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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, our shield and defender, our guide and friend, we praise You. For it is You who provides us counsel every hour of every day. Even at night, You instruct our hearts. We will never be shaken if we keep our eyes on You. With You at our right hand, we will not be led astray.

Therefore, on this day, may our hearts be glad and our tongues rejoice. May our bodies rest secure, for You will not abandon us to destruction, nor will You let those who remain faithful to You see the end of hope.

For You make known to us the path of life. You fill us with joy as You make Your presence known to us each day.

On this day, may we live, work, and love reflecting our gratitude for the bounty of countless and unimaginable gifts You have bestowed on us. May we reveal the joy of our faith in the eternal pleasure You desire for us.

In Your generous and gracious 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 gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

388TH BIRTHDAY OF THE NATIONAL GUARD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Guard's 388th birthday.

Since its founding on December 13, 1636, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the National Guard has exemplified the spirit of citizen-soldiers, ordinary men and women answering the extraordinary call to serve their country and their communities.

For nearly four centuries, the National Guard has been there in times of war and peace, disaster and recovery, and every moment in between.

The National Guard is a symbol of America's best, a team of teachers, doctors, engineers, and everyday citizens, all soldiers, who are willing to sacrifice their lives to protect ours.

Mr. Speaker, today, we honor the men and women who have worn the uniform of the National Guard, past and present. We salute their courage, their sacrifice, and their unwavering commitment to duty. We reaffirm our gratitude for their families, who stand beside them at every challenge and sacrifice.

Let us commit to supporting these brave individuals as they continue to protect and serve, ensuring that the

National Guard remains a shining example of what it means to be a citizen and a patriot.

PREVENTING ELIMINATION OF 500 JOBS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, jobs, jobs, jobs.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 prevents the elimination of over 500 jobs at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

To be clear, cutting one squadron would have a devastating impact on this economically distressed community and strip away a vital national security asset in a dangerous world.

Amidst ongoing conflict around the globe, without any doubt, the F-15E Strike Eagle remains critical to the mission.

When visiting Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, the need for constructing a new combat arms training range couldn't be made clearer.

The NDAA also includes a provision authorizing \$41 million to help airmen with deployment readiness and weapon proficiency.

I say to the 4th Fighter Wing and the Wayne County community: I see them, hear them, and will stay in this fight with them.

REMEMBERING JERRY STERN

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of former Pennsylvania State Representative Jerry Stern, who passed away earlier this week.

For more than 20 years, Representative Stern served the people of Blair

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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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and Bedford Counties in Harrisburg, where he was committed to addressing the issues that matter most to our communities.

During his time both as a member of Pennsylvania's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Committee on Children and Youth, Representative Jerry Stern poured himself into his work each and every day.

By building coalitions and passing legislation that supported our farmers and by advocating for children in the foster care system and working to ensure that they received the support and the care that they needed, Representative Jerry Stern showed his commitment to the people of central Pennsylvania.

Today, please join me in remembering the life of Representative Jerry Stern and offering condolences to his wife, Susan, and to his entire family.

CELEBRATING KEVRE HENDRICKS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate Kevre Hendricks, a master musician, dedicated educator, Virgin Islands National Guardsman, and this year's honoree for the Crucian Christmas Festival Village in my home, St. Croix.

Mr. Hendricks is a passionate advocate for music and the arts in our community and tremendously committed to the work of supporting young people interested in music. He not only teaches music but also teaches creativity, discipline, and dedication to craft.

He is a teacher, a band director for St. Croix Educational Complex High School, and the musical director of a local band that has won the Crucian Christmas Festival Road March numerous times.

Congratulations to Cousin Kevre on this well-deserved recognition. We all look forward to this year's Village experience and Maestro's Musical Haven.

Festival on St. Croix is the warmest celebration of all, with sweet music, food, and fellowship.

RECOGNIZING MORGAN COUNTY SHERIFF ROBERT MARKLEY

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

Mr. COLLINS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the retirement of Morgan County Sheriff Robert Markley.

From the beginning of his career as a beat cop patrolling the streets to keep our community safe to serving as Morgan County's law enforcement officer, Sheriff Markley has dedicated his life to protecting the innocent, delivering swift justice to criminals, and keeping all of us safe.

He has been a pillar in the community, a mentor to everyone in local law enforcement, and the leader Morgan County needed.

I thank him for his dedication and leadership over these last two decades. He truly will be missed. I hope he will continue to advise and guide the next generation of local law enforcement.

Madam Speaker, I thank him for everything he has done.

RECOGNIZING TWO ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAMS

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two State champion football teams in my district, the East St. Louis Flyers and the Belleville Althoff Crusaders.

Under Coach Darren Sunkett's leadership, the Flyers went 13-1 this season, winning their 11th State championship on November 28 with a 48-28 victory over Geneva.

I also congratulate the Crusaders football team for winning the 2024 1A Illinois State championship and running back Dierre Hill, Jr., on being named the 2024 Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year. What an incredible accomplishment.

I know that each and every player, coach, and staffer put in hours of practice and preparation to help the Flyers and the Crusaders achieve their goals on and off the field this season.

Your dedication to the game of football and our local community is an inspiration.

□ 0915

HONORING STAYING HOME CORPORATION

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

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor our December Small Business of the Month, Staying Home Corporation.

This fantastic business in Harrisonville, Missouri, offers a wide range of products that allow folks in the Midwest to live more comfortably in their own homes.

Owners, Mike and Natalie Vogt, share their story about how they came to own Staying Home. Their hope is to provide jobs to those in need, donate to causes that the Lord directs, and create a company that continues those goals.

Not only are Staying Home Corporation's products beautifully designed, but they are also brilliantly functional, reliable, and affordable.

From elevators to stair lifts, ramps, and storm shelters, this business elevates home life and safety with their

durable products. Each product is beautifully crafted and expertly engineered in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Staying Home Corporation, our December Small Business of the Month.

HONORING STEPHENS COUNTY SHERIFF RANDY SHIRLEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the remarkable career and legacy of my dear friend, Stephens County Sheriff Randy Shirley, who is retiring after serving as sheriff for 16 years.

Randy, who has been in law enforcement for five decades, has always given his unwavering dedication to the safety and well-being of the folks in north Georgia, leaving an indelible mark on our community.

For 16 years, Sheriff Randy Shirley has led the Stephens County Sheriff's Office with integrity, vision, and a servant's heart. His achievements are many, but what stands out the most is his tireless devotion to our community.

From fighting crime and keeping drugs off our streets to enhancing transparency and mentoring the next generation of law enforcement, his actions have always reflected his deep love for the people he has served.

Madam Speaker, I thank Sheriff Shirley for putting his life on the line to protect ours. After December 31, while his boots may no longer be on the ground under that badge, his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

I wish my friend fair winds and following seas.

JUDICIAL UNDERSTAFFING DELAYS GETTING EMERGENCIES SOLVED ACT OF 2024

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1612, I call up the bill (S. 4199) to authorize additional district judges for the district courts and convert temporary judgeships, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIM of California) pursuant to House Resolution 1612, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 4199

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 "Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024" or the "JUDGES Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Article III of the Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power to

establish judgeships in the district courts of the United States.

(2) Congress has not created a new district court judgeship since 2003 and has not enacted comprehensive judgeship legislation since 1990.

(3) This represents the longest period of time since district courts of the United States were established in 1789 that Congress has not authorized any new permanent district court judgeships.

(4) By the end of fiscal year 2022, filings in the district courts of the United States had increased by 30 percent since the last comprehensive judgeship legislation.

(5) As of March 31, 2023, there were 686,797 pending cases in the district courts of the United States, with an average of 491 weighted case filings per judgeship over a 12-month period.

(6) To deal with increased filings in the district courts of the United States, the Judicial Conference of the United States requested the creation of 66 new district court judgeships in its 2023 report.

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGES FOR THE DISTRICT COURTS.

(a) ADDITIONAL JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) 2025.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the district of Delaware;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Indiana;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Iowa;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(x) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Texas; and

(xi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	15
Eastern	7
Central	28
Southern	13”;

(ii) by striking the item relating to Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware	5”;
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(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	16
Southern	17”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to Indiana and inserting the following:

“Indiana:	
Northern	5
Southern	6”;

(v) by striking the items relating to Iowa and inserting the following:

“Iowa:	
Northern	3
Southern	3”;

(vi) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey	18”;
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(vii) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York:	
Northern	5
Southern	29
Eastern	15
Western	4”;

(viii) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern	12
Southern	20
Eastern	8
Western	13”.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2025.

(2) 2027.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(ii) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Georgia;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of Idaho;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Texas; and

(x) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

“Arizona	13”;
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(ii) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	16
Eastern	8
Central	30
Southern	13”;

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida:	
Northern	4
Middle	17
Southern	18”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to Georgia and inserting the following:

“Georgia:	
Northern	12
Middle	4
Southern	3”;

(v) by striking the item relating to Idaho and inserting the following:

“Idaho	3”;
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(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:	
Northern	13
Southern	21
Eastern	8
Western	13”;

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2027.

(3) 2029.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the district of Colorado;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the district of Delaware;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the district of Nebraska;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of New York;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of Texas;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas; and

(x) 1 additional district judge for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (2) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California:	
Northern	17
Eastern	9
Central	31
Southern	13”;

(ii) by striking the item relating to Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado	8”;
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(iii) by striking the item relating to Delaware and inserting the following:

“Delaware	6”;
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(iv) by striking the item relating to Nebraska and inserting the following:

“Nebraska	4”;
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(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York:	
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Northern	5
Southern	29
Eastern	16
Western	4”;

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas:	
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Northern	13
Southern	22
Eastern	9
Western	14”;

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2029.

(4) 2031.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 1 additional district judge for the district of Arizona;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the central district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of California;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the western district of New York; and

(x) 2 additional district judges for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (3) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to Arizona and inserting the following:

“Arizona 14”;

(ii) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California: Northern 18 Eastern 10 Central 32 Southern 14”;

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida: Northern 4 Middle 18 Southern 19”;

(iv) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 19”;

(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York: Northern 5 Southern 29 Eastern 16 Western 5”; and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas: Northern 13 Southern 22 Eastern 9 Western 16”;

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2031.

(5) 2033.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the district of Colorado;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Georgia;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of New York;

(viii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Texas; and

(ix) 1 additional district judge for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (4) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California: Northern 19 Eastern 10 Central 34 Southern 14”;

(ii) by striking the item relating to Colorado and inserting the following:

“Colorado 9”;

(iii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida: Northern 5”;

Middle 19
Southern 19”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to Georgia and inserting the following:

“Georgia: Northern 13 Middle 4 Southern 3”;

(v) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York: Northern 5 Southern 30 Eastern 16 Western 5”; and

(vi) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas: Northern 13 Southern 23 Eastern 9 Western 17”;

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2033.

(6) 2035.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(i) 2 additional district judges for the central district of California;

(ii) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of California;

(iii) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of California;

(iv) 1 additional district judge for the middle district of Florida;

(v) 1 additional district judge for the southern district of Florida;

(vi) 1 additional district judge for the district of New Jersey;

(vii) 1 additional district judge for the eastern district of New York;

(viii) 2 additional district judges for the western district of Texas.

(B) TABLES.—The table contained in section 133(a) of title 28, United States Code, as amended by paragraph (5) of this subsection, is amended—

(i) by striking the items relating to California and inserting the following:

“California: Northern 20 Eastern 10 Central 36 Southern 15”;

(ii) by striking the items relating to Florida and inserting the following:

“Florida: Northern 5 Middle 20 Southern 20”;

(iii) by striking the item relating to New Jersey and inserting the following:

“New Jersey 20”;

(iv) by striking the items relating to New York and inserting the following:

“New York: Northern 5 Southern 30 Eastern 17 Western 5”; and

(v) by striking the items relating to Texas and inserting the following:

“Texas: Northern 13 Southern 23 Eastern 9 Western 19”;

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This paragraph shall take effect on January 21, 2035.

(b) TEMPORARY JUDGESHIPS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate—

(A) 2 additional district judges for the eastern district of Oklahoma; and

(B) 1 additional district judge for the northern district of Oklahoma.

(2) VACANCIES NOT FILLED.—The first vacancy in the office of district judge in each of the offices of district judge authorized by this subsection, occurring 5 years or more after the confirmation date of the judge named to fill the temporary district judgeship created in the applicable district by this subsection, shall not be filled.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall take effect on January 21, 2025.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section and the amendments made by this section—

(A) for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, \$12,965,330;

(B) for each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, \$23,152,375;

(C) for each of fiscal years 2029 and 2030, \$32,413,325;

(D) for each of fiscal years 2031 and 2032, \$42,600,370;

(E) for each of fiscal years 2033 and 2034, \$51,861,320; and

(F) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, \$61,122,270.

(2) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—For each fiscal year described in paragraph (1), the amount authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year shall be increased by the percentage by which—

(A) the Consumer Price Index for the previous fiscal year, exceeds

(B) the Consumer Price Index for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year described in subparagraph (A).

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “Consumer Price Index” means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (all items, United States city average), published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

SEC. 4. ORGANIZATION OF UTAH DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 125(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking “and St. George” and inserting “St. George, Moab, and Monticello”.

SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF TEXAS DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 124(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (3), by inserting “and College Station” before the period at the end.

SEC. 6. ORGANIZATION OF CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COURTS.

Section 84(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting “and El Centro” after “at San Diego”.

SEC. 7. GAO REPORTS.

(a) JUDICIAL CASELOADS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and make publicly available reports—

(1) evaluating—

(A) the accuracy and objectiveness of case-related workload measures and methodologies used by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts for district courts of the United States and courts of appeals of the United States;

(B) the impact of non-case-related activities of judges of the district courts of the United States and courts of appeals of the United States on judicial caseloads; and

(C) the effectiveness and efficiency of the policies of the Administrative Office of the

United States Courts regarding senior judges; and

(2) providing any recommendations of the Comptroller General with respect to the matters described in paragraph (1).

(b) DETENTION SPACE.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on an assessment of—

(1) a determination of the needs of Federal agencies for detention space;

(2) efforts by Federal agencies to acquire detention space; and

(3) any challenges in determining and acquiring detention space.

SEC. 8. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY OF THE ARTICLE III JUDGESHIP RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts, in consultation with the Judicial Conference of the United States, shall make publicly available on their website, free of charge, the biennial report entitled “Article III Judgeship Recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States”.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a) should be released not less frequently than biennially and contain the summaries and all related appendixes supporting the judgeship recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States, including—

(1) the process used by the Judicial Conference in developing the recommendations;

(2) any caseload and methodology changes;

(3) judgeship surveys with recommendations; and

(4) specific information about each court for which the Judicial Conference recommends additional judgeships.

(c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives copies of the report described in subsection (a).

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

The gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on S. 4199.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I will be brief in opening. This is, in fact, a highly bipartisan, bicameral bill that is, by God, overdue. Not since the nineties have we done a full authorization to deal with the expansion of our country and of the adjudication of Federal laws.

The fact is this passed the Senate overwhelmingly. It had essentially no

real adversaries. It costs just 5 percent of the discretionary bill, and it saves countless billions of dollars.

The reality is this bill would have passed by unanimous consent had we brought it sooner.

I apologize to everyone here for the hour we are taking about something that we should have done before the elections and done it quickly. Nevertheless, we are where we are. We are faced with a choice today.

Do we add to the judgeships for the first time in 20 years and for nearly 40 since it was done by an ordinary legislation rather than appropriations, or do we, again, add to the backlog that is costing American businesses countless billions of dollars in excess time and fees and uncertainty as to the outcome?

Do we continue to have criminals allowed to plead out because there isn't court time and U.S. Attorneys are faced with the decision of what to do with somebody when, in fact, there just isn't enough time to get them through?

There are over three-quarters of a million cases in backlog and only about 600 judges to do it. This bill, over a 12-year period, will phase in additional judges. I would have liked them sooner, and my colleagues on the other side would have liked them sooner. This was a compromise. The compromise was painful but necessary and bipartisan, and that was that no one President and no one Senate would determine who these judges were, keeping the politics out of it. It would only be pettiness today if we were to not do this because of who got to be first.

This is no different from a coin flip at the start of a football game. Yes, the winner gets to receive or kick as they choose, but afterwards it will go back and forth for a very long time.

This is a very long time, and we should be with long thinkers on the most permanent body in government.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we are here today because of a broken promise.

Last year, I proudly joined my colleagues, Courts Subcommittee Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member JOHNSTON, in introducing the JUDGES Act. For decades, Congress has been at an impasse on the question of how to create new judgeships while not knowingly giving new appointees to the other party. This bipartisan, bicameral bill would have broken that logjam by having both sides agree to take a chance on their own party winning the White House.

Under this legislation, we all promised to give the next three, unknown, Presidents a certain number of judgeships. Because no one can tell the future, we were all at an equal disadvantage.

Nevertheless, for this deal to work, the bill had to be passed before election day. On November 6, we would all know

who the next President would be, and the deal would be broken.

The Senate did its part and passed the bill over the summer, but the House Republican leadership was unwilling to take a chance on their own candidate, and they refused to bring the bill to the floor before the election. Thus, the agreement central to the JUDGES Act, that the opportunity to appoint new judges is given to an unknown future President, is now broken. However, that is not stopping our Republican colleagues from taking advantage of all of the Senators and House Members who took a chance on bipartisanship.

Unfortunately, we are back where we have always been every time a bill to create new judgeships comes before Congress, with one party seeking a tactical advantage over the other.

Since we know that Donald Trump sees the Federal courts as nothing more than an extension of his political operation, and during his first term he stacked them with dangerously unqualified and ideological appointees, giving him more power to appoint additional judges would be irresponsible.

Under the allocation set forth in the JUDGES Act, he would get 25 judgeship nominations on top of the 100-plus spots on the judicial bench expected to open up over the next 4 years. Donald Trump has made clear that he intends to expand the powers of the Presidency, and giving him 25 new judges to appoint gives him one more tool at his disposal to do just that.

Many of the people elevated by Donald Trump to the Federal bench were not just conservative-leaning judges. They have proven to be ultraconservative ideologues who have perverted the law to benefit Donald Trump and conservative causes.

