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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:

Sovereign God, it is You who searches our hearts, examines our minds, and tests our spirits. And in so doing, You know us intimately and completely. You know when we sit down and when we rise. You perceive our thoughts even before we have voiced them. Before a word is on our tongue, You, O Lord, know it completely.

Such knowledge is both overwhelming and comforting. May we come to understand and accept that even knowing us as well as You do, You love us anyway. When we are grieved by various trials, may we trust that You will perceive the genuineness of our faith.

Even gold perishes when it is tested by fire. Remind us again, and all those who are overwhelmed by disaster and destruction, warfare, and ill will, that in Your esteem, we, as Your children, are much more precious than the most valuable treasure on Earth.

In all things, may we find it within our hearts, minds, and spirits, even in the face of the harshest of tests, to bring praise and honor to You and proclaim our belief that Your powerful hand directs our lives.

In Your enduring 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

GEORGIA AND AMERICA ARE VALUED PARTNERS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the nation of Georgia and America are valued partners. Georgians served with Americans in the global war on terrorism. Sadly, Georgia faces a threat to its freedom.

In October, a scheming dictator, backed by war criminal Putin, the Chinese Communist Party, and the Iranian regime, rigged an election.

Salome Zourabichvili, the legitimate President of Georgia, is courageously standing with protesters and peacefully demanding free and fair elections.

I reintroduced the bipartisan MEGOBARI Act to sanction those attacking freedom.

Additionally, there is legislation to prohibit recognizing the illegitimate regime.

I am grateful that at my invitation, President Zourabichvili will attend the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

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

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Senator MARCO RUBIO on prevailing at the confirmation hearing yesterday I attended, which was so positively conducted by Chairman JIM RISCH and Ranking Member JEANNE SHAHEEN.

CALIFORNIANS DESERVE THE SAME DISASTER RELIEF WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL STRINGS ATTACHED

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

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest sympathies to the residents of Los Angeles County and Ventura County who have been impacted by the devastating wildfires in southern California. I deeply appreciate the firefighters, first responders, and local leaders who have been working tirelessly to battle these fires.

I was proud to join bipartisan Members of the California delegation in urging President Biden to grant a major disaster declaration for our State. These funds are urgently needed to help families that have lost everything in the wake of these wildfires.

I am truly appalled that some in Congress are seeking to impose political conditions on aid for wildfire victims in their time of need. It is cruel, and it is just not right.

What is more, I am here to remind all of my colleagues that California contributes far more in Federal tax revenue than it receives back in spending.

Mr. Speaker, in times of crisis, my home State has always been there to support other States unconditionally. Californians deserve the same disaster

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relief without any political strings attached. Time is of the essence.

RECOGNIZING LOCAL BROADCASTING LEGEND KEN THOMAS

(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 recognize the career and contributions of Brainerd, Minnesota, broadcasting legend, Ken Thomas.

Ken's broadcasting journey began in 1978 at the WMIN radio station in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Ken then moved to the Brainerd Lakes area where he spent the next four decades hosting the morning show on WJJY-FM.

Ken has had a number of different morning show partners, but for the past 20 years, he has shared the microphone with his current cohost, Tess Taylor.

Together, Ken and Tess have been the trusted voices that many in the Brainerd area listen to as they enjoy their morning cup of coffee and drive to work.

Ken's joyful and quick-witted commentary even made him a recipient of the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Radio Award for Small Market Personality of the Year in 2017.

Ken's legacy goes beyond the microphone. He is a longtime supporter of the Brainerd Lakes Area Walk to End Alzheimer's and works as a member of the Sertoma service organization. Additionally, every Thanksgiving, he volunteers to serve meals at the local legion.

As Ken enters retirement, I hope he finds time to enjoy everything he loves about Brainerd, which includes his loving family, his fellow members of The District cover band, Norman's Bait & Tackle Choir, and the tight-knit community he helped shape.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ken. He will be missed from the airwaves, but he has earned this next chapter.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOSE ADAN TREVINO

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jose Adan Trevino.

Born in Brownsville, Texas, Adan began his career as a pharmacist in the East End community of Houston in my district, meeting the community's needs while growing his business.

This theme carried throughout his life.

In 1977, he founded KXLN, Houston's first Spanish-language TV station, later becoming Univision Houston, and earning him the title of ''Father of Spanish-Language Television.''

We helped start the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce together, which grew to be one of the largest in the country.

He was even named one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in America.

Adan's greatest title wasn't media mogul, businessman, or chairman. It was daddy and granddaddy. He adored his daughters, Cynthia and Glorianna, and his grandchildren, Jessica, Lauren, Adam, and Blake. His love for them was his proudest achievement and his most enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, we will miss Adan's warmth, his friendship, and his belief in a better tomorrow for all.

NATIONAL MILK DAY

(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 before you today to recognize a special day for our dairy farmers, National Milk Day.

National Milk Day originates back to January 11, 1878, when milk was first delivered in glass bottles in the United States.

Milk is consumed by millions of Americans every year because not only is it delicious but it also provides key nutrients like calcium, potassium, and other vitamins.

This is one of the reasons I am so thankful for the passing of my bill in the 118th Congress, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023, which will provide key nutrients to children in schools nationwide.

Milk is also very important to my home State of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania dairy industry alone generates 52,000 jobs and $14.2 billion in revenue annually in the State.

Furthermore, Pennsylvania is ranked second nationally in number of dairy farms. I am so proud of all that they have accomplished.

Mr. Speaker, as a descendent of a long line of dairy farmers, let's raise a glass in honor of our dairy farmers who work around the clock to bring fresh, nutritious, and delicious milk to our tables every single day.

NO CONDITIONS ON DISASTER AID FOR CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of thousands of California wildfire survivors.

My district knows too well the devastation survivors of the southern California fires are facing. People have lost everything, and not just their homes and their belongings, but family members and friends.

We must bring the full force of the Federal Government to aid these victims, and we must do it without any conditions. Full stop.

We didn't put conditions on our Federal aid when Louisiana was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, when communities from Florida and North Carolina were swamped by Hurricane Helene, when Iowa faced destruction from high winds and flooding, when a train derailed in Ohio polluting local waterways and the air, or when Hurricane Harvey hit Texas.

This time should be no different. We are the Congress of the United States of America. Americans are in trouble, and when they need us, we need to be there.

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD PULLED BACK ITS CLEAN AIR ACT WAIVER

(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, California had at least one piece of welcome news. The typically out-of-control California Air Resources Board has decided to pull back on some really overreaching truck and train regulations.

CARB, as it is known, an unelected body appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom, has decided to withdraw a Clean Air Act waiver to the EPA for both the Advanced Clean Fleet and In-Use Locomotive Regulation rules.

The Advanced Clean Fleet and locomotive rules were unrealistic from the start. The technology doesn't even exist on a market basis to run these trucks and trains, so maybe California should just be an island unto its own without these delivery devices.

It would have placed an unnecessary financial burden on the businesses, the consumers, and the economy as a whole in my home State.

President Trump has long been outspoken against regulatory overreach such as this. It is encouraging to see California finally getting a clue on that and beginning to follow that kind of thinking.

Governor Newsom's appointees at CARB have been responsible for pushing many of these costly mandates in some of our other States. Even this Congress sometimes looks at emulating those to the detriment of consumers, like taking away their stoves, taking away their cars, the whole works.

Mr. Speaker, it is time they start considering the real-world impact. At least this go around, maybe because of pressure coming from here, they pulled back and got this one right.

□ 0915

REMEMBERING VINCENT FORT

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, Atlanta and the State of Georgia have lost one of our greatest champions. My constituent, State senator, and former minority whip Vincent Fort, passed away

at the age of 68 after a long battle with cancer.

Known as the people's champion, he took up causes like saving Grady Hospital, authoring Georgia's first antihate crime laws, and saving people's homes from predatory lenders. He was always there, fighting for the least of these.

After the murder of my son, Senator Fort was the very first elected official to invite me to share my story of Jordan at our State Capitol. He didn't know me then, but he knew that what happened to Jordan was wrong and that our story needed to be told. That is just the kind of man that he was.

May we all be so lucky to reflect on our lives and say: I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. I know Vincent's family can say this of him.

My heart is with the children that he loved so very much—Zan, Chloe, and Zoe—and with those who knew him best. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF COLONEL PERRY DAHL

(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 honor the extraordinary life and service of Colonel Perry Dahl, one of the last World War II fighter aces, who passed away on December 2, 2024, in Tampa, Florida, at the age of 101.

Throughout his 37-year career in the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, Colonel Dahl left behind a legacy of courage, sacrifice, and commitment to our Nation.

Colonel Dahl enlisted in the Washington National Guard in 1940, and in 1944 became an ace where he went on to fly numerous World War II missions, defending fellow pilots, and surviving capture from adversary forces.

He displayed immense courage and perseverance during a mission that earned him the Silver Star, the United States Armed Forces' third-highest military decoration for valor in combat.

After World War II, Dahl continued his distinguished service, eventually retiring at the rank of colonel in 1978. In recognition of his heroic service, Colonel Dahl has since received numerous accolades, including the distinguished Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and the 2015 Congressional Gold Medal.

It is my privilege to honor the life of Colonel Dahl, a decorated veteran and true American hero in the 15th District of Florida. His legacy lives on in the lives he protected and the freedoms he fought to preserve.

May Colonel Dahl rest in peace and may his story continue to inspire for generations to come.

CALIFORNIA DISASTER AID

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, my heart breaks for the people in southern California who have lost their loved ones, their homes, memories, everything they own, and entire neighborhoods in these devastating fires.

Congress needs to send aid and help those suffering immediately, and it should not be controversial. Yet here we are, with Republican leadership refusing to help those in need and wanting to put conditions on lifesaving disaster aid. It is unprecedented and simply cruel to politicize this tragedy.

These are the same folks that refuse to put conditions on aid to foreign governments like Israel that are committing genocide right now, but they want to condition lifesaving aid for fellow Americans who are victims of climate disaster.

Think about that for a moment. Tens of thousands of people right here at home have been displaced, many of whom won't get the help they need from greedy insurance companies. Devastated families should not be pawns in their political games.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY ILLEGAL ALIENS ACT

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 5, I call up the bill (H.R. 30) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WIED). Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 30

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 ''Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act''.

SEC. 2. INADMISSIBILITY AND DEPORTABILITY RELATED TO SEX OFFENSES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING, CHILD ABUSE, OR VIOLATION OF PROTECTION ORDER.

(a) INADMISSIBILITY.—Section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(J) SEX OFFENSES.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of a sex offense (as such term is defined in section 111(5) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20911(5))), or a conspiracy to commit such an offense, is inadmissible.

''(K) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, STALKING, CHILD ABUSE, OR VIOLATION OF PROTECTION ORDER.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of—

''(i) a crime of domestic violence (as such term is defined in section 237(a)(2)(E));

''(ii) a crime of stalking;

''(iii) a crime of child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment; or

''(iv) a crime of violating the portion of a protection order (as such term is defined in section 237(a)(2)(E)) that involves protection against credible threats of violence, repeated harassment, or bodily injury to the person or persons for whom the protection order was issued,

is inadmissible.''.

(b) DEPORTABILITY.—Section 237(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E)—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN AND'' and inserting ''AND CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN''; and

(B) in clause (i), by inserting before the period at the end the following '', and includes any crime that constitutes domestic violence, as such term is defined in section 40002(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)), regardless of whether the jurisdiction receives grant funding under that Act''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) SEX OFFENSES.—Any alien who has been convicted of a sex offense (as such term is defined in section 111(5) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20911(5))) or a conspiracy to commit such an offense, is deportable.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 30.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 30, the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act.

Over the past 4 years, President Biden and border czar Vice President KAMALA HARRIS have allowed millions of unvetted illegal aliens into the United States. At the same time that they facilitated the collapse of our southwest border, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS abandoned any semblance of interior immigration enforcement.

In a September 2021 memo, the Biden-Harris administration made enforcement more difficult for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. In training materials obtained by the Judiciary Committee and published in a staff report last year, DHS failed to answer seemingly clear-cut questions such as whether an alien who served a

20-year drug-related prison sentence or an alien who discharged a firearm outside of a police station should be priorities for arrest and deportation.

Until the Trump administration can change them, those are the training materials required for all of ICE's enforcement personnel nationwide. Instead of making clear that ICE officers should carry out their duties to remove criminal aliens from American streets, the Biden-Harris administration instructed ICE officers to develop a full profile of a criminal alien before deciding whether to arrest someone who is in the country illegally.

In the training examples, that included determining whether an illegal alien has high blood pressure or is a caregiver. The Biden-Harris administration's immigration absurdity appears to know no bounds.

In a transcribed interview with the Judiciary Committee, a former top ICE official admitted that the Biden-Harris administration's policies have made immigration enforcement more dangerous for ICE officers, more difficult to carry out, and less efficient overall.

The ICE official even acknowledged that because of the border crisis, fewer ICE officers are available to track down public safety and national security threats because they are left to do border administration-related tasks.

