georgia's first victim-witness assistance program.

Lawton also helped to pass many pieces of legislation, including victim compensation and the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights. The victim-witness program Lawton created became a model for prosecutors across the Nation.

In addition to this incredible work, Lawton rose to fame for prosecuting Jim Williams in John Berendt's best-selling book "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

Outside of his career, Lawton was deeply involved in community organizations, including the Mediation Center, Coastal Children's Advocacy Center, and the Savannah Music Festival.

Our community will forever remember Lawton's service, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

HONORING NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH MONTH

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

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Rural Health Month to bring attention to the pressing need and to expand access to comprehensive healthcare services throughout rural America.

The rural communities in my own district of Virginia's Fourth face some of the worst public health outcomes of all counties in Virginia. Over the past 2 years, I have consistently engaged with these rural communities to hear firsthand about the challenges they face, including hosting a rural health summit with counties in the southern part of my district.

Throughout my conversations, I have heard similar challenges facing various rural communities, including the following: geographic constraints; long commutes and limited transportation; food deserts and a lack of access to healthy, nutritious, balanced foods; limited healthcare providers; insufficient access to culturally competent care; physician and healthcare provider shortages; and limited access to high-speed internet and devices for telehealth services.

Each of these contributes to the healthcare challenges in our rural communities and exacerbates existing disparities.

We must do more to support our rural communities, and I look forward to working with the Congressional Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus and Members on both sides to do just that.

RECOGNIZING APPRENTICESHIPS

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hardworking apprentices and those who are training them in Idaho's First District. Apprenticeships are a pipeline to good-quality, high-paying jobs.

Here is one example. My district is home to Quanta Services' Northwest Lineman College, which is training the next generation of skilled labor in the electric power, telecommunications, and natural gas industries. They trained 763 apprentice and preapprenticeship students last year at the campus at Meridian, Idaho, and one in five students is a veteran across their multiple training facilities.

When disaster strikes, linemen are on the front lines of the wreckage working to restore power to millions of homes, hospitals, and businesses.

This workforce is critical to build an electric grid and a broadband network that will deliver affordable and resilient services to Americans. We must ensure that our workforce is ready to meet the Nation's energy and broadband challenges of tomorrow.

I am proud to represent a community that supports and values apprentice work.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

(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 speak for so many of those unable to speak for themselves, our children.

Today, we commemorate the 70th anniversary of World Children's Day. The need for this day is even more poignant given the global challenges children face around our world.

As the daughter of the founding member of the Congressional Children's Congress, the Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee, I too am committed to protecting and uplifting children.

I know that many of my colleagues believe in supporting our children, and I urge you to restore the child tax credit. If the child tax credit was restored today, in 2025, roughly 2.6 million fewer children would live below the poverty line.

My mother believed deeply in protecting our children, and she worked vigorously to stop human trafficking and especially to protect our youngest, vulnerable Americans.

While protecting the lives of our children is understood, we must also stand

up for children everywhere. She also authored the Oleksander Ivanov Act of 2023, H.R. 5800, so that the children of Ukraine could be safe and protected and have access to freedom.

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary, we cannot forget the work that is still undone. There should be no child that goes to bed hungry. Unfortunately, hunger is responsible for the death of 3.1 million children a year.

I ask that we join in commemorating this anniversary and rededicate our drive to support all children as well as our own.

HELPING VETERANS REGARDLESS OF ZIP CODE

(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, during a Veterans Service Officer Roundtable held in my district earlier this year, a constituent expressed concern about the difficulty he and his fellow veterans had traveling to access healthcare. In response, we took action and introduced the Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act, which expands the Department of Veterans Affairs' Highly Rural Transportation Grants program and helps veterans in remote areas travel to the VA or VA-authorized healthcare facilities for their appointments.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Congress to pass this essential legislation. We must help our veterans, regardless of their ZIP Code or crossroads.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS PREPARE FOR 119TH CONGRESS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be back in Washington, D.C., this week as the House Republicans set the stage for the 119th Congress with a unified front to tackle the most pressing issues that the American people face.

Americans from coast to coast are grappling with the consequences of the Biden-Harris administration, including high energy costs, crippling inflation, rising crime, burdensome regulations, and government overreach in schools and other institutions.

House Republicans are working together as a conference to craft legislation that tackles inflation, implements pro-growth tax policies, cuts back on regulatory red tape, promotes family values, supports small businesses, secures our borders, and strengthens our position on the world stage.

During this lameduck period, we are hard at work advancing other key important pieces of legislation, specific pieces. This week, we put on the floor Congresswoman CLAUDIA TENNEY's Stop Terror Financing and Tax Penalty Act, which protects American citizens who are wrongfully detained or held captive abroad from late penalties from the IRS and revokes the tax-exempt status of nonprofits that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups like Hamas.

We have to listen to the American people when it comes to energy independence, a topic that we have spent the last 4 years trying to debate.

□ 1745

I think the people have spoken, and House Republicans are listening. They are advocating for policies that cut red tape and unleash our Nation's energy potential.

That is why we passed, earlier this week, Congressman RUSS FULCHER's, who was just in the Chamber, Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act, the CLEAN Act, which requires the Interior Department to increase the frequency of geothermal lease sales from every 2 years to every year, hold a replacement sale if necessary, and create decision deadlines for geothermal drilling permit applications, therefore enhancing our geothermal energy output and domestic energy supply.

If you say that you want clean energy, if you say that you want other alternatives but continue to withhold the permitting and hold hostage the permitting process, then you truly do not want to create a solution.

We are done with this. Permitting reform is something that has to take place in our Nation. We have done a little bit of it in a bipartisan way, but if we can't look at something like this and say that this, to reduce the burden on permitting, is the most common-sense thing for geothermal potential, then nobody is being actually serious back here.

Let's get these things done.

I am grateful for my colleagues who are going to join us this evening to discuss this and many other measures that are pertinent to their districts. I am grateful for their commitment to delivering for the American people as we continue to look forward to next Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for holding this Special Order this evening.

This week, House Republicans are taking a decisive stand to support our

fellow Americans who are wrongfully held hostage abroad.

The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act will change the way the IRS will treat American citizens who are held hostage or wrongfully detained abroad. With over 40 Americans currently detained, it is simply unacceptable for them to return home only to face tax penalties imposed by their own government.

Our current tax code provides just 1 year of relief before late fees begin to accumulate, and this is unacceptable.

The IRS imposing late fees and penalties on hostages for missing tax returns highlights the agency's failure to help the American people. We must ensure these Americans can focus on reuniting with their families and not be burdened by financial penalties and bureaucratic red tape.

Additionally, a crucial part of this legislation is that it sends a powerful message to those who finance terrorism that we will revoke the tax-exempt status of U.S. nonprofits that support groups like Hamas.

American taxpayers should never be forced to subsidize those who seek to undermine our safety and security. We must stand united with these Americans and make it clear: Our government will not tolerate any support for terrorism. We will continue to fight for justice, and we will continue to fight to protect our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for sponsoring this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important bill.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks. We appreciate his followthrough in highlighting this key, important legislation.

There are, I think, 46 Americans who are wrongfully detained. They should not be going through these types of tax penalties. This is something that makes absolute sense.

I appreciate my next colleague who will address the Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank our vice chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, for the last several weeks, I listened to countless concerns from literally hundreds of Tennesseans whom I have the honor to represent here in Congress. I heard from families still struggling to make ends meet because of rampant inflation. They are paying more for housing, groceries, energy, and just about everything else you can think of because of Bidenomics.

I listened to constituents who are worried about crime, fentanyl, and, yes, the overrun U.S.-Mexico border.

Small business owners expressed the heavy burden of government regulations. Parents told me the many ways government overreach in schools keeps them up at night.

It is not hyperbole to say that the results of this election were an answered

prayer for those Tennesseans and millions more across this country.

Throughout the 118th Congress, House Republicans fulfilled our Commitment to America. We passed bills to secure our borders, lower energy costs, curb Federal regulations, and restore fiscal sanity to our government, but unlike what we have seen for the last 2 years, the bills we pass in the 119th Congress will no longer be dead on arrival in the do-nothing Senate.

The next Congress will also have a Commander in Chief who values family, common sense, and strength on the world stage. We will have a partner in the White House who is willing to roll back red tape rather than layer on more. We will have a President willing to sign legislation into law that will keep American workers and their families working, safe, and prosperous.

But we are not waiting for January to deliver results, Mr. Speaker. This week, House Republicans will bring two commonsense pieces of legislation to the floor.

The first prohibits the IRS from charging penalties and late fees to Americans who happen to be late on filing their taxes due to being wrongfully detained abroad. American families of hostages held by Hamas terrorists shouldn't incur tax penalties. I proudly voted for this bill when it came up under suspension and plan to do so again.

The second bill aims to support our national security and energy independence by streamlining the permitting process for geothermal energy development. It requires the Interior Department to increase the frequency of geothermal lease sales to every year rather than every 2 years. It also calls on the Department to hold a replacement sale, if needed, and creates deadlines for geothermal permit applicants.