They have also repeatedly been criticized for their lack of understanding of the law, for their inability to provide speedy decisionmaking, and for their repeated errors in judgment. We should not compound this problem by giving him yet more nominations to fill.

I have long argued for more Federal judges. Twenty years ago we were already overdue, and the problem has only gotten worse. However, Republicans and Democrats, quite reasonably, have never wanted to give an opposing party's President more power. Presidential administration after Presidential administration went by with no new judgeships created. The JUDGES Act would have broken that impasse if it had been passed before the Presidential election this year.

The genius behind the JUDGES Act and the deal to pass it was that it was devoid of the politics that have plagued the Federal judgeship creation process.

We took recommendations made by the nonpartisan Judicial Conference of the United States. The nominees were spread out over three Presidential administrations and six Congresses. The judge allotments would begin with a future, unknown, next President.

In August, Senators from both sides of the aisle joined together and unanimously passed the JUDGES Act. We could have done the same thing here. We should have done the same thing here. If Republican leadership had brought the bill to the House floor in September, then we could have passed it on suspension in no time. Back then, the President would still have been unknown, and the underlying promise of the bill was still present.

Nevertheless, when S. 4199 arrived in the House, Republican leadership refused to touch it. As the days counted down before the election, my colleagues and I begged them to take it up. We explained the stakes. They knew that bipartisan support for creating desperately new judgeships would only exist if the bill was passed into law before November 5, but they refused.

Republican leadership was uninterested in taking the chance that their candidate might not win in November. It was a fair fight, and they wanted no part in it. Now they are here today during the narrow widow when the central promise behind the JUDGES Act is broken, trying to force this bill through the House on a partisan basis.

What we are seeing today is a tragic breakdown in what should have been a bipartisan process. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who fought for this bill over the summer and in September. Our work together reminds me that there can be opportunities for collegiality and collaboration across the aisle.

This good, honest work is even more striking when juxtaposed with the political gamesmanship we are seeing today, as the majority takes a non-partisan bill and perverts it toward their own ends.

Mr. Speaker, 1 month and 8 days from now will be January 20, 2025. On Inauguration Day we will no longer know who the next President will be, and I would be happy to take up the promise behind the JUDGES Act that day and to give the additional judicial appointments to Presidents yet to come.

Until then, I must urge my colleagues to vote “no” on S. 4199, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0930

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS), who is a member of the committee, a law enforcement specialist, and a decorated veteran.

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the bipartisan JUDGES Act, which would create 63 permanent Federal district court judgeships and 3 temporary judgeships, including 10 in the great State of Texas and 4 in my district, over the next 10 years.

This bill would also authorize additional courtroom locations in multiple States to improve access for rural residents in large districts, such as the Southern District of Texas.

Simply put, the JUDGES Act is a critical piece of legislation. The population of the United States has increased by 50 million people since the year 2000, and the number of cases pending in Federal trial courts has nearly doubled. Despite this, Congress has not added more Federal judges to the bench since 2004.

Unsurprisingly, this has led to staggering backlogs in Federal courts across the country, which has, in turn, led to litigants losing access to timely justice and a severely overworked judicial bench.

In the Southern District of Texas alone, which encompasses my district, there are over 6,082 civil cases pending and 8,928 criminal cases as of June of this year. A lack of rural courtroom locations also forces Americans to commute for hours a day when called for Federal jury duty or to access the courts. This is unacceptable for our country, and it is incumbent upon Congress to address it.

As a Republican co-lead of this House companion version of the bill, alongside my colleague Representative Issa, this legislation will not only address multiyear case backlogs but will also ensure the administration of justice in a reasonable timeframe.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake. The sudden opposition to this bill from my friends on the other side of the aisle is nothing more than childish foot stomping. The Democrats know that this is a fair bill, and my colleagues know that it doesn't give any President or party an advantage in appointing judges since they are to be added in six segments over 10 years.

That is why my bill passed out of the House by unanimous consent, why it is supported by Federal judges across the political spectrum, and why House Republicans support this bill regardless of electoral results. Since Democrats are angry over the results of this election, the official Democrat position now seems to be that our Federal trial court system should be left to languish under the weight of crippling backlogs.

This bill is common sense. One of our most basic obligations as a Congress is to oversee the judiciary and ensure it functions well.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to fulfill that obligation and support this legislation.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), the distinguished gentleman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 4199.

You don't get to pick the horse after that horse has already won the race, but that is exactly what my Republican colleagues are seeking to do today.

S. 4199 was bipartisan until just over a month ago. It was a bill that I was

proud to support, and it is one that I have been fighting for because there is no question that we need more Federal judgeships. We have been fighting this battle for years.

We haven't been able to pass a comprehensive bill on judgeships in over three decades because my friends on the other side of the aisle want to strangle the judicial system and privatize it, want to do forced arbitration, and want to clog up the courts. Then, when my colleagues do get a chance to appoint judges to the court, and Justices, Republicans appoint rightwing extreme ideologues to the bench.

When we look at the appointments that Donald Trump has announced so far, people like Stephen Miller, Matt Gaetz, Robert Kennedy, Pam Bondi, and Kash Patel, it is clear that Trump has said and has acted in ways to pervert the justice system.

Mr. Speaker, S. 4199 would give this incoming President 25 appointments to the Federal judiciary of extreme right-wing ideologues. It is just not something that is appropriate for us to support at this particular time, given his track record.

Mr. Speaker, we could have passed this bill before the lame-duck session. In fact, that was what the intent was. It was to pass this legislation before the next President was known. That was why the bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent.

Since the Senate passed the bill before the election, they adhered to the precept that we would pass this without knowing who the incoming President would be. The Senate did its job. It held up to its end of the bargain and sent this bill to us way back in August, before the election.

When S. 4199 arrived in the House, Republican leadership injected politics right back into the bill. The majority tried to do a McConnell-type move here. My colleagues refused to bring the bill up before the election, despite our pleadings that this bill must pass in September to avoid politics and honor the agreement on the unknown next President, just as the Senate did.

Mr. Speaker, it is not about honoring the agreement or fairness, but it is about guaranteeing an outcome that will be in the majority's favor.

We stand here today knowing who the next President will be. That means that one party now will have a significant advantage under this bill. This is the exact outcome we intended to avoid. It is because of that broken promise that I can no longer support this bill.

I do not take this position lightly. Our judiciary is in dire need of independent judges who will make reasoned decisions based on the law, but if Republicans think giving 25 more district court seats to Trump is going to fix the problem, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are sadly mistaken.

Bringing this bill to the floor after the election isn't fair and is not right,

and this is rigging the game in the majority's favor. It makes it political. It brings MCCONNELL into the House.

I can't, in good conscience, support this bill, so I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, we often hear the term "country before party" here in the House and throughout our country. It is clear we didn't hear that here yet today on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

My colleagues should think about the minority's argument. The argument is very simple: We can't do it now because Trump won. We have to wait 4 years to fix something everyone knows needs to be addressed, but we can't do that. We have to wait 4 years because we don't like what the people chose.

Mr. Speaker, the people spoke loudly and clearly. President Trump won all seven swing States. He won 30 of the 50 States. He won the popular vote. The Democratic argument is: We can't do what the people want.

Even though we haven't addressed this in 20 years, after a population increase of 50 million people in our country, having hundreds of thousands of pending civil cases, the Judicial Conference saying we need it, and the bill coming out of the Senate unanimously, nope, we can't do it because Trump won. That is the argument of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

The people have spoken.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is designed to be as fair as possible. What the chairman did on this bill was great work. It allows 66 judgeships over the next 10 years. That will be three different Presidents who are going to get to weigh in on this. Six different Congresses are going to be in session over that timeframe.

In the first batch, I think California receives seven judges. Half of the first batch, 22 or 25 of the first judges that President Trump will get to appoint, come from States where both Senators are Democrats. It can't be any more fair. The minority just doesn't like what the American people did. That is the argument of the Democrats.

I say we pass this thing and address this situation that everyone knows needs to be addressed. We need more judges. Everyone understands that. It is bipartisan. When the Judicial Conference met, Republican and Democratic judges were all for it. They didn't say that they don't like what the people did. They just said let's fix what needs to be fixed in our judicial system.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good piece of legislation. The chairman has worked very hard on it. I urge a "yes" vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), the chairman of the

committee, says we don't like what the American people did. Well, obviously we don't. We lost the election.

Relevant to this bill is we don't like what Mr. JORDAN did. We don't like what the Republican leadership did in refusing to bring the Senate bill to a vote before the election.

We begged them to. DARRELL ISSA begged them and begged Mr. JORDAN. I did. HANK JOHNSON did. We said to bring it to the floor before the election. It will pass unanimously, and we will have the judges that we need because if it is not brought to the floor until after the election, one party or the other is going to oppose it.

Mr. Speaker, we are objecting to this bill not because we object to what the American people did but because we object to what Mr. JORDAN and the Republican leadership did.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 4199, the JUDGES Act.

I appreciate the comments that have come from the Republican side this morning, Chairman JORDAN in particular. We have had a chance to pass bipartisan legislation out of that committee. In fact, a couple of those bills have been mine, cosponsored with Republican WESLEY HUNT. I know we can get it done. I know we can work in a bipartisan fashion and get legislation out of the committee when we choose to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the idea behind this bill was to take the politics out of judicial nominations and selections. I think it is pretty clear. I think everyone would agree that this system has been broken for some time.

The Republicans point to the Bork nomination. On the Democratic side, we look at what happened with Merrick Garland and his Supreme Court nomination, which was blocked. He had to wait almost a year and wasn't even given a hearing during that time.

Then, after that, Justice Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed by the Senate in about a 3-week period, if I recall correctly, even though that happened just before the election and President Biden would have been in place to make the selection for the Supreme Court at that time.

This bill was aimed at trying to get around that and take the politics out of the selection process by having the decision made with respect to the passage of the legislation before we knew who the President was going to be. I thought that was a good way to go. I didn't cosponsor this bill, frankly, because I was a little worried that we would end up in exactly the place where we are today.

After the election was held, even though this bill came out of the Senate Judiciary Committee in June and was passed unanimously in the Senate in

August, the House Judiciary Committee had several markups in September and August, so we could have taken the bill up then, but it never happened.

In fact, it didn't happen until after the election and President Trump was selected. Guess what happened then. Now that we are at the eleventh hour, we didn't even bother to have the committee markup process happen. My colleagues brought it straight to the floor and are now asking us to vote for it today on this expedited basis now that Republicans know who is going to win.

Mr. Speaker, we know how to do bipartisan legislation. Mr. ISSA, the gentleman on the other side, I know has done excellent bipartisan legislation, working with members of this committee on the Democratic side, and he has a long history of doing that. I think we can replicate that again.

Today, I ask that we not pass this bill. I ask my colleagues to vote against it. Let's go back to the drawing board. Let's take another crack at making sure that we do this in a bipartisan way.

I agree that we need more judges. In fact, the courthouse that I practiced in, D.C. Superior Court, is short 10 judges. We need them there. We need them in other courts that I practiced in. We need them all over the country, but let's do it in the right way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding additional time.

Mr. Speaker, we know how to do this the right way. The American people want us to do it the right way. We know the judicial nomination selection process has been broken for some time. This could be a way to take a step in the right direction for fixing that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote "no" today, and let's get back to the drawing board and find a way to work together in a bipartisan fashion, yielding an apolitical result.

Elections have consequences. Mr. Trump is going to have his chance to put nominees on the court, for sure, but let's try to do it in a way that looks out over time and makes it more equitable over time so that we can have a balanced judiciary that the people believe in and have confidence in and don't feel that it is political and partisan.

□ 0945

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), a member of the committee, a member of the subcommittee, a cosponsor of this legislation, and an active proponent for the justice that we require by having Federal judges added to the bench.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I hope we are not getting a taste of what is to

come. The American people are watching. They have identified correctly that Washington is broken. There are a lot of problems that have arisen over the last 4 years because of the mismanagement from this White House and from the Democratic leadership of this House.

They wanted a President and a Congress, a House and a Senate, who are going to fix the problems facing this country.

Let me tell you, with the JUDGES Act, we are fixing a problem and we are seeing Democrats, once again, throwing a temper tantrum because they can't get their way. If this is what is to come over the next 4 years, get ready because it is going to be temper tantrum after temper tantrum by the Democrats because they are not getting their way.

They deserve the time-out that they are getting over the next 2 years. The American people have given Democrats a time-out for a reason.

This legislation responds to the findings of a nonpartisan policymaking body, the Judicial Conference of the United States, by creating the recommended judgeships during future Presidential administrations, addressing a long overdue critical issue facing our Federal judiciary and offering a meaningful solution.

It includes important updates to the structure and timing of new judgeships and introduces enhanced transparency requirements and provisions to ensure greater access to justice in high-need areas nationwide.

As of March 31, 2023, Federal district courts were facing a backlog of 686,000 pending cases, over half a million pending cases. That is an average of 491 filings per judgeship over a single year.

These represent delayed justice for countless individuals and businesses seeking resolution to their legal disputes. That is why the Judicial Conference recommended these 66 new district court judgeships. That is why the Senate passed it unanimously.

While some targeted legislation added 34 district court judgeships between 1999 and 2003, it has been 20 years since Congress last acted to address this issue comprehensively, and the Democrats are now arguing that we should wait another 4 years.

No. No. The Democrats can sit in their time-out; Republicans are going to lead. We deserve to have this legislation acted on so that the American peoples' wishes to have the problems identified and solved are implemented.

Given the severity of this issue, I can't believe that President Biden opposes this important bill. I hope he will reconsider. This act allows Congress the opportunity to modernize and strengthen our judiciary to ensure that justice is not delayed, but delivered.

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

Mr. Speaker, had the Republican leadership taken this bill up in Sep-

tember, we could have been celebrating a true bipartisan victory right now.

There is no question that it is necessary to authorize new Federal judgeships for the growing caseload in the Federal courts. That is why I fought to take up this bill earlier this year when the next President was unknown. That is why the Senate passed the bill in August. That is why Mr. ISSA and I and others urged Mr. JORDAN and the Republican leadership to take up the bill before the election, when the central arrangement of the bill they were setting up, 66 new judges across three unknown Presidential administrations and six unknown congressional majorities, would have been there. Now, it is too late for that.

Now we can wait for the new Congress in January and pass the bill, but it will have to be delayed 4 years. Why? Because the Republican leadership refused to take up the bill when it should have, when it would have gotten a unanimous vote here as it got a unanimous vote in the Senate.

I will continue to fight for more Federal judges, but we must do it at a time when the identity of the next President is not known. That is the fundamental bargain that is fair to both parties. Until then, we should reject this bill as nothing more than partisan gamesmanship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to oppose the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, normally, when you know a bill is going to pass, you close quickly. I am going to break that rule for a few minutes today because I want to make one last plea. I wish the plea was to the American people as it should be. I wish the plea was to the Speaker as it will be from a standpoint of where I look and where I speak, but the plea is to the President of the United States not to be petty. It is to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to consider the long-term impact of this decision that has been spoken of today.

As the ranking member and my friend, JERRY NADLER, said, this was bipartisan. This was something that was worked out, not just now, but the gentleman from New York and I worked this out in 2017 and similarly, we couldn't get it across the finish line.

After that, people decided to be partisan for a while, and JERRY and I—if I may call the gentleman from New York my friend (Mr. NADLER), JERRY—we said no. We are going to go back to being men of the House. We are going to go back to doing what is good, putting country first, and particularly putting the needs of Article III, the other body, the one that we control, but only until they are appointed. Then once appointed, they serve for life. They serve in any way they choose for good behavior and as a result they become very independent and very much nonpartisan.

I am going to appeal in a couple of ways, for a moment, to my colleagues who have to make a vote that is not immediately to their party's benefit and for which the first 2 years are not unknown. It is easy to talk about 6 congressional periods, more than 10 years, 3 Presidents, and say, but I am not getting it the first 4 years.

Well, President Trump doesn't have 4 years; President Trump has 2 years in which we know that there is currently a Senate majority. Senate majorities come and go. Very easily 2 years from now the Senate could be under the other party's control. That would mean that no judge would be brought in those second 4 years, and half of those 25 seats that have been talked about here today, and probably more than half because of the time it takes to get through the process, more than half would be under a Senate that would say, no, we want to compromise.

I am a Californian. I have only had in my 24 years Democrats as my Senators. I have had quite a few, different status, different dedication. One of them is the current Vice President KAMALA HARRIS. I know how they use the blue slip. I know how in my State you don't get a super Trumper.

The fact is, you don't get anyone without a process of going through those Senators and getting compromise. I know that the seven that are to be produced over these next 4 years—none of them, by the way, in my home district where I desperately need them, but that was also part of the consideration and compromise—those will be, in fact, with two Democrat Senators who insist on moderate Republicans.

But let's go behind the nuances.

After those first 2 years, we have 8 more years. It could be that most of those years could be with a Democrat President and a Democrat Senate. Maybe not, but let's talk about the benefit or damage that if the President—because this bill is going to pass, hopefully with bipartisan support and, hopefully, with many people that aren't here today who have heard from their judges.

If the President signs it, yes, he will be signing saying that a few judges will be appointed and likely confirmed under this united government that currently is forecast.

Let's look at the scope.

There are 890 judges, including our appellate judges, 677 at the district court alone. In my district, almost half of the judges hearing cases are senior status. They don't even count. That means that there are over a thousand judges, including those who are on senior status, still working, essentially for free because they could retire and get the same money.

They, in fact, are working because the backlog is over three-quarters of a million cases. They are working because otherwise patents and other civil cases that cost tens of millions of dollars often, if delayed, cost millions of

dollars a year. They are trying to keep the system working.

The damage to our country, to our economy if we choose not to have this bill signed into law could be great, and the savings could be even greater for the efficiency.

Lastly, let's ask the real question. Over 1,000 judges, 890 not on senior status, and we are talking about 25 that could be appointed if the President holds the Senate for his 4 years, 25 out of 890. That isn't very many.

In the opening remarks, my good friend from New York did mention that there could be 100 judges appointed by the next President and confirmed by the Senate. That is true. That is going to happen whether we expand this or not.

The question is, for example: For the three temporary judges in Oklahoma, will the backlog of cases for Native Americans that prompted those temporary positions, will that continue?