The consequences of these policies are not hypotheticals or simply numbers. They are a reality for families across the country, and they are emblematic of the Biden-Harris administration's war on women.

Last September, the Judiciary Committee heard from three mothers whose daughters were brutally assaulted and murdered by illegal aliens welcomed into the country by President Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS.

Tammy Nobles recounted how Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS released into the country the MS–13 gang member who went on to murder and sexually assault her daughter, Kayla Hamilton. The killer later admitted to four additional murders and two additional rapes.

Patty Morin told how an illegal alien raped and strangled her daughter, Rachel, and then stuffed her body into a drainpipe. The alleged murderer entered the country through border czar KAMALA HARRIS' wide-open southwest border.

Alexis Nungaray spoke about how Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS released at the border the two illegal aliens who went on to viciously assault and murder her 12-year-old daughter, Jocelyn. Ms. Nungaray said she had no clothing from the waist down. Her hands and her ankles were tied, and she was thrown under the bridge in the water like she was nothing but garbage.

Victim advocate April Aguirre also told the tragic story of 11-year-old Maria Gonzalez. The Biden-Harris administration released her alleged murderer into the United States. Just 7 months later, the illegal alien assaulted and killed Maria, wrapped her body in a trash bag, and stuffed her in a laundry basket that he shoved underneath his bed.

These are not isolated incidents. In February 2024, an illegal alien was arrested in Alabama for allegedly raping a 14-year-old girl who could not consent to the intercourse, as she was physically helpless or mentally incapacitated.

In April 2024, an illegal alien was arrested in Indiana for allegedly breaking into a Michigan mobile home park and sexually assaulting two young girls.

In May 2024, authorities arrested a 20-year-old illegal alien for allegedly snatching an 11-year-old girl off the street in front of her Lake Worth, Florida, home and sexually assaulting her. According to local officials, the Guatemalan national crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in early January 2024, made his way to Florida shortly thereafter, and does not have an immigration court date until 2027.

Just earlier this month, ICE arrested a Dominican national who had been charged with assault to rape, kidnapping, and indecent assault. The illegal alien crossed the border in January 2023 and was placed on alternatives to detention.

That is Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS' immigration legacy: more unvetted aliens released into American communities, more criminal aliens on American streets, and more Americans endangered by radical, reckless policies. Thankfully, the American people have voted to end this nightmare.

The Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act is just one of many bills Republicans have proposed that will help close immigration loopholes, reverse the disastrous policies of the Biden-Harris administration, and implement President Trump's immigration enforcement agenda.

The Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act makes crystal clear that illegal aliens who commit sex offenses are inadmissible to and removable from the United States. The bill also fixes a discrepancy in current law by creating a ground of inadmissibility for domestic violence to mirror the existing ground of removability for the same offenses.

In addition, H.R. 30 expands the current ground of removability for domestic violence by cross-referencing an existing statutory definition for sex offenses. Although many aliens can already be found inadmissible to or removable from the United States for certain sex offenses and domestic violence offenses, this bill expands and clarifies the conduct for which an alien can be found removable from the country.

The time is now to take seriously the danger of criminal aliens in the United States. Anything that makes it easier for adjudicators and officials to ensure a criminal alien's arrest and removal should receive overwhelming bipartisan support, particularly when it comes to sex offenses and domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 30, the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I am delighted to be here with you and with the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mr. Speaker, America's immigration laws are like an admissions policy for the country: How do you get into America, who gets kicked out of America, and for what reasons. Our immigration laws today will get you kicked out, deported from the country if you commit rape, other sex offenses, domestic violence, or, indeed, any other crime of violence. That is the law today. You are convicted, you are deported, you are out. That has been the law for decades in America.

□ 0930

Our immigration law establishes a similar policy on the way in. It provides that anyone seeking admission to America who has committed a violent sex offense or a crime of domestic violence is inadmissible to our country.

Since the 1930s, case law has made it perfectly clear that rape, domestic violence, and sexual battery are all ''crimes involving moral turpitude,'' which make the perpetrator inadmissible to America. That has been the law in our country for decades.

What does H.R. 30 add? If committing a sexual assault or domestic violence will already render you deportable and inadmissible under our laws, why do we need to create another section of the law doing the same thing? Is it necessary, or is it redundant?

Of course, its being redundant or unnecessary may not be a sufficient reason to vote against the bill. After all, I cheerfully admit that this body, under the stewardship of our friends, passes a lot of unnecessary and redundant legislation in the House just to send a message, as they say. Perhaps this is what our friends set out to do today, to pass another simple messaging bill.

The complication today is this: The way this messaging bill is actually written will create big problems for many, many victims of domestic violence. That is why more than 200 national, State, and local groups advocating for the victims of rape and the survivors of domestic violence, the people across America we should be listening to today, strongly oppose the bill our colleagues have brought forward.

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence sent us a letter urging us to reject H.R. 30. I urge every single Member of Congress to read this letter carefully before you vote on this bill.

The groups fighting domestic violence warn that this legislation ''can ultimately have devastating consequences for immigrant victims of domestic violence.''

The signers of this letter include a range of national groups like the YWCA, National Council of Jewish Women, AFL–CIO, Coalition of Labor Union Women, and dozens of State and local groups, like the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Catholic Charities in Omaha, Nebraska, and dozens and dozens more from States across the country. Please read this letter.

These are groups working to change the law and culture to stop rape and domestic violence in our country, but they see that this poorly drafted legislation would end up harming untold numbers of victims of domestic violence themselves, the putative beneficiaries of the act.

Here is why: When it comes to crimes involving moral turpitude, there are exceptions in the law to protect domestic violence victims who often get swept up in the very laws designed to protect them.

Anyone who has ever been a prosecutor or a public defender in this Chamber knows that it is common for abusers to accuse their victims of domestic violence themselves and assault, sometimes truthfully, often falsely. In any event, it is well known that the victims get arrested, prosecuted, and sometimes even convicted simply for defending themselves and fighting back against their abusers and rapists.

Here is a real-life example drawn from the domestic violence survivor advocacy groups opposing their legislation. A young woman on a student visa here was trapped in an abusive relationship, and her estranged boyfriend tried to rape her. She fought back, biting his ear and drawing blood.

She then called the police to report the rape, but upon seeing the boyfriend's injury, the officers also arrested the female victim, whose language skills kept her from comprehensively explaining what had happened at that point. She spent several days in jail and was ultimately convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence, but the judge sentenced her to time served once she got a lawyer and translation services, which allowed the context of the violent abuse that she had been enduring to become made plain to the police and the court.

Because of exceptions that exist in our laws today, this woman was not deemed inadmissible to America because her simple assault charge carried less than a 6-month penalty. Under the new bill, which would establish inadmissibility without any waivers or exceptions at all for victims, she would clearly have to be deemed inadmissible to America. No exceptions would exist any longer for domestic violence victims who have committed minor crimes in the context of resisting their violent abuse.

This means that the victim in this case, who is legally in the United States on a student visa while she attends college, would be barred permanently from obtaining a green card or any new immigration status simply because she was a victim of an attempted rape who fought back against her attacker. With no ability ever to adjust her status under the law, she would be deported and kicked out of our country permanently.

Some might say that this is the price she should rightly pay for biting or hitting back at her violent abuser, but do we really want to say that we would not want our daughters, sisters, or mothers to do the same in that situation?

Should we really compound the horrors of domestic violence and assaults with a harsh immigration penalty on victims? Do we want to give domestic abusers more power over their victims by giving them more opportunities to file charges, true or false, against their victims to keep them from reporting their abuse to authorities?

It seems we live in a time, Mr. Speaker, when it is very easy to forgive sexual abusers, assailants, rapists, and sexual harassers who have a lot of power and wealth in society but very hard to forgive their victims for fighting back.

Look what is going on across the hallway. Secretary of Defense nominee Pete Hegseth has been credibly accused of sexually assaulting a woman at a conference in 2017 and entered into a major private financial settlement over the charges, and there are people planning to vote for this legislation today who also support his nomination.

Education Secretary nominee Linda McMahon and her husband were recently sued for failing to act on credible allegations of sexual abuse within the World Wrestling Entertainment organization.

Finally, of course, the President-elect's initial pick for Attorney General, Matt Gaetz, faces numerous allegations of sex trafficking a minor and statutory rape.

There are civil adjudications of sexual abuse going to the very top of the new administration. The law, as it stands today and as we have had it for decades, provides for waivers to protect the immigration status of victims of domestic violence who are charged with fighting back against their abuser.

While the proposed bill would retain waivers for victims in the deportability context, it would not allow for waivers or exceptions in the inadmissibility context. I don't know why this asymmetry and discordance were written into this legislation, whether it was deliberate or just accidental, but the upshot is that the entire national movement working to arrest and reduce domestic violence in America is now opposing this bill that claims to be in support of the victims of domestic violence.

We note another serious problem with the bill, which makes it backfire again against victims. It would significantly expand the definition of ''domestic violence'' to include the statutory Violence Against Women Act definition that is used for the civil context of grants and funding. This much broader definition was never designed to be used in criminal law. In fact, the definition explicitly says that it covers conduct ''that may or may not constitute criminal behavior.''

The definition of domestic violence under existing Federal criminal law, which is currently also used in immigration law, focuses on the element, Mr. Speaker, of physical force, but the broader VAWA-based definition appropriately fitted for grant and funding purposes sweeps in a broad range of behaviors, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse.

Once again, in the inadmissibility context, this transposition can have severe consequences. Imagine a domestic violence victim covered by DACA who flees her abuser and removes half of the money from their joint bank account, enough to get a train or bus ticket to get away. Imagine the abuser calls the police and claims that she stole money from him and committed a theft. By merely admitting to the fact that she took funds out of their bank account, the victim could end up being deemed inadmissible and then removed from America.

Remember, the new inadmissibility grounds created by this bill do not require a conviction but a mere admission of the underlying facts.

The point is clear: If our goal is to prevent violence against women by illegal aliens, as the bill's title says, our current criminal and immigration laws already do that. We have strict punishments in place for anyone who commits such crimes, including deportation and inadmissibility for foreign nationals.

This bill would only make the immigration laws much harsher on the victims of domestic violence, sexual battery, and rape, which is the opposite of what we should be doing.

America, when it lives up to its ideals, as Tom Paine said, will become an asylum to humanity, not an insane asylum, mind you, but a place of refuge for people seeking freedom from religious, political, and economic oppression, and also, I might add, the kind of private gender violence that creates oppression and tyranny in the home.

Two centuries later, Ronald Reagan echoed the sentiment, reminding us that America was a ''shining city upon a hill,'' a refuge ''for all the Pilgrims from all the lost places who are hurtling through the darkness, toward home.''

Last year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, and we must continue our work to oppose the tyranny of domestic violence over women in our country, but this legislation would set back our efforts to protect survivors and to stop abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the majority to reconsider this legislation and for my colleagues to join us in opposing it.

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 30, the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act.

Mr. Speaker, common sense dictates that if an illegal alien is in our country and commits a sex offense or domestic violence, they should be deported immediately. Common sense dictates that if an alien is at the border and has committed these kinds of egregious crimes in their past, they should not be allowed to take one step onto American soil.

Anything short of this standard is a complete and utter failure to protect American women and girls. This bill before us today ensures just that.

As Republicans, we have been called to clean up Biden's border crisis, and that means not only deporting illegal alien sex offenders and abusers, but we must stop them from coming into our country in the first place.

It is common sense that the legislation before us today codifies this standard. The Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act shouldn't be controversial. Sadly, as we saw last week with the Laken Riley Act, many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will use any excuse to oppose commonsense border security.

I stand on behalf of my constituents in North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District to urge my colleagues to support this crucial initiative in our fight to keep our citizens safe.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, here we are, once again, with my Republican colleagues bringing a bill to the floor that does absolutely nothing to address the needs of the American people.

My Republican colleagues made lots of campaign promises to lower costs for everyday Americans, but not a single bill so far has done anything like that. Instead, this week appears to be a week where they say they are protecting women, yet their actions tell a different story.

Today, we are discussing a bill that takes the Violence Against Women Act, a bill meant to protect victims of domestic violence, and weaponizes it against domestic violence victims.

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Mr. Speaker, that is exactly why 200 local and national advocacy organizations for survivors of domestic violence from across the country with deep expertise in this area have come out so strongly to oppose this bill.

I am talking about the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, and groups that serve domestic violence survivors in more than 40 States across the country.

Let me be very clear once again. Under our current laws, those who are convicted or admit to domestic violence or crimes listed in this bill are already deportable and inadmissible to the country. There is actually no gap in the law that needs to be fixed.

Instead, in a perverse move, this bill would make it easier to label survivors of domestic violence as perpetrators to make them removable from the country and eliminate existing legal safeguards that protect survivors. Once again, this is a bill that widens the highway to Donald Trump's mass deportation plans.

I want to talk through an example. The police show up to a domestic violence call. The victim was attacked by her abuser, and she fought back in self-defense. Maybe the abuser has some scratches on his face.