Geothermal energy is a clean, dependable, renewable energy source that supports my commitment to an all-of-the-above energy approach needed for the 21st century.

After month after month of record-breaking price increases and illegal border crossings, the American people are anxious to see their country made great again.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks. I always appreciate his involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for our next address.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my district is suffering, our Nation is suffering, and Congress has the duty to alleviate it.

This year, record-breaking storms have wreaked havoc on homes, businesses, families, farms, and more.

Right now, the West Coast is battling a catastrophic bomb cyclone, dumping as much as 1 foot of rain on impacted communities. On the East Coast, this year's hurricane season was especially

destructive. Hurricanes Debby, Helene, Milton, and Beryl, just to name a few, brought destruction to the Southeast, the likes of which I have never seen in my more than 60 years living in the great State of Georgia.

We aren't talking about temporary inconveniences. Communities, particularly ag communities, are experiencing generational damage.

Our fellow Americans have lost loved ones and property at an alarming rate. Among those casualties is Blackshear Assistant Fire Chief Leon Davis from Pierce County, who was killed during Hurricane Helene while selflessly clearing debris in an attempt to keep his community members safe.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Davis family as they mourn this immense loss.

There is nothing we can do to bring our loved ones back, but we can make life better for those who still are with us.

We need disaster relief, and we need it yesterday. The number one responsibility of the Federal Government is to protect our citizens from foreign and domestic threats. It brings me no joy to say this, but we are failing in that mission.

FEMA and SBA's disaster relief coffers are as empty as the hope many people feel about getting the aid they so desperately need, but we have a window of opportunity to change that. I am calling on my colleagues to work together to seize this opportunity.

The White House has submitted a roughly \$100 billion request to help our Nation recover from natural disasters. This request is a step in the right direction.

Georgia alone, according to Governor Brian Kemp, needs \$12.2 billion just for Hurricane Helene damage recovery. That is just one State and just one storm.

I don't say this often, not often at all, but I echo President Biden's call to quickly pass a supplemental funding package with no delay.

We must work together in a bipartisan and bicameral manner to get the American people the help they deserve. Disaster relief is not a red issue, and it is not a blue issue. It is a red, white, and blue issue.

We have a responsibility to help our communities recover, and there is no excuse for us to delay any further.

We also must ensure that our timber farmers are able to deduct the value of their lost crop, which is why I am pushing for my bill, the Disaster Reforestation Act, to be included in this package.

I am ready to work with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to get this disaster supplemental across the finish line. Anything less than this, Mr. Speaker, will be a dereliction of our duty. Our people need help, and they need it now.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his remarks. Utah has potential for

some disasters, but nothing like the devastation they have seen, and our heart goes out to them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would echo, too, following BUDDY CARTER, that we did an outing over the weekend down along the Georgia and Florida area. As a Californian, we have our own disasters typically, but it is very devastating.

We talked to a lot of farmers, ranchers, and timber people there. Immediate help is needed for them. They will be gone if something isn't done. They will be out of business, and the next generations won't have that option. We will miss that giant hole in the economy in that area and that food supply chain, as well as the lumber.

Something must be done immediately in whatever package that comes out of here.

I did want to speak about energy and energy policy a little bit. We have suffered as a nation these last 3½ years because we haven't really had a coherent energy policy.

A lot of things go hand in hand with a strong economy, with energy and some of the byproducts it takes to put into it. We have to have the wherewithal with our natural resources to produce energy, the inputs that are required, and the equipment.

That means mining, and that means hydroelectric power. We have to be able to build water storage to make electricity.

People right now are suffering from inflation, and it keeps ramping up. Two of the main drivers we have seen from this streak of inflation the last 3-plus years have been driven by the cost of energy and profligate spending by this government above and beyond what we should have been doing.

I know we had to go through that COVID period, and it was tough, but the spending within that and also on top of that was the so-called infrastructure bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, they call it, and other angles. It is just pathetic. It hasn't been focused.

The true infrastructure we need is water storage. The true infrastructure we need is enhancing our transportation, whether it is our ports, highways, or trains, what have you. Instead, we get more mandates.

As a Californian, the mandates come down the pike from CARB, as it is known, the California Air Resources Board, and it is emulated by about six other States. Even EPA looks at how California does it, trying to foist that on the whole country to force requirements for, for example, locomotives that don't even exist yet. It is the equivalent of what would be called tier 5, as we haven't really perfected the tier 4 locomotive yet as far as cleanliness.

The diesel engines we produce these days are so much cleaner than anything just 20 years ago or much longer

than that. If we allowed trucks and trains to be replaced by attrition over time with the clean technology, we would see dramatic gains.

If we achieved 99 percent in cleanliness from, say, 1950 or 1960 to now, that last 1 percent is the one that is acutely hard to achieve and hyper-expensive to get that last 1 percent, but the regulators are hell-bent all the time on trying to get that last 1 percent.

Why can't we move toward having everything hit that first level at 99, whether it is clean engines or what have you, on that, and achieve that goal and see where we are?

That is because the more we export our industry and the more we export agriculture to other countries, they do it much, much dirtier, if you want to put it that way, than us. Coal, for example, used to be a cornerstone of our energy grid in this country. It is dissipating, yet China builds more coal power plants every month, and they don't really care about environmental stuff like we do.

□ 1800

We are looking for reasonable environmental regulations, and sometimes it goes too far. They don't care.

Remember when they had the Olympics? They shut down the country for about 2 or 3 weeks beforehand so the air would clean up enough and it would look good on TV and the athletes wouldn't choke to death, but then right back to business as usual afterwards.

A coherent energy policy means, yes, we need to be extracting oil and gas from the lands we have, whether private or Federal, and it can be done ecologically soundly. We don't have to be scared to death.

The ANWR, the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, is the size of South Carolina. It is massive. The area where they want to do the extraction is a tiny postage-stamp size compared to that. Yet, we are going to ruin the whole thing, so it is disingenuous.

Energy policy will help bring things back in line costwise. Coupled with restraint on government spending, that is how we can solve a whole bunch of the inflation problems for regular Americans who are struggling.

Look to a better energy policy, whether it is oil and gas, whether it is not tearing out our hydroelectric power—there are aspirations to tear out dams all the time these days—or building more nuclear power plants. Small modular reactors are really going to be the way to go.

Guess what? With hydro plants, no CO₂; with nuclear plants, no CO₂. If you are worried about CO₂, those are good ways to not have it.

Instead, for example, in the San Joaquin Valley in California, where they are taking away so much of the water and the land values are deteriorating rapidly because they are covered up with what they are calling solar farms. There are acres and acres and acres of these plastic panels out there that will

have maybe a 20-year or 25-year life, at best. Maybe you should call it a half-life like nuclear. Then they all have to be disposed of.

Agriculture has been displaced. The best breadbasket in this country has been displaced by having a noncoherent energy policy, but whatever feels good.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to solve these problems for American consumers, middle-income and lower-income American families, these are what we need to attack.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding the time.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, as always, I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) and his thoughtful, but yet frustratingly common voice on energy policy.

I thank my colleagues for being here tonight and taking the time to speak on some of these priorities the House Republicans are focused on as we look forward to the 119th Congress, Mr. Speaker.

As I mentioned earlier, House Republicans are pushing legislation to reform the United States tax code, to protect American hostages abroad, and support our domestic energy industry.

Currently, there are approximately 46 Americans wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, and our tax code does not provide any relief beyond 1 year for detainees.

The Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act works to support Americans by preventing the IRS from charging late fees and penalties to U.S. citizens wrongfully detained abroad. This bill also revokes the tax-exempt status of U.S. nonprofit organizations that provide financial or material support to terrorist groups like Hamas.

This is the most commonsense legislation that we are going to see in the lameduck period, and I am hopeful to see this through the legislative process entirely as it passes the House.

Americans should not be penalized for being held hostage by adversaries abroad, and this bill is a necessary step toward ensuring detainees and hostages are able to focus on safely returning home and reuniting with their families.

This week, House Republicans successfully passed the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act to require the Department of the Interior to increase the frequency of geothermal leases, the lease sales, from every 2 years to every year. It also includes holding a replacement sale, if necessary, and creates decision deadlines for geothermal drilling permit applications.

This bill emphasizes a robust energy policy that unleashes our Nation's energy potential, reduces reliance on foreign energy sources, and cuts back against onerous red tape that slows down energy production.

House Republicans know that we have a lot of work to do, and we are committed to using our constituents'

voices as our guide as we reverse the Biden-Harris administration's failed policies and protect American citizens, restore American energy independence, and lower energy costs for American workers and their families.

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

RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, the American people are sick and tired of powerful corporations ripping us off, junk fees, small businesses struggling, union busting, price gouging, bad trade deals, all of it.

I am convening this Special Order hour today because I am committed to fighting back. I am here because we need to revive and restore and strengthen the American Dream for all who are willing to work for it. I know my constituents are. I know the American people want more from this body.

In the depths of the Great Depression, Franklin Roosevelt confronted these same forces in a different time head-on, saying: "These economic royalists complain that we seek to overthrow the institutions of America. What they really complain of is that we seek to take away their power."