Will we continue to have judges constantly getting on airplanes and running around almost like a riding circuit in order to fill a gap here or there because they don't have enough judges but they try to find a judge that they can move around a little bit?

Will we continue to have justice denied because justice delayed is justice denied, or will we alleviate some of this?

Will we work with the Chief Justice and all the Justices of the Supreme Court? By the way, there are nine of them and not one of them has called the ranking member or the chairman and said, don't do this bill now because it might be partisan.

The Justices of both parties, the judges appointed by both parties, are still calling all of the offices and asking, please move this bill.

Lastly, in closing, I will share with my colleague on the other side of the aisle, I wish we had brought this sooner. I know that it would have been more likely to have been broadly passed and signed by a President who thought his Vice President was going to replace him or even earlier when he thought he was going to get a second term, but we are not there.

We are in a position where I am going to ask as many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to vote for this, to put country before the obvious politics of it.

Lastly, the plea I make to the former Senator that I served with, the former Vice President that I served with, and the President I now serve with, don't be petty. Don't put politics ahead of the good of the country.

Before considering the signing of this bill, which I know will go to his desk, talk to the court, talk to Members that he, in fact, as a Senator from Delaware helped put on the bench and ask them: Should I sign this bill or should I veto it and hope that you can put up with 2, 4, or 20 more years before we send you enough judges to adjudicate the cases, particularly civil, that are pending?

That is the plea I make here today. It is not a plea I have ever made before, and I hope I don't have to make it again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all our colleagues to please put country first ahead of the obvious politics that are here and vote for this bill.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I vote in favor of S. 4199, the Judicial Understaffing Delays Getting Emergencies Solved Act of 2024, to allow for the creation of additional judgeships in under resourced district courts across the country. However, this is not the version of the bill I would have preferred due to the temporary nature of the additional judgeships slated for the State of Oklahoma. As the only state to receive additional temporary judgeships in this legislation, I believe this not only ignores the ongoing need for more long-standing, dependable resources across the state but also jeopardizes the longevity of these essential positions and creates uncertainty in the judicial system. Temporary judgeships will not satisfy the long-term need for judicial resources following the permanent jurisdictional shifts in criminal and civil proceedings in the state and subsequent backlog of cases pending in the justice system. Any new judgeships should be made permanent to reflect the drastic expansion of federal jurisdiction and to enact swift justice on behalf of the people of Oklahoma.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1612, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 236, nays 173, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 501]

YEAS—236

Aderholt	Bucshon	Curtis	Bush	DelBene	Landsman
Aguilar	Burlison	D'Esposito	Carbajal	Larsen (WA)	Larson (CT)
Alford	Calvert	Davidson	Cárdenas	Lee (PA)	Lee (PA)
Allen	Cannick	Davis (NC)	Carson	DeSaulnier	Levy
Amodei	Caraveo	De La Cruz	Carter (LA)	Doggett	Leger Fernandez
Arrington	Carey	DesJarlais	Cartwright	Escobar	Levin
Babin	Carl	Díaz-Balart	Casar	Eshoo	Lieu
Bacon	Carter (GA)	Donalds	Casten	Espaillet	Lofgren
Baird	Carter (TX)	Duarte	Castro (TX)	Fletcher	Magaziner
Balderson	Case	Dunn (FL)	Chu	Foster	Manning
Banks	Castor (FL)	Edwards	Garcia, Robert	Foushee	McBath
Barr	Ciscomani	Ellzey	Goldman (NY)	Frankel, Lois	McClellan
Bean (FL)	Cline	Emmer	Gomez	Frost	McCollum
Bentz	Cloud	Estes	Gottheimer	Garamendi	McGarvey
Bera	Clyde	Ezell	Green, Al (TX)	Garcia (IL)	McGovern
Bergman	Cole	Fallon	Hayes	Horsford	McIver
Bice	Collins	Feeenstra	Himes	Hoyer	Meeks
Biggs	Comer	Finstad	Hoyle (OR)	Jayapal	Larsen (WA)
Bilirakis	Correa	Fischbach	Moulton	Jeffries	Larson (CT)
Bishop (NC)	Costa	Fitzgerald	Huffman	Johnson (GA)	Lee (PA)
Boebert	Crane	Fitzpatrick	Ivey	Kaufman	Levy
Bost	Crawford	Fleischmann	Jackson (IL)	Kamala Harris	Lofgren
Brecheen	Crenshaw	Flood	Kilmer	Kaufman	Magaziner
Buchanan	Cuellar	Fong	DeGette	Kilmer	Manning
			DeLauro	Kuster	McBath

Fox	Langworthy	Rogers (AL)
Franklin, Scott	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Fry	LaTurner	Rose
Fulcher	Lawler	Rosendale
Gallego	Lee (FL)	Rouzer
Garbarino	Lee (NV)	Ruiz
Garcia, Mike	Lesko	Rulli
Gimenez	Letlow	Rutherford
Golden (ME)	Lopez	Ryan
Gonzales, Tony	Loudermilk	Salazar
Gonzalez, V.	Lucas	Scalise
Good (VA)	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Gooden (TX)	Luna	Scott, Austin
Gosar	Luttrell	Self
Graves (LA)	Mace	Sessions
Graves (MO)	Malliotakis	Simpson
Green (TN)	Maloy	Smith (MO)
Greene (GA)	Mann	Smith (NE)
Griffith	Massie	Smith (NJ)
Grothman	Mast	Smucker
Guest	Matsui	Soto
Guthrie	McCaull	Spanberger
Hageman	McClain	Spartz
Harder (CA)	McClintock	Stauber
Harris	McCormick	Steel
Harshbarger	McHenry	Stefanik
Hern	Meuser	Steil
Higgins (LA)	Miller (IL)	Tibbitts
Hill	Miller (OH)	Strong
Hinson	Miller (WV)	Suozzi
Houchin	Miller-Meeks	Tenney
Houlahan	Mills	Thompson (CA)
Hudson	Moolenaar	Thompson (PA)
Huizinga	Mooney	Tiffany
Hunt	Moore (AL)	Timmons
Issa	Moore (UT)	Turner
Jackson (TX)	Moran	Valadao
James	Murphy	Van Drew
Johnson (LA)	Nehls	Van Duyne
Johnson (SD)	Nickel	Van Orden
Jordan	Norman	Vargas
Joyce (OH)	Nunn (IA)	Walberg
Joyce (PA)	Obernolte	Weber (TX)
Kaptur	Ogles	Webster (FL)
Kean (NJ)	Owens	Wenstrup
Kelly (MS)	Palmer	Westerman
Kelly (PA)	Panetta	Wied
Kiggans (VA)	Pence	Williams (NY)
Kiley	Perez	Williams (TX)
Kim (CA)	Perry	Wilson (SC)
Kustoff	Peters	Wittman
LaHood	Pfluger	Womack
LaLota	Phillips	Yakym
LaMalfa	Posey	Zinke
Lamborn	Reschenthaler	

NAYS—173

Pressley	Scott, David	Tlaib
Quigley	Sewell	Tokuda
Ramirez	Sherman	Tonko
Raskin	Sherrill	Torres (CA)
Ross	Smith (WA)	Torres (NY)
Roy	Sorenson	Trahan
Ruppersberger	Stansbury	Underwood
Salinas	Stanton	Vasquez
Sánchez	Stevens	Veasey
Barbanes	Strickland	Velázquez
Scanlon	Swalwell	Wasserman
Schakowsky	Sykes	Schultz
Schneider	Takano	Waters
Scholten	Thanedar	Watson Coleman
Schrader	Thompson (MS)	Williams (GA)
Scott (VA)	Titus	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—22

Armstrong	Evans	Rodgers (WA)
Burgess	Ferguson	Slotkin
Chavez-DeRemer	Granger	Trone
Cherifilus-	Grijalva	Wagner
McCormick	Lee (CA)	Waltz
Clarke (NY)	Molinaro	Wexton
Dingell	Moskowitz	Wild
Duncan	Newhouse	

□ 1029

Mr. VARGAS changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for roll call votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 501.

Stated against:

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 501.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024, TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2024

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 7840

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 7840, a bill originally introduced by Representative Jackson Lee of Texas, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING MAJOR SUZANNE MULET

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

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my incredible Marine Corps Fellow, Major Suzanne Mulet, for her tremendous work this past year in my office.

Suzanne has been instrumental in helping prepare for defense events and legislation, especially when it comes to the Defense Appropriations and MilCon/VA portfolios. Her tireless work, wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise has been crucial in crafting legislation that directly benefits our servicemembers in Oklahoma’s Fifth District. Her hard work in my office and service to our Nation is applaudable.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention Sue’s leadership during Marine Corps Day. She led a group of Hill staff through numerous exercises, and my office still talks about it to this day.

I can’t thank her enough for her dedication, not only to her country but to her office, her family, and her horses. She will be truly missed.

I thank Sue for everything she has done for America and for Team Bice.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 5301. An act to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicate reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5646. An act to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

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

S. 1351. An act to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 5060. An act to reauthorize the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, and for other purposes.

CONGRATULATING COMMANDER KEVIN DORE ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF COMMAND

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Commander Kevin Dore, on the successful completion of his command of the USS *Daniel Inouye*. Under his leadership, the USS *Daniel Inouye* embarked on its maiden deployment, a 9-month tour that demonstrated the strength, skill, readiness, and resilience of our Navy.

Initially deployed to the Pacific, the USS *Daniel Inouye*’s, mission was extended when tensions in the Middle East flared. Commander Dore and his crew rose to the occasion and headed to the Red Sea where they exemplified

our Nation’s commitment to helping others in need when they provided timely rescue assistance to Iranian mariners in distress.

I wish Kevin fair winds and following seas wherever life may take him. Please know that for all he has done for our State and our country, he will always be a “son of Hawaii,” “kamaaina,” and Hawaii will always be his home.

I say to Erin and the kids, John-Michael, Andrew, Lily, and Samuel, “thank you,” “mahalo” for sharing your husband and father with us and for being the rock of support he has always needed to truly go for broke.

SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF THE WATER RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

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

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the House passed the Water Resources and Development Act which includes essential protection for property owners on Table Rock Lake in my district.

Table Rock Lake is more than just a body of water. It is beloved as a landmark in southwest Missouri and a crown jewel of the Ozarks.

The provisions in this bill will ensure that property owners who have inadvertently encroached parts of their homes on corps land or rely on septic systems do not have to remove these essential structures.

I extend my gratitude to Chairman GRAVES, a proud fellow Missourian and a steadfast advocate for this cause. I also wish to thank Subcommittee Chairman ROUZER for his unwavering support of these critical provisions.

Together, we are standing up for the rights and the livelihoods of the residents of Table Rock Lake. This is a proud, proud moment for southwest Missouri, and I am so honored to be leading this effort.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF GERALD WOMACK

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

Mrs. LEE CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Gerald Womack, a distinguished leader and native son of Houston, Texas.

For over three decades, Mr. Womack has been at the forefront of community revitalization, serving as the president and CEO of Womack Development & Investment Realtors.

His work has brought economic opportunity and housing improvement to an area rich in cultural heritage in the heart of the 18th Congressional District.

As of December 2022, his firm was ranked number three by the Houston

Association of Realtors for volume sales in area four.

Over his career, Womack has closed in excess of \$900 million in residential and commercial sales and leasing throughout his career. He leaves a great team of 25 professionals who are committed to excellence and have high ethical standards.

As chairman of the Harris County Housing Authority Board, Mr. Womack has championed affordable housing initiatives to ensure that all Houstonians have access to a safe, dignified place to call home.

Beyond his professional achievements, he is a prolific volunteer, and his commitment to service is unmatched.

This December, the Houston Area Realtors will award the prestigious John E. Wolf Community Service Award to him. I congratulate him, as he exemplifies the spirit of Houston, resilient, innovative, and community-centered.

I am proud to recognize his enduring contributions to our city, and I want to let him know the best is yet to come.

CELEBRATING 2024 VETERAN OF THE YEAR U.S. ARMY COLONEL ORLANDO RODRIGUEZ

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate retired U.S. Army Colonel Orlando Rodriguez as the 2024 Veteran of the Year for Florida's 15th District.

Colonel Rodriguez is a distinguished figure within our local and military communities with nearly three decades of faithful and dedicated service to his Nation.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Colonel Rodriguez fled the island in 1959 but would soon return as part of the famed Brigade 2506, a CIA-sponsored group of Cuban exiles who carried out the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Colonel Rodriguez spent 2 years in a Cuban prison following the Bay of Pigs invasion. He was then released to the United States and commissioned into the U.S. Army in 1963, serving multiple combat tours in Vietnam and with the 1st Cavalry and 82nd Airborne Divisions.

As a Green Beret, Colonel Rodriguez served as a key adviser to Presidents George H. W. Bush and Ronald Reagan on Latin and Central American operations, and later served at Tampa Bay's very own MacDill Air Force Base as a senior military adviser at the U.S. Special Operations Command.

His lifelong service and leadership have left a lasting mark on our Nation and community, and his dedication continues to inspire us all.

It is an honor to recognize Colonel Rodriguez as Florida's 15th District Veteran of the Year. I thank him for his service and I congratulate him.

HONORING MAYOR CRAIG A. STOUGH ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose steadfast leadership has left an indelible mark on northwest Ohio, a family man, an architect, Mayor Craig A. Stough, of the thriving city of Sylvania, Ohio. He has used his exceptional talents to form and shape a lovely community for most of his adult life.

After nearly three decades of service as mayor, with over 40 years of dedicated public service overall, Mayor Stough is retiring, and there will be a wonderful party tonight in his honor.

He leaves behind a legacy of vision, collaboration, and unwavering commitment to his community. Mayor Stough's tenure has been a shining example of honest, good governance. His steady, concerted efforts to secure a regional water commission to improve water security for our region is a testament of his ability to build consensus and tackle vital pressing challenges head-on.

Beyond his achievements and accolades, Mayor Stough's career is defined by his deep connections to the people of Sylvania. He is Sylvania. His dedication to fostering a thriving community, supporting local projects, and mentoring future leaders exemplifies what it means to serve with heart and purpose.

As mayor Stough embarks on his well-earned retirement to explore new horizons, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his decades of service.

I congratulate Mayor Stough on a remarkable career. May his living legacy inspire us all to lead with integrity and a spirit of unending service.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ITASCA COUNTY COMMISSIONER MICHAEL "BURL" IVES

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Itasca County Commissioner Michael "Burl" Ives who recently passed away after years of dedicated service to his community.

Burl was born to Mike and Mary Ives, both influential figures, who built multiple successful businesses in the Grand Rapids, Minnesota, area including the Timberlake Lodge.

In the early 1990s, Burl started a business of his own before joining his family in their many hospitality businesses. Eventually, Burl became a beloved Itasca County commissioner, using his compassion and experience to advocate for the betterment of the community that he loved.

Burl was running for his third term as county commissioner when he

passed away at the age of only 57. As a true testament to the incredible job he did in this role, Burl was still elected to the county commissioner seat, despite his death being well-publicized by our local media.

Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with the Ives family as they mourn this huge loss, and my heart especially goes out to Burl's wife, Kristine, and their two children, Samantha and Thomas.

May his legacy of hard work and service live on through all those who knew and loved him.

□ 1045

HONORING KRISTEN MEYER

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the hard work and invaluable contributions of Kristen Meyer to my office. Kristen has honorably served as an Air Force Congressional fellow on my legislative team for the past year.

While Kristen's time in my office is coming to an end, her contributions to my community and to our Nation will be durable and lasting. Notably, in just one year's time, she has helped us to reinvigorate the bipartisan Service-women and Women Veterans Caucus like never before. She has championed dozens of legislative proposals through the fiscal year 2025 NDAA, which passed last evening, and she spearheaded numerous Intelligence Authorization Act provisions that will make our country and our world safer. She has improved office processes, strategies, community outreach, and much more, and most importantly, she has made us laugh even when we felt like crying.

The HoulaTeam is incredibly grateful to the generosity, ferocity, kindness, and humor that Kristen has brought to our office every single day.

I thank Kristen for her service and for her vital contributions to the intelligence community. We wish her the best of luck on her next steps, and we will miss her.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PEADAR FITZPATRICK

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Peadar Fitzpatrick, a beloved member of the Fitzpatrick clan, whom we sadly lost earlier this year.

Born in County Leitrim, Ireland, in July of 1937, Peadar lived a life that was nothing short of extraordinary.

At the age of 20, Peadar left the green hills of Ireland for the United States. He wasted no time in answering the call to serve his new country,

proudly enlisting in the United States Air Force, where he served honorably from 1957 to 1962.

Mr. Speaker, after leaving the Air Force, Peadar continued his civil service by joining the ranks of the New York Police Department as an officer and as a detective.

In 1962, Peadar found the great love of his life, Margaret, and their marriage spanned an extraordinary 62 years. Together, they raised three remarkable daughters, Kathleen, Rose-Marie, and Colleen, and built a family that became the heart and soul of Peadar's life.

Mr. Speaker, Peadar's roots in Ireland remained a cornerstone of his identity. Though he left its shores, Ireland was forever etched in his heart.

Peadar Fitzpatrick was, above all, a man of immense character, devoted to his faith, his family, and his community.

Today, we honor his legacy. We remember a life well lived and a man who was deeply loved. Peadar Fitzpatrick exemplified what it means to live a life of purpose, integrity, and heart.

May his soul pass through old Ireland, and may his soul remain at God's right hand.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM ARROWOOD

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize William Arrowood from Akron as Ohio's 13th District Champion of the Week.

I am thrilled to announce that William is the 2024 Congressional App Challenge winner for our district. His app, titled: "How to Beat Bezos," is an innovative stock market simulator game that educates players on the nuances of buying and selling stocks for profit.

It is inspiring to see how William, a freshman at the National Inventors Hall of Fame STEM High School, combined his interest in the stock market with his passion and skill in computer science to create a fun and engaging tool that can benefit people of all ages.

As the winner of our district's Congressional App Challenge, William's app will be proudly displayed in the Capitol, where visitors from across the country and the world can appreciate his innovation and creativity.

I congratulate William again on being the winner of the Congressional App Challenge and this week's Champion of the Week for Ohio's 13th District.