It is common practice for the police to arrest both parties in that situation when responding to a domestic violence incident. The police write a report, describing how the victim hit her abuser in self-defense.

Under this bill, that is an admission constituting the elements of domestic violence, and this woman is now inadmissible and subject to deportation. Even if she is never charged, even if a judge later rules that she did not commit any crime, that so-called admission in the police report that she responded in self-defense to hit her abuser is enough to make her inadmissible under this bill.

Again, that is why more than 200 advocacy organizations for domestic violence survivors, deeply ensconced in the material of what happens every day across the country far too often, are all deeply opposed to this legislation. They know that this expansive bill that eliminates the existing safeguards for domestic violence survivors will harm those exact survivors and create a chilling effect for reporting future crimes, empowering abusers to go after immigrant women and children.

Right now we are only talking about immigrant survivors. Is this bill the start of a dangerous road, watering down protections for all victims of domestic violence across the country? Who is next?

The Violence Against Women Act is a landmark piece of legislation, a testament to a time when Democrats and Republicans could actually come together and legislate on issues of fundamental importance to this Nation, despite our differences.

The initial iteration of VAWA passed the House by voice vote. Can you imagine that? It passed by voice vote. It reshaped how we as a country talk about gender-based violence and how we treat survivors.

The Violence Against Women Act recognized that we cannot be serious about eliminating violence against women if we are not equally serious about eradicating violence against everyone, regardless of immigration status.

There are so many reasons why individuals in domestic violence situations are unjustly forced into the criminal legal system. We have seen the data. Too often survivors are arrested alongside their abuser, and they are charged and even convicted of crimes involving violence which later prove to be in self-defense or unjustly charged. This bill makes it more likely that we harm the very people we want to protect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, here is the cruel irony. In the same week that Republicans are putting forth the nomination of a Secretary of Defense who won't even say that sexual assault is disqualifying, Republicans want to fool you into thinking that they care about domestic violence and sexual assault survivors.

I suppose I shouldn't be surprised. Despite VAWA's bipartisan history, we now have to fight tooth and nail to reauthorize it. It was Republicans who let the Violence Against Women Act languish and expire for 3 years. The leader of the Republican Party is once again a man who was found liable for sexual misconduct and bragged about grabbing and forcibly kissing women without their consent.

Last year, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of VAWA's enactment. Today, we have to watch our colleagues across the aisle make another cheap attempt to divide us and play gotcha politics. We should work together to eradicate domestic violence.

My bill, the WISE Act, would strengthen protections for survivors. I wish we could do that here and not this harmful, misleading bill. I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from over 200 local and national domestic violence organizations who oppose this bill.

NATIONAL TASK FORCE TO END SEXUAL & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

January 13, 2025.

HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE, The undersigned groups that serve and advocate on behalf of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking, write to voice our opposition to HR 30.

We oppose this legislation as it would expand the circumstances under which domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, stalking, and sex offenses would constitute grounds of inadmissibility, as well as expand the definition of domestic violence to be considered for inadmissibility or deportability grounds. These measures would negatively impact immigrant survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and fail to alleviate the primary barriers to safety and stability experienced by survivors seeking relief under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

We are especially troubled that this legislation fails to include waivers that take into

account the needs of the victim or their family, and that it will limit the discretion that judges can exercise where the equities warrant, including situations where survivors who are inadvertently caught up in the criminal legal system will be harmed.

Unfortunately, immigrant victims are particularly vulnerable to being arrested and prosecuted for domestic violence if they acted in self-defense or are accused by an abuser of being a primary aggressor. A well-known tactic of abusers to maintain power and control over their victims is to report (and threaten to report) their partner to authorities, including local law enforcement, child protective services, ICE, and others—falsely claiming that their partner (the victim of their violence) is the one who is violent, neglectful, etc. These false reports (and the threats of them) are too often highly effective at keeping victims trapped in violent relationships.

Moreover, we know that parents of color are disproportionately accused of child abuse offenses, including abandonment and neglect. Domestic violence survivors are not infrequently charged with child neglect for having ''failed to protect'' their children from witnessing or exposure to an adult's violence committed against the non-abusive parent, resulting in doubly penalizing the survivor and the children for violence committed by someone else. This legislation creates grounds of inadmissibility for these offenses without requiring a conviction, in circumstances where an individual admits that they committed acts that would constitute a crime.

Language and cultural barriers, fear of the abuser and the authorities, confusion, intimidation, a lack of awareness of rights, and a lack of access to advocates and other resources, all may prevent an immigrant victim from being able to communicate what really happened. Once in custody and/or facing trial, and desperate to be released and reunited with their children, these same factors—combined with poor legal counsel, particularly about the immigration consequences of criminal pleas and convictions—could lead to ineligibility for status, or the deportation of wrongly accused victims who may have pled to or been unfairly convicted of domestic violence charges.

The legislation's expansion of the definition of domestic violence, which was expressly included in the Violence Against Women Act to allow for the provision of a greater array of victim services, to include circumstances that may not involve violence, physical force, or threats of such is also likely to sweep more survivors into the scope of the ground of inadmissibility or deportability. This will result in more victims being deported and/or bar them from obtaining lawful status. In so doing, it invites additional scrutiny of survivors during the course of their efforts to obtain immigration protections and safety from violence.

Furthermore, expanding the grounds of inadmissibility or ineligibility for status with no waivers would increase the risk that victims will decline to seek assistance from law enforcement or services if they fear that it will result in a family member being barred from legal status. When creating penalties, balance is key. Deterrence is critically important but will be ineffective if consequences are so severe that survivors will not come forward.

Although we are grateful for the efforts of lawmakers to seek to address the impact of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, we believe the best way to do so is by expanding accessibility of survivor-based immigration relief and related benefits to noncitizen survivors, and by eliminating the cap on visas available to petitioners for U and T nonimmigrant visas and the number of cases eligible for final adjudications of VAWA Cancellation of Removal. Rather than rushing to enact additional immigration pe4alties that could cause harm to survivors, we urge Congressional representatives to consult with service providers and survivors themselves to develop legislation that is responsive to their experiences and needs.

As a diverse coalition of organizations serving and advocating on behalf of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, we thank you for paying vigilant attention to how this bill, by expanding the ways in which domestic violence arrests cad prevent people from accessing or maintaining legal status, can ultimately have devastating consequences for immigrant victims of domestic violence.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, ASISTA Immigration Assistance, Esperanza United, Tahirih Justice Center, AF31RM, Alliance of Tribal Coalitions to End Violence, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Americans for Immigrant Justice, American Muslim Health Professionals, Autistic Self Advocacy, Black Women's Blueprint, BWJP, Caminar Latino-Latinos United for Peace and Equity, Caring Across Generations, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), Center for Popular Democracy, Coalition on Human Needs, Coalition of Labor Union Women, AFL–CIO, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces, Freedom Network USA, Futures Without Violence, Gender-Based Violence Consulting, Human Trafficking Legal Center, IAmProSe, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Japanese American Citizens League, Jewish Women International, Joyful Heart Foundation, Just Solutions, Justice in Aging, Justice and Joy National Collaborative (formerly National Crittenton).

Justice for Migrant Women, Legal Momentum, Lovelace Consulting, Mujeres Latinas en Accion, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Nationat Alliance to End Sexual Violence, National Association of Social Workers, National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health, National Council of Jewish Women, National Employment Law Project, National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, National LGBTQ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence, National Network to End Domestic Violence, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, National Survivor Network, National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK), Reframe Health and Justice, Refugees International, Respect Together, Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse, SAGE Empowerment, Sahiyo U.S., Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team, South Asian SOAR, The National Domestic Violence Hotline, UltraViolet Action, VALOR, Youth First Justice Collaborative, YWCA USA.

STATE, TERRITORIAL, AND LOCAL

Alabama:

AshaKiran.

Arizona:

Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, William E. Morris Institute for Justice.

Arkansas:

Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

California:

California Partnership to End Domestic Violence, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, Al Otro Lado, Asian Law Alliance, Community Solutions, Empower Yolo, Haus of a Stranger, Healthy Alternatives to Violent Environments, Immigration Center for Women and Children, Justice At Last, Los Angeles LGBT Center, Maitri, North Coast Rape Crisis Team, Peace Over Violence, Project Sister Family Services, Rape Counseling Services of Fresno, Reach the Valley (REACH), Verity, Wild Iris Family Counseling and Crisis Center, YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley.

Colorado:

Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Violence Free Colorado, American Friends Service Committee, Colorado Compañeros: Four Corners Immigrant Resource Center, Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, El Corazón LLC, Swan Counseling Services, Denver Justice and Peace Committee.

Connecticut:

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Delaware:

Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV).

District of Columbia:

DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, The Person Center.

Florida:

Florida Legal Services, Inc.

Georgia:

Georgia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Clayton County Association Against Family Violence, Inc., Columbus Alliance for Battered Women, Inc. d/b/a Hope Harbour, International Women's House, Northwest Georgia Family Crisis Center, Inc., Raksha, Inc.

Hawaii:

Domestic Violence Action Center, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Idaho:

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

Illinois:

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Illinois Accountability Initiative, Illinois Alliance for Reentry and Justice, Arab American Family Services, Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services, The Porchlight Collective SAP.

Indiana:

Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc., Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking (ICESAHT), Family Service Association, ASSIST Indiana, Inc., The Caring Place, Sheltering Wings, The Center for Women and Families, Inc., The Stepping Stone Shelter.

Iowa:

Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, EMBARC Iowa.

Kansas:

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence.

Kentucky:

Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs, ZeroV.

Louisiana:

Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault.

Maine:

Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Preble Street.

Maryland:

Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Network Against Domestic Violence, The Human Trafficking Prevention Project, University of Maryland SAFE Center.

Massachusetts:

Jane Doe Inc.

Michigan:

Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, SafeHouse Center.

Minnesota:

Violence Free Minnesota, Transforming Generations.

Mississippi:

Mississippi Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Montana:

Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Nebraska:

Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, Catholic Charities of Omaha, Parent-Child Center, Rape and Domestic Abuse Program, Willow Rising.

Nevada:

Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, Immigration Center for Women and Children—Nevada Office.

New Jersey:

New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence.

New Mexico:

Tewa Women United.

New York:

New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Brooklyn Defender Services, Co-Counsel NYC, Catholic Migration Services, Jahajee Sisters, Her Justice, Inc., Hope's Door, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, Safe Horizon Immigration Law Project, The Legal Aid Society, Turning Point for Women & Families, urban justice center | domestic violence project, Violence Intervention Program, Womankind.

North Carolina:

North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Family Abuse Services, Families First, Inc., Friend to Friend, Kearah's Place Inc., Our Voice, Ruth's House, Safelight Inc., Shining Light in Darkness, UCare, Inc.

Ohio:

Ohio Alliance To End Sexual Violence, Ohio Domestic Violence Network, Advocating Opportunity.

Oregon:

Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Pennsylvania:

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center, Pennsylvania Coalition to Advance Respect, Citizens Against Physical, Sexual, and Emotional Abuse, Inc. (CAPSEA, Inc.), Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern Pennsylvania, Family Services Incorporated, Laurel House, Lutheran Settlement House, SEAMAAC, Inc., Safe Monroe, Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc., Victims Resource Center, Women's Center of Greater Pittsburgh, Women In Transition, The Women's Center, Inc., WRC.

Puerto Rico:

Casa Juana Colón, Centro de la Mujer Dominicana, Inc.

Rhode Island:

Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

South Carolina:

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Assault.

Tennessee:

Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Texas:

Daya Inc., Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative, Mosaic Family Services.

Utah:

Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Utah Domestic Violence Coalition.

Vermont:

Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, AWARE, Inc., Mosaic Vermont, NewStory Center, Safeline, Inc.

Virginia:

Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, Ayuda.

Washington:

WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, API Chaya, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, YWCA of Walla Walla.

West Virginia:

West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Wisconsin:

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, ASTOP, Inc. Sexual Abuse Center, BeLEAF Survivors, Benedict Center, Deaf Unity, FREE, Freedom, Inc., FRIENDS, Inc., Embrace Services, Inc., Reach Counseling, Roots4Change Cooperative, UNIDOS Against Domestic ViolenceStepping Stones, Inc., We All Rise AARC.

Wyoming:

Wyoming Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for leading the charge on this legislation, and I find it appalling to hear the rhetoric from the other side.

The excuses being made for the individuals who are here illegally, committing acts of domestic violence, committing acts of violence against women, and trying to defeat this legislation that would strengthen the laws to help these victims are appalling.

As a former domestic violence prosecutor and as a State legislator, we have seen this before. When we try to strengthen laws to protect victims of domestic violence, we find all too often those who would essentially become apologists for the abusers themselves come in and object to these efforts.

We are seeing that here today. When it comes to the Violence Against Women Act, yes, that was a bipartisan piece of legislation until the Democrats were in control of the House. Then we saw them try to amend it to make it more pro-abortion rights, pro-trans rights. You can't even define a woman. How are you going to pass a Violence Against Women Act that actually protects women?

Yes, we stand for the original Violence Against Women Act. In fact, we offered it as a substitute. Guess what? The Democrats voted against it because they would rather stand up for the other extraneous provisions of the legislation.