Absolutely. There is no freedom if families are struggling to meet basic needs. There is no liberty if we are ruled by oligarchs. No one is going to say that profits don't matter; they do.

Something else has to matter more: Our safety has to matter. Our jobs have to matter. Our communities have to matter. This country has to matter.

For those things to matter, we have to break this corporate stranglehold on our economy and our country. The American economy works just great if you are a billionaire or if you are a giant corporation, but too often our system fails hardworking people.

We need an economy and a government that rewards hard work, not just extreme wealth.

Where I come from and where I grew up, that is something that we value. I represent the good people of the 17th District of Pennsylvania, western Pennsylvania. We believe in hard work. We believe in patriotism. We believe in sacrifice.

We are the folks who made the steel that built this country. We have answered the call in every war. We have

done hard work, like so many across this country have done. We saw a story that rewarded that sacrifice with trying to strip us for parts; shipping good jobs away overseas; gobbling up small businesses, squeezing them; seeing big, powerful corporations put their lust for profit ahead of our safety.

We have to stand strong against those forces, a lot of them created by corporate power that are making life worse for people. It is making life more expensive and too expensive.

If American capitalism is going to succeed, we have to have competition. We have to take on anticompetitive monopolies, give small businesses and entrepreneurs a shot to succeed and compete, and make sure that our safety and our communities aren't collateral damage in the way of profits and make sure that workers have some say and dignity on the job and the freedom and forum to join a union.

The American Dream has been snatched away from far too many Americans who are hardworking, who are good and decent people, who want to have a shot at dignity and security. It is a devastating reality for folks to live with. It is unacceptable to me. I know it is unacceptable to many in this Chamber.

Some folks are angry about it. They are sad. They should be. They should expect more of this body, and they should expect more of their government.

I think we need to lay a path back to the American Dream. I am honored to be joined by so many colleagues tonight who will join me in this fight to restore and strengthen the American Dream. With a strong economic message of taking on corporate power, local action, being unafraid to fight the bad guys when we need to, we can deliver for the American people to bring down costs, to reward hard work, and to make life better and cheaper.

We can make sure the American Dream is revived and strong for generations to come.

I am proud to yield time to one of my colleagues from just next door, the great State of Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN).

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for hosting tonight.

It is crystal clear that people are frustrated. They are frustrated with politics. They are frustrated with the economy, and they want costs down and an economy that is built for working people, the middle class, and our small businesses. I think it is really important for us to have this conversation and to start with the reality.

The reality is that the system is rigged, and it has been rigged for decades. It works for the superwealthy while everyone else is left behind, facing higher prices and a tax system that helps the rich get richer.

This started in the 1980s with huge tax giveaways to the wealthy while gutting oversight and regulations.

The result is that the system is producing the outcomes it was designed to

produce. The top 1 percent in the United States now holds 12 times the wealth of the bottom half of American households. That is what this system produced.

Think about that: 1 percent of Americans own more wealth than half of all American families combined.

When people look at their bank accounts, they are frustrated and when they get their grocery bill and their tax bill and they are wondering where all their money went, they know. They see on their phones and on the news how rich the rich have gotten. That is where their money has gone.

The superwealthy and powerful have seized more and more of our money and more and more of our power.

Let me say that again: The superwealthy and powerful have seized more and more of our money and more and more of our power.

Since the pandemic, billionaires have become \$3 trillion richer. Their wealth has grown three times faster than inflation. Corporate profits have gone up 54 percent. Wages have only gone up 26 percent.

Mr. Speaker, what is Congress' solution?

The 2017 Trump tax bill was a massive handout to corporations and billionaires. The majority of the benefits went almost entirely to the top 1 percent, and it added \$2 trillion to the national debt.

Here in these Halls, folks want to do it again. Members of Congress who have continually bent a knee to billionaires and their corporate PAC donors are now going to take their money, follow their orders, and give them the tax giveaways they want. They are going to gut regulation and allow for more corporate consolidation, which means that consumers lose more and more power in the marketplace and pay more and more for goods and services.

I don't accept corporate PAC money because I know that my constituents expect us to be with them, not the superwealthy.

Most politicians, unfortunately, do take corporate PAC money, and I believe it is one of the reasons why there is so much pushback to Medicare negotiating lower prescription drug prices or attempts to privatize Medicare or any effort to pursue commonsense gun reform. Think about how much the gun manufacturers make. It is billions and billions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, many of them are all in on spending trillions on the superwealthy through tax reform because it helps their own interests. It is not what people want.

People are struggling, and they want change. They are tired of the status quo. They are saying that over and over. For decades, that is what they have been given. We have appeased billionaires and big corporations while leaving working people, the middle class, and small businesses behind.

In the next Congress, we have an opportunity to pass a new tax bill. What

if 100 percent of all tax reform benefits went to working people, the middle class, and small businesses?

The last time Congress passed a big tax bill, almost 90 percent went to the top 1 percent. What if 100 percent of any tax cuts went to working people, the middle class, and small businesses? It should be paid for by making the superwealthy just pay all their taxes, just like the rest of us.

Big corporations and the superwealthy don't need our tax cuts. The middle class, small businesses, and working people need them. By giving people enough money to support their families, pay for their groceries, and contribute to our economy, we are all better off.

Everyone at the top should pay all of their taxes so every American can pay all their bills.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his words.

The gentleman is right. We have to confront this corporate power. We have to build an economy and a government that rewards hard work, not just obscene wealth. We talk about how we all feel that squeeze. We feel that power hurting us.

We all hear from our constituents about the cost of groceries and the cost of food. They don't have a choice to not feed their families. We are feeling it and we are hearing constantly about the pressure folks are under to make ends meet and to put food on the table.

People's paychecks aren't going as far in the grocery store and the checkout line. It hurts budgets. It hurts families.

They are asking: Who is responsible? Why is this happening?

No doubt, a few years back, food and grocery supply chains were affected by the pandemic, but a Federal Trade Commission Report made clear that the disruptions from the pandemic disproportionately impacted small firms because larger companies tried successfully to protect their power and their market share.

□ 1815

There is very little competition across much of the grocery sector. It is not marked by heavy competition. The four biggest grocery retailers account for nearly 70 percent of sales across the country.

Among food suppliers, four firms control more than 60 percent of sales in most grocery categories. That is not terribly competitive.

Without real competition, large grocers and retailers have got power to—guess what—set prices that we all pay for. We have seen price gouging by these corporations well above the level of inflation.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), who I acknowledge and know has been fighting hard against not just corporate power, but to bring down costs for folks, especially in the grocery stores.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for yielding. I am so grateful for his leadership every single day on behalf of hardworking Americans across his district and across our country.

Mr. Speaker, something is wrong in this country. Families go to the grocery store and they can't afford milk or eggs or cereal that their kids like. Poor and working-class people are struggling under the weight of inflation. They can't make ends meet, and at the same time, the richest 1 percent and corporate CEOs are still taking home record profits.

A recent poll confirmed that two-thirds of Americans think: one of the biggest problems facing us today is that a handful of corporations have too much power. The numbers back this up.

Despite rising costs that are squeezing poor and working people across the country, corporate profits are bigger than ever. It is a simple story of corporate monopolies price gouging consumers.

Let's start with eggs because I like to eat eggs every morning. I think there are a lot of people who like eggs and look at the price of eggs. It is a staple.

Before the pandemic, the price of a dozen eggs hardly ever went over three bucks, but in 2022 and 2023, we saw record-high prices for eggs.

Now, according to Farm Action, this price increase was because dominant egg producers used inflation and avian flu as a cover-up to extract profit margins as high as—wait for it—40 percent on a dozen eggs.

This should come as no surprise because there is a long record of collusion in the egg industry. In 2023, a jury found that Cal-Maine and other egg producers actually did collude to fix egg prices.

Let's look at diapers, another issue that is so big for so many families across the country.

Bloomberg reported in July 2021 that the cost of Pampers nearly doubled from 25 bucks for 200 diapers to \$40 for 168 diapers, and that price increase was just in 6 months. More money for fewer diapers.

It is true that there was a shortage of some diaper materials during the pandemic, but—guess what—those shortages stopped, and you didn't see the prices stabilize. You didn't see the prices of key materials coming back to normal.

When you go to the store and you see diaper brands like Huggies and Luvs and Pampers, the real story is, turn them around and see who they are owned by because all of these different brands that are on your grocery shelves are owned by only two companies: Procter & Gamble and Kimberly-Clark, accounting for about 70 to 80 percent of the market. Even as the cost to make diapers has gone way down, these companies are still keeping the prices high, and they are reporting record profits.

Mr. Speaker, I will go to healthcare because it is another place where my constituents and people across the country are talking about the high cost of healthcare. We have seen big insurers, private equity, and other big corporations buying up hospitals and other healthcare providers. My home State of Washington has been particularly affected. A handful of healthcare systems now control 90 percent of the hospital beds in the State of Washington.

Some studies have found that these mergers are especially bad for people in rural areas because it actually causes smaller clinics to eliminate services like obstetrics or pediatrics, or even to close entirely. All of this has led to unprecedented corporate control over healthcare in my home State and across the country.