I thank all the students who submitted apps this year. I look forward to seeing what William and our other talented students across the district create next year and for years to come.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY AND SUPPORTING OUR MILITARY

(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, I am pleased to rise today to help celebrate the passage finally this week of the National Defense Authorization Act, a key step in strengthening America's security and supporting our military. It was a strong, bipartisan vote showing there is unity on America's military.

The bill ensures our military has the tools, the resources, and the capabilities to promote readiness and deadliness. With its cutting-edge technology, critical infrastructure, and much-needed pay improvement for our soldiers and their housing, it is a broad approach that is really going to help with meeting the all-around needs of meeting those goals. It demonstrates a clear commitment to protecting our Nation and defending freedom for this country and our allies around the world.

Indeed, the best war to fight is the one you never have to fight. That is why, when we have a strong military that is ready, the deterrence factor is one of the best things we can have for avoiding conflict and avoiding unnecessary bloodshed.

We are sending a powerful message with this legislation. With the challenges we face as a country, the United States will always be ready to protect what matters most.

RECOGNIZING RONALD ROCHON

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize California State University at Fullerton's new president, Dr. Ronald Rochon.

Dr. Rochon was born on the south side of Chicago where he founded and nurtured his passion for education and community service. He stepped into the top role at Cal State University at Fullerton, my alma mater, this past July.

Dr. Rochon brings 14 years of experience to southern California, having led the University of Southern Indiana through COVID-19 and a new athletic division.

As the proud Titan that I am, I am very excited to see Dr. Ronald Rochon at the helm. We are happy to see Ron at Cal State, Fullerton, and we look forward to working with him. Let's get busy.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT MIGUEL

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent 14 of Arizona's Tribes. One

of the leaders I have been able to work with is Chairman Robert Miguel of the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Maricopa, Arizona, who will complete his final term this month due to term limits.

Chairman Miguel first joined the Ak-Chin Tribal Council in 2014 and was elected chairman in 2016. During this time he has been a strong leader focused on serving his community with an entrepreneurial spirit, creating jobs and economic growth and promoting educational opportunities.

We have worked together on efforts with the Indian Health Services, ensuring healthcare coverage for the Tribe, along with prioritizing flood control improvements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The first time I met with Chairman Miguel, he shared with me the Ak-Chin slogan: "We all win with Ak-Chin."

I will remember his enthusiasm and hard work as we continue to work with the Tribe on important issues.

I thank Chairman Miguel for his leadership and service. I wish him the best in his future endeavors and know he will continue to make Ak-Chin proud.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been the greatest honor of my life to serve the people of West Virginia in the United States House of Representatives over the past 10 years.

I was elected on November 4, 2014. Believe it or not, back then West Virginia wasn't a safe Republican State. I only won by 3 percentage points in a tough election. The good people of West Virginia's Second District have trusted me with the privilege by electing me four more times, so five times in total, to represent them for these past 10 years.

I did not seek reelection to the U.S. House of Representatives. I ran for another office, which I did not win, so my time will come to a close at noon on January 3. I have actually enjoyed educating a lot of folks about how this works here, and the Constitution dictates specifically the time at which you are no longer a Congressman. It is exactly at noon on January 3. And at that time, my 10 years in office will come to an end.

During my first 8 years in Congress, I represented 17 beautiful counties from the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, where I live, all the way down to Charleston and Kanawha County. That is the part in the red here through the middle of the State.

After the 2020 Census was done, West Virginia lost one of our three seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, so for the past 2 years I have represented 27 counties across the northern half of

our State, the top part of the State there. I had the uncomfortable, unfortunate experience of having to run against another incumbent Member of Congress in that election. I did prevail. It has been a great privilege to represent half the State just these past 2 years.

While West Virginia is one of the smaller States in terms of population, its geography is vast. It takes 6 hours to drive from one end of my district to the other, so I have traveled thousands of miles, meeting wonderful, hard-working taxpayers in West Virginia. In fact, one of my favorite things to do is, when I am driving basically 6 hours from one end of my district to the other, is stop in every little town at the barber shops, thrift stores, general stores, and just say hi to folks.

I have found that most folks have actually never met their Congressman or have ever met any Congressman. I take great pleasure in just popping in, even unannounced, saying hi to folks, letting them know we are there and we are here to help. I consider it a great honor and privilege to be able to do that.

My wife, Dr. Grace Gonzalez Mooney, and I are proud to call West Virginia home. We are, in fact, West Virginians by choice. We chose to move there from another State, an intentional choice we made that we are very proud of, and we are certainly not leaving.

I am grateful my wife has supported me unwaveringly over the past decade and even before. This is tough on the family, this business, so I really thank my wife. We have shared many triumphs and challenges through those years.

On October 13, 2014, our bonus baby, we call her, our daughter Gabrielle—we call her Gabby—was born at Women and Children's Hospital in Charleston, West Virginia. She is now 10 years old, and she knows I will be home more next year. Being in Congress has meant missing a lot of time with family, but West Virginia has educational freedom, which is great, so we homeschooled our children, allowing us to spend more time together.

I have watched my children grow and thrive over the years. I am proud of my son, Lucas, a junior at Princeton. He is an expert in jiu-jitsu. My daughter Cami, who is a gifted singer, is a freshman at Vanderbilt. I am excited to spend more time with them as I step away. I thank my three children for their love and support.

When I first arrived in Congress, one of my top priorities was addressing the opioid overdose crisis that was ravaging our State. The opioid epidemic is a tragedy that knows no bounds. It doesn't matter the color of your skin, if you live in a city or a rural area, if you are rich or poor, drug addiction is ravaging this country everywhere. I was proud that the first law I had changed was based on my bill called the PROP Act, Promoting Responsible Opioid Prescribing Act.

□ 1100

This simple, yet important, piece of legislation simply sought to reduce unnecessary access to narcotic pain medications, thus lowering the risk of addiction.

I actually had a meeting with the West Virginia Medical Society my first term in Congress in Charleston, and they brought this to my attention. Doctors said that according to the newly passed Affordable Care Act there are provisions that allow the reimbursements to be reduced if patients complained that they didn't get the drugs they wanted. Studies have shown 70 percent of people addicted to drugs start with legally prescribed drugs.

Doctors are trying to do the right thing and not prescribe drugs to people who don't absolutely really need it. They don't want to cause more drug addiction, and for that they had to risk being penalized and not being reimbursed, have their reimbursements reduced.

They complained about this quite strongly to me, and I took action. I put in a bill to stop it. It was a bipartisan bill. We had 30 Republican cosponsors and 30 Democratic cosponsors. The Department of Health was dug in. They wouldn't acknowledge the problem. They wouldn't change it. They fought back against it. We had a hearing, and there was no opposition. Later that year the Department of Health just took the exact language of my bill. They agreed with me, and they took word for word the legal language of my bill and made it the new law of the Department of Health ensuring that doctors could never be penalized for not giving prescription drugs.

That was the first law I had changed, and I am proud of that.

I led support for the coal miners and families with the STREAM Act, Supporting Transparent Regulatory and Environmental Actions in Mining. The bill blocked anti-coal regulation from the Obama administration, preserving we estimate 77,000 good high-paying jobs in West Virginia and also across the Nation. The passage of the STREAM Act was crucial protecting our way of life in West Virginia.

Throughout my time in Congress, my colleagues know I fought for a term, what we call regular order in the appropriations process, actually passing the spending bills on time, reasserting the power of the purse that, again, the Constitution specifically and only puts in this Chamber right here, not in the Senate and not to the President.

The Constitution says that only this Chamber can initiate spending or taxation. That is something we have gotten away from doing. We pass these things called continuing resolutions where we give all the money to the President to do whatever he wants, and that is not right.

I firmly believe that the government works best when Congress uses its constitutional power of the purse to hold Federal agencies accountable. We don't

live in a bureaucracy in a bureaucratic-run government. We live in a democracy, a republic with democratic elections. It is crucial that we prioritize our districts and the needs of the American people rather than allowing bureaucrats to dictate policy behind closed doors and just give them the money.

Believe it or not, it almost sounds like living history, but when I was first elected, President Obama was in office, and it felt like our Nation was, frankly, losing their identity. I am convinced that President Trump's election in 2016 helped steer our country back on course. I stood behind President Trump through two politically motivated impeachment trials and against the partisan witch hunt of the January 6 Committee.

While I believe in robust political debate, the weaponization of government against President Trump was unprecedented, and many American people, as well. I am proud to have fought back. I am heartened by the support Trump and other conservatives continue to receive across this Nation.

As a member of the Financial Services Committee, I worked tirelessly to protect small businesses and to defend industries vital to our State: coal, oil, natural gas, and many others, financial services, banks, and even small banks that provide you loans you need to buy a home or start a small business. These people provide very important services.

People would stop and say: What are you going to get done? We have got a new Congress coming in.

We can get things done. It isn't easy. The political process isn't easy and simple, you have to fight for it, but we can get things done.

In 2017 and 2018, we worked to repeal some of the most harmful provisions of the Obama-era Dodd-Frank law. It was called the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, signed into law by President Trump. It passed the House, and it passed the Senate with bipartisan support in the Senate. We had a coalition of some Democrats and most Republicans, but on May 24, 2018, that bill was signed into law.

Now West Virginia banks and banks across the country are not subject to many of the costly regulations that hurt economic growth.

This Congress, I fought against government overreach. I introduced an amendment to block the Federal Reserve from the digital dollar program, a move that would open the door to government control of our personal transactions similar to what you see in China. We have to defend our freedoms from government overreach.

During my entire time in public service, from the time I ran for State senate through today, I have been passionate about the right to protect all human life, including unborn babies. It has been a privilege to lead the Life and Conception Act which seeks to protect the most vulnerable among us, the unborn.

Following the Supreme Court's historic decision in Dobbs, States now have full authority to protect life from the moment of concept. My bill, the Life and Conception Act, is a biological fact. Joe Biden agrees with my bill. He said it last year that he believes life begins at conception. They used to teach this in school in biology classes across the country. In public schools they would teach that all human life begins at conception. That is just simply a fact. You can have different views on things, but it is a fact of life that life begins at conception. I am proud that most of my Republican colleagues have supported my legislation, and urge folks to continue to fight for all human life as we go forward.

I have a few closing comments and folks I want to thank, but I do want to yield to some of my colleagues who are here in the Chamber to reflect, and I appreciate them being here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

I am pleased to be here to today to say a few things about my friend, and I will say the nice ones. I am teasing. They are all nice.

I do appreciate having that opportunity. I was listening to the gentleman's comments and was very moved because I think that people sometimes don't realize what Congressmen go through. We volunteered to do this job, so I know you are not complaining, and I am not complaining. The fact that you choked up a little bit when you started talking about your family, it meant a lot to me. I know it means a lot to you because we have had numerous conversations in your decade here. We have done a lot of things together, and you are always talking about your kids, what is going on and how they are doing.

I have even given you rides home or part of the way home. For those watching, I would drop him off at the McDonald's in Front Royal and someone would pick him up from West Virginia, but I would at least get him that far.

Our districts came close to touching, but we never actually did touch. It also gave me an opportunity on one occasion to travel with ALEX throughout the district.

He said that he likes to stop in the barber shops and the little stores. We did that one day. Specifically I remember stopping in that little pizza shop. I still can't pronounce the name of the town. I think it is Ghent. I might have it wrong, but it is not spelled that way.

We did have a little bit a schedule, and he was wanting to talk to more and more people, and every now and again I would have to say: All right, ALEX, we don't have time to talk to everybody.

That is just the way ALEX is. He is a great individual.

You talked about, and I have to concur, having had numerous philosophical conversations with you, that

you have been one of the strongest conservative voices during your time in the House.

I was talking with another Member, and ALEX happened to be present, and we were talking about things. He made some point on what we needed to do to push the conservative cause forward to make America great and better as we move forward.

The other guy said: Yeah, it is what we are going to miss. We will miss that, ALEX.

That is because we would be sitting trying to figure out how complicated it was and how you would maneuver this and that, and ALEX would say: No. Here is what you do. You just go straightforward and tell people the facts.

That is what you have always done, and it has been greatly appreciated.

Last, but not least, through those 10 years we have developed a friendship, and that is a friendship that will be a lifetime friendship. We will continue to do things together, as I know that you have a servant's heart and will continue to want to serve the people of West Virginia. The people you represent in West Virginia are not that different from the people that I represent in southwest Virginia. It is not West Virginia, but southwest Virginia. Of course, as you know, I believe the two States should never have been cleaved apart because, particularly, in western portions of Virginia, we are very much culturally, spiritually, and politically aligned.

I appreciate you, and I look forward to working with you in whatever capacity you serve in next.

Mr. MOONEY. I appreciate your friendship over the years, Mr. GRIFFITH. I will certainly miss my colleagues. I will come back and visit. It is not that far away. I appreciate you taking some time. I know you are getting home to your family.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my other colleague from Virginia, Congressman BOB GOOD, who, like me, is going to head to private life at least some period of time on January 3 of next year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD), who is also from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. ALEX MOONEY; and my other good friend, MORGAN GRIFFITH, from Virginia. These were two of the guys who helped me with some of the logistics and things that you need to know when you come to Congress. I appreciate the investment you made in me.

I am from central Virginia, so our districts don't touch, but ALEX MOONEY came to my district when very few wanted to when I had defeated an establishment incumbent, moderate RINO, shall we say, for the nomination in the summer of 2020. I was being outspent nearly 10 to 1 in the general. Not many people were coming to my district and helping me out.

While we are border States, it is a good 5 hours or so for you to get to my

district, and you showed up. You helped me with an event. You helped me more than only one other Member of Congress with fundraising and financial support. You directed many of your supporters to help me during a time when I really needed that.

I certainly also consider you a life-long friend. As someone who was never in danger of going to an Ivy League school, you are one of the few Ivy League conservatives whom I know from your time at Dartmouth.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Are there others?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I am stretching to think of others, but I think of one who just got nominated for Defense Secretary. He is an Ivy Leaguer. I don't know him personally.

However, the job you have done in your family, to have your son come behind you who is a conservative leader at Princeton, to have your daughter who is a freshman at an Ivy League-like SEC school in Vanderbilt shows the example that you have had for your children and the way your children have wanted to be involved in what you are doing here. I have met them on several occasions along with your lovely wife.

Thank you for standing on principle. When I came to Congress 4 years ago with the life issue being one of the most important, if not the most important issue, to me, to know when I got here that you were the sponsor of the Life and Conception Act, and I was quick to sign on and let you know I wanted to be a cosigner of that and to stand alongside you. The issue that is the ultimate issue, it is literally life and death, it is the number one killer in this country.

I often refer to what happened 2½ years ago with the Dobbs decision politically in this body is the great departure as some in our Conference and in our party don't want to talk about the issue now that the responsibility or opportunity is there for us to lead on this issue. I thank you that you have led on that issue.

You have never been one of the guys who is the loudest voice in the room and who is doing all the talking. A lot of people in this body and in this Chamber like the sound of their own voice. When you do take the mike, you always were strong, compassionate, and effective in making your case in what you were trying to persuade the rest of us to do. I have admired that.

I admired your courage where you could have stayed in this seat for as long as you wanted to. One of the great problems here in this body is it is full of people whose goal is just to be here so they can stay here. They can be here for as long as they can be here, hopefully to die here, I guess, is what so many of their priority is, while you risked a very safe seat and gave it up to run statewide.

While many of us supported you, as my colleague from Virginia just spoke about, Mr. GRIFFITH, we fell short of that objective. We can only hope that

the person who was elected to that Senate seat in West Virginia will give them the conservative representation they deserve and that you would have given them if you had prevailed in that race.

I thank you for the example you set, I thank you for your friendship to me, and thank you for how you represented West Virginia. You have been a passionate and unashamed conservative. It has been a privilege to serve alongside you.

Mr. MOONEY. My good friend from California on the other side of the coast, a lot of similar issues, and I have gotten to know this Congressman for a long time since I have been here. There were many social gatherings and things. I am going to miss the relationships with my friends, but I thank Congressman DOUG LAMALFA for sticking around to say a few words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I am here with mixed feelings here.

Of course, I want to be here to honor ALEX, but I am sorry we have to.

I can echo a lot of the words our colleagues have said here too for your standing up and being forthright, and the reason you wanted to take a bold step to be able to represent the people in the entire State of West Virginia.

You have done, as the map shows, one-half of the State already, which is pretty amazing. I come from California where I represent one-fifty-second, for those who are keeping score.

I really value your friendship. You have been one of my best friends in my legislative years. I appreciate that a lot.

Our good pal, Tony Strickland, from southern California is the one who puts us together here.

I have known Tony ever since I first ran in the State legislature many years ago. He said: You have to check out ALEX, he is great.

He was absolutely right. You have been a strong voice as a patriot for our basic freedoms. You have always done it with a sense of humor and a good flair that people want to be around you. They want to be a part of what you are doing.

Tony is proud of you down there in SoCal. I am proud of you as a friend. It is like what Tony is doing as a beacon of light and freedom in that place, here you fought for that in West Virginia, and I do have to kind of look at some of the parallels we have with northern California.

West Virginia decided back around the Civil War that they wanted to break away because they didn't agree with a whole lot of what was going on in all of Virginia. We have a whole bunch of us in northern California who want to break away with the rest of the State because we don't agree with a whole lot going on in the urban part of California either. We have a common bond there with that spirit.

I enjoy your State. I enjoy the visits I have been able to make there. I want

to be able to continue to do more with you as we go on, whether it is business or the fun stuff with some of the professional cage fighting we have enjoyed together a few times there, too.

Of course, getting to know your son a little bit, it has been fun along the way. You have a great legacy coming in behind you.

With that, I don't want to go on and on or maybe get this to be too emotional or something, but I appreciate you, ALEX. You are a good man, and I know there is a lot more for you in the future here, for you to be able to continue to give, to help strengthen our country, to strengthen your State and our people.

God bless you. You are a dear friend. I appreciate you. Best wishes and God's blessings on your travels.

□ 1115

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I didn't plan the hour out. I just came to the floor to say good-bye and mention a few of my colleagues. If you want to stick around to say something, please do. I appreciate you three sticking around. There may be one yet to come.

One thing I am going to miss is my colleagues. There are a lot of frustrations in this job, but it is still an honor to do it.