This legislation will protect American communities from criminal, illegal aliens; create new grounds of inadmissibility and removability; and expand current grounds for aliens who commit sex offenses and domestic violence offenses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it because illegal aliens who commit child abuse, sexual assault, and domestic violence have no place in our country. This bill makes it clear that predators will not be tolerated in the United States.

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

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if our colleagues could explain why more than 200 groups advocating for women's rights and women's security are opposing this legislation?

Can they explain why the groups that are on the front lines of opposing domestic violence reject their legislation as sloppy and bound to hurt the victims?

We have heard no explanation about that, and we reject the slur that we are somehow standing up for the abusers here when we are standing up for the victims. This legislation, if it were to pass, would actually make it a lot easier for the abusers to terrify and intimidate the victims.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the very distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear: Under current law, people who commit sexual offenses are already inadmissible to this country and subject to deportation.

Let's be clear: I fully support, all of us fully support, getting convicted sexual predators off of our streets, irrespective of their legal status.

Sexual crimes are the most heinous crimes. However, to solve a crime, first you have to report it. Sadly, sex crimes are the most underreported crimes there are.

Mr. Speaker, in Orange County, we have worked for years to make sure to earn the trust so the immigrant community can step up and report crimes, and this bill is going to undo all of that work. This bill, by using the broader VAWA definition, will make victims who acted in self-defense, victims who were wrongly accused by their abusers, unable to defend themselves, and subject to deportation.

This bill will also apply to individuals with legal status, people with green cards, students, temporary workers, DACA holders, and TPS holders.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will now give crime victims all the reasons in the world not to report a crime. This bill punishes victims, pushes victims back into the shadows, telling the victims if they report a crime, they are subject to deportation.

I ask my colleagues to let us go back. Let us redraft this bill to do what it is

intended to do, to get sexual predators off our streets and to protect the victims of sex crimes, the most heinous crimes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this measure.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, three moms came before the House Committee on the Judiciary last fall. They had one thing in common. Their daughters had been brutally assaulted and murdered by illegal aliens who had been allowed into this country by the Democratic administration and had not been removed even after committing other offenses, as well.

The statistics tell us how broad this threat has become. Behind the statistics are grieving families, shattered lives, and entirely preventable atrocities. Not one of these murderers would have been here except for the Democrats' deliberate policies.

The Democrats often talk about the war on women, but they couldn't care less about allowing a flood of sexual offenders, domestic violence offenders, and child abusers into our communities, allowing them to stay indefinitely, free from any fear of deportation and protected by the Democrats' sanctuary laws.

When these monsters commit these ghastly acts and grief-stricken moms come here for help, the Democrats put on their best long faces, assure everyone how much they grieve with the families, and then argue to continue precisely the same policies that have produced this nightmare in the first place.

Thank God that in 4 days this tragic chapter in our Nation's history will close. Shortly after noon on Monday, President Trump will issue executive orders to protect the American people once again. It is too late for these grieving families but perhaps just in time for yours or mine.

Yet I worry that if the Democrats are ever returned to power, these policies will resume. We have got to change our laws so that they can't. This measure removes the loopholes in current law that allowed the Democrats to unleash this scourge on our communities and requires that illegal aliens who commit sex offenses or domestic violence not be allowed into this country under any circumstances and must be immediately removed if they do get in, no matter who is President.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. SIMON).

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member RASKIN for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to speak in this Chamber as a survivor. Folks know back home that I have been doing this work for 30 years, day in and day out.

As a survivor, I almost lost my life in my early twenties. I am proud to stand with millions of women and girls who have been victims and who are moving toward survivorship in saying no to this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I come with 30 years of experience. I started my career leading the Young Women's Freedom Center, and I stood shoulder to shoulder with young women and girls who had been trafficked and beaten. I have been in morgues. I have been in the tanks of our county jails, literally on my knees, pleading with law enforcement to let young women out who themselves were victims and who were incarcerated wrongly for standing up for themselves while they fought for their lives.

I have learned through this work that justice is not a principle. It is our responsibility.

Later in my career, I led the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law started by President Kennedy. We expanded access and legal representation for migrants and asylum seekers, many who came seeking peace and solidarity, in search of safety and dignity.

Today, as a Representative of California's 12th District, I remain committed to advancing real solutions and making our communities safer. I, too, was a domestic violence advocate for a prosecutor.

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I know this work. I remain committed to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fix a severely broken immigration system, but moreover, I am here to stand up for victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from California an additional 1 minute.

Ms. SIMON. H.R. 30, and I repeat, does nothing to advance these solutions. Instead, it broadens the definition of domestic violence in ways that punishes survivors, making them inadmissible and subject to deportation, regardless of their legal status.

I say to my colleagues: We must read this bill. Read it. Let me be clear: We know that Federal law already allows deportation, demands deportation for individuals convicted of domestic violence. H.R. 30 doesn't strengthen the protection of survivors—it weaponizes them.

I know what it means to protect victims, Mr. Speaker. It means to fight systemic inequities in our current systems that don't work for those victims or survivors. H.R. 30 doesn't do this work.

That is why I too stand with over 200 organizations, one in which I cofounded, the Sister Warriors Freedom Coalition, that is 10,000 strong, who are young women and girls who are surviving rape and domestic violence and trafficking. They, too, say no.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her distinguished remarks, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER).

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 30, the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act.

President Biden's open-border policies have been felt in our communities where now more than ever women are hesitant to walk alone in parking lots and look over their shoulders.

In the past few years, we have seen illegal aliens chase, beat, sexually assault, and burn women even in public. These illegal aliens target and abuse women.

This bill sends an important message that we will have zero tolerance for domestic and sexual violence by illegal aliens.

H.R. 30, the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act, builds on the Laken Riley Act. While the Laken Riley Act would have prevented the death of that 22-year-old nursing student, this bill will protect women in the future by strengthening protections against violent aliens.

This bill has two important components.

First, it amends current immigration law to expand the definition of sex offenses that require deportation. It would explicitly create grounds for inadmissibility for aliens who commit a sex offense as defined by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

Second, it explicitly establishes a ground of inadmissibility for specific domestic violence offenses. It closes a loophole in current law and clarifies what illegal aliens must be removed for domestic violence.

Enforcement by ICE for these offenses has plummeted in the years between the Trump and the Biden administrations. Over that same period, we have seen an increase in violent crimes and sexual assaults by illegal aliens. It is time to replace the slap-on-the-wrist approach with law and order.

I genuinely believe that this legislation is part of our mandate from the American people, and we should send this legislation to Donald Trump's desk for signature on day one.

On Tuesday, I was very encouraged to see 48 of my Democrat colleagues vote for the commonsense protection of Americans by voting for the Laken Riley Act. Deporting domestic violence offenders and aliens who commit sexual assault should not be a partisan issue. I hope that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join us in supporting H.R. 30.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, let's be very clear. Sexual offenses and domestic violence are serious crimes and are already grounds for deportability and inadmissibility, as they should be.

Unfortunately, this bill is so poorly drafted that it would result in extremely harsh and unintended consequences, including the removal of survivors of domestic violence.

This bill attempts to significantly expand the definition of domestic violence to include the Violence Against Women Act definition that is used for grants and funding. This is a much broader definition that was never meant to be used in criminal law. We know that because the definition explicitly says it covers conduct ''that may or may not constitute criminal behavior.''

The definition for domestic violence under Federal criminal law focuses on physical force. This broader VAWA-based definition sweeps in a wider range of behaviors that domestic violence organizations say will implicate survivors who have used violence in self-defense or who were accused by their abusers and were either unable to defend themselves or pled guilty to avoid having to go through the court process.

This bill would also make it less likely that immigrant communities will report incidents of domestic violence. We recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of the passage of VAWA, and we should continue our work to combat domestic violence, but this legislation would actually set back our efforts to protect survivors.

That is why over 200 national and local groups, as part of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, the experts in the field, oppose this legislation. I think we ought to listen to them. We need to work together to solve our immigration problems, but this bill takes us in the wrong direction.

The Republican majority has chosen to begin this year with a series of bills intended to fearmonger and demonize immigrants.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from New York an additional 15 seconds to conclude.

Mr. NADLER. The Republican majority has chosen to begin this year with a series of bills intended to fearmonger and demonize immigrants. This legislation not only perpetuates that effort, but it would also have serious consequences for survivors of domestic violence.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this misguided bill.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE).

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, yes, I rise today to ''demonize,'' as the word was used on the left across the aisle, to demonize illegal immigrants who are here raping our women and girls, murdering our women and girls, and who are pedophiles molesting our children. You are darn right. That is what I am here to do today.

I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 30, the Preventing Violence Against Women By Illegal Aliens Act.

Under the open-border policies of Joe Biden and border czar KAMALA HARRIS and Secretary Mayorkas, our country has been ravaged by a hoard of illegal aliens molesting American children, battering and bruising and beating up American women, and violently raping American women and girls.

My bill makes it very clear: If an illegal alien commits a sex crime or an act of domestic violence, they are inadmissible and deportable—we aren't letting you into our country, and if you are already here, we are sending you back to yours.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle like to try to minimize this issue because they refuse to acknowledge the consequences of their open-borders agenda, but the numbers don't lie.

According to ICE, as of July, there were nearly 650,000 illegal aliens on the nondetained docket who are convicted criminals who have been charged with crimes.

These criminal illegal aliens freely roam our streets committing senseless acts of violence against American women and children. This includes over 100,000 illegal aliens convicted of or charged with assault. It includes over 20,000 illegal aliens convicted of or charged with sexual assault and rape. It includes over 12,000 illegal aliens convicted of or charged with sex offenses. It includes over 3,000 illegal aliens convicted of or charged with kidnapping. And it includes nearly 15,000 illegal aliens convicted of or charged with murder. That is who the left are defending this morning: murderers, rapists, and pedophiles.

Hundreds of thousands of criminal illegal aliens are out on our streets terrorizing our women and girls. This bill passed the House last year in September by a vote of 266–158. Mr. Speaker, 158 Democrats voted against this bill last time. Will they apologize to American women and girls today and do the right thing for our citizens?

A vote against this bill is a vote against deporting illegal aliens who rape and abuse women and children. A vote against this bill is a vote to invite illegal aliens who rape and abuse women and children into the United States of America. I can think of nothing less American than that.

It is despicable that 158 Members of this body, which is supposed to represent the interests of American citizens, voted to prioritize illegal aliens who are sexual predators and domestic abusers, rapists, and pedophiles over the safety of American women and girls.

Mr. Speaker, what do the 158 Members of this body who voted last time to protect illegal aliens who are sexual predators have to say to the family of Jocelyn Nungaray, a 12-year-old girl who was brutally raped and strangled to death by two illegal aliens from Venezuela?

What do the 158 Democrats who voted against this bill last time have to say to the family of Rachel Morin from Maryland, a mother of five, who was brutally raped, brutally choked, and beaten to death on a hiking trail by an illegal alien from El Salvador?

What do the 158 Members of this body, the Democrats who voted against this bill last time, have to say to the family of Kayla Hamilton, a 20-year-old with autism who was tied up, raped, and strangled to death with a phone cord by an illegal alien who was a member of MS–13?

As a survivor of both rape and domestic violence myself, I know the devastating toll, the devastating consequences, that heinous crimes like these have on a woman. I know the lifelong, irreversible scars these heinous crimes leave behind.

The blood and the physical and emotional pain caused by these tragedies, the trauma caused by these tragedies, the lifelong trauma of these tragedies, this blood is on the hands of every single Democrat in this body who votes against this bill.

It is our birthright as American citizens to live freely and safely in our communities. One woman, one child victimized by one illegal alien is one too many. They have no right to be here.

Some of my colleagues across the aisle claim that the definition of domestic violence in this bill is too broad. They are wrong. The current definition isn't broad enough, and I know this now that I have been a victim most recently of domestic violence and abuse that VAWA did not go far enough, and our States have a lot more to go to protect women and girls.

I implore my colleagues to look at their hearts, hear the cries of the families who have been shattered by these evil acts committed by illegal aliens, and put American women and children first and pass this bill.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD three reports on arrests.

[From the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Feb. 2, 2024]

ERO SEATTLE ARRESTS 6 NONCITIZENS WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION DURING NATIONAL OPERATION

SEATTLE—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Seattle arrested six noncitizens convicted of crimes related to child exploitation during a nationwide law enforcement effort that ran from January 16–28.

''Noncitizens who commit repugnant acts at the expense of children will not be allowed to claim our great nation as their home,'' said ERO Seattle Field Office Director Drew Bostock. ''The arrests ERO Seattle made during this national operation are an example of the constant contributions we make locally to keep the U.S. safe from child predators.''

All arrests took place in the assigned ERO Seattle states of Alaska, Washington and Oregon, with criminal convictions made by courts in Washington and Oregon.

Those arrested include:

A 53-year-old citizen of El Salvador in Tacoma who was convicted of felony child molestation in the first degree, child molestation in the second degree, and rape of a child in the third degree.