People across the State and across the country are seeing the negative effects of this increased corporate power in their daily lives. A family physician who worked at a clinic in my district testified that the quality and availability of care decreased after the clinic was bought by a large national healthcare network. Another witness testified that the price that her insurer paid for monthly infusions to manage her chronic illness nearly tripled from \$24,000 to \$74,000 per visit without any increase in the quality of care.

The president of the Washington State Nurses Association testified that he had seen increased costs and decreased access to care for his patients. All of these stories confirm what we now know: Corporate greed in healthcare or in any industry raises costs and makes life harder for Americans.

It does not have to be this way. As elected officials, it is our job to ensure that government is keeping these corporations in line and keeping prices low for the American people.

I will tell you a story about what government can do when we fight corporate power. In 2015, two grocery store chains merged: Albertsons and Safeway. They wanted what corporations always want in these big mergers and that is more money for themselves, their CEOs, and their shareholders. They said that the deal would be better for people in my home State of Washington and across the country. They claimed that the merger would pass on savings to consumers and not line the pockets of CEOs, but what actually happened?

Well, here is what actually happened: Instead of streamlining, dozens of stores were closed. Those closures created food and pharmacy deserts, making it harder for many people in already underserved communities to get fresh food or get their prescriptions. Older adults, students, people with disabilities, people in rural communities, low-income residents, those are the ones that suffered the most. Workers at the stores that closed, by the way, also lost their jobs. Despite all of those

corporate promises, workers and consumers were the ones who suffered. That is what happens when government does not challenge corporate power and monopolies. We lose.

When Albertsons announced in 2022 that it was going to merge this time with Kroger, people were rightly worried. They were worried that the prices would go up, they were worried that there would be fewer choices and deserts in their communities, and that more grocery stores would close. When asked about the merger, one Washingtonian told *The Seattle Times* that she was worried that her local store would close. She said: If there are no other grocery stores that I can walk to, I don't know what I am going to do. This is my store. Another said that he worried that the merger would make it so that these guys' prices would go sky-high. Workers worried that it would be harder for them to bargain for better pay and working conditions, that store closures would mean layoffs, and that their families would face uncertainty and hardship once again.

This time something was different. My colleagues and I urged the Biden administration to challenge the proposed deal, and the Federal Trade Commission agreed that we could not allow another bad merger to go through.

The FTC and many State attorneys general, including in my State, challenged the deal. While that challenge is still in court, we have delayed and will continue to work on blocking this bad deal.

This is just one of the stories of what can happen when an administration, when a government takes on corporate greed the way that the Biden-Harris administration did, the way that Democrats have done on everything from egg prices to collusion by landlords driving up rental prices.

I will be honest, I am worried that the Trump administration may not keep up these fights against corporate power, especially as we see the proposed cabinet being stacked with people who have close ties to Wall Street. We certainly saw the last Trump administration conduct the largest corporate tax giveaway in history, putting hundreds of millions of dollars into the hands of big corporations like Verizon and Facebook and Amazon while shorting regular Americans.

We have seen the extreme conservative appointees on the Supreme Court accept lavish gifts from their big business buddies, while overturning government efforts to clamp down on corporate power.

We cannot allow the next administration to repeat these mistakes. We need to hold their feet to the fire. We need to make sure that they are working in the interest of all Americans, not just big corporations and the wealthy. We don't want a situation where the wealthiest in this country, once again, get gold bars and working people get maybe 8 weeks of groceries. That is bread crumbs. That is not what middle-

class working people and poor people across America deserve.

That is why I have a lot of real solutions to these problems. My Stop Corporate Capture Act would give the people, not big corporations, a say in government. My Stop Anticompetitive Healthcare Act would give the government the power to challenge hospital mergers and protect access to quality healthcare. Of course, my Ultra-Millionaire Tax Act would make sure that the ultra-wealthy pay their fair share.

When we take on corporate power, we win for the working people. When we lower prices, we win for working people. We allow people to put food on their table. We can raise wages, so Americans don't have to work three jobs to get by. We can stop corporations from being so big that they don't care if they are failing consumers, and we can make sure that government works for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Representative DELUZIO from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue and on so many issues facing us today.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I certainly thank the gentlewoman from Washington for her strong leadership and fight against these horrible mergers that are anticompetitive that we are all paying for and for so much fight on behalf of working people across this country.

We know that when corporations throw their weight around, all too often our constituents are hurt, small businesses are hurt, and workers are hurt. It is also dangerous at times. We know that when there are monopolies, our supply chains are weaker. There is more likely to be something that happens that might hurt us.

I am reminded of the baby formula shortage we saw in this country in the early part of 2022. It was set off because Abbott Labs, a company that dominates that industry, had a recall of its formula due to dangerous bacteria outbreak in one factory. Multiple babies died.

They had to shut down their factory in Michigan. It was a horrible situation. Shutting down just one factory, one, caused a nationwide shortage. In many places, store shelves were bare. Families were scrambling across the country, particularly families with babies that had special dietary needs. Delaware, Kansas, and Tennessee reported to be the hardest hit States. We felt it in places like Pennsylvania. My then-young son wasn't quite a year old. My own family worried about whether we could find formula and thank goodness we could.

There is research saying that some of those impacts might be still ongoing, that infant health suffered during this shortage, that babies may still feel the effects of that. Our supply chains can never be so weak that one single factory can cause such havoc all over the country.

It is not just that these powerful companies make our supply chains

weaker, they distort our democracy. They weaken faith in our elections. They corrupt with the money through our elections and our campaigns.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ), who I know is a hard fighter for campaign finance reform and to protect this democracy.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman DELUZIO for convening this Special Order hour, and I am grateful it is on a topic that I believe is so critical to so many of the conversations that we are having right now.

You are talking about babies still impacted. You brought me back to thinking about what it was like for me growing up. I grew up in Humboldt Park in the city of Chicago. I saw my immigrant parents work pretty long hours in minimum wage jobs. My dad worked two jobs, my mom worked two jobs, and somehow she also managed to give a lot of time to her local church.

What they couldn't afford was childcare. My mother worked first shift so my dad could work third shift, and they could figure out how to make sure that their kids always had someone at home. That meant that my parents could barely ever see each other.

My parents' experience is not very different from the reality of so many others right now. I witnessed the struggles of my community to secure stable housing, to ensure quality education for their children, and to raise a family with the rising cost of living.

Let me be very clear: Working people are still struggling. The cost of living in America is too damn high. Too often I hear my constituents, my neighbors talk about having to make a decision: Can I go to the grocery store and buy the eggs and the milk, try to get some spinach, try to get the bread, pay the \$2,200 a month for a two-bedroom apartment in Chicago, and then afford my inhaler?

Mr. Speaker, oftentimes what ends up happening is that people have to choose between being able to feed their children and their healthcare, feeding their children and an inhaler in one of the richest countries in the whole world. Why is it so hard for us to move a working people's agenda in Congress? You would think there is more of us that come from working class than ever before. Some of us actually understand what it is like to have to help our parents who are probably making \$100 too much for Medicaid so they need help covering their healthcare.

□ 1830

There are more of us here who are working class, but somehow a working people's agenda in this place doesn't seem to be a priority.

We ask ourselves: Why don't the American people trust that we are working for them?

Well, let me answer that question. When unchecked corporate power and greed in the marketplace meets un-

checked corporate money in politics, well, we have a problem. It is the families in Illinois' Third, Fourth, Fifth, in your own districts, who end up suffering because of it.

We know that price gouging, price-fixing, predatory algorithms, and corporate monopolies put profits and production over people. It is why I joined my colleagues in sending a letter, that Congresswoman JAYAPAL was just talking about, opposing the Kroger-Albertsons merger, because we have to resist the consolidation of corporate power if we are going to protect working people.

I am also a proud cosponsor of Congresswoman OMAR's Shrinkflation Reduction Act which would enhance price transparency for consumers and combat the deceptive practice of shrinkflation.

I go to my local grocery store. I can literally see the difference between what people in my community are paying and what someone else in a community that has four grocery stores pays. They usually pay 25 percent more. We need the kind of accountability that bills like this will bring.

Shrinkflation practices hide behind the language of inflation, but we know that actually consumer exploitation is intended to defraud us so corporations can continue to profit, while providing less product.

We know how corporations are able to get away with these practices. It is because they use their profits to buy the same exact people who are responsible for holding them accountable. Yes, I said it. Big money in politics, whether poured into elections or directly in the pockets of corrupt public servants, give special interests and corporations outsized influence in our democracy.

So when a good bill comes before us, when a good bill comes to the committee, somehow we can't actually debate the bill because it is a good bill. It should pass. These corporations have the power to buy elections and buy elected officials.

Our democracy is weaker and our communities suffer when the voices of working families are buried under the influence that millions can buy. We see it too often. It is why we need bills like H.R. 1118, the DISCLOSE Act, to end the scourge of dark money buying our democracy.