I would say to my colleagues that we have friends on both sides of the aisle. We all do. It is not as partisan a place as people think, and I would say a bipartisan comment: Most of us come down here wanting to help our country and make it a better place and to fight for what we believe in.

People often ask: Why do you do this kind of thing? Why do you run for Congress? What is your motivation?

They don't really understand that. I think sometimes they think it is all about power and other things, but it is really to serve your faith.

I know, along with my colleagues here, we run to serve our faith. I am a practicing Roman Catholic. That is important to me. I also know that my faith demanded involvement in the public policy process, and that is why we run.

I am glad that the gentleman who I endorsed early on, Riley Moore, who is taking my seat, shares the same values. The new Governor of West Virginia, Patrick Morrisey, is a good friend, and I think he is going to do great things for our State. The process goes on, and people come in.

The values you are raised with are important. I am blessed to be the middle of three boys.

I have an older brother, Vincent, who is a college professor. He has been a great role model for me growing up in many ways, including faith and family. He is a lot smarter than me. He got his Ph.D. and teaches electrical engineering. I didn't have the gift of that, but he has been a great role model.

I have a younger brother by 1 year named Pat, and we shared a room

growing up as kids. He has always been helping me in every way he can.

I don't know how people do this without family, to be honest with you.

My baby sister—I say the middle of three boys, but we have the youngest, who is the fourth, my little sister, Margarita, who is always praying for me and helping me in every way she can.

I know there is so much love and support from my siblings. That matters a lot, and I thank them for standing with me as really the only politician in the family, other than my uncle, who was the mayor of Miami, and my cousin, who is the mayor of Miami. That is Miami. That is the Suarez part, my mother's side. In my immediate family, I am the one who all the family surrounded to help.

My father was taken home a little early in 2001 at the age of 57. He had strokes and passed away, but my father was a feisty Irishman from New York, and he really believed in the political process.

He was actually the political one in the family, believe it or not. He was always talking politics around the kitchen table. He was the oldest of seven children, and, as far as I know, the only Republican in the whole family, an Irish Catholic family from New York.

He accepted the calling to go to Vietnam and serve in the Army. He was a captain. Thankfully, he came home alive because I was born 1 year later, in 1971. My older brother, Vincent, was born while my father was in Vietnam.

My dad literally fought the advance of Communism in Vietnam. He was proud of his service. He thought it was the right thing to do.

My mother's story is different but similar in a way. My mother, who is 83 years old, still lives with me. When she was 20, her country was taken over by Communists. She was sitting in Cuba with a pretty nice life on a farm. She is the fourth of 14 children.

One day, the Castro militia, the Communist militia and their thugs, came kicking in the doors at my mother's house and put my mother and my "abuelito," "grandfather," in jail, and anyone over the age of 16 went to jail.

My mother spent 7 weeks in a Communist prison in Cuba because she wasn't supporting the revolution of Castro and the Communist regime. She had a free place to come to, a place where you can live in freedom, which is what we all fight for here, at least some of us.

Being raised by a mother who, at age 20, lost her country—and still to this day, by the way, if you look at Cuba, it is still an oppressed Communist country. What the Communists take, they don't give back. To this day, we are waiting for Cuba to become free.

My mother saw what government can do, how evil government can be to you. My father fought these people in Vietnam.

People say, why are you so into politics? I guess my mom and dad really

valued that, really instilled in me that it was an honorable thing to do, to serve your country. If good people don't do it, guess what? The bad guys are going to do it. You really don't have a choice.

At least vote—I know some people don't even vote, but at least vote. That is just the minimum level.

I accepted the calling.

I thank my mother for her support over the years, not in only raising me but standing with me and always supporting me. She lives just a couple of miles away from me in West Virginia right now. She is 83 years old.

I think most politicians—really, not most. I will tell you every politician wishes they had a mother like mine. She goes to every event she can go to. She is always promoting me.

She even wrote a book called “Leaving Cuba: One Family’s Journey to Freedom.” She enjoys giving speeches about that. Still to this day, she runs around and gives speeches about it. My mom lives for her four children.

Thank you, Mom, for everything.

Well, last but not least, I would be remiss if I didn't at least thank one gentleman on my staff who has been with me for 8 years, my chief of staff, Michael Hough. He did leave earlier this year because I am leaving, but Mike has been with me through thick and thin, ups and downs, witch hunts, and successes. He was with me when I was a State senator.

Thank you, Mike, for everything you have done. Mike is one of my best friends and will continue to be a best friend.

He is not here to say anything about me yet, and I know he would be if he could, but my longest colleague, ANDY HARRIS, I am going to miss him. I am going to miss you all, but ANDY has been a good friend for a long time. He is sticking around.

As I close this chapter in my life, first and foremost, the constituents who elected me five times, thank you. I have fought hard. I have kept my word.

One of my mentors here, JIM JORDAN, just wrote a book. It was simply titled “Do What You Said You Would Do.” That is the name of the book. You don't even have to read the book. “Do what you said you would do,” it is right there if you would just do that.

People will say, what are you going to do when you get to Congress? Look at what I said when I was running for Congress over here, and then don't be surprised when I vote that way right here. That is what I am going to do. I am going to do what I said I would do, and I have done that.

To my constituents, thank you for the 10 years. I have done what I said I would do to the very best of my ability every time. We don't always agree. Not everybody agrees with their own family. No one is going to agree with every vote, but I voted my conscience. I have done the best I could. I thank you for the opportunity to do that.

To all of my staff, it has been the honor of a lifetime.

While I am leaving the House of Representatives, I am not leaving public service. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of West Virginia in whatever capacity in which I am called in the future.

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

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to deliver my farewell address, but first, I would like to give some time to my colleagues to deliver some remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN).

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my sister CORI BUSH for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by sending peace and love to this Chamber, peace and love to the American people, and, most importantly, peace and love to my family and to the incredible people of New York-16.

I have to send a special shout-out to my lovely wife, Melissa Oppenheimer Bowman. Thank you for supporting me, loving me, and putting up with me over the last 4 years. Thank you for taking care of our beautiful children back home, Jelani, Marcel, and Maya.

It is hard for someone to be working class in this Chamber, and I know every time I came to Washington, you became a single mom, getting up very early in the morning, getting our kids ready for school, dropping them off at the bus stop, and then going to serve the people of the Bronx as a third grade teacher.

You would teach all day, get off of work, pick our kids up from school, bring them home, start cooking dinner, help them with their homework, plan your lessons for the next day for your kids, and then put our kids to bed.

Then, when I was here trying to do the job of the district and when I didn't go straight home after work, you made sure I heard about it. When I didn't call you when I got back home, you made sure I heard about that, too.

I love you. Thank you, Melissa, for all you have done.

I also thank my constituents, each of them, for trusting me to be their voice and allowing me to fight for them every single day in Congress.

Though I will be leaving Congress formally, I plan to continue to fight for the people in New York-16, particularly in the areas of Port Chester, Greenburgh, Yonkers, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, and, of course, the Bronx.

If it weren't for the people in these particular communities, especially the Bronx, where I served as an educator

for 17 of the 20 years of my career, I would not have been prepared to come to Congress and serve the people.

Of course, I need to thank my team, both in New York and here in D.C., who worked every single day to do everything in their power to meet the needs of the people of New York-16.

Our case closure was exemplary. We brought tens of millions of dollars back to the district, and we did everything in our power to deal with the issues of affordability, gun violence, education, and so many other issues. I thank my staff and my team so much, and I thank them for their service.

In 2020, I became the first African American elected in the 16th District of New York in U.S. history. When I was running, I didn't even know that stat, which is pretty interesting.

As such, I stand on the shoulders of the giants who have come before me. My ancestors fought and died for me to have the opportunity to be here, and I am humbled by the immense honor and responsibility.

My ancestors built this place and built the strongest economy in the world as enslaved Africans in this country, and though we didn't pass any legislation related to reparations, we will continue to fight for reparations for Black people in this country.

I cannot go further without giving honor to my late mother, Ms. Pauline Bowman. My mother raised me and my three sisters alone. She was a civil servant in the post office for 33 years. She worked 6 days, sometimes 7 days a week and all the overtime she could muster to make sure that I was the first person in our family to go to college.

When I was very young, she told me—and I remember this story very clearly. We were coloring in a coloring book at the dining room table, and I could not color in between the lines. She could, and I thought it was like magic that she could.

I started crying. I was pretty upset. My mother looked me in the eye and told me I can be whatever I wanted to be.

It was that love and that confidence that she instilled in me that guided me and propelled me to win a historic election. She got to see me run. She got to see me win. She got to see me on her favorite news programs, CNN and MSNBC.

I would like to think that I made her proud before my sisters and I lost her to COVID on Valentine's Day in 2021.

Mom, Pauline Bowman, I love you. I thank you, and please continue to guide and watch over me.

It is a challenging world we live in, and I want to be the best example for my children and the people who I will continue to serve outside of this Chamber.

Mom, I love you. I always will love you. This place is better because of you and because of what you raised me to be.

Prior to being elected to Congress, I worked in education for 20 years as a

teacher, counselor, and middle school principal. My mission was to do everything in my power to unlock the unlimited potential of our kids.

My mission in Congress was to unlock the unlimited potential of a district that had been left behind for so long. I am proud of the transformational legislation we introduced and fought for that would uplift hard-working families across the country, particularly the most marginalized. From lowering costs to revolutionizing public education as we know it, the bills we introduced will be life-changing, and I am going to name a few.

□ 1130

My Green New Deal for public schools would heal and strengthen our schools and address the holistic needs of students to support healthy, safe, and high-quality learning opportunities. It is well past time that we put young people and public education at the center of our national response to the climate crisis, systemic racism, and economic inequality by passing this bill.

My Care for All Agenda would urge Federal investments to strengthen and expand the care economy, anchoring a transformation toward an economic system grounded in care for ourselves, our communities, and our planet instead of one grounded in money and power.

My Ending Corporate Greed Act would institute a windfall tax profits tax on corporations to penalize companies that use inflation as an excuse to raise prices and profit off the backs of hardworking Americans.

If we want to talk about truly transformational legislation that provides economic relief to the American people, puts money back in people's pockets, and charts a visionary path toward combating the challenges of the 21st century, then these bills are the place to start.

I hope that in the next Congress, my colleagues will have the courage to fight for these transformational pieces of legislation.

Otherwise, we have to ask ourselves, why are we here? What are we here for?

I will take a moment to talk about wealth inequality. The staggering wealth inequality we face today is not just a statistic; it is a reflection of decades of policy decisions and systemic failures that have left millions struggling while a few prosper.

Today, the two wealthiest individuals own more wealth than the bottom half of the country combined. This isn't because they worked harder than everyone else; it is the result of a system that prioritizes corporate profits over fair wages, tax cuts for the rich over investments in public goods, and financial markets over working families.

Wages for the average worker have barely risen in 40 years, while the cost of healthcare, housing, and education has skyrocketed. Meanwhile, those

with generational wealth have used their influence to shape policies that protect their fortunes, while communities across America are left behind. This is not inevitable. It is a choice.

I will talk briefly about military spending for a moment. Tupac Shakur's words ring true today: "They got money for wars but can't feed the poor."

The U.S. spends over \$886 billion annually on defense, more than the next 10 countries combined. Yet, millions of Americans struggle with poverty, housing insecurity, and access to childcare and education. Billions of dollars are wasted on over-budget weapons programs, failed projects, and unnecessary overseas military bases. We can and must reinvest our money in the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with this: Never in my life did I think I would be elected to any office, let alone the United States House of Representatives. It was not on my to-do list or on my bucket list. I don't even know how I got here, quite frankly. I will say it was my work in education and my work with children and families over 20 years that helped me understand, on a visceral level, the deep, historic, systemic inequalities we have in our country that are policy decisions rooted in systemic discrimination.

To quote my sister, the great AYANNA PRESSLEY: This body has committed policy violence toward communities of color and working-class people in our country. So my crazy butt decided I am going to run for office in 2019.

The reason why I got the confidence to do so is because I saw 4 incredible women run and win in 2018: RASHIDA TLAIB, ILHAN OMAR, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, and AYANNA PRESSLEY. Four young women of color, a couple of them dark skinned, a couple of them Muslim, one wearing a hijab, transformed America in 2018 and they will continue to transform America for generations to come.

It is this body's responsibility to listen to them, learn from them, and follow their leadership because this country will never reach its full potential unless it follows the examples of these four women I just mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them so much for giving me a space and a platform and a footprint to be myself as I ran for office and won that historic election.

Then 2 years later, I was able to win and my sister, CORI BUSH, was able to join me here in this incredible place. Then 2 years later, we got DELIA RAMIREZ, SUMMER LEE, GREG CASAR, and many others.

I am going to quote AYANNA PRESSLEY again: Our squad is big, y'all, and our squad includes the entire country.

I will do everything in my power to continue to be an example for young people, working-class people, and people of color. I will do everything in my power to continue to be an example for young men, especially young Black

men. We don't have to be rappers. We don't have to be athletes. We definitely don't have to be womanizers. Don't let the stereotypes drive you in that direction because we are fathers. We are husbands. We are sons. We are great people.

We will continue together to organize, mobilize, and build the movement rooted in love and humanity for ourselves, for our community, for this country, and for the world.

Mr. Speaker, I thank so much my sister, CORI, from St. Louis for allowing me a few words. I am excited for the work ahead of us. There is much more to come. Free Palestine, free the Bronx, and free all marginalized people, especially those locked up on trumped up marijuana charges. Let's also vacate the death row sentences of the 39 people on death row.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I say to Congressman BOWMAN that I do believe his mother is very, very proud looking down on him today right here. She is very, very proud of him. We hope he takes that as he walks out of this Chamber and starts on his new journey. If my child was a Congressman and accomplished the things that he has accomplished, oh, how proud I would be.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ).

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I address the people's House to honor the legacy of my friends, of my colleagues, and partners in the fight for justice and global peace, Congresswoman CORI BUSH and Congressman JAMAAL BOWMAN. BUSH and BOWMAN are the embodiment of courageous leadership.

Representative BUSH is a fighter for peoples' right to a dignified life. In the middle of the pandemic, when people were trying to figure out how to stay alive and how to continue to have a roof over their head, this courageous leader, as the eviction moratorium was about to expire said: I can't go home if others will not have a home tomorrow. She stood on these Capitol steps courageously taking a stand for hundreds of thousands of families across this country.

What she didn't know was that a little State representative from Chicago, Illinois, was watching what she and others were doing, as I was trying to concurrently negotiate legislation in the State of Illinois to help people stay housed.

Mr. Speaker, CORI BUSH will never know the number of people and families and children that she has saved because of her courageous leadership. She has enshrined the rights of women. She has promoted safety, well-being, and prosperity in our communities.

Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN, a lifelong educator and an advocate of

opportunity, accountability, and racial justice, has fought day and night and continues to fight day and night for accessible, culturally competent education for every single student in this country.

Mr. Speaker, while dark money in politics may have stripped this Chamber of two of its most authentic champions of working people, let me be very clear: They will not be silenced. I know them too well.

BOWMAN and BUSH, in or out of the Halls of Congress, will continue fighting like heaven and hell for our shared humanity because our work, it is not finished.

This “Congresswoman,” “Congresista” from Chicago, who has watched all of them with pride and honor, will continue in this Chamber and will continue working with them also outside of this Chamber and is ready to fight with them for humanity, not just in the United States, but globally.

Mr. Speaker, I end by saying, it has been the greatest honor of my life the last 2 years to serve with them. May their courage and their love for people be felt in every seat of this Chamber.

Every single moment we enter it, we are asking ourselves—perhaps physically they are not sitting in the second back row here—but what would CORI and JAMAAL do in this moment?

And what Cori and Jamaal would do in every single moment is to stand for the people that others have forgotten about. I thank them, and I look forward to the many things we will do together.

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, Congresswoman RAMIREZ came into Congress like a whirlwind. She has brought something that I feel so many of us needed and were missing. We appreciate her, and I thank her for coming in and being who she is and bringing Chicago into this space in a different way.

Mr. Speaker, I will offer my farewell address before the House.

Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise just as we have risen so many times before over these last 4 historic years.

Together, we came into this work with a simple mission: to transform Missouri’s First District by taking care of the people.

On day one, we vowed to do the most for St. Louis, starting with those who had the greatest need. We were clear-eyed of what was in front of us, ahead of us, and behind us. We stayed focus. We stayed committed.

St. Louis and I came to Congress after unseating a 52-year political family dynasty. I ran for this seat twice to win it.

Today, I stand before you as the first Black woman and first nurse to represent Missouri in Congress, the first woman to represent Missouri’s First Congressional District, and the first activist from the movement to save Black lives to serve in Congress.

□ 1145

From the day that I was sworn in, I have brought you, my community, and my own lived experiences with me into every vote, every committee hearing, and every floor speech. St. Louis and I. I am proud to be the people I represent.

I am the young girl who grew up in a working-class household, where my father was a union meatcutter and my mother was a computer analyst. I am the teenager who had my first abortion at the age of 18 after being sexually assaulted at the age of 17. I am the young woman in her early 20s who endured an abusive relationship that nearly ended my life. I am the mother who endured pregnancy and childbirth complications, who encountered biased medical care that was dismissive of my pain. I am the formerly single mother to two beautiful children, Zion and Angel, who will always be my greatest accomplishment. I am the nurse and pastor who cared for others throughout our community. I am the asthmatic adult who understands the challenges of being uninsured. I am the activist from the front lines of Ferguson, the Ferguson uprising movement, who in 2014 was out on the streets for over 400 days protesting police violence after the killing of Michael Brown.

My life experiences are different from many of my colleagues here on Capitol Hill, but outside these walls, my experiences are all too familiar.

In Missouri and across the country, people are living multifaceted lives, and they endure the decisions we do and don’t make in this Chamber each and every day. Like me, one in four people of reproductive age have had an abortion before the age of 45 in the United States. Like I was, over 580,000 people in the U.S. experience homelessness on any given night, and in Missouri nearly 6,000 people are living without stable homes, almost a quarter of them unsheltered. Like I have been, nearly 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the U.S. have been raped at some point in their lives, and in Missouri 1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced sexual violence. Just like I have endured, approximately 41 percent of women and 26 percent of men across our country have reported that they have experienced a form of domestic violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime. In Missouri, our State has the third highest rate of domestic violence in the U.S.