A 42-year-old citizen of Mexico in Moses Lake who was convicted of dealing in depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

A 39-year-old citizen of Mexico in Federal Way who was convicted of communication with a minor for immoral purposes.

A 69-year-old citizen of Mexico in Yakima who was convicted of dealing in depictions of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

A 58-year-old citizen of Mexico in Yakima who was convicted of child molestation in the first degree, child molestation in the second degree, and rape of a child in the third degree.

A 43-year-old citizen of Mexico in Woodburn, Oregon, who was convicted of first degree sexual abuse of a minor.

ERO officers evaluate individuals on a case-by-case basis, assessing the totality of the facts and circumstances to make informed arrest determinations. Those cases amenable to federal criminal prosecution can be presented to the U.S. attorney's office. ERO also coordinates with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to evaluate the completion of relevant noncitizen applications.

In fiscal year 2023, ERO arrested 73,822 noncitizens with criminal histories; this group had 290,178 associated charges and convictions with an average of four per individual. These included 33,209 assaults; 4,390 sex and sexual assaults; 7,520 weapons offenses; 1,713 charges or convictions for homicide; and 1,655 kidnapping offenses.

As one of ICE's three operational directorates, ERO is the principal federal law enforcement authority in charge of domestic immigration enforcement. ERO's mission is to protect the homeland through the arrest and removal of those who undermine the safety of U.S. communities and the integrity of U.S. immigration laws, and its primary areas of focus are interior enforcement operations, management of the agency's detained and non-detained populations, and repatriation of noncitizens who have received final orders of removal. ERO's workforce consists of more than 7,700 law enforcement and non-law enforcement support personnel across 25 domestic field offices and 208 locations nationwide, 30 overseas postings, and multiple temporary duty travel assignments along the border.

Members of the public can report crimes and suspicious activity by dialing 866–347–2423 or completing the online tip form. Learn more about ICE's mission to increase public safety in your community by following us on X, formerly known as Twitter, @EROSeattle.

[From US NEWS, May 16, 2024]

SERIAL RAPIST ILLEGAL MIGRANT ATTACKED WOMAN IN RAPE DUNGEON ON WHEELS

(By Katherine Donlevy)

An illegal migrant allegedly went on a serial raping spree in Southern California, attacking his victims in a ''rape dungeon on wheels'' before he was caught in the act by cops.

Eduardo Sarabia, 40, was arrested Monday with a 26-year-old woman inside his decked-out van, which he had driven to a remote area of the San Gabriel Mountains near San Bernadino, sources told Fox 11.

It was the second time in two days that he allegedly took a victim to the secluded spot—but investigators suspect that Sarabia's twisted spree lasted much longer.

[From US News, June 15, 2024]

RACHEL MORIN MURDER: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FROM EL SALVADOR CHARGED IN RAPE, KILLING OF MARYLAND MOM-OF-5

(By Katherine Donlevy)

A migrant from El Salvador has been busted for the brutal 2023 rape and murder of mom of five Rachel Morin on a Maryland hiking trail, cops said.

Victor Martinez-Hernandez, 23, was tracked down in Tulsa, Oklahoma Friday, after police matched his DNA to the gruesome crime scene, Harford County Sherriff Jeffrey Gahler told reporters Saturday.

''Rachel's murderer is no longer a free man and, hopefully, he will never have the opportunity to walk free again,'' Gahler said.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, since we have someone from the State of Maryland, this was on FOX News: ''Arrest of illegal immigrant previously convicted of rape in Maryland marks record for ICE.''

''ICE nabs several migrants convicted of child molestation, one convicted murderer, in blue State suburbs.''

Another one from Maryland: ''Rachel Morin murder: Illegal immigrant from El Salvador charged in rape, killing of Maryland mom of five.''

We had someone from Washington today talk. Here is an article about the ERO: ''ERO Seattle arrests six noncitizens with criminal convictions for child exploitation during national operation.''

In California: ''Serial rapist illegal migrant attacked woman in 'rape dungeon on wheels,''' said the cops.

Of course, for someone from New York, here is the headline from New York: ''ERO New York City arrests unlawfully present Salvadoran citizen convicted of rape.''

These are the illegals that the left is defending today. I find it disgusting and offensive, and I will always put American women and girls first.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this dangerous legislation. It has been pointed out in this debate that H.R. 30 fails to protect domestic abuse survivors as it undermines the Violence Against Women Act, historic legislation that was carefully drafted in a bipartisan manner, which included critical protections like U visas and T visas, the battered spouse waiver, and the option to self-petition for permanent residence.

This legislation, whether it means it or not or intends it or not, really cancels out these important protections.

Immigrant survivors are already afraid. We don't need to fearmonger them anymore. They are already scared of contacting the police due to the deportation risk, and H.R. 30 exacerbates the real concerns that these victims will be swept up by this bill.

As noted by a wide range of stakeholders, immigrant victims are particularly vulnerable to being arrested and prosecuted for domestic violence or acting in self-defense, even if they are falsely accused by an abuser of being a primary aggressor.

We know that this comes straight out of a playbook by some of our historic traffickers and pimps. This bill would empower pimps and traffickers as it is written, and it will sweep more survivors into being inadmissible or deportable.

Mr. Speaker, how does that protect them?

In the name of protecting domestic violence victims, we cannot debate and pass a bill that makes it worse for them. If the majority is serious about addressing the epidemic of domestic and sexual violence in our country, then we can start by addressing the funding challenges facing the Victims of Crime Act, which supports services for victims, or by expanding access to U visas and T visas, which help law enforcement protect victims.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, we want to protect moms from domestic violence acts, as homicide is the leading cause of death of pregnant women.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit so we can fix this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his indulgence.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the text of this amendment immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

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

I can't blame my colleagues because they ran on a platform of doing better than Joe Biden on the economy, but he gave us an economy that is the glory of the world and ''the envy of the world,'' as The Economist magazine put it recently. It created 16 million new jobs, a roaring stock market, and a revived manufacturing sector.

Instead of doing anything to lower the price of groceries, which is what they promised, and to lower the price of energy, which they promised, they come back and basically ask us to pass what is already in the law but they subtract from their duplicative and redundant section the waivers and exceptions that protect the victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Instead, they just want to associate all immigrants with criminal delinquency. The vast majority of rapes in America of American women are committed by citizens, and the vast majority of noncitizens never commit rapes.

Donald Trump released 58,184 noncitizens with criminal records who came in during his administration, including 8,620 violent criminals and 306 murderers. ICE ended up rearresting 11,000

noncitizens who had been admitted under Donald Trump.

We can sit here and demagogue back and forth and say, ''You let someone in who did something bad. You let someone in who did something criminal,'' but we are not going to do that. We want to make progress for America.

Let's reject this opportunistic, silly bill, and let's move forward to guarantee the safety of America's women.

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Democrats claim this bill is unnecessary because aliens who commit sex offenses or domestic violence offenses are already inadmissible or removable. That ignores reality.

Take, for example, the fact that, under current immigration law, there is no explicit ground of inadmissibility for illegal aliens who commit domestic violence offenses, despite a ground of removability for aliens who commit such offenses, or consider that despite certain sex offenses making aliens removable from the country, there currently is not a ground of inadmissibility or removability for certain sex offenses.

Although some aliens who commit these offenses may be found inadmissible or removable for having committed a crime involving moral turpitude, that is far from certain.

Under current law, loopholes abound. For example, in 2023, the Ninth Circuit held that a conviction for menacing constituting domestic violence was not a crime involving moral turpitude even though the alien threatened his wife with a knife.

The Third Circuit held that an alien was not removable despite a conviction for involuntary devient sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old.

Similarly, courts have found that certain convictions for contributing to the delinquency of a minor, assault of a victim under 12 years old, and annoying or molesting a child are not crimes involving moral turpitude.

That is why this bill is imperative. It is to ensure that criminal aliens who endanger families and communities can be removed from the United States.

The Biden-Harris administration's war on women must come to an end, and this bill is one step toward that.

Making guests in our country inadmissible to and removable from the United States because they have committed a sex offense or domestic violence offense should be something that even open-border Democrats can agree with us on.

Mr. Speaker, the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act is a straightforward, commonsense bill that I urge my colleagues to support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 30.

H.R. 30 undermines the basic constitutional protection of a person being innocent until proven guilty. It subjects immigrants, including those who have been victims of domestic violence, to new grounds of inadmissibility and deportability that do not require a conviction in court. This is an ominous step toward the erosion of the rights of all people in the United States, including citizens.

The U.S. immigration system has been broken for decades. Every bipartisan proposal to fix it has been fractured by Republicans' refusal to work with Democrats to find effective solutions.

Now, as we begin the 119th Congress with Republicans again in the majority, they continue to reject a bipartisan way forward to find real solutions. Instead, Republicans have chosen to bring more deeply flawed messaging bills to the House floor. This legislation does not just target people who are in the United States illegally. Its impact will be felt by many of our neighbors, from green card holders and students to temporary workers and DACA recipients.

Here's the bottom line: under our existing immigration laws, people who commit domestic violence, sexual offenses, or other heinous crimes are already inadmissible and removable. This bill does not secure the border, nor does it work to fix our immigration system. It only puts innocent people, legally present in the United States, at risk of deportation. Republicans must begin to work toward bipartisan, constructive solutions to fix our broken immigration system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 5, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Moore of Wisconsin moves to recommit the bill H.R. 30 to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The material previously referred to by Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin is as follows:

Ms. Moore of Wisconsin moves to recommit the bill H.R. 30 to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 3, line 10, insert after ''is inadmissible.'' the following: ''The Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security shall not be limited by the criminal court record and may waive the application of clauses (i) and (ii) in the case of an alien who has been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty and who is not and was not the primary perpetrator of violence in the relationship, upon making a determination described in section 237(a)(7)(A)(i).''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 213, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 16]

YEAS—206

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gillen
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, V.
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McDonald Rivet
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Perez
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherrill
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (TX)
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)

NAYS—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)

Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gimenez
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClintock
McCormick
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—15

Beatty
Brecheen
Davidson
Grijalva
Hunt
McClain
Moulton
Mrvan
Pelosi
Pettersen
Quigley
Sherman
Turner (OH)
Waltz
Wilson (FL)

□ 1050

Mses. VAN DUYNE, MALOY, Messrs. VAN ORDEN, HUIZENGA, BAUMGARTNER, WESTERMAN, and GILL of Texas changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 274, nays 145, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 17]

YEAS—274

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Bilirakis
Boebert
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Budzinski
Burchett
Burlison
Bynum
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Conaway
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crank
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Fedorchak
Feenstra
Figures
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Fong
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Gillen
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Goodlander
Gosar
Gottheimer
Graves
Gray
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hayes
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hudson
Huizenga
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (NY)
Kennedy (UT)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Landsman
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Letlow
Levin
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Mackenzie
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Mannion
Massie
Mast
McBride
McCaul
McClain Delaney
McClintock
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Morrison
Moskowitz
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Scalise
Schmidt
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherrill
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—145

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Brown
Brownley
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Crockett
Crow
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espaillat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Green, Al (TX)
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Krishnamoorthi
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
McIver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Olszewski
Omar
Pallone
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Simon
Smith (WA)
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Turner (TX)
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—15

Beatty
Davidson
Diaz-Balart
Grijalva
Hunt
McClain
Moulton
Mrvan
Pelosi
Pettersen
Quigley
Sherman
Turner (OH)
Waltz
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1100

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:

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today as the last vote timed out. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 17, H.R. 30; Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, due to the devastating wildfire affecting my district and Southern California, I was not present for today's vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 16, Motion to Recommit H.R. 30, and NAY on Roll Call No. 17, H.R. 30.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions related to my pregnancy, I was unable to travel to DC to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 16 and NAY on Roll Call No. 17.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the House floor this morning because of a weather-related travel delay. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on a Roll Call No. 16 and NAY on Roll Call No. 17.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in the family, I needed to attend the funeral proceedings and was unable to vote on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 16, Motion to Recommit, and YEA on Roll Call No. 17, Passage of H.R. 30.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025, TO MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday next.

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

There was no objection.

REMEMBERING ANTHONY ''AL'' ADDISON

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to honor and remember a remarkable leader, Anthony ''Al'' Addison.

Al's life was defined by service, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to the Northern Arapaho Tribe, leaving a legacy that will inspire generations.

Al served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, demonstrating the same integrity and devotion that he later brought to the Northern Arapaho Tribe. As the longest serving member of the Northern Arapaho Business Council, his leadership and vision guided the community through significant growth and change.

Beyond his professional achievements, Al was a compassionate father, a mentor, and a trusted friend. His true legacy lies not only in the projects he championed, but in the lives that he enriched and the community that he strengthened.

Al will be deeply missed, but his memory lives on in the hearts of those whom he touched.

KEEP THE DREAM ALIVE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on August 28, 1963, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered one of the most famous speeches of the century, ''I Have a Dream.''

During the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, he shared his dream, which was deeply rooted in the American Dream. His speech reminded us of our Nation's promises of freedom, justice, and equality.