I am a cosponsor of the act that Representative PAPPAS introduced because it does a couple of things. It requires super-PACs and dark money groups to disclose donors who have given \$10,000 or more during an election cycle. It requires those spending money on ads to disclose their donors. It cracks down on the use of shell corporations to hide the identity of a donor.

If you are donating to an elected official or candidate, the public should know who you are. The DISCLOSE Act bill does just that. If our democracy is not for sale, which it shouldn't be for sale, then mega-donors should not be

attempting to buy our democracy. It means we have to bring the full power of the Federal Government through regulations, through accountability, and through transparency to fight for working people, for our constituents.

It is also why I think it is so important that we are cosponsoring legislation like Congresswoman JAYAPAL's bill, which is the Stop Corporate Capture Act, H.R. 1507. This bill institutes reforms to rightsize the influence of corporate interests over regulatory process, it increases transparency of government rulemaking decisions, and it establishes a mechanism for the public to hold agencies accountable.

We have to do everything possible so that the American people trust that those of us that are in the people's House are actually here for them because the reality is that they don't.

They do see us as people who are here to enrich ourselves, people who are here to hear ourselves speak. Working families demand accountability, and they have given us a mandate. They are asking us for bold solutions to economic justice, and it means taking on corporate greed.

As we get closer to an administration that has promised to weaken the pillars of our democracy more than ever, I think it is going to be critical that Progressives and every Democrat, frankly, every elected official that is here for working families, get together to unite and address corporate greed. If we don't, we will continue to see what we see now, which is corporations becoming wealthier than wealthy can possibly be, while poor people continue to have to choose between healthcare and feeding their children.

I thank Congressman DELUZIO for the opportunity to speak today. I thank him for bringing up such an important, critical issue. I look forward to working with him in the next Congress.

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for her powerful words.

This democracy is not for sale. That should not be something that is controversial in this Chamber or anything else. Our constituents expect us to fight for all of them.

One of the places that we have seen this consolidation, this concentration, this raw power really hurt folks is in agriculture. We see it because we know that food production is a key step in that grocery supply chain, and we know we hear from our constituents that the cost of groceries is too high. We are all paying too much for food because of this consolidation that we see in agriculture. Folks are getting ripped off. They are tired of it.

This increased consolidation also puts the squeeze on smaller, local farms, family farms, small businesses, people often deeply rooted in their communities, in my community, the communities of so many of the Members of this Chamber.

This summer I visited a farm in my district and met with farmers from the

Beaver/Lawrence Pennsylvania Farm Bureau roundtable. Some of them are livestock producers. They sell their meat or poultry to be packed and processed. The meatpacking and processing industries are some of the most heavily consolidated in the country, and they have very little competition.

For the past decade, the four largest meatpacking and processing corporations in the United States have maintained about two-thirds of the country's market share. Some independent research has found this consolidation to be even higher with the largest four firms holding up to 85 percent of the market share in beef processing and around 60 percent in poultry. That is not very competitive. It doesn't meet the spirit of competition that we want and need for American capitalism to succeed.

I heard at that meeting in Beaver County, that compared to larger competitors, these folks had to wait longer to get their livestock in, to be taken in by these giant processing corporations. They are having a hard time negotiating fair prices and fair compensation.

We are all going to pay for the squeezing of those farmers and those small businesses. It may also be a violation of Federal law, the Packers and Stockyards Act.

After hearing from these constituents, these farmers, I wrote to the Agriculture Secretary and called for action. That high level of consolidation, once again, is driving up costs for all of us. That market power also means that processors have increased buying power that they can use to dictate prices to smaller farmers who struggle to stay afloat.

Mr. Speaker, we need a strong agriculture industry. We need family farms that make it to that next generation. We have got to promote competition for the food industry, for the farm, the grocery store, every part of that supply chain.

That also means we need antitrust enforcement with some teeth, with some muscle behind it, and with real consequences for violations. This next Congress and administration should be willing to do that work, to take on rip-off monopolies, and to create an environment that fosters competition.

That is the spirit of American capitalism that I think we all want and that our constituents expect of us. It is one where small businesses and farms can grow and thrive.

Mr. Speaker, one place we have really seen small businesses feel the squeeze are local pharmacies. If you walk across any Main Street in most of our districts, any of our districts, they are great small businesses that anchor our communities. They may be multi-generational businesses. Pharmacies are one of those places that people like; pharmacists get to know their patients. Those are relationships that are important for people's health, and they add to the vibrancy of our communities.

People suffer when they lose competition, when we lose those small businesses across our communities. I visited Towne Drugs in Aspinwall, an independent local pharmacy. I was there with other pharmacists, as well as small business owners. I heard stories about how pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs, are frequently steering customers toward their own chain pharmacies. It hurts the bottom line of independent pharmacists.

Many of these PBMs are often vertically integrated, where they have a mail-order pharmacy, a retail pharmacy, and maybe an insurance business on top of that PBM or pharmacy benefits manager business. They often charge high or ridiculous fees for paperwork errors as a way to not pay those pharmacists and those pharmacies full price.

I heard about inconvenient higher prices for customers. I heard about patients being steered toward more expensive medications or specific pharmacies dealing with relationships and networks and all the rest.

In Pennsylvania this year alone, estimates are around 80 local pharmacies have closed. Those are options that are now gone. It is not just smaller, independent pharmacists. The big chains are feeling the squeeze, too. It means fewer options and worse service for patients who need a prescription, who need to get their drugs filled. It is not good for our economy.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is that out-of-control corporate power that is making people's lives worse, hurting small businesses, hurting patients, hurting our communities and our Main Streets.

We need action on PBM reform. I am a cosponsor of several measures here including the HELP Copays Act, and the PATIENTS Act. These are just some examples of bills that I think this Chamber should pass in advance to fight back, to protect local pharmacies, to protect patients, to protect competition that we need in the healthcare economy.

We have got to keep up that fight against this out-of-control corporate power to lower healthcare costs, a place that we hear from our constituents all the time, and to protect small businesses.

Another example here where we see corporate power making life worse is not the healthcare problem. We see it in the Golden Arches, McDonald's. People don't think of McDonald's as a small business. Of course, it is a big corporation. It operates as a franchise system. Many franchise owners are small business owners.

Yet, the internet reminds us that those franchise owners for a long time did not have the ability to fix their own ice cream machines. You would see the out-of-order signs. It was impossible to get a McFlurry. The reason why is only the technicians licensed by the company that was making McDonald's soft-serve ice cream machines

were allowed to do the repairs. They limited the number of technicians so there were long waits for servicing. That is why those machines were broken. That is why you couldn't get a McFlurry. This shouldn't be that be hard.

Finally, we saw the Federal Trade Commission take action and call out the bad guy here. Now the U.S. Copyright Office has issued a new set of exceptions, allowing restaurants to repair their own copyrighted equipment used in commercial food preparation at the retail level. That means finally McDonald's soft-serve ice cream machines should be getting back online. Those repairs should be moving. We will see those McFlurries flying through again.

Again, this is that same problem, the right-to-repair policy, which is what we are talking about. A right to repair is about the freedom across industries to fix stuff and not let big companies and corporations gatekeep the information that people need to fix things.

The American people work hard. They have ingenuity. We know how to make repairs. This is about freedom in our economy. This is about making sure that small business owners, whether it is auto shops, in this case McDonald's franchise owners, can make repairs.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is fundamentally American to see that competition and to make sure that we are not seeing gatekeeping over who can fix things, whether it is a tractor or an ice cream machine.

We have also seen powerful companies use that power—not just greed—power to jam us with fees, junk fees that are often very deceptive. Hidden at the end of a transaction, you see an advertised price. All of a sudden, there are fees at the end of the transaction as you go to check out, from tickets to flights to hotels, credit card fees, food delivery apps. This has become pervasive in our economy.

I was on one of the main streets in my district, Lincoln Avenue in Bellevue, about a year or so ago, talking with small businesses about these junk fees.

I heard from the general manager of a pizza shop who told the story of how his customers in the business were suffering because of third-party delivery apps. They were seeing inconsistency between what was available on the menu and what customers were seeing. They were seeing big fees taken out of their orders. Customers were mad because service was getting worse. It wasn't working out for his business.

In fact, I went next door to the ice cream shop. I told them what I was there to work on at the pizza shop. They told me the same story. These apps were hurting their small business, as well.

□ 1845

In fact, that pizza shop had to re-name. They hired their own delivery

driver to bring it in, which was an expense, but it made their business better.

It tells you how impactful and bad those hidden fees are on a small business owner like a restaurant, like a pizza shop, that they were willing to defend their reputation, defend their business, make an investment, hire in-house, and change the name. Ultimately, it was worth doing that because of these predatory junk fees that we see from middlemen.

It is unfortunately, though, the newest version of a story we have seen for far too long: a big corporation hurting a small business, and third-party middlemen using these hidden fees to deceive customers into paying more. Again, it might be tickets, a flight, or a hotel. Those junk fees often have very little connection to the service or the product being provided.

I think they are a lose-lose for our local economy and working families, but those junk fees might be a great profit source for a third-party middleman or a powerful corporation.