St. Louis sent me to Congress because I reflect the struggles so many people in our community endure. Throughout my tenure in the people’s House, I have turned my pain into purpose. I have testified before the House Oversight Committee, sharing my abortion story for the first time. I know that there are others out there, like me, who never shared or may never share their truth with their family members or their friends, but are living through this reality, horrified.

It has led me to fight and put my body on the line to protect medication

abortion, to protect sexual and reproductive health, to stop the Comstock Act, to secure abortion justice, to finally finalize the equal rights amendment, which we are pushing President Biden to do in the next 39 days. On this point, I am so proud to be one of two Black women to ever sponsor legislation to ratify the ERA in its 101 years’ long history, to have cofounded and co-chaired the first-ever Congressional Caucus for the equal rights amendment. Black women have always been integral to the fight for equal rights and so often relegated to its footnotes. Congresswoman AYANNA PRESSLEY and I have forever changed that.

My life experiences have shaped and informed this work. I have been violated. I have been shot at, raped, and assaulted by people I have known and people I have loved. I deeply understand the statistic that a woman is five times more likely to be murdered when her abuser has access to a gun because I am one of those women who have come close to joining that statistic. It is why I pushed so hard for the inclusion of ending the dating partner loophole in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act because I know safer communities doesn’t just mean safer streets. It means safer relationships, too.

I have been beaten, brutalized, and assaulted as a Ferguson front lines activist. I have grieved with my community for Mike Brown, Kajeme Powell, VonDerrit Myers, Anthony Lamar Smith, and so many others; so, so many others. I know that police brutality is a preventable crisis and that it is affecting Black and Brown communities disproportionately. It is what our movement to save Black lives is born out of. It is why I partnered with that same movement to author the People’s Response Act, to end police brutality, to end all police violence, to transform community safety, to treat public safety as the public health issue that it is.

I am one of just over 180 Black Representatives to ever serve in this institution, where over 1,700 Members of Congress who enslaved Black people have held office, and as the Congresswoman representing the very district where Dred Scott was denied citizenship because he was Black. I have seen how the legacy of enslavement, persists in the policies that govern our lives today, from housing and healthcare to education and economic inequality, to mass incarceration and police brutality. It is why I introduced the Reparations Now Resolution, laying out a historic framework for how our government can begin its moral and legal obligation to provide reparations to the descendants of chattel slavery in America because it isn’t enough just to acknowledge the past. We must work to reckon with its consequences and act to repair its harms.

I ran for this seat to deliver for St. Louis, for the people. Over the past 4 years, we have delivered over \$2 billion

in Federal investments for our communities, resources that will empower our district and create lasting change for generations. This includes over \$41 million which has gone toward community projects geared toward homelessness prevention, public health, youth engagement, environmental justice, and economic revitalization projects across St. Louis. We have helped to guide thousands of our constituents through Federal case work, and we established community programs such as Congress in Your Neighborhood and Congress in Your Classroom.

I have refused to settle for crumbs handed to our communities. I have sat and listened to SEIU caregivers and so many other union workers and leaders. I have been in community with environmental organizers pushing for climate action. I have mourned with grieving families demanding an end to gun violence. I have been with the mom who couldn't afford childcare or who struggled to feed her family.

When the President asked us to fight for his economic agenda, his full economic agenda, I fought, we fought, those sitting behind me, we fought for his full economic agenda. If not for a few corporate Democrats, the Build Back Better Act would be the law of the land now. We would have stopped talking about rising inflation and instead delivered on universal pre-K and affordable childcare, a permanent monthly tax credit, paid leave, free school meals, investments in our caregivers, historic funding to build new affordable housing and rehabilitate crumbling housing stock, expanded Medicare benefits, taxes on billionaire corporations and ultra wealthy so they can finally pay their fair share and, lastly, removing every lead pipe poisoning our communities.

We may have lost that fight, but there must be a reckoning. The November election has shown that we were right to fight. We were right to fight as hard as we fought, to put everything we had for Build Back Better. This party must do better.

I have been unhoused. I know the trauma of that policy violence, of being forced out on the street, of not knowing if my two babies would survive the night in our car because of freezing temperatures. I know that. It is why I introduced the first of its kind legislation called the Unhoused Bill of Rights, which makes clear the basic human rights and dignity of our unhoused neighbors. It provides the roadmap for ending homelessness by 2027. Congress can do that. We can guarantee safe, affordable, and stable housing for all people, and we must.

I still remember also, which is what we just heard from Congresswoman RAMIREZ, the day in August 2021 when we were on the brink of the expiration of the Federal eviction moratorium; and with a bill waiting to be passed on the House floor, Congress actually gaveled out to head to the comforts of their own homes for the next 6 weeks. Know-

ing the indignity of being evicted myself, I could not leave, and I did not leave, and I have friends who stayed or who showed up and came back. The squad showed up.

For months prior, we had pushed the Biden administration and CDC to prevent a lapse in the pandemic-era Federal ban on evictions. I knew that so many lives in St. Louis and nationwide were at risk, so I did what I do. I led from my life experience and stayed put, right on the Capitol steps. For four nights and five days, through cold rain and summer heat, we pushed for our government to act. My team and I negotiated with the House and Senate leadership, with the White House, Biden administration officials, including HHS and Treasury, and worked in tandem with the Congressional Black Caucus and Progressive Caucus to keep people housed. The White House heeded our call, reinstating the eviction moratorium and keeping 11 million people housed. However, it shouldn't take such drastic action from lawmakers to act. The risk of harming a single person, when you have the power not to, should be enough. Again, as my time here comes to a close, I ask my colleagues here to do better.

The decisions we make here within these Halls do not exist in a vacuum. They ripple outward, touching the lives of millions. They impact the unhoused veteran searching for safety, the survivor waiting to be heard and believed, the child admitted to the emergency room because they are asthmatic and can't breathe. We must honor the humanity and circumstance of those we serve because being in Congress is a privilege.

Don't waste it and don't settle. Don't say: Well, we tried. Don't abuse the power we have been afforded to make a difference in people's lives. The people are depending on you to show up for them and their need. You have the power to change the world, so don't sit on that power. Use it to do good deeds and to save and transform lives. We are the United States of America. We are the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, so we can't act like the court jester. Do better. If you are not willing to do the hard work to shirk the corporate donors in service of everyday people, then how can you call yourself a Representative?

I understand this, and it is why I was one of the first Members of Congress, along with those sitting here with me today, to call for a cease-fire, and why I am the lead sponsor of the historic cease-fire now resolution. It is why I kept calling for a cease-fire even after the White House called us repugnant and disgraceful only to turn around and later adopt the same policy without an apology, without even so much as a phone call. It is why I will keep standing up for Palestinian liberation and against genocide, infanticide, femicide, and androcide. It is why I will fight for peace and against endless war, for our collective humanity and

against our collective demise, even when my persistence bought—and, yes, I said bought—my successor the seat with a whole lot of Republican money.

□ 1200

For me, when I came into office, I vowed to be the same person I was then as I am today, to lead with a heart that knows no borders. My love and my fight have always been for all the people.

When I was first elected, I toured John Lewis' office. I stood in the space where courage once sat, and I vowed to honor his legacy. I know many of us in this body have done the same.

Let's be honest, too many of us recite his words without following his example. Too many of us who should be allies remain silent in the face of injustice.

Many of us, especially my Democratic colleagues, tout that we are the party for human rights, the party for justice, that we fight loud and proud for all people no matter their race, background, sexual orientation, faith, or ethnicity.

Yet, when it comes to Palestinian liberation, so many have chosen silence—silence in the face of bombed hospitals and schools, displaced families, starvation and illness, entire bloodlines wiped out, and the cries of mothers and children; silence in the face of apartheid; silence in the face of ethnic cleansing; silence in the face of oppression and racial subjugation that mirrors the systems of Jim Crow, systemic racism, and inequality that we fight against here in America. Silence.

Maybe for some it is because it is easy or because the politics are—what do we hear? Too complicated. Those are excuses. Those are copouts to doing the right thing, and as Members of Congress, they are hindrances to doing our job.

In the words of Dr. King: "The time is always right to do right," so I will keep leading with consistent love and consistent respect for all people, no matter their background, the color of their skin, or where they were born.

I will fight for every person's right to live, to love, and to thrive. I will keep standing up for a free Palestine, for a free Haiti, for a free Congo, for a free Sudan, for a free St. Louis, for a free America, for a free democracy.

I will always fight for the people in our country and world who have the greatest need; for those who are incarcerated, unhoused, unemployed, uninsured, food insecure, struggling to make ends meet; for our children and for our elders; for victims and survivors of violence; for those persecuted and villainized; for every person who has been historically excluded, marginalized, silenced, or cast aside by entrenched systems of violent oppression, repression, white supremacy, and systemic injustice.

If you think it is this consistency or this radical love that is a weakness, a mistake, or the reason why I won't be

here next year, think again. My radical and unconditional love for humanity is not a weakness; it is my superpower. The only reason why I will not be here next year is because I didn't bend my morals to special interests.

They tried to silence me, but it didn't work. They thought I would crack under the pressure, but they underestimated me. They tried to buy me, but you can't buy someone who refuses to be bought. No one can buy my silence. No one can pay me to be silent so their people can then go drop bombs on other people. I made a decision to be change, not chained.

I am reminded of a Scripture in Mark 8:36: For what shall it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

My colleagues, I share the words of Dr. King, who said: "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

Colleagues, special interests would have you believe that fighting for those who others deem unworthy—you know, justice—comes at a cost that you can't afford, that it isn't worth putting your reputation and livelihood on the line, that sometimes backing down or staying quiet is smart politics, that keeping the status quo is better than challenging it.

Well, my Christian colleagues should be familiar with this verse: "You are the salt of the Earth, but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing."

If we are not bringing something to the situation to transform it for the better, if we are not being about the change, if we are not the reason why people are helped, if we can't season the problem and make it flavorful, if we can't bring that flavor to making that change that the people need where we leave a positive mark, then we have no purpose here in this work.

My words are not for condemnation but reconciliation—let me be clear—a reminder to love thy neighbor as myself. If you would not bomb yourself, we should not be bombing our neighbors. Let that word "love" be about your action. Reflect on your own actions or your inaction. Reckon with your own self, and then walk anew in this moment.

There are people in this country and around the world who need your voice, who need you to stand up and speak out, who need you to be who you say you are, but for all people, not just some of the people. Don't let them down. Never before have we seen such vital collective action on Palestine, or support for the cause of an arms embargo on Israel, and never before have we seen such brazen efforts by AIPAC and its affiliates to try to shut out our voices.

They wouldn't be coming for us if we weren't powerful. We won't back down. We won't go backward. We will keep fighting for equal rights, dignity, security, justice, and self-determination for all people. We understand what the word "all" means.

We will keep fighting to end the disastrous Citizens United to get dark money out of politics and for the representation that everyday people need, not billionaires and billionaire corporations.

Now, every elected official knows that the work we do, we don't do it alone. There are so many people who uplift us, support us, sustain us, who prop us up, and hold us down in this work. I will take the time to thank some of them now.

I thank my chairmen and their staff, Ranking Members RASKIN and NADLER and former Chairwoman Maloney. I thank them for believing in me and welcoming my perspective. Carolyn's mentorship on the ERA has helped me arrive at the point where I am today. JAMIE's work has inspired me, and his mentorship has meant the world to me.

I thank Democratic House leadership and their staff. I thank them for their support.

I thank every person who calls the Capitol their workplace, every single person who works in this place to keep it going.

I thank our OG Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for being a quintessential auntie, mentor, leader, and friend, for always having my back and showing that even if you have to stand alone, never compromise your values.

I thank CPC and CBC Chairs PRAMILA JAYAPAL, JOYCE BEATTY, and STEVEN HORSFORD for leading our caucuses with foresight and openness, and to their staff, including but not limited to Vincent Evans and Michael Darner.

I thank the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee for her friendship, mentorship, and commitment to securing justice for Black communities, particularly in the form of reparations. I will forever honor her memory.

I thank Senator BERNIE SANDERS for his leadership and unwavering consistency. If we can say anything, we can say consistency. I thank him for being a movement builder and an inspiration.

I thank Senator ELIZABETH WARREN for being a model for delivering for communities, for stepping out and embracing issues that help everyday people, and for embracing me during our action on the eviction moratorium.

I thank Senator MARKEY for being a steadfast partner in the work for environmental justice and protecting frontline communities. I am deeply appreciative that our first bicameral bill together made it into law to help prioritize resources to communities like St. Louis.

I am so grateful and so honored to have the greatest group of friends within these walls who are anything but silent: RASHIDA, AYANNA, DELIA, ILHAN, JAMAAL, SUMMER, ALEX, and so many others. Our squad was never small and never silent.

We have changed the course of history. Each of you have made history and made a difference in your own right, and you have made a difference in my life. I am going to speak for

Brother JAMAAL: He has made a difference in here.

I thank them for their friendship. I thank them for their partnership, their solidarity. I thank them for how they lead and how they taught me. I thank them for bringing all of themselves to Congress. I thank them for how they helped communities from Detroit to Minneapolis to Pittsburgh to Boston to the Bronx to Chicago to Puerto Rico to Central America to Somalia to Haiti to Palestine, and everywhere in between. I ask that they hold up our sister RASHIDA over these next 2 years in our absence.

To my brother JAMAAL, we came into Congress together in 2020. I am so proud to have served with him, served in such a time as this one. He is authentically him. He represented his district and his country with heart and with courage, and we are family. If nothing else, we will always be connected for our time right here in Congress together, our impact on our world, and for the experiences that we have endured together this cycle and the last. I thank him for not ever backing down in our work in protecting humanity, no matter the stakes.

I thank my remarkable staff: Amelia Letson, Caleb Ammon-Hahn, Christopher Key, Claire Shackleford, Isabella Siegel, Jessica Grandberry, Jacqueline Greco, Joi Benton, Karla Santillan, Kate Salamido, Kimberly Bryant, Marina Chafa, Rachell Nord Roseau, and Lynese Wallace, and all of our interns and all of our fellows, to Abbas Alawieh, Danielle Spradley, Stephanie Herndon, Kate Kelly, and all those past and present who are forever part of Team Rep. CORI.

I thank them. They all have never forgotten the mission to do the most for every single person in St. Louis, starting with those who have the greatest need, from responding to the toughest of days—two historic flooding events, a devastating school shooting, displaced housing incidents, verbal attacks, and death threats—to the best of days—securing the eviction moratorium, transforming people's engagement with government, delivering for our community.

For our collective liberation and building movement-based coalitions, Team Rep. Cori has delivered for St. Louis, and I am deeply appreciative of every single one of them for their love and dedication to the people, all the people, all of humanity, and for the betterment of our world.

I thank the Ferguson front line, the families, the whole of our movement to save lives. I thank them for entrusting me and my team and our work. Our work is unfinished. We will never tire. We will never back down until justice is won.

I thank my family, who have always been there with me. I thank my dad, Earl, superdad. I wish my mom a happy birthday today. Go 70. I thank my sister, Kelli, my brother, Perry, my aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and

nephews. I thank my incredible husband, our four kids, and our grandchild, and our in-love family.

They have endured missed holidays, the weight of public scrutiny, and the challenges that come with my calling. Without your unwavering encouragement, without your boundless grace and steadfast support, I would not be able to dedicate myself so fully to serving St. Louis and to this work. Their love has always been my foundation. Their love has always been my strength.

I say to my beloved St. Louis: This work was never about one single seat. It was always about the change that we need to feel, the dreams we dare to dream for ourselves and for our children, for our legacy, the hopes and the aspirations we have to move beyond struggle and hardship toward opportunity and prosperity for all of us.

We are the change that we seek. What we have accomplished together over the last 4 years is nothing short of extraordinary. We have witnessed history, and we have made history. We have laughed, and we have cried. We have stood in solidarity, and we stood our doggone ground.

We have turned our pain into power and our obstacles into opportunities. We have faced challenges head-on, and we have emerged stronger than ever. We are St. Louis, though we know that there is yet still much more work left to do. Together, we have shown that it is possible to lead with purpose and moral clarity and to fight with honor and love for all people.

While my time in Congress may be coming to an end for now, know this: I came into Congress with my voice. Congress didn't give that to me, so Congress can't take that away when I leave, let's be clear.

It has been the honor of my life to be your Congresswoman for Missouri's First District.

To my mom and dad, I know they are proud. From St. Louis to Gaza and everywhere beyond and in between, I love and will always have their back, even if it means I lose something.

Until we rise again, I love St. Louis.

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

□ 1215

CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate California State officials, as tomorrow is the big day when the State's election results will be certified—tomorrow, December 13.

Of course, I say this in jest. There is absolutely no congratulations in order for finalizing election results 5 weeks after the election.

Because of California's glacial pace of counting votes, several races for Congress and the State legislature remain unresolved weeks following the November 5 election, not to mention countless local races—city council, school board, board of supervisors. Candidates had to wait in torturous suspense, unable to effectively begin a transition if they were on their way in or make plans for another job if they were on their way out.

Just to give you a sense of what folks who are waiting on election results had to go through, they would have to wait for these batches of votes to be unveiled maybe once a week, maybe twice a week, maybe three times a week, depending on the county, maybe hundreds of votes at a time.

Then you had to ask: What kinds of votes is it that are being counted right now? Is it the late absentee votes? Is it the voting center votes? Is it the drop box votes? Is it the provisional ballots? Is it conditional ballots? Is it cured ballots?

What do I mean by cured ballots? Well, you are familiar with precinct walking where you go out and knock on doors to try to convince people to vote for you. In California, that actually happens after the election, as well, because if signatures are deemed not to match the voter file, then there is an added amount of time to submit a new signature to cure your ballot. People actually go door to door saying that we need to get you to sign again to cure this ballot.

California also allows for votes that arrive at elections offices to be counted up to a week after the election. Folks who are on the ballot and their families and their supporters and everyone else are watching this process with tabs left open on their computer for different counties, having to wait to find out whether they have won or lost their race.