Mr. Speaker, North Carolina State University Professor Jason Miller discovered a recording of this iconic speech. However, this recording captured Dr. King delivering it to about 1,800 people at Booker T. Washington High School in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, 8 months before the March on Washington. The speech in Rocky Mount is the first recorded evidence of Dr. King's ''I Have a Dream'' speech.

Eastern North Carolina has a rich history, and during this MLK holiday, I encourage all of us to keep the dream alive.

HONORING ZUZA, YAKIMA COUNTY FALLEN HERO

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a fallen hero in central Washington. Zuza served the Yakima County Sheriff's Department at the hand of Deputy Nick Ward.

In her 7-year career with the sheriff's department, Zuza had an incredible record of 138 captures, including dangerous criminals and murder suspects. Tales of her heroism and ferocity spread quickly throughout Yakima County, with many stories of her taking down criminals at record speeds and even more stories of suspects only hearing her bark before giving themselves up to authorities.

Outside of her bark and her bite, she was a comforting presence for officers in tense situations and offered a sense of security when things got difficult. Yakima County is safer because of Zuza, and I thank Deputy Ward for his commitment to her handling and to the safety of our communities.

HONORING COUNCILWOMAN SHIRLEY MCCRACKEN

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Councilmember Shirley McCracken, a beloved servant, neighbor, and good friend.

After spending 10 years as a nun, Councilmember McCracken moved to Anaheim, where she would marry her beloved Paul and raise two children.

Once she settled in our community, Mrs. McCracken taught math with the Anaheim Union School District and became a very active member of our community. She donated her time and energy to organizations like the YMCA and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Orange County.

She later was elected to the Anaheim City Council in 1996, becoming the second woman to be elected to the Anaheim City Council. Mrs. McCracken would go on to serve 8 years on the Anaheim City Council and two years as mayor pro tem in 1999 and 2000.

I ask my colleagues today to join me in honoring her legacy and service to our community.

HONORING SENIOR CITIZENS, INC., ON 65 YEARS OF SERVICE TO GEORGIANS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Citizens, Inc., a cornerstone of our community in Savannah, Georgia, as they celebrate their 65th anniversary.

Since 1959, this remarkable organization has been dedicated to helping older adults age successfully, providing essential services that enhance their quality of life. Senior Citizens, Inc., offers a comprehensive range of programs, including in-home care, Meals on Wheels, adult day health services, and The Learning Center, which provides lifelong learning opportunities. Their care navigators serve as a vital resource, connecting seniors and their families to the support they need.

Through initiatives like the Senior Companions program, volunteers provide friendship and assistance to their older neighbors, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Their commitment to our veterans through partnerships like the VetAssist program ensures that those who have served our country receive the care they deserve.

As the Representative of Georgia's First Congressional District, I am deeply grateful for the unwavering dedication of Senior Citizens, Inc. Their compassionate services have touched countless lives, embodying the service of community and care that makes our district exceptional.

Please join me in congratulating Senior Citizens, Inc., on 65 years of outstanding service and in wishing them continued success in the years to come.

RETIRED COLONEL GREG GADSON

(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 the patriotic and inspiring service of retired Army Colonel Greg Gadson. He recently addressed students at Central Catholic High School in my northwest Ohio district.

Colonel Gadson's story is one of unparalleled courage in the face of profound adversity, from humble beginnings to the football fields of West Point and combat in Iraq to his intrepid mission to others after losing

both legs in severe injuries sustained in a roadside bomb attack.

Despite all that he endured, he easily could have given up in despair. However, instead, he chose a path of hope, determination, and exemplary service. He has since become a beacon of hope as a motivational speaker, actor, author, and living testament to the strength of the human spirit.

Colonel Gadson's words: Be present in your life, be your best, resonate deeply.

Let us carry his message forward, ensuring every veteran receives the honor, support, and opportunities they deserve. I deeply respect Colonel Gadson for his unwavering dedication to our Nation. Let us all thank him for inspiring our next generation of leaders to take on any challenges and obstacles that come in their path. Colonel Gadson is truly an American hero and inspiration for us all.

HONORING JESUS JESSE VARGAS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, my Texas colleagues and I rise today to honor a hero, Brazoria County Sheriff's Deputy Jesus Jesse Vargas.

Deputy Vargas was a proud husband and father of three school-age children. Deputy Vargas was shot and killed in the line of duty while working as a member of the U.S. Marshals' Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force, serving a warrant on a repeat offender. He was a dedicated public servant who was with the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office for 17 years.

As a former law enforcement officer and sheriff of Fort Bend County, Texas, I know all too well the sacrifices our Nation's law enforcement officers make.

Deputy Vargas was a hero to Brazoria County, the great State of Texas, and our Nation.

My prayers are with the Vargas family, Brazoria County Sheriff Bo Stallman, and the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office, the community, and every man and woman in blue.

The war on our law enforcement must end.

I ask everyone in the Chamber to bow their heads in a moment of silence.

□ 1115

SERVING IN THE LINE OF DUTY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today with a very heavy heart, Mr. Speaker, because while we hear the words ''in the line of duty,'' we have a wife and three children who will understand the true meaning of ''in the line of duty.''

They have lost a husband. A father has made a transition. They will have to suffer and, unfortunately, live with this for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I beg that all would understand that our officers are out there trying to do the very best that they can, and when this happens, let's make sure that we let the world know that we appreciate the job that they do.

This was a 17-year veteran, 17 years of work, and he is no longer with us.

I, too, ask for a moment of silence in recognition of his service and in respect of his wife and children.

HONORING MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOBCAT RODEO TEAM

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Montana State University Bobcat rodeo team as they prepare to participate in the 2025 Presidential inaugural parade.

The inclusion of a collegiate rodeo team in the inaugural parade is a historic first and a unique representation of our culture and the way of life as Montanans.

I am thrilled that these talented ropers and riders will get the chance to experience all that our Nation's Capital has to offer during such an exciting time for our country.

This effort would not have been possible without the collective support of the State, the MSU community, university leadership, namely Bobcat Rodeo Coaches Kyle Whitaker and Savanna Bolich, and MSU President Waded Cruzado.

I highlight the advocacy of my colleague, First District Congressman RYAN ZINKE, whose support helped get this initiative across the finish line.

Heather and I cannot wait to join our fellow Montanans cheering the team on as they take to Pennsylvania Avenue on Monday and make their way toward the White House.

Go Cats. I know they will make Montana proud.

CELEBRATING GOODYEAR BLIMP CENTENNIAL

(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 celebrate the birthday of a very important fixture of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, the country, and the world: the Goodyear Blimp. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the inaugural flight of the first Goodyear blimp, known as *Pilgrim*.

The Goodyear Blimp is a cultural icon, creating a memorable and recognizable connection between Akron, Ohio, the United States, and the entire world, bringing smiles to many people, including those here in this Chamber.

Over the last 100 years, the blimp has helped fight in World War II, assisted first responders with disaster relief, and, perhaps its most well-known role, covering important sporting events. This includes this year's Rose Bowl game, which marked the 70th year of aerial coverage from the Goodyear Blimp, and I might add, it was a win by The Ohio State University.

I congratulate Goodyear on this historic milestone and, most importantly, for lighting the skies with the hope and wonder of American ingenuity.

We look forward to the skies being graced by the Goodyear Blimp for years to come, bringing pride to Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

Godspeed, Goodyear.

CONGRATULATING GANADO HIGH SCHOOL INDIANS

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Ganado High School Indians' football team on their incredible victory in the 2024 Texas Class 2A, Division 1 championship.

With a 30–28 win that happened in triple overtime, the Indians capped off a remarkable 15–1 season. Under the guidance of Head Coach Josh Ervin, the team showed unparalleled resilience and unity. From the first snap of the season to the thrilling final play, they demonstrated the power of teamwork and perseverance.

This championship is not just a testament to their athletic talent but to the unwavering support of the Ganado community. It is a moment that will inspire future generations to strive for excellence, both on and off the field.

I congratulate the Ganado Indians on this well-deserved championship, and may God continue to bless the players, coaches, families, and the entire community. God bless them.

CONDITIONING DISASTER AID IS UN-AMERICAN

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say: Los Angeles, we are with you.

Our hearts are with every single family who has lost a loved one, a livelihood, or some part of their community.

We give thanks to the heroic first responders working to contain these fires.

I also rise to ask, Mr. Speaker, are these families not American? What makes these families different from families we have helped after hurricanes, tornadoes, or floods in other States?

To suggest that we should hold hostage the aid we give to these American families, families who have lost everything, is wrong and un-American. Just look at what has been approved over the past decade, especially for so-called red States, I might add.

Have we ever said that those families should be punished for their State's political choices? Absolutely not. I am appalled and, frankly, sickened at the calls for conditioning aid for these families, these American families. They are crying out for help.

Congress should respond immediately without hesitation or delay. Here is the map. Look at where the money has gone in the past decade.

THANKING TEXAS' EIGHTH DISTRICT FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, sadly, wildfires are devastating our neighbors in California. In the face of this tragedy, first responders from across the country have answered the call to help.

I will take a moment to recognize the brave firefighters from District Eight of Texas who have traveled from far east Texas all the way to California. This includes the firefighters from the Houston Fire Department as well as the Needham, Porter, Conroe, and North Montgomery Fire Departments.

The City of Conroe Fire Department proudly deployed its newly commissioned Type 3 brush truck to assist in battling the California wildfires. This wildland fire truck is specifically engineered to fight fires in rough and challenging terrain.

Our firemen expect to deploy for the remaining weeks. Their selflessness and commitment to protecting fellow Americans is inspiring. I thank these firefighters and every first responder stepping into harm's way.

Guardians of their communities, firefighters are always willing to run into danger and share their brave hearts and strong hands. We pray for their safety, their quick return, and for all those who have been devastated by this tragedy in California.

MAKING PROGRESS FOR AMERICA

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves at a make-or-break moment in America. The people from East and North Portland, Sandy, Gresham, Estacada, and Hood River have spoken with a united voice.

It is time to make bold progress on the issues that matter most: addressing our homelessness and addiction crises, ensuring access to affordable healthcare for all, building an economy that works for our working families, and, as wildfires ravage our coast, tackling the climate crisis head-on.

As a critical care physician, I have spent the past two decades caring for the sickest Oregonians. Each day that I walk through these doors, I carry their stories with me. For those patients and every family who calls Oregon home, I am committed to doing the hard work of bringing people together to deliver results for our community.

My job is to be your voice in Congress. I am here to listen, to learn, and to do what is required to ensure that every Oregon child has the opportunity to grow up in a healthy, thriving community.

RETURNING TO THE HALLS OF CONGRESS

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly a decade since I had the opportunity to address this body.

In the time I have been gone, Washington has seen a lot of changes. Donald Trump was elected two times. Over 200 congressional districts have seen new Members take hold. Staffers no longer use BlackBerrys.

As the old adage goes: The more things change, the more they stay the same. Washington's fiscal house is still out of order. Democrats are still out of touch with reality, just as we saw on our last vote 20 minutes ago on the Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act. Conservatism is still in short supply, but Americans recognize Washington is broken, which is why they gave our party an irrefutable mandate to fix it.

We must follow the lead of President Trump and Speaker JOHNSON in reducing government overreach and making this country great, healthy, and prosperous again.

The old way of business has doubled our national debt since I was last in these Halls and has gradually substituted million-dollar spending packages with billion-dollar ones.

The people have been clear: The Washington of old is out, and government for and by the people is in.

CELEBRATING 105 YEARS OF ZETA PHI BETA

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 105 years of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, a legacy of ''Scholarship, Service, Sisterhood, and Finer Womanhood'' that began on January 16, 1920, right here in Washington, D.C.

Founded by the Five Pearls, Arizona Cleaver Stemons, Pearl Anna Neal, Myrtle Tyler Faithful, Viola Tyler Goings, and Fannie Pettie Watts, these visionary women didn't just build a sisterhood. They built an organization that rejected elitism and frivolity.

From being the first to charter a chapter in Africa to fostering community-conscious, action-oriented leadership, this sorority has set the gold standard.

Today, with over 100,000 members across 870 chapters worldwide, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, has remained unwavering in its mission, whether it is promoting social justice, providing service, or showing the world what it truly means to be a finer woman.

What is sisterhood? Sisterhood is not just about wearing matching colors and strolling. True sisterhood means extending respect and support, encouraging each other, and committing to a lifetime of friendship. When a sister forgets what that means, you let her know with love.

As a proud member, I am thrilled to wish my sorors a happy Founders Day.

□ 1130

CONGRATULATING COCOA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to congratulate the remarkable Cocoa High School football team for their third consecutive State championship.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend them and celebrate the exceptional leadership of their head coach, Ryan Schneider, whose dedication to excellence has been instrumental in guiding these young athletes to achieve great success on and off the field.

Furthermore, I would like to express my gratitude to Cocoa Mayor Mike Blake for his support of the team and his efforts to promote athletics within our community.