I will give an example, and most sports fans will be familiar with it, Mr. Speaker. This past summer, I used StubHub to buy tickets to a Pittsburgh Pirates game. It was actually Paul Skenes' debut. I was pretty excited to see him show up for the Buccos. I took my family. We got jammed and slammed with junk fees, like everyone else who buys tickets these days.

The fees were more than a quarter of the overall ticket price. Those fees are often hidden until the very end of the transaction. It is not the advertised price.

Companies like Ticketmaster, which is owned by Live Nation, control the market from tickets to venues to music promotion. Live Nation directly manages more than 400 artists and controls about 60 percent or so of promotions of major concert venues across America. They control more than 265 concert venues in North America alone.

Through Ticketmaster, Live Nation controls about 80 percent or more of major concert venues' primary ticketing for concerts. That is not competitive. It is not a competitive market, Mr. Speaker.

What are they doing with that power? They are driving up prices with things like junk fees. They are making activities like concerts and going to a game out of reach for too many families. These are important events, games, competitions.

I mean, my goodness, I am from western Pennsylvania. A Steelers game, a Pens game, or a Pirates game is a big deal for people. We love our teams. I know I am not alone in that in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. Fans are all paying for this.

When these powerful companies cut exclusive deals that hurt venues, that restrict other venues, that rip off performers, it hurts a lot of people and hurts the fans. This behavior seems to

be more than just a rip-off. It is probably also illegal.

The Justice Department has filed suit to split up Ticketmaster from Live Nation. That case remains pending in the courts.

Folks are tired of getting ripped off. They are tired of congressional inaction here. They expect us to take on this corporate power.

We know that when massive corporations are allowed to take on small businesses and deceive their customers, we all pay for it. Western Pennsylvania certainly knows that story. We are not alone in that.

As I heard that day in Bellevue and across my district, small businesses are strong. They are resilient. They are flexible. They adapt. They need our help here in the Congress. It is about their workers, and it is about our communities. I know that we can step up to it. We have to do more.

According to a 2019 study, 85 percent of Americans experience a hidden or junk fee for service. That was in 2019. That was before the COVID pandemic, where we saw much more reliance on, say, food delivery. I know we have to do more.

I will quote the general manager from that pizza shop that day who told me: "These fees may seem small, but they really add up."

That is what it is all about, Mr. Speaker, those fees hurting folks, hurting small businesses that we have to stand up for, that we have to fight back on.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also talk about our national security, which is maybe not a place we think that consolidation affects us, but it does.

I have the great privilege, Mr. Speaker, to serve on the Armed Services Committee. I wore the uniform earlier in my life, before I came to this Chamber. I will tell you, we have challenges with the defense industrial base. We need it to be strong and resilient to meet the challenges not just of today but of tomorrow.

When it comes to our defense industrial base, the suppliers, the manufacturers that make stuff here, we need to have them do better. We need to better protect public money and make sure our Department of Defense is ready and equipped to answer whatever our country might require of our servicemembers. We have seen the same trends across our economy in our defense industrial base.

In 1990, there were more than 50, 51, prime contractors in our defense industrial base. That number now is down to five. That is heavy consolidation. You see it right here, 51 to 5. These are the companies that make ships, missiles, rockets, you name it, all the things that we need that are central to our national security and our defense. We have gone from 51 to 5.

This reduction is depriving the American people of competition for key elements of our defense. I hear it from military leaders in the committee. I

have seen it in reports that the Pentagon has penned that too often the current defense contractors are delivering not on time. They are behind schedule, and the costs are too high. The quality isn't what it should be, what the American people expect.

We have to fight back against this consolidation, Mr. Speaker. I think we need more competition in our defense industrial base. It is ripping off our military, which means ripping off the American people. There is public money we have to protect.

I think there is support building in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle to strengthen competition here to make sure our defense industrial base is stronger and to protect public money.

I have taken action along with colleagues. This year's National Defense Authorization Act, the defense bill, included my Best Price for Our Military Act. That is an important measure. It is a bipartisan bill. It closes a timing loophole that defense contractors are using to delay providing critical certified cost and pricing data to the Pentagon.

My bill now requires these contractors provide this data before contract agreement so that we can see whether we are getting the best deal or whether we have to go back to the negotiating table. It lets officers do a more informed analysis and be better stewards of public money.

I hope to see this included in the final version of the defense bill that we will pass and send to the President.

I know defense contractors and others lobbied to increase the threshold point where they are required to report their pricing data to the Department of Defense under the Truth in Negotiations Act. In 2018, this threshold jumped from \$750,000 up to \$2 million. That meant, below that threshold, they didn't have to provide that data. That is less oversight. I think we need more.

The goal of our Defense Department is to provide security, defense for all of us, for the national interest of the United States. It never should have and doesn't have the goal to enrich giant defense corporations that produce products that are too often behind schedule, overpriced, and don't meet the quality that we expect, that we in the Congress require.

We need to ensure that our sailors, soldiers, airmen, marines, and guardians are equipped with the very best. That is patriotic, that we protect public money.

Strengthening oversight enforcement within DOD, taking on price gouging, working with the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice Antitrust Division, all of that is about fostering more competition that we need in our defense industrial base.

Corporate power doesn't just hurt competition in defense. It doesn't just lead to higher costs. It does those things, but it puts our safety at risk. We saw it with the impact to families

who were worried about finding baby formula, infant formula. We see it in sectors of the economy all over the country that when corporate power grows too strong, it can put us at risk. It can treat us and our communities like collateral damage in the way of their profits.

We saw that on February 3, 2023, a Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, across the border from my district and my constituents in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. We saw it on the news, a flaming pile of train cars, a horrible derailment caused by incompetence and greed at that railroad.

We saw brave first responders rush in to help. That is what people do, they rush in to help and serve others. They didn't know what chemicals they were dealing with, which is its own problem. The local communities felt like they were left out of the loop. They didn't know what was happening.

Then, we saw a decision to do a controlled release, sending a toxic fireball into the sky that we now know was chemicals, including vinyl chloride. That was later deemed to be unnecessary.

The findings of the National Transportation Safety Board, the NTSB, included concerns that Norfolk Southern and its contractors intentionally misled the on-site incident commander and local and State officials, pressuring them to order the vent and burn that sent that fireball flying into the sky. They were toxic chemicals. That is corporate power run amok. It hurt my constituents, and it hurt our neighbors in Ohio.

It seemed to me that railroad and its contractors pushed that vent and burn because they cared more about their profit than our safety. They cared about getting rail operations moving more than they cared about making sure we were safe. That is unacceptable.

It is not just my community in western Pennsylvania and our neighbors in Ohio. We know there are tracks across this country. Communities like mine live near and along the tracks. This happens again, and it happens a lot in this country, unfortunately. We have to make rail safer. We have to bring down the rates of derailments and require more of these railroads.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), one of my colleagues who I know is a strong supporter of rail safety. He is with us to make sure that we protect communities like ours.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Representative DELUZIO lending his voice on the House floor to speak to some of the injustice out there. Certainly, representing a district that has immense amounts of rail, it is important for us to address safety, consumer ridership, and also the economy.

Over these past months and years, we have seen far too many hardworking Americans struggling to get by and crippled by costs.

Recent data shows that more than one-quarter of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. We need to be sensitive to all of these perspectives as they relate to working families.

Meanwhile, corporate greed and wealth disparity are at an all-time high. One of the countless recent examples of billion-dollar corporations putting profits over people's lives came during and after Hurricanes Helene and Milton made landfall, wreaking death and destruction across the southeastern United States. In their wake, complaints of price gouging poured in as families trying to flee the devastating storms reported skyrocketing costs for airline tickets, gas, hotel rooms, and more.

Despite many States having anti-price-gouging laws—these vary from State to State—the largest corporations can often easily avoid liability. That is why, last month, I joined a dozen of my Democratic colleagues in a letter led by Senator ELIZABETH WARREN calling for a Federal anti-price-gouging law to protect American consumers.

Unchecked corporate greed has hurt everyday Americans for far too long. Democrats are ready to face this issue head-on. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem that President-elect Trump and Republicans share the same commitment. Rather than working with us to drive down the cost of living and make big corporations pay their fair share, they have announced their plans to expand the Trump tax scam.

Expanding this unpopular law will only further cement massive tax breaks for Trump's billionaire buddies like Elon Musk while sticking the working-class people who voted for him with higher costs on everyday goods through his half-baked tariff scheme.

Experts from both sides of the aisle have said plainly that if these GOP policies are implemented, they will send prices surging and claw back any progress we have made to stem inflation. These are not the types of policies that the American people signed up for.

Republicans and Democrats alike need to stand together to enact a bipartisan tax plan that would lower taxes for working- and middle-class families while ensuring everyone pays their fair share, including Trump's billionaire buddies.

If they aren't willing to join us in this effort to support middle-class Americans, we will fight back however we can, and that is a promise. Of course, it involves all sorts of angles that speak to the doability for working families, making certain that regulations speak to the needs of consumers for rail safety, growing the economy, and providing efficiencies so that American families are justly served.