The implications go much further than those who are on the ballot because for a time, the entire balance of power here in Washington was left in doubt with control of the House of Representatives in doubt because of California's extremely slow vote counting.

Imagine if California were a swing State. The Presidential election could remain undecided for a month after election day. We could relive the 2000 recount experience every single election.

Adding to the absurdity, the California State Legislature actually began its new session, swearing in new Members on December 2. These are both in State law. We are going to swear in our new Members on December 2, but we are going to finish counting votes on December 13.

This farce has made California a national laughingstock. It is one thing to fail at basic governance tasks like building roads, storing water, or keeping the lights on. We should at least be able to expect our government to conduct the elementary arithmetic of tal-

lying ballots on which democracy depends.

As this process dragged on over the last several weeks, you had elections experts and people on all parts of the political spectrum calling for reform in California.

For example, one left-leaning election analyst said this. He said: I always vote straight ticket Democrat, but I will actually vote for any Secretary of State candidate, red or blue, who promises to streamline the election process in California and facilitates getting our ballots counted and reported faster. I am so done, he said, adding that the tabulation process is a joke.

I am working with Congressman JAY OBERNOLTE to set clear deadlines for counting votes. For example, 90 percent have to be counted within 3 days of the election. This will force State officials to make the necessary changes to meet those deadlines in a way that every other State, by the way, has already done. All 49 other States, red or blue, managed to count their votes much faster and more confidently than California.

This is a necessary change to restore trust in our election process, and I look forward to getting this legislation passed and signed into law in time for the 2026 election.

ENDING FEDERAL FUNDING FOR CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, this week I announced legislation to end all Federal funding for California's high-speed rail project. This bill will make the project ineligible to receive any Federal funding going forward.

Simply put, it is time to stop throwing good money after bad. Currently, there remains a \$100 billion funding shortfall for the train. This is in the estimation of the High-Speed Rail Authority's own officials.

There is no viable plan for making up this gap other than continuing to demand it from taxpayers. There is simply no way to justify further expense to State or Federal taxpayers when even The New York Times reports that the project isn't on track to be completed this century. Not on track to be completed this century.

The billions in Federal funding that have gone to the nonexistent train is all the worse, considering the condition of California's roads and other transportation infrastructure which rank among the very worst in the country. Once we have high-speed rail off the table, we will be able to focus on our real transportation needs when it comes to Federal funds.

We can also abandon the pretense that this is somehow a high-tech, inspirational, visionary enterprise. The reality is that even if the train were to magically spring into existence at this very moment, it would fail to impress.

As we speak, Waymo is providing thousands upon thousands of driverless rides every week in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Tesla has autopilot and self-driving software deployed on millions of vehicles.

When it comes to trains, China is working on one that they expect to be completed this decade that will go 1,000 kilometers per hour. That is three times longer than California's high-speed rail is supposed to go.

We need to stop pretending that the technology of 1990s is somehow futuristic, but we need to plan for the future that truly awaits us. In the meantime, we need to spend tax dollars on things that will actually benefit taxpayers, like drivable roads.

That is why I am introducing this legislation to end California's high-speed rail disaster once and for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND YEARS OF SERVICE OF
COLONEL JOSEPH PETERBURS

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor and congratulate Colonel Joseph Peterburs, a decorated veteran in Placer County, on his 100th birthday. The great American Founding Father, Benjamin Franklin, wrote: "Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men but is a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature."

The life and actions of Colonel Peterburs not only illustrates the longing for freedom but the dedication of service and sacrifice required to maintain it.

Colonel Peterburs began his service to the defense of the United States as a pilot in World War II. During his deployment in Europe, he was tasked with escorting B-17 bombers and protecting them against enemy aircraft. During World War II, he flew an astounding 49 missions with 269 combat hours.

On April 10, 1945, Colonel Peterburs had to bail out of his aircraft at 300 feet during an air battle. He was burned and injured, then captured and placed in a Nazi prisoner of war camp. Overcoming unimaginable adversity, Colonel Peterburs escaped as the camp was being evacuated by the Germans. He and other escapees temporarily joined a Russian tank unit before being reunited with American Forces.

After World War II, he continued his service to the United States by contributing to the country's defense during the Cold War.

Throughout this period, Colonel Peterburs served in Korea, Vietnam, and Europe. Highly decorated, Colonel Peterburs was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the POW Medal, the Purple Heart, and many other medals and decorations. He is highly respected by his family and members in the community for his courage, resilience, and selflessness.

It is a true honor to represent heroes like Colonel Peterburs in Congress. He is a living testament to the American spirit, patriotism, and embodies the sacrifices made by those who have served our country.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to celebrate Colonel Joe Peterburs not only for his centennial birthday but also for the life he has led in years of service to the United States of America and its citizens.

HONORING OUTGOING ROSEVILLE CITY
COUNCILMEMBER SCOTT ALVORD

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize outgoing Roseville City Councilmember Scott Alvord for his years of devoted service to the Roseville area community.

Councilmember Alvord has been a leader in the local business community for nearly four decades and has served the Roosevelt City Council for the last 8 years.

Councilmember Alvord earned his bachelor's degree in computer science at Pacific Union College and went on to earn a master's degree in business administration from California State University, Sacramento.

While an undergraduate, he founded Advanced Development Concepts, LLC, a business consulting company which is headquartered in Roseville.

Prior to his service on the Roseville City Council, Scott represented the local business community by serving as president of the Downtown Roseville Merchants for nearly a decade.

Councilmember Alvord's business expertise and devotion to service proved essential in his advocacy for the revitalization of downtown Roseville, as his leadership prompted integrating infrastructure into the area, allowing for economic and recreational growth and prosperity.

This experience, alongside his time as a city councilmember, helped Scott Alvord impart his knowledge to the next generation of business students as an adjunct business professor at Jessup University.

In his tenure as city councilmember, Scott Alvord was steadfast in his commitment to public safety. His efforts to support full staffing of both Roseville's Police and Fire Departments were accomplished in conjunction with his vital work in the development of Roseville Fire Station 8 and expanding the Roosevelt Police beat.

Additionally, Scott promoted regional recreation and well-being. He facilitated the introduction of 25 new parks, enabling greater health, recreation, and leisure for the community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Councilmember Alvord established the Roosevelt Volunteer Force where he assembled and mobilized over 2,000 volunteers who selflessly headed the call of hundreds of service requests from those in need.

It is because of the leadership and example of people like Scott Alvord that Roosevelt remains such a great place to live, work, raise a family, and retire.

Scott Alvord's commitment to service in Roosevelt leaves a well-established legacy as his influence provides enduring support to the region.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, it is an honor and privilege to acknowledge Roseville City Councilmember Scott Alvord for his career in public service, and I join the people of Roseville in wishing Scott the very best in his next chapter.

RECOGNIZING NEVADA COUNTY SUPERVISOR ED
SCOFIELD

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the retiring Nevada County Supervisor for District 2, Ed Scofield, for his lifelong commitment to service to Nevada County.

Ed was born and raised in Grass Valley, graduating from Nevada Union High School and Sierra College, and has been devoted to serving the region for the past five decades.

In 1975, Ed began his career in public service in the city of Grass Valley when he was elected to the city council. In 1982, he began his tenure as CEO of Nevada County Fairgrounds, a position he held for 26 years. Ed's leadership was felt in the region as he helped the fairgrounds to become visible as one of the top ten outstanding rural fairs in the United States.

He served as president of the Western Fairs Association in 1996 and was later inducted into Western Fair's Hall of Fame in 2004 and the Nevada County Fair's Hall of Fame in 2009.

Ed served as a community leader in several other significant roles, building teamwork and promoting positive recreation of the youth in the region as president of the Grass Valley Little League, engaging with the business community as a former president of the Grass Valley/Nevada Chamber of Commerce, and putting service above self as a president and leader of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley South.

□ 1230

Ed was elected to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors in 2008, further exemplifying his dedication to public service.

Supervisor Scofield consistently exhibited thorough fiscal responsibility in his supervisorial duties of financial reporting and budget allocation for the entire county.

Ed was an advocate for the housing and business industry within the region and also focused on transportation by supporting improvements for the Highway 49 corridor and for his entire district.

Moreover, throughout Supervisor Scofield's tenure on the board, he served on the California State Association of Counties as Nevada County's representative, taking on a role of fiscal leadership by serving as the treasurer on its executive committee.

The lifelong commitment to service and leadership of inspirational individuals like Supervisor Ed Scofield ensures that Nevada County is an amazing place to live, to work, to raise a family, and to retire. The impressive legacy Ed built in his career will be felt for years and will continue to benefit Nevada County.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, it is an honor to recognize Supervisor Ed Scofield for his life of service to the people of Nevada County, and it is a privilege to join the Grass Valley area in sending him my best wishes for a happy retirement.

CONGRATULATING GOOGLE QUANTUM AI

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Google Quantum AI on an astonishing accomplishment in the field of quantum computing. Its new Willow chip performed a computation that is truly mind-boggling, that is otherworldly, literally otherworldly, according to some. On the performance benchmark known as random circuit sampling, it performed a computation in under 5 minutes that would take one of today's fastest supercomputers 10 to the 25th years. That is 10 septillion years. You can see the number here, 10, followed by 25 zeros, years. By the way, that is way longer than the age of the universe. That is how long it would take one of today's fastest supercomputers to perform the calculation that the Willow chip did in 5 minutes.

The chip was built in California in Santa Barbara as part of Google Quantum AI's goal of: Building a useful, large-scale quantum computer that can harness quantum mechanics—the operating system of nature—to benefit society by scientific discovery, developing helpful applications, and tackling some of society's greatest changes.

How do they do it?

The key breakthrough here was something known as exponential quantum error correction. One of the major challenges to making a viable quantum computer has been the issue of errors, which occur when the units of computation, known as qubits, exchange information with their environments and that contaminates the information that is actually needed for a computation.

The problem with building a quantum computer is that when you add more qubits, you get more errors and you lose the special quantum quality that can be so powerful if properly harnessed.

What is truly amazing about the Willow system is that the opposite has occurred. The more qubits that are used, the fewer errors there are. Indeed, as the grid of qubits scaled up in tests, there was actually an exponential decline in errors. This breakthrough has brought practical applications of quantum computing within sight.

It has been recognized for some time now that probably the two most world-changing technologies in development right now are AI and quantum computing, but they have sort of been proceeding at a different pace, at a different level of visibility.

AI is already transforming the world around us. We have hundreds of millions of people around the world using LLM, chatbots, and other systems. We have AI-powered driverless cars and countless other applications.

We have new releases from the leading labs every day. Indeed, Google released several new offerings just in the last few days when it comes to AI and Gemini, which is its LLM. ChatGPT, or OpenAI, is in the middle of a 12 days of Christmas, where they do a new release every day.

People can see the progress that is happening with AI before our eyes. Whereas the work in quantum computing has been done in labs in Santa Barbara, what they call the coldest place in the world because of the conditions they have to have there to try to make advances and to perform tests.

We haven't yet reached the stage of practical application, but that could be changing soon. Indeed, you could start to see where these two fields, quantum computing and AI, intersect in truly spectacular ways.

I was intrigued by the words of Hartmut Neven, who is the founder of Google Quantum AI and actually worked in AI before. He was asked why it is that he changed fields. He said this: My answer is that both will prove to be the most transformational technologies of our time, but advanced AI will significantly benefit from access to quantum computing, noting that quantum algorithms have fundamental scaling laws on their side and this allows for the modeling of systems where quantum effects are important.

Some of the applications that he cites are helping us to discover new medicines, designing more efficient batteries, and accelerating progress in fusion and new energy alternatives.

I think that this is important, for those of us who are here in Congress making policy, to be mindful of extraordinary developments like this because we need to be attending not just to the needs of the present but also thinking about the future.

Based on exciting developments like the one Google Quantum AI has just announced, there is every reason to expect that the future may look very different in many ways than it does right now. It behoves all of us to start thinking about how we start to prepare for it.

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

CLEMENCY FOR 1,500 AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, very proud to have this opportunity to stand here and to address colleagues, persons who are within the Chamber, as well as people who may be without who are tuning in.

I am especially proud today, Mr. Speaker, because I have in my hand a fact sheet. This fact sheet comes from the White House, and this fact sheet is styled: "President Biden Announces Clemency for Nearly 1,500 Americans."

I am so pleased that the President has done this.

Mr. President, if you hear me or if someone informs you, I want them to tell you that I support what you are doing. I have supported you as President. I think you have made a tremendous difference in the lives of a good

many people in this country. I do believe history will be kind to you. It will say to those who are not here at this time that you made a difference within your lifetime. That means something to me.

I would like to read a few things from this fact sheet. Thereafter, I will go into something that is related in a very tangential way, but I would like to go into something more. First, I will read from the fact sheet.

It reads: "Today's announcement will commute the sentences of close to 1,500 individuals who were placed on home confinement and will pardon 39 individuals convicted of nonviolent crimes.

Today, President Biden announced that he is granting clemency to nearly 1,500 Americans."

Let me stop for just a moment. I will come back to this. 1,500 people will now have the opportunity to, in a sense, begin life anew. They will have a new promise that they can now address, and that promise is you can have great opportunities in this country if you play by the rules. This helps them to demonstrate to the world that they are playing by the rules.

It reads, again: "Today, President Biden announced that he is granting clemency to nearly 1,500 Americans, the most ever in a single day." I am sure that there are many Presidents who have desired to do more. It is difficult to do all of the things that you want to do when you have so many things to do.

This President has had many great things to accomplish. He did a great job with the pandemic. He did a great job when it comes to the infrastructure bill that eluded many others for years, perhaps even decades. He did a great job in appointing people to positions: to the United Nations, a female; to the Supreme Court, a female; a Vice President who is a female, and he selected this person to run with him.

He has done things that will make those who look upon this time—when they look through the vista of time back and see us at this time, they will know that President Biden left great tracks in the sands of time so that we can know that he came one way and then proceeded to do great things in other ways.

He has done this, the most ever in a single day, to those who have shown successful rehabilitation and a strong commitment to making their communities safer.

The President is commuting the sentences of close to 1,500 individuals who were placed on home confinement during the COVID-19 pandemic and who have successfully reintegrated into their families and communities. He is also pardoning 39 individuals who were convicted of nonviolent crimes. These actions represent the largest single-day grant of clemencies in modern history.

Mr. President, I salute you, I commend you, and I honestly believe that your desire is to do things that can benefit humankind. You have demonstrated it in so many ways.

But, Mr. President, I have an additional request. I have called it to your attention prior to this time, but I have this additional request. I have made the request here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I make it again. I make this request because there are some people who have not been given the special treatment that others have received by virtue of the way they behaved.

These persons are persons who lived many years ago. They are persons who suffered for some 246 years of enslavement. These are persons who have not been treated fairly by our country, Mr. President. They have not been treated fairly by this House of Representatives, Mr. President. They have not been treated fairly by the United States Senate, Mr. President.

I can say these things, Mr. President, because I am an unbought, unbossed, unafraid, liberated Member of Congress. I want you to know that these persons, the persons who were enslaved, commenced with us, meaning the Colonies, in August of 1619 when the first 20 persons were brought into slavery in the Colonies. They have not been treated fairly, that first 20, nor have the many that followed, some more than 10 million. They have not been treated fairly. They have not been respected.

I am asking for respect for the persons, these some 10 million persons, whose lives were sacrificed—not willingly, I might add—whose lives were sacrificed to make America the great country it is today.

□ 1245

They were the economic foundational mothers and fathers of this country. They planted the seeds and harvested the crops. They served in the homes, they built roads and bridges, and they helped to construct the White House. Their hands were involved in the construction of the Capitol. They have not been respected for what they have done, Mr. President. This House has not respected them.

By the way, when I say this House, that includes Republicans and Democrats. There are people who seem to think that I am somehow myopic and I only see what Republicans do and not do. There are Democrats who have not respected them, as well.

One way that they could be respected would be to simply sign onto a piece of legislation that would accord a Congressional Gold Medal to these persons, a Congressional Gold Medal similar to what we did for the Confederate soldiers in 1956, as well as soldiers who represented the Union, similar to what we did for them. We could do this for them. We can do this posthumously.

Mr. Speaker, this is not directed to you especially. I just want you to understand the condition as I am speaking, Mr. President.

Posthumously it could be done, and this House could do it. Just recently this House last week accorded some

special treatment for the victims of the Holocaust, those who were heroes of the Holocaust and heroines of the Holocaust. They were accorded some special treatment. A Congressional Gold Medal will be presented to them. We passed the legislation to allow it to be done.

This is the right thing to do. We should do this for those who were there to help the victims of the Holocaust. It is the righteous thing to do. It is more than the right thing. It is the righteous thing to do.

I salute those who had a hands-on experience with causing this to happen. However, for 246 years, those who were enslaved have not received a similar honor. Similar, not the same, because we are talking about now persons who last week were the heroes who helped them. I am talking about the people who were the victims now.

We have done things for the victims of the Holocaust that we have not done for persons who were victims of slavery. These two circumstances are not the same.

They are both great crimes against humanity. That is what makes them similar. They are not the same. I don't say that the Holocaust is the same as slavery, and I don't say that slavery is the same as the Holocaust. They are two great crimes against humanity, but we have been more generous with our treatment of those who were victims of the Holocaust than we have been for those who were victims of enslavement for some 246 years.

It is time for that to change. I don't see the House doing anything to change it right away.

When I say the House, I am talking about Democrats and Republicans. I don't see them doing anything right away.

However, Mr. President, there is something you can do right away. You can accord those persons who suffered from the indignation and humiliation associated with slavery with the harm, the pain, the suffering, and the agonizing. You can do something for them.

This is not all that should be done, but if you do this, you will show that their lives meant something to us, that it means something to you, and here is what you can do. You have with the power of the pen and the will to do it. Grant them the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

It has been done posthumously for many others. It could be done posthumously for them. Let's show them that this country appreciates their 246 years of sacrifice, that they didn't labor, forced into it I might add, but that they didn't labor in vain, that somebody appreciates the fact that they were the economic foundational mothers and fathers of this country.

Somebody appreciates the fact that we stand on their labor. What they did to lay the foundations for what we are today still benefits those of us who are here today.

Mr. President, I would ask kindly and humbly and from the bottom and

depth of my heart and soul that you would give them the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It would make a difference in terms of how they are viewed.