To the many seniors who will continue their athletic career at exceptional universities across the country, I wish them the best of luck. I hope they will continue to make Brevard County proud.

THANKING OREGON FIREFIGHTERS FOR THEIR HEROIC SERVICE

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the heroic firefighters from Oregon who are on the front lines fighting wildfires in California.

Firefighters from Clackamas, Linn, and Multnomah Counties have traveled hundreds of miles to help save lives and homes. The fires have been devastating. Unfortunately, we, too, have experienced this in Oregon.

As a mother that has had to evacuate her family, and as a businessowner that has had to close our doors due to dangerous smoke conditions, I am praying for all of the families impacted and for the safety of our first responders, but that is not enough.

We have to do more to prevent these fires from starting. Oregon's leaders in wildfire prevention tell me they need the resources to get an engine to every home that needs one, and they need to know that the water will flow when they need it.

To protect us, the government must protect them, especially when it comes to funding. I will work in Congress to ensure our responders have the resources they need and our families are supported in the aftermath of these devastating events.

RECOGNIZING LOS ANGELES RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY WILDFIRES

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

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize all of the residents of Los Angeles and the surrounding areas who have been affected by these disastrous wildfires.

My district is indeed lucky that we have not been directly affected, but our neighbors are hurting badly. Families have lost their livelihoods, their homes, and their communities.

I am proud to honor these organizations in my own district who have reached out a helping hand in these difficult times. Firefighters, small business owners, hotels, and social service workers from California's 38th District have volunteered their time and services to those in need.

I am honored to represent such a caring community. During tragedies like these, we truly see the best of humanity. I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle can learn from these folks in my district who are providing relief unconditionally to their friends and neighbors. Congress should do the same.

DISASTER RELIEF

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for 2 weeks we have watched brutal, orange flames engulf homes, leaving ash and heartache in their wake for both rich and poor southern Californians. Four months ago, North Carolina confronted horrifying destruction from Hurricane Helene.

While we can never put all the pieces back together and we can never replace all that has been taken by fire or flood, we as lawmakers have a duty to ensure the American people can rebuild.

Disaster relief is a lifeline. Disaster relief through FEMA, started by President Carter, gets food, water, power, and shelter to survivors.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in my State, my home county of Montgomery County received more than $30 million for cleanup and repair. Even so, 3½ years later claims hang in limbo. Some families still cannot return home.

FEMA is working nonstop to support victims in more than 100 disasters. As these natural disasters become more and more frequent, we pray for these communities. Yet faith without works is dead. We must commit to fully funding FEMA and the extraordinary work they do with no strings attached. That is what it is to be Americans.

PASSING AID TO ASSIST CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy seeing the devastation across southern California. My thoughts and prayers are with the families who have lost loved ones and whose homes, businesses, and schools have been destroyed.

Arizona is no stranger to devastating wildfires. Anyone in the West will tell you that climate change is making wildfires more frequent and more dangerous, not just in California but everywhere.

This body has a real immediate duty to address the threat of worsening wildfires, and I have introduced legislation to get State and local governments emergency FEMA resources to fight wildfires and protect people and property.

Our first priority is to help those fleeing to safety and to aid the firefighters and first responders, including the brave fire crews from Arizona cities, the State, and our Tribal nations.

When Arizona communities have been impacted by wildfires, floods, or other extreme weather events, the Federal Government has delivered aid without conditions.

When our neighbors in the South, in Florida, North Carolina, and Louisiana, were hit by storms, the Federal Government delivered without conditions.

Now Congress must pass emergency disaster aid for our neighbors in California without conditions.

RECOGNIZING OREGON FIRE STRIKE TEAMS

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Oregon fire strike teams who have deployed to southern California to help contain the ongoing wildfires.

These fires are leaving a historic path of destruction in their wake. Already at least 25 people have died, thousands of homes and businesses have burned to the ground, and many more people have been displaced.

As Oregonians, we know firsthand the devastation of wildfires. It makes sense that we would lend a hand to our neighbors to the south. The Oregon fire marshal has sent 21 strike teams and 370 individual firefighters to California to help contain these blazes.

We are already hearing stories of their heroism. Just last week, a Marion County strike team was able to quickly act and save a family's home when it caught fire.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these courageous men and women who are working 24-hour shifts away from their families and putting their lives on the line to help folks who are suffering right now.

I will continue to support our firefighters and deliver the pay and benefits they have earned. I am thankful for these heroes from Oregon and for all those working day in and day out to stop these deadly blazes.

CONGRATULATING BAYONNE MODEL UNITED NATIONS TEAM

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the talented students of Bayonne High School Model United Nations team who returned from Dubai this week where they represented our community and our great State at the Harvard Model United Nations conference.

Under the leadership of Colleen Rushnak, these young men and women are learning the critical skills of leadership, problem-solving, and international diplomacy. I had the opportunity to visit with them recently and couldn't be prouder that they represented us on the global stage.

Congratulations to the Fighting Bees. You made our entire community proud.

SUPPORTING RELIEF FOR CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

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

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman CHU for organizing the California delegation in support of our fellow Californians who are grieving as a result of the devastating fires in southern California.

Our hearts break as tens of thousands of folks have lost everything. As our hearts break, we know that in this Chamber we have to work. That is our obligation.

I have spoken to fire chiefs in my district, and I am so thankful that our fire departments in Oakland, Alameda, and Berkeley have traveled to southern California to support.

I especially want to thank Oakland's chief, Damon Covington, and others who have stepped up to meet this moment, to go into the fire and to protect fellow Americans. The devastation of

these fires is unprecedented. Just as we have come together to fight these fires, we must come together to bring real relief to families again who have lost everything.

In our country's history, the Federal Government has never placed restrictions and conditions on emergency disaster aid to our people.

STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING INNOVATION IN THE NATION'S CYBERSECURITY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119–13)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUTTRELL) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order that takes additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015 (Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities), as amended by Executive Order 13757 of December 28, 2016 (Taking Additional Steps to Address the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities), and further amended by Executive Order 13984 of January 19, 2021 (Taking Additional Steps To Address the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities).

Significant malicious cyber-enabled activities continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. To address this continuing national emergency and protect against the growing and evolving threat of malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and United States allies and partners, including the increasing threats by foreign actors of unauthorized access to critical infrastructure, ransomware, and cyber-enabled intrusions and sanctions evasion, section 9 of the Executive Order I have issued updates the criteria to be used by the Secretary of the Treasury in designating a person for sanctions for engaging in specified malicious cyber-enabled activities and related conduct.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 16, 2025.*

ADDRESSING CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, we see it every year, especially in the West. When fire season hits, it can be very devastating. Some years were better than others. In the northern part of the State that I represent and some of my colleagues in surrounding States, we got hit pretty hard in the forested areas, some of the grassland areas, et cetera.

As you know right now, southern California, the Los Angeles area, is taking it really badly with the annual Santa Ana winds. It is an extraordinary amount of wind and strength of the winds, driving the fire to a point that hasn't been seen in at least 60 years in that area. It is devastating towns and causing unmeasurable damage so far.

The fires are still raging. It is by the grace of God that maybe the wind will stop. Maybe it will shift somewhat and give the firefighters a better chance to get ahead of it. We know they are valiantly fighting. As it is right now firefighters are coming from all over the State and neighboring States as well, to weigh in on that with the aircraft, the equipment, and the firefighters on the ground to make the stand.

It is going to be extremely difficult until the winds die down. We pray for rain to help them out as well. It is not unfamiliar for me in my northern California district with several large fires in the last 6 years. We have had the Paradise, California, fire known as the Camp fire, which burned many acres. Importantly, 90 percent of the town was burned down, and 85 people lost their lives with that.

Other towns in my own district were consumed as well in later fires in Greenville and Canyondam. In a little town called Doyle, it blew right through part of that. It happens year after year.

It really boils down to: What are we doing for preparedness? What are we doing to treat the lands and have the conditions that we need to be more successful? You are not going to prevent fire completely. You are going to have it. When one occurs, you need to be able to have a fighting chance, and our firefighters have the ability to do that.

□ 1145

Mr. Speaker, joining me today during this Special Order is my colleague from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ). We share that Oregon-California border, and we frequently encounter many of the same issues on fire, on forestry, on water and water issues

Mr. Speaker, to tell his story about what has been going on in Oregon, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me to join this Special Order today and discuss this horrid and tragic situation in Southern California, truly a national emergency.

Note that I call this a national emergency. Why? Because soon Congress will be sending hundreds of billions of dollars to California to help clean up this mess and rebuild.

The most basic level of common sense demands that we not send billions upon billions to California without first looking carefully at the causes of this catastrophe, and when they are identified, making sure these causes will be addressed and resolved.

The sad benefit that will come from understanding the cause of these southern California fires and also of understanding why California's fire protection systems failed isn't limited to California. Every State is facing hotter and dryer conditions. Every State must do a far better job adapting to these conditions. We need to look at what causes these horrific fires, what they did wrong or what we do wrong in trying to put them out, and then apply those lessons accordingly.

You might ask why these questions were not asked and answered in any of the other fires that we have been suffering that were referred to by Congressman LAMALFA a few minutes ago. We have certainly had enough up in Oregon and northern California, but people in positions of authority perhaps haven't been listening. Perhaps it is because those affected didn't have the political clout or perhaps the actions that needed to be taken such as cleaning up our forests are viewed as politically incorrect.

There is little doubt that this time around those who have been hurt in southern California are politically powerful, and they can do something about this, and we want them to. That means doing something about adapting to warmer, hotter, and dryer.

There is a separation, I guess, in how we approach our response to changing climate. One approach is to invest billions, as California has done, in mitigation, that is reducing CO_2, and the other is to recognize it is going to stay this way for a very long time.

It was said by members of the climate commission at Oregon State University that if we stopped all CO_2 production today, our climate would not improve for between 30 and 40 years. During this period of time, we are going to see a repeat of what we are seeing in southern California unless we do something about it.

What is that something?

Well, the first thing to do is recognize that the money you put into mitigation is not going to be available for

adaptation. When I say, ''adaptation,'' I mean protecting people from the kinds of events we are now seeing occur in southern California. We absolutely have to do this. Wishing this away or blaming it on climate change and shrugging ones' shoulders that this isn't happening will not work.

California is raising literally billions, billions, of dollars through clean fuel standards, cap-and-trade devices, and other things, but they are not investing it in protecting their people. They are not. I would hope that those who are watching Congressman LAMALFA and me today would reach out to their Congress folks and say we want you to do something. We want you to not just come in and help repair and clean up, which we will do, but, also, we want you to try to stop the damage that is being done to our forests. We actually want you to do something.

There will be an opportunity, I think perhaps as early as next week, to vote on BRUCE WESTERMAN's Fix Our Forests Act. It would go a long way to making our forests look like this. Why wouldn't we be doing this? What is happening now is certain folks are filing lawsuits to stop us from going into the woods and cleaning them up so that they are not destroyed by wildfire. We can do the same thing in places like southern California by working on water delivery systems and by working on storing more water and having better abilities to put out fires once they start.

Even though this was a, I hope, rare event with these cataclysmically driven winds, this will happen again. This happened in Oregon over and over, it has happened in northern California over and over, and it is time for us to do something about it.

The people who are listening today can do something about it. They can get on the phone and call. They can call their Congressman or -woman and say that we need your help.

I thank Congressman LAMALFA again for taking the time today to bring this issue to the attention of the American people. I think it is incumbent upon the American people to step up, call their Congressman and let's do something about it.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BENTZ' perspective on that as a neighbor, and our constituents year after year suffer some of these same issues. You were showing that poster of our forested areas in the north and in the forests in the west you have the opportunity to manage those lands to be much more fire resilient.

Again, you are not going to completely prevent fire, but you can have fire where it can be a lot more manageable or simpler to put out when it is not raging so much.

You have here an example, on the right of this, of an unmanaged forest. You see how crowded, how dense that is? That means you have more trees, dense trees, and the trees are competing with the limited water supply. They are then weaker; they are more prone to have insects come and drill and kill the trees and just make it a tinderbox.

Over here, this is managed land. If you look at old photographs from before we started putting all the fires out Smokey Bear style 100 years ago, forested lands were a lot more—had a lot more open space in it, meadow areas, and a lot more gaps between the trees because there was more of a natural effect of natural fire going through and taking out a lot of the lower brush, the pine needles and all that, and the big trees with their thicker bark stand and go on.

You had lots of fire back then too, before man intervening, but there was a balance of nature of that. We started with the Smokey Bear program and put out all fires, which is good, but we stopped doing the management in between that nature would do, thinning forests, removing brush because up until the first few decades of the Smokey Bear program and putting out the fires program we were still managing the forests. We were utilizing those wood products. What nature might have burned out we were taking out, and that is where our wood and paper products were coming from.

In about the 1970s when the Endangered Species Act's efforts were kicking in more so then it got a lot harder to get timber permits. It got more difficult to do anything in the forests especially on Federal lands where environmental organizations were trying to basically shut them down and add more and more monuments, for example, or wilderness areas that are basically no-touch zones.