We need to do a lot of business in the upcoming session, and we need to do it with American families in mind, those working families who struggle in the economy. We need to make improvements and let fairness be our guide.

I thank Congressman DELUZIO for his leadership on behalf of working families and on behalf of safety. I know we both have districts that require that sort of laser-sharp focus. It is an honor to serve with him. I thank him for raising his voice and boldly speaking for justice for our American consumers.

□ 1900

Mr. DELUZIO. I thank the gentleman from New York for his strong words and his commitment to his constituents, to safety, for hardworking people having a shot at the American Dream, which fundamentally is what I think we all want here.

We heard from Members representing districts across the country, a broad ideological spectrum of folks tonight, all talking about ways that corporate power has hurt their communities or hurt their constituents—it has hurt competition—and expressing their willingness, our shared willingness, to fight, to fight back for our constituents.

I represent a competitive district. I will say, Mr. Speaker, I have the best district in the country. I might get some argument from my colleagues about that. This is a place, like so many others, where folks want the American Dream to be strong. I think every Member here would say the same of their constituents.

If you work hard, you play by the rules, the American Dream is within your reach. That is what we are trying to do. I have been laser focused, as have so many of our colleagues here, about lowering costs, taking on corporate power to protect small businesses and workers, fighting against lousy trade deals that hurt places like western Pennsylvania, making stuff more in this country, more manufacturing, cracking down on junk fees, on price-gouging. That is really hurting folks and really hurting our Main Streets.

These economic priorities, they are good policies, and it is popular because the American people want us to fight for them. They don't want to get ripped off. They want to see real American capitalism that is marked by competition.

The survey data here is clear. This is a poll from ABC News and The Washington Post from July, 85 percent of Americans say higher costs are a very important issue, one of the single most important issues they feel that we should confront.

There is a tendency by some in politics to try and please everybody. Okay. You know, I am a little sick and tired though of folks around here, whether they are in this Chamber or out in the think-tanks looking for a win-win in every situation.

You know what? Sometimes, there isn't.

Sometimes there is a toxic fireball shot up into the sky near your community when there are small pharmacies getting killed, when there are junk fees

hurting your constituents. Sometimes there is a bad guy, and you have got to fight them.

The American people want us to fight for them. I am proud to see so many of my colleagues join me in that fight. The goal here is simple, and it is popular. Make life better. Make it less of a rip-off. Take on the corporate power that has been hurting so many of us.

I think that is the path back to the American Dream, along with strengthening and revitalizing our American manufacturing. Sometimes you call it the villain. I know we need more competition across our economy. We need to be unafraid of the fight, and we have to do it.

We are ready to go to the mat for the American people, for our constituents, to strengthen the American Dream. That is the vision. That is my vision. I know I am not alone in that. It is one that I know will resonate in the Rust Belt, the Sun Belt, the Coast, all over this country.

I thank my colleagues, my caucus members who joined me, I appreciate your leadership.

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

RECOGNIZING PATRICIA BRADSHAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 30 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Patricia Bradshaw for her upcoming and well-deserved retirement after her distinguished career with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Patricia began her career with the Central Intelligence Agency in 1984 as a records clerk, where it quickly became apparent that she would have an excellent career with the Agency.

Working up the ranks within the Office of Security from her time as a security clearance investigator and adjudicator, to serving the Agency overseas in physical and technical security, she eventually reached the pinnacle of the Agency as the Director of the Office of Security.

Over the course of her career, Patricia exemplified the epitome of the American Dream, even without obtaining a college degree. Her story is undeniable proof that with hard work and dedication to your craft, the limits of your achievements are boundless.

All Americans should be immensely grateful to Patricia Bradshaw for her unwavering service and dedication to our Nation.

I thank Patricia for her patriotism. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we hope she enjoys her well-earned retirement.

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

HONORING DAVID HOBSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable man. Dave Hobson was a beloved friend and leader. His life was marked by service, commitment, and an unyielding dedication to his country.

I saw firsthand how much Dave loved Ohio and the Miami Valley during our time together in the House of Representatives. Whether he was advocating for veterans or working to strengthen our national defense, Dave's efforts were always driven by a love for his country and a commitment to improve the lives of others.

The impact of Dave's legacy is felt across Ohio's 10th Congressional District, particularly at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base where the street Hobson Way is named in his honor and at Clark State College, which named its Beaver Creek Center, Dave Hobson Hall.

Dave believed that public office was a sacred trust, and he upheld that trust with every action he took. Beyond his remarkable political career, Dave was a devoted family man, a mentor, and a friend.

Dave was grateful, and we are grateful for his life, the life he lived, and the legacy that he left behind. He will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I now recognize my friend and colleague, the dean of the Ohio delegation, Ms. KAPTUR.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a very grateful, but heavy heart, along with all of our Ohio colleagues and those beyond Ohio as we honor the life and memory of our distinguished and affable former Ohio colleague, Congressman David Hobson.

Dave passed away on the 6th of October, 2024, having served in our people's House from 1991 to 2009, but he first sharpened his spurs in the Ohio Senate serving from 1982 to 1991. Dave was a true patriot, and a fine public servant first.

His lifetime of service to the people of greater Springfield and Ohio was marked by results and perseverance. Dave was a practical and visionary leader dedicated to accomplishing tangible results throughout his decades of generous public service. To his colleagues, he was a personal friend whose impact will be felt for generations.

Dave embodied a joy of life and devoted his life to his family and serving America. His 18-year tenure in Congress was marked by his enthusiasm, remarkable perseverance, and relentless commitment to achieve results, including moving the needle forward for

energy independence for our Nation. He understood America's role in the world, as Congressman TURNER has referenced.

He rose to significant roles, including ranking member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and chair of the Subcommittee on Military Construction. He distinguished himself with unwavering dedication to the defense and sustainment of our country.

Dave Hobson never forgot his roots in Ohio. What markedly set David apart was his precious ability to work across the aisle. This is a legacy other Members must learn from. He not only valued bipartisanship, he actually thrived on it, and it made his life and our work much more interesting and actually effective. We should look for more ways to find the big middle.

David's achievements from the shores of Normandy to Springfield, Ohio's, betterment are a testament to his profound tenacity, legacy of service, and leadership.

I shall miss his visits, both during when he served and when he retired from here, his generous counsel, his humor, and his knack for identifying new paths forward. He always had a new invention to bring in.

David's wit and humor brought light to our discussions, and his insights were cutting edge. I, along with all our colleagues, will sorely miss his visits, his laughter, and his unceasing efforts to improve the living conditions for all Americans. He lived, I think, by the adage: You attract more butterflies with honey than with vinegar.

Today, we all extend our deepest sympathies to his beloved wife, Carolyn, his children, Susan, Lynn, and Doug, his family, constituents, and friends.

As we remember Congressman and Chairman David Hobson tonight, let us carry forward his exemplary spirit of service and dedication, and may his soul rest in eternal peace and may his legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Ohio, (Mr. LATTA), who is also my friend.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of our former colleague, friend, and fellow Ohioan, Congressman Dave Hobson.

Before I talk about Dave's life of service, I think it is also important to reach out and talk about Dave himself. I don't think Dave had an enemy. I think Dave worked well with everyone, and I know that when people asked for assistance, he was always there.

I also know this, that when I needed help, Dave was there to help me, and I can't ever say thank you enough. I always told Dave how much I appreciated what he did to help me.

As has been mentioned, but I will mention again because I think it is important, Dave was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, received his bachelor of arts from Ohio Wesleyan University and law degree from the Ohio State University.

Dave went on to serve honorably in the Ohio Air National Guard from 1958 to 1963 and was also later inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame.

As my colleague had mentioned before, Dave served our men and women in uniform, served our veterans, and was always there to make sure that they received the help that they needed and the benefits that they deserved.

Dave served as an Ohio State senator from 1982 to 1990, and then from there, began his service here in the United States House of Representatives from 1991 to 2009. He did dutifully serve the Ohio Seventh District.

I know I was proud to call Dave a friend and a colleague. As we honor his life and legacy today, I extend my heartfelt sympathies to the Hobson family.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama, (Mr. ADERHOLT), who is also my friend.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, this certainly is a great tribute to a great man. Of course, it is with a heavy heart that we stand here this evening on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, which, as you know, we have all stood with Dave on this floor many, many times.

This evening, we come together to recognize his life, his legacy, and what Dave Hobson really meant to this institution. Serving alongside Dave Hobson on the Appropriations Committee, I saw firsthand that he was a hard worker. He was a problem solver, but more than that, we developed a friendship that we maintained even after he retired from Congress.

Dave showed everyone the best of Ohio, but his service was not only to his State but also to this Nation. That dedication will touch generations, in my opinion, for many years to come.

I have fond memories of serving with Dave on the Appropriations Committee. As a new member, I was on the subcommittee that he chaired. That was the Military Construction Subcommittee of Appropriations.

While Dave was the chairman and while he led the committee, as a new member I got to serve as his vice chair. Of course, that doesn't mean a whole lot because Dave called the shots, as you know Dave. He, of course, obviously, valued my input as he did everyone on the Committee.