Maybe if it is done, we can get people in Texas to cease with this notion that the enslavement of some more than 10 million people was somehow a benefit to them. There is no benefit to people to be enslaved, but there are people in Texas who seem to think so.

If you would do this, it would help us to better understand that we can now start to move forward to do the things that would show the respect for them that we have shown for the victims of the Holocaust.

In Texas, for edification purposes, there may be some who don't know, there are people who believe that the enslavement of these more than 10 million people was involuntary relocation.

Involuntary relocation is not what it was. It was kidnapping. It wasn't involuntary relocation. It was placing people on ships and treating them like cargo. Some of them were stripped and chained. It wasn't involuntary relocation. It was forcing them against their will to leave their families.

By the way, there were Africans who were involved in this trade, too. I am leaving nobody out.

They were forced. They were taken away from their families by force. Some of them were taken away by African people who then traded them into slavery, and then they were traversed across the Atlantic. When they arrived, they were not treated and welcomed with any degree of dignity. Women were raped, and men were brutalized and lynched.

The Supreme Court in this country indicated that they had no rights that a White man had to respect. They were disrespected by the Supreme Court. They were disrespected by President Johnson when he decided he would abandon the whole notion of some sort of recompense for them, and they have been disrespected throughout history. To this day they have been disrespected.

They were taken to various places and sold on the auction blocks. Children were separated from mothers and fathers. Husbands were separated from wives. They had no rights. You could do whatever you wanted to them if you were the master. They have been disrespected.

Mr. President, I beseech you and I implore you to show them some respect and grant them the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I will still continue to bring to the attention of the Members of this House the fact that they but only have to sign onto a document that is necessary for the House to do what it can to grant them the Congressional Gold Medal. I will continue to present it.

For those who would like to know who signed on, I have people ask me: Why don't you announce who signed on and who hasn't?

I am not doing it, but the Record speaks for itself. For those who would like to know, the Record speaks for itself. I am not trying to make friends. I am trying to make sure that people are respected who have earned the respect that they richly deserve. I want them to know that there is at least one person who is going to fight for them. I want them to know.

They are not here.

How can they possibly know?

Well, know in the sense that I believe that if I do this, that somehow the times will change such that they will benefit. Even after they have had their demise, they will still benefit from what we are doing.

By the way, I am not alone. I said I am one person. I want to let you know that there are others. We have 125 people who have signed on to this request for the Congressional Gold Medal, 125 out of 435.

There are people who would prefer that the AL GREENS of the world who would bring these things to the forefront wait until they are ready to see this happen. They have a timetable that they have set for it. Sometimes in a timetable, it involves doing it maybe 20, 30, 40, 50 years from now. Let's just make sure we do it when the people who are unbought, unbossed, and unafraid are not around so that they won't be able to say: I was able to help get that done.

There is some notion that you don't have to do this until there is some event that might occur in the life of the person who is presenting it, and then you can do it afterwards. Well, I am not going to allow that to cause me to believe that I should just wait and let things work out and let it happen. I am not that kind of guy.

I want to see it happen in my lifetime. I want to see this happen while I am still in this House of Representatives. If it can happen for the persons who were victims of the Holocaust, meaning there are people who can bring legislation and get it passed, then it ought to happen for those persons who were enslaved. We ought to be able to bring legislation that relates to them and get it passed, too.

For some reason, and I know what it is, we will do for the victims of the Holocaust what we will not do for those who were victims of enslavement in this country.

Now for the reason: It is easy to look through the window of life and be critical because you are looking into someone else's life. In this case, you are looking into another country when we are dealing with the Holocaust. It is easy to do that, to look into the window of life and be critical, to talk about what happened to our Jewish brothers and sisters.

I am as critical as anybody in terms of what happened to them. It was wrong. It should never have happened. I have stood and fought for them to be properly respected. I have voted for the pieces of legislation that relate to the

Holocaust. I have gone to events. I have been to Yad Vashem in Israel. I have been associated with the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas. I believe it happened. I know it happened, and I know that we will never be able to do enough to make sure that it never happens again.

However, we do that by looking through the window of life.

When it comes to the enslavement of people in this country, then we have to look into the mirror of life. The window of life is clear. It is translucent. You can see into it clearly and through it into the lives of others, but the mirror of life is blurred. We don't want to see the reflection in the mirror of life because that reflection is us. We are the people in the mirror of life, we have to now examine ourselves.

We don't want to admit that slavery even occurred in this country. It is easy to say that something happened in a horrific way someplace else, but it is hard to acknowledge that it happened here in the United States of America, the country that boasts liberty and justice for all, the country that says bring your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, come to these shores and enjoy that freedom.

It is not in those exact words. I am talking about the Statue of Liberty and the words inscribed on that statue.

I am saying to you that we have to now look into the mirror of life. We have to acknowledge that these things happened.

We can acknowledge that if we can look into that same mirror of life and grant the Confederate soldiers who were the enslavers, if we can grant them a Congressional Gold Medal, then surely we can do the same for the enslaved.

It is difficult. It is difficult.

By the way, again, I am not talking just about Republicans. I am talking about Democrats and Republicans who refuse to see into the mirror of life the necessity to do for the victims of 246 years of slavery, to see the necessity to do for them what we have done for victims of the Holocaust, maybe not the same thing but similar things. Similar things.

My hope is, Mr. President, that you can help us change this by simply signing the necessary documentation to grant them the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I just hope that there is somebody who will take what I have said today to the President. I have already delivered the message prior to this, but I don't think you can deliver a message too many times when it is something that is of necessity, and this is of necessity.

It is of necessity that the people in this country respect those who were enslaved. We have not done it.

I would add: Respect them to the same extent, maybe in different ways, but similar ways as we respect the victims of the Holocaust.

□ 1300

It is time for the United States of America, all within, to examine the mirror of life and critique ourselves for what we have done for 246 years. That was 246 years of enslavement, but it was followed by other things, such as Black codes followed by convict leasing; followed by lawful, legal segregation, which was another form of racism; followed by invidious discrimination.

All of these things have taken place, and what happened on August 20, 1619, when the first 20 persons were brought here and placed into enslavement, still has an impact on what is happening now because there has been no recompense. There has been no justice for these millions of people who have made America the country it is.

I say "made." Someone will say, well, they didn't do it by themselves. Let me just revise that and say, helped to make America the great country that it is, but there is no question that millions suffered. There is no question that the suffering lasted for more than 246 years. There is no question that we have disrespected them for what they have done. I say "for what they have done" because there are many people who see them as the culprits.

They see the enslaved people as the perpetrators. I don't understand that mentality, but it exists, so they blame them for what they have done for being enslaved. The only thing a good many of them did was resist. Nobody wanted to be enslaved, but people will tend to blame the victims.

For too long, we who have had the opportunity to do something about it have been victims in the sense that we have bought into the notion that this is not something that needs to be addressed now; this can be addressed later on. For 246 years, it wasn't addressed while they were enslaved, and it hasn't been addressed since that time.

In a sense, the people who are doing nothing about it have been victims of a society that disrespects the victims of slavery. I am sorry I have to be the bearer of truth, but somebody has to do what I am doing currently. I regret having to say these things to people, but people need to know from somebody that this is wrong. We ought to have the courage to do something about it, as opposed to wanting to do something about the messenger.

Rather than deal with the message, they would rather deal with the messenger. Deal with the message. The messenger didn't create the circumstance that requires the message to be brought to your attention. Deal with the message. Look into the mirror of life.

Don't be a perfect victim yourself and be silent on something as salient as this issue. This is one of the great issues of our time, and it will be one of the great issues of our time until it has been confronted.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here. I am still proud to say that I am

a citizen of the United States of America. I am proud to say that I salute the flag. I say the Pledge of Allegiance. I sing the national anthem. I stand for the national anthem. I stand to salute the flag. I place my hand over my heart when I salute the flag.

I am not one of those people who hates this country. I love the country. That is why I do what I do to make it a better country. I am trying to live up to the more perfect Union that we all believe this country can become.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that, as a person who is proud to be a citizen of the United States of America, notwithstanding all the things that have happened here and the things that it has done to me personally when I was a son of the segregated South, and I had to go to the back door and sit in the back of the bus, stand in the back of the line, get locked up in the bottom of the jail were I arrested, sit in the balcony of the movie, I want you to know that I still believe the words we have seen and read in the Constitution, the Jeffersonian Declaration of Independence, and the Madisonian Constitution. I think these words can make a difference, and I am going to fight to use these words to make a difference.

I believe, Mr. President, that you can do this. Please grant the enslaved the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 50.—An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to give priority consideration to selecting Pensacola and Perdido Bays as an estuary of national significance, and for other purposes.

S. 310.—An act to establish an advisory group to encourage and foster collaborative efforts among individuals and entities engaged in disaster recovery relating to debris removal, and for other purposes.

S. 1478.—An act to designate United States Route 20 in the States of Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Massachusetts as the “National Medal of Honor Highway”, and for other purposes.

S. 2781.—An act to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 3475.—An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Transportation to designate an authorized operator of the commercial driver's license information system, and for other purposes.

S. 3613.—An act to require Facility Security Committees to respond to security recommendations issued by the Federal Protective Service relating to facility security, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 16, 2024, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-6305. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Report to Congress on Gifts Given to Foreign Individuals in Fiscal Year 2023; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-6306. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Report to Congress on Department of State Actions in FY 2023 and FY 2024 Pursuant to the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2685. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-864). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4338. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-865). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1584. A bill to establish Plum Island, New York, as a national monument; with an amendment (Rept. 118-866). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2687. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-867). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3047. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-868). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3971. A bill to designate the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-869). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 8995. A bill to require Amtrak to install baby changing tables in all ADA-accessible bath-

rooms on passenger rail cars (Rept. 118-870). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3013. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to modify certain regulations relating to the requirements for commercial driver's license testing and commercial learner's permit holders, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-871). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H. Res. 152. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of “move over” laws (Rept. 118-872). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania: The Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump. Final Report of Findings and Recommendations of the Task Force on the Attempted Assassination of Donald J. Trump (Rept. 118-873). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. McHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6322. A bill to evaluate and disrupt financing to Hamas, and to amend title 31, United States Code, to prohibit the exchange stabilization fund from being used to deal in Special Drawing Rights from state sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-799, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

The Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6322 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. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. ARMSTRONG):
H.R. 10379. A bill to establish a Federal Public Defender Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. HUDSON):
H.R. 10380. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a portion of general business credit carryforwards to be transferred by certain taxpayers affected by Federally declared disasters; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. DUNN of Florida):
H.R. 10381. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize a joint scholarship program under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs pays for medical education of an officer of the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service at the Uniformed Services University in return for a period of obligated service by such officer at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. McCLELLAN:
H.R. 10382. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to allow Amtrak to use grant

funds to satisfy non-Federal share requirements of certain grant programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 10383. A bill to authorize grants to support long-term climate resiliency for archival institutions, libraries, and museums in order to provide continuity and access to covered records; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. AMO (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 10384. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to eligibility under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BERA (for himself and Ms. BALINT):

H.R. 10385. A bill to provide clarification of assistance related to safeguarding and the elimination of landmines, other explosive remnants of war, and conventional arms; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Mr. McGARVEY):

H.R. 10386. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 10387. A bill to amend the Department of State Authorization Act of 2022 to expand opportunities for certain internship programs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 10388. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 regarding the application of wage and hour provisions to minor league baseball players, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 10389. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to adjust the limits for technical assistance, grants for small systems, and the authorization of appropriations for the Drinking Water Infrastructure Risk and Resilience Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 10390. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 10391. A bill to prohibit the continuing availability of any portion of a Federal payment to the District of Columbia for a program of District of Columbia resident tuition support for a fiscal year which remains unabated as of the end of the fiscal year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 10392. A bill to amend the General Education Provisions Act to require parental notification and consent with respect to certain activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUNT (for himself and Mr. SWALWELL):

H.R. 10393. A bill to establish a grant program for certain State and local forensic activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H.R. 10394. A bill to expand reporting on subcontracts and subgrants made under Federal awards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 10395. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a pilot program to furnish a headstone or burial marker to veterans who died on or before November 1, 1990, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 10396. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs furnishes certain non-opioid pain medications to veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HILL, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. ALLEN):

H.R. 10397. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an alternative removal for performance or misconduct for Federal employees; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LUNA, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 10398. A bill to prohibit certain sex offenders from entering or using the services of certain emergency shelters, to authorize the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to designate emergency shelters for such sex offenders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 10399. A bill to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to direct the President to end financial assistance for funeral expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 10400. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the definition of applicable educational institution for purposes of the excise tax based on the income of private colleges and universities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 10401. A bill to promote military readiness by ensuring the Department of Defense retains the right to repair equipment it acquires and owns; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 10402. A bill to recognize Somaliland of the Federal Republic of Somalia as a separate, independent country; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 10403. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, with regard to counsel for persons proceeding in *forma pauperis*; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 10404. A bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide program eligibility for distance education programs offered by foreign institutions of higher education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. CASTEN):

H.R. 10405. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide leave because of the death of a son or daughter, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 10406. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize requiring the manufacturers of a covered device to disclose to a patient all patient-specific data that is recorded or transmitted by the device and accessible to the manufacturer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VELAZQUEZ:

H.R. 10407. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize and modify the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Research programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 10408. A bill to establish an interagency working group to assess the challenges of protecting military and commercial telecommunications networks in the United States from security threats related to the Signaling System 7 telecommunication protocol standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 10409. A bill to address the high costs of health care services, prescription drugs, and health insurance coverage in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, the Judiciary, Oversight and Accountability, Rules, the Budget, Armed Services, and House Administration, 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. COHEN (for himself, Mr. JOHN SON of Georgia, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.J. Res. 227. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct election of the President and Vice President of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DOGETT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H. Res. 1615. A resolution recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2024; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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. BONAMICI:

H.R. 10379.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To establish a Federal Public Defender Commission, and for other purposes

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 10380.

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 allow a portion of general business credit carryforwards to be transferred by certain taxpayers affected by Federally declared disasters.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 10381.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
To authorize a scholarship program for medical students to attend the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in exchange for a period of obligated service at VA.

By Ms. McCLELLAN:

H.R. 10382.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Authorized under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation.

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 10383.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

to authorize grants to support long-term climate resiliency for archival institutions, libraries, and museums in order to provide continuity and access to covered records.

By Mr. AMO:

H.R. 10384.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

This act would block the flow of retired police firearms to crime scenes.

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 10385.

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:

Demining

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 10386.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Legislating

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 10387.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congressman Joaquin Castro
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 Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for

The single subject of this legislation is:
Foreign Affairs Administration

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 10388.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:
Labor protections

By Mr. DELUZIO:

H.R. 10389.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:
Water Authority Cybersecurity

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 10390.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act

To make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 10391.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the continuing availability of any portion of a Federal payment to the District of Columbia for a program of District of Columbia resident tuition support for a fiscal year which remains unobligated as of the end of the fiscal year, and for other purposes.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 10392.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the General Education Provisions Act to require parental notification and consent with respect to certain activities, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HUNT:

H.R. 10393.

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:

Crime and Law Enforcement

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 10394.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Government Oversight

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 10395.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3, Section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and carry out a pilot program to

furnish a headstone or burial marker to veterans who died on or before November 1, 1990, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LANDSMAN:

H.R. 10396.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs furnishes certain nonopiod pain medications to veterans, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 10397.

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:

Government Operations and Politics

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 10398.

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 certain sex offenders from entering or using the services of certain emergency shelters.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 10399.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to direct the President to end financial assistance for funeral expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H.R. 10400.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Sections 7 & 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Federal taxation

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 10401.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: Provide for the common Defence

The single subject of this legislation is:

Defense

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 10402.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Foreign Relations

By Mr. SARBANES:

H.R. 10403.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Access to Counsel

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 10404.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make certain distance education programs offered by foreign institutions of higher education eligible to participate in federal student-aid programs.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 10405.

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 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to provide parental bereavement leave

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 10406.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to authorize requiring the manufacturers of a covered device to disclose to a patient all patient-specific data that is recorded or transmitted by the device and accessible to the manufacturer, and for other purposes.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 10407.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, which gives Congress the power "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

This Legislation reauthorizes the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:

H.R. 10408.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To create an interagency working group to observe and report on vulnerabilities in the SS7 telecommunications protocol.

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 10409.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 2, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fair Care Act of 2024

By Mr. COHEN:

H.J. Res. 227.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V

The single subject of this legislation is:

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to abolish the electoral college and to provide for the direct election of the President and Vice President of the United States.

H.R. 8312: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 8370: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 8702: Mr. MENENDEZ and Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 8995: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 9525: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 9760: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 9950: Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 10145: Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 10172: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 10192: Ms. MCCLELLAN.

H.R. 10193: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. BROWN.

H.R. 10362: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 10366: Mrs. KIM of California and Ms. JACOBS.

H.R. 10367: Ms. WILSON of Florida and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 10371: Mr. ELLZEY.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 14: Mrs. MCIVER.

H.R. 549: Ms. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 724: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 913: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 1247: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1784: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 2448: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 2539: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 2923: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 3394: Ms. STEVENS.

H.R. 3481: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 3633: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 4185: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 7012: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 7039: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. POCAN, and Mrs. MCIVER.

H.R. 7865: Mr. AMODEI and Mrs. STEEL.

H.R. 8061: Mrs. MCIVER.

H.R. 8147: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—

ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 14 by Ms. TITUS on House Resolution 1302: Mrs. Lee Carter and Mr. Sherman.

Petition 17 by Mrs. LUNA on House Resolution 1115: Mrs. Lee Carter.

Petition 18 by Mr. COHEN on House Resolution 1452: Ms. Scholten, Mr. Suozzi, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Sherman, Ms. Chu, Mr. Vargas, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mrs. Beatty, Mr. Foster, Mr. Neguse, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Bush, Mr. Costa, Mr. Pocan, Ms. Balint, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Ms. Wilson of Florida, and Ms. Waters.

Petition 20 by Mr. MOULTON on House Resolution 1560: Mr. Doggett, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Bush, Mr. Costa, Ms. Budzinski, Mr. Pocan, Ms. Balint, Ms. Waters, and Mr. Nickel.