During our time at MILCON there on the Appropriations Committee, I think we did a lot of good things for the soldiers around the world. I had a chance to meet with a lot of soldiers during that time.

As we work through this loss, I think about his wife, Carolyn, who my wife, Caroline, and I got to know well during the time that they were in Washington. Of course, our heart goes out to not only Carolyn, but also to the entire family, the children, and so many of his grandchildren and family that, unfortunately, I never had a chance to meet, but I know that he talked about them quite extensively when he was here in Washington.

As I say, as we work through this loss, we can take comfort in the words of Matthew 5:4, which says: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ADERHOLT and all of our colleagues who joined together to remember our dear friend and former Member of this body, Congressman Dave Hobson.

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

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 5464. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Guntersville, Alabama, as the "Colonel Ola Lee Mize Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic".

H.R. 5861. An act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6324. An act to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7333. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in West Palm Beach, Florida, as the "Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6101. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions [EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0434; FRL-10246.1-03-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AW02) received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6102. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Rubber Tire Manufacturing Amendments: Extension of Comment Period [EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0392; FRL-5949.1-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV70) received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6103. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Federal Plan Requirements

for Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units That Commenced Construction on or Before June 4, 2010 and Have Not Been Modified or Constructed Since August 7, 2013 [EPA-HQ-OAR-2016-0664; FRL-5960-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AT28) received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6104. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Texas: Incorporation by Reference of State Hazardous Waste Management Program [EPA-R06-RCRA-2021-0330; FRL-9522-01-R6] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6105. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Partial Approval and Partial Disapproval; North Carolina; Second Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0786; FRL-10405-R4] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6106. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Second Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R04-OAR-2023-0220; FRL-10407-02-R4] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6107. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Second Period Regional Haze Plan [EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0545; FRL-12100-02-R5] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6108. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Shelby County, Tennessee; Revisions to Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction Rules [EPA-R04-OAR-2023-0361; FRL-12238-02-R4] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6109. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; ID; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R10-OAR-2024-0449; FRL-12269-01-R10] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6110. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Tennessee: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R04-RCRA-2024-0451; FRL-12278-01-R4] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6111. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; New Haven and Fairfield Counties Second 10-Year Limited Maintenance Plan

for the 2006 24-Hour PM_{2.5} Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2024-0117; FRL-12283-02-R1] received November 15, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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:

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3290. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to ensure transparency and oversight of the 340B drug discount program; with an amendment (Rept. 118-757). 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. 3887. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the program of payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-758). 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 Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 10173. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to authorize grants for toxic substances remediation in schools, to reauthorize healthy high-performance schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN for herself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California):

H.R. 10174. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a program to support the research, development, demonstration, and deployment of zero-emission vessels and retrofit or replacement of existing vessels with zero-emission technologies and charging or fueling infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H.R. 10175. A bill to authorize United States participation in the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 10176. A bill to authorize the Bay Mills Indian Community of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, and Mr. BEAN of Florida):

H.R. 10177. A bill to prohibit the award of Federal grants to applicants submitting duplicative or fraudulent applications, to require the Director of Office of Management and Budget to establish a tracking and

deconfliction system for Federal grant applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 10178. A bill to protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of State and local prohibitions that burden citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Ms. PETERSEN):

H.R. 10179. A bill to direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to award grants to States to develop and expand the industrialized construction of innovative residential dwelling units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 10180. A bill to amend the National Marine Sanctuary Act to prohibit requiring an authorization for the installation, operation, maintenance, repair, or recovery of undersea fiber optic cables in a national marine sanctuary if such activities have previously been authorized by a Federal or State agency; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CHU, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 10181. A bill to exclude the imposition of duties and import quotas from the authorities provided to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. SOTO, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK):

H.R. 10182. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive the 10-percent additional tax on early distributions from qualified retirement plans in the case of withdrawals for family caregiving expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 10183. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide for the delegation of authority to Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama to manage certain expanded submerged lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 10184. A bill to establish an Educational Equity Challenge Grant program administered by the Department of Education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 10185. A bill to provide authority to contribute to the NATO Innovation Fund; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. RULLI, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 10186. A bill to prohibit individuals from accessing or using single-sex facilities on Federal property other than those corresponding to their biological sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 10187. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify Medicare rural hospital flexibility program grants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Ms. MANNING, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 10188. A bill to expand cost-sharing reductions with respect to qualified health plans offered through an Exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. FROST, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 10189. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to establish an interagency advisory Commission on Advancing Restorative Justice in Elementary and Secondary Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. GRANGER, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 10190. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to study the feasibility of establishing a Juneteenth Museum on Galveston Island, Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.J. Res. 224. A joint resolution Relating to the disapproval of the Presidential report with respect to the indebtedness of the Government of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. SELF):

H.J. Res. 225. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COHEN:

H. Res. 1584. A resolution directing the Committee on Ethics to preserve and release records of the Committee's review of the alleged misconduct of Matthew Louis Gaetz II of Florida while serving as a Member of the House of Representatives; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 1585. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives.

By Mr. BOST:

H. Res. 1586. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of Mid-America Transplant; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H. Res. 1587. A resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of mutual funds; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BERA, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHU, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. DAVIDS of

Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ESPALLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LIU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 1588. A resolution supporting the goals and principles of Transgender Day of Remembrance by recognizing the epidemic of violence toward transgender people and memorializing the lives lost this year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H. Res. 1589. A resolution advancing racial justice and the global rights of people of African descent in the next decade; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H. Res. 1590. A resolution expressing support for the designation of November 20, 2024, as "Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

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

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 10173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Grants to remediate toxic substances and support healthy environments in schools and child care facilities

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 10174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Authorizes a Zero-Emission Vessel Innovation Fund at the Maritime Administration

to support the research, demonstration, and deployment of zero-emission vessels.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 10175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Global Health

By Mr. BERGMAN:

H.R. 10176.

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:

Authorizes the Bay Mills Indian Community to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 10177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 and 18, of Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reducing duplicative and wasteful Federal government spending.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 10178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To protect the right of law-abiding citizens to transport knives interstate, notwithstanding a patchwork of State and local prohibitions that burden citizens.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 10179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to award grants to States to develop and expand the industrialized construction of innovative residential dwelling units, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 10180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Strengthens national security and global connectivity by safeguarding the United States' submarine cable infrastructure.

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 10181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 10182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive the 10-percent additional tax on early distributions from qualified retirement plans in the case of withdrawals for family caregiving expenses.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 10183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Act for resource management.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 10184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an Educational Equity Challenge Grant program administered by the Department of Education.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 10185.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is: Defense

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 10186.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit individuals from accessing or using single-sex facilities on Federal property other than those corresponding to their biological sex

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 10187.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Health Care

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 10188.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: health Care

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 10189.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would authorize the Secretary of Education, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to establish an interagency advisory Commission on Advancing Restorative Justice in Elementary and Secondary Education.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 10190.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to study the feasibility of estab-

lishing a Juneteenth museum on Galveston Island, Texas.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.J. Res. 224.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Foreign Affairs

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.J. Res. 225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;"

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation would express congressional disapproval of the Internal Revenue Service rule titled "Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit."

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. FONG, Mr. STEIL, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

H.R. 41: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 621: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 856: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 927: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 953: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 1230: Mrs. McIVER and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1325: Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FROST, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. BALINT, and Mr. PAL-LONE.

H.R. 1668: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 2380: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 2441: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 2825: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2923: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.

H.R. 3351: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BACON, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 3422: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 3633: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 3910: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 4335: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 4435: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 4619: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 4721: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 4726: Ms. HAGEMAN.

H.R. 4986: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5003: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 5005: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 5012: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 5030: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 5169: Mrs. KIM of California and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 5563: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 5566: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 5614: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.

H.R. 5685: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 5789: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 6124: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 6516: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 6751: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. BICE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MILLS, Mr. SMUCKER,

Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. PALMER, and Mr. PENCE.

H.R. 6835: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 7082: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 7137: Mr. BERA.

H.R. 7248: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 7573: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 7671: Mr. FULCHER and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 7755: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 7770: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE and Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 7779: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 7807: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 7808: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 7833: Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 7842: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 7944: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 7958: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 8028: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 8061: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia,

Mr. CROW, and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 8147: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 8331: Mr. MILLS and Mr. MAST.

H.R. 8370: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 8458: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 8706: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 8714: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 8753: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 8865: Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 9096: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 9165: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 9218: Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 9266: Ms. SCANLON and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 9268: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 9273: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. NEAL.

H.R. 9299: Ms. JACOBS and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 9382: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 9501: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 9573: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 9674: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 9725: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 9794: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 9868: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 9902: Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 9904: Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 9922: Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 9950: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 9997: Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 10033: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 10073: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. HARRIS, and Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 10110: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 10150: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 10156: Mr. PERRY.

H. Res. 609: Ms. TENNEY.

H. Res. 1350: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H. Res. 1449: Ms. MENG.

H. Res. 1479: Mr. BERA.

H. Res. 1516: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H. Res. 1565: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H. Res. 1579: Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HUNT, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. RULLI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 6598: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 6887: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.