Here is another example of a forested area. This part on the right is an area that had burned out a long time ago on public land. Over here, the fire affected this private land as the government's fire basically spreads into everybody's land. What you see there is that the private parties got back to cleaning up their land and planting it back. You see those trees that are, oh, maybe 15 years old, I will guess, they are coming back. That forest is coming back.

The Federal land that is not being managed is still the same as it was. You see dead snags. You see brush coming in. You see this is going to be a fire zone when all the brush burns the next time there is a fire in that area.

Why is it our friends, our colleagues in southern California have to be subjected to this because they also have management needs in their adjacent areas, part of the moonscape you see in southern California right here. Some of their challenges include—they are not so forested in the areas closest to the cities. They have more of this. They have more of the hilly areas with a lot of brush on it like that. They need fuels reduction projects too in the more arid southern California. Their forests are a little further east, a little higher up. They have attempted fuels reduction projects, but the environmental movement sometimes shuts them down.

Let me tell you about those a little bit. There is one that was under way along the Angeles Crest Highway corridor, one that was completed and did 1,800 acres. It took 2 years of analysis to approve the decision to complete that where a simple environmental review would have been done sooner and only affected a small amount of acreage.

A very noble project that would have helped would have been near the Eaton fire in southern California, which would have been initiated in August 2020. If you look at that project, it was clear—it isn't clear if it was actually approved or implemented because the effect was that there is very little brush clearing that got done there.

When you boil that down to what does that actually mean, it is that if you don't clear the brush, if you are held up due to environmental regulations and delayed permit periods, then you are going to be fire prone. The Santa Ana winds are going to come each year no matter what. In this case, they burned through that brush and came right up to the edge of town. We have seen that in Altadena where in one case here we have what is known as San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and the Eaton fire has burned through that. This monument was recently expanded even more so. What happens with a national monument? As I mentioned a moment ago, it becomes almost hands off, don't touch, don't manage. No equipment can go out there and do fuel removals and very little other can happen in national monument or wilderness areas.

In the designation, it did acknowledge the risk of wildfire and the need to manage it. But what happens? Lawsuits, litigation, and the hands-off approach happens; as a result, the fire that started in that area is what fed into and consumed part of Altadena in southern California.

Now we will talk about the Pacific Palisades, which is the first one greatly affected as you have seen burning much of that community down.

They had a safety project there that maybe in and of itself would not have been the complete be-all and end-all for helping them. You still need the brush lands work to be done so that fire can't come rushing through in areas so rapidly. In the Pacific Palisades, they had a pole line that they were going to upgrade from wooden poles to steel poles and also upgrade the equipment, harden the lines so they are much less susceptible to fire or high winds. In which case, a lot of those winds in my area of northern California if you got a wind warning, then they shut down the power, a Public Safety Power Shutoff. It is like a Third World country. We have to shut off the power because the wind blows. It is a preemptive effort so that branches and things don't blow into the power lines and cause fire like we have seen happen at least a couple

times on big fires in northern California and other areas. When we prevent this work, we put ourselves at greater risk.

In Pacific Palisades they had a pole line they wanted to change out, as I said, with the harder system lines and steel poles, and they were prevented from doing so.

Let's see the plant one here. As the work was being done, somebody came along and claimed that they had an endangered species here. This is a variety of vetch, milk vetch, and they claim it is unique only to that area. It was somewhere around the area where they were changing the poles, and they made them stop the project and put back whatever vetch they may have been disturbing there in the process. That is the one unique to that area supposedly.

Here is when it grows all over the place in northern California either wild or as a crop. People use it for a cover crop to put nitrogen back in the soil. It is really hard to tell the difference, but it is something the environmental movement uses the slightest difference to make that something, oh, my gosh, we have to stop this because it is an endangered species. That is pretty dubious.

I can relate also a recent story when they are talking water storage and water projects, the Tellico Dam, which you may have heard of in the late 1960s, early 1970s that they were putting in place in Tennessee, part of the Tennessee Valley Authority, that it was going to provide massive benefits to the people of the area with hydroelectric power, stored water for water use, flood control, recreation, all the good things.

□ 1200

Somebody from a university was out there poking around, and they thought they found an endangered species that they dubbed the snail darter. For several years, it was the battle over the snail darter. Nobody could really prove anything.

Because the project was so important, after other efforts were exhausted, a bill was run through Congress in 1979 to make it where the Tellico Dam could be built. There was still ongoing litigation after that, but it got to operate.

Finally, what we have learned many years later is that the TVA was operating pretty well and that the biologists at that time somehow had information to remove the snail darter from endangered to threatened status in 1984. In 2022, it was removed from the endangered species list.

Here is the kicker. Just this month, a study revealed that the snail darter was not a distinct species. It wasn't a distinct species.

Look at these two different forms of the same plants. In this case, it is a weed because it is not helping anything. It is a crop in some areas with the vetch.

The snail darter was not a distinct species but actually an eastern population of what is known as the stargazing darter.

This really raises concerns about how genuine the efforts of the environmental left are, to make claims about species identification being so narrowly specific to a particular area.

This is what we and the folks in the Pacific Palisades get to suffer with on at least having that pole line able to be helpful and not furthering the fire with a hardened, newer pole line.

So many things are California problems, we hear time and time again. We have to ask what is going on with the leadership in our State.

I am sorry this has to be a problem for the other 49 States. What we do sometimes has to flow over to others and costs taxpayers of the rest of the country on these issues.

We hear a lot of talk here about conditions being placed on the aid for southern California. There are not conditions for what is happening right now. The firefighters are being sent. Every effort is being made to put the needs of getting the fire out and helping the people who are in immediate need to have the shelter and other things they need in order to get through this timeline.

I guess what we are talking about, and what Mr. BENTZ, our Speaker, and others are talking about, is: What is the accountability, further down the line, on the many billions they are going to be seeking in order to rebuild?

It isn't unheard of to have conditions on other situations in the rebuilding phase. This is the emergency phase. Nobody questions immediate help for the emergency phase, and that is what is disingenuous about this argument that is going on. Nothing is being held back from getting through the emergency timeline here. We are going to get the fire out, and we are going to get the people who are displaced in at least a fairly comfortable situation until the slog that goes through rebuilding happens.

We have lived it right up in Paradise, California. We are grateful for much great help up there, but in Paradise, conditions had to be put on rebuilding homes out of resilient materials. The power lines are being undergrounded up there. There are trees that are being removed. The dead trees and damaged trees are being removed. The landscape will be different so that Paradise does not have the same issue in 40 years. We will have resilient homes that will stand up to fire. We will have the things in place that are going to make it resilient.

I think it is pretty fair to ask, if billions are going to be sent to anybody after a hurricane or after a flood, what are you doing in the flood zone about making sure you have strong levees or maybe not actually building in a particular floodplain that is highly vulnerable, and in these other zones?

It is reasonable to ask these questions. We are talking about 50 States' taxpayer dollars here.

''Oh, you are so insensitive to talk about costs and money,'' and this and that. No. We are getting through the emergency. We are helping people, and there will be help after, but it isn't unreasonable to say: What does it take to put things back in a way that is going to be stronger and more resilient going forward, especially when we are talking about many, many billions?

As I have said, they have done that in the other areas where I have been affected or my people have been affected. It is not unreasonable to say you need to have harder and more resilient areas that are going to be fire resistant. In this case, in southern California, we want them to have these things.

Let's talk about the water supply for a moment. We found out that, as we have heard time and again, the hydrants ran out of water. There are several pieces to that story. There are some realities, too, such as how much you can push through the fire hydrants for a fire that size. Yes, that is a reality. What happened?

Let's back up from that a little bit. They did have a 117-million-gallon reservoir that was empty. The Santa Ynez Reservoir had been emptied for the purpose of repairs. I guess that is okay. We need to repair things, but what is the timeline for that?

They emptied that 117-million-gallon reservoir last February. My understanding of it is that they waited a couple of months to start to put out a bid for the repairs that were needed on the cover of the reservoir. They don't want foreign things to get in there because it is a drinking water supply, as well. Then, they didn't really let out the contract, it is my understanding, until November.

They lost 9 months fooling around in order to do something that is so critically important. Water supply in southern California is a pretty big deal, and it took that long.

I am not sure that any repairs have even been started yet, from the photographs and such. Maybe they are doing some preliminaries. They say it is supposed to be ready by February, so we will see.

They had to draw on three 1-million-gallon water tanks to try to keep the Pacific Palisades hydrant system going. If you had the ability to have that 117-million-gallon source ready, that would have lasted a heck of a lot longer than the few hours the hydrant system did, just based on the 3 million gallons in the tanks there.

We want to talk water supply in California anyway. Gavin Newsom, the Governor, is not helping much. Indeed, his legions of regulators are stopping the water that needs to be stored in California and moved from the places where it is plentiful to the places where it is needed more so, such as the aqueduct system and storing water in the San Luis Reservoir.

There are two sets of pumps, a Federal set of pumps and a State set of pumps. The one the State of California governs is running 15 percent of capacity or so right now. Why isn't that running at full blast, topping off San Luis Reservoir, which the San Joaquin Valley and southern California can draw upon?

We have hundreds of thousands of acres of crops that have been idled because there is not enough water. We have enough water. Even in more drought-like years, the amount of water that runs out to the ocean is incredible. It would blow your mind what we are not taking advantage of.

This is a poster I had. It is a little bit older here, but it illustrates the basic issue that is more or less true every year. The amount of water that flows into the delta right here—this is the middle of the timeline—is about 7 million acre-feet.

Lake Oroville and Lake Shasta combined, when they are full, hold 8 million acre-feet, and the amount here in this illustration shows about 6 million of it went flowing out to the Pacific Ocean.

People ought to be angry over this, that we are not capturing more of that water and topping off here in the delta. The San Luis Reservoir would be just down from the delta a little bit.

Two years ago, remember, we had an amazing amount of rain in California in the Sierras, and we were able to top up everything. Tulare Lake was re-created once again. It is an area in the San Joaquin Valley that, in the past, had been kind of a lake. Because of farming and such, they have been able to recapture that, some of the richest land making some of the best crops in the world come from out there. That is how much water, rain, and snow we had, and it topped off just about all the dams and lakes everywhere.

Then, we had a similar amount in 2023, yet the San Luis Reservoir did not get filled for the 2023–2024 season. It got barely over halfway full because they couldn't run the pumps. Why? It was because of a fish situation they had in the delta. The crazy thing is that the fish that they are trying to save actually had come in in a heavier population than normal, so in the process of pumping moving water, they trapped a little higher number of fish than normal, too, because there were more fish to begin with. So with that, they said you have already exceeded the quota of fish you can take for this year.

They ratcheted the pumps down, and they weren't able to top off the San Luis Reservoir or deliver water to the San Joaquin Valley or to the aqueduct that would have helped maybe top off some more of the reservoirs in southern California.

Santa Ynez Reservoir is one we have heard about, and I have spoken about it a little bit. This is the picture of that. This is more or less full. Over here is what it looks like empty. It kind of reminds you of a stadium or a racetrack or something. When they have the ability through the aqueduct to bring that water from somewhere else and fill that up, the poster I just showed you, Mr. Speaker, the amount of water flowing out to the Pacific would fill that in a matter of minutes if you somehow harnessed all that and dropped it in there. It would have to come down through aqueducts and other means, or they even have wells, as I understand, that can fill that if they don't have the upper lakes above that the ability to fill that.

What it boils down to is that our leaders in California, starting with the Governor, have not been pushing in the direction that would give us the water supply we need that would help everybody and help with the crops.

Instead, as I mentioned, it comes down to fish in the delta. It comes down to the delta smelt, which so many of you have probably heard of around the country.

Why do you even know about that, Mr. Speaker? It is because, time and time again, we talk about the water woes of California.

So many people in this country enjoy the crops that are grown in California. You can see here, Mr. Speaker, walnuts, for example, just about 100 percent of what Americans consume is grown in California, and almonds, tomatoes, mandarins at about 96 percent, and avocados. We are heavy in avocados, and probably in this area, we are talking not far from the fires. Grapes, wine grapes, so much of it comes from our home State. Americans enjoy these products, like olive oil and table olives.

If it is not grown in these areas, then where do you want it to be grown? Where do you want it to come from?

A mismanaged water supply means it doesn't happen in California, which means 90-something percent or above of all those crops coming from there will have to come from a foreign country, if at all.

That means people's choices have changed. It means their diets have changed. That is why California's water is important to everybody. That is why the management of it is important. That is why the management of these forested lands and grasslands are important. It is because these have an effect, too. They have an effect on air quality.

When we had a huge fire in my district known as the Dixie fire a couple of years ago, it ended up being a 1-million-acre forest fire and consumed a couple of towns, which I mentioned to you, Mr. Speaker.

That smoke plume was big enough and dense enough that it was actually able to rise up, come all across the country, and affect the East Coast. People in Washington, Philadelphia, and New York were actually told not to go outside or do exercises on those days for health reasons.

Mr. Speaker, remember the fires from Canada about 1 year ago? They affected people in the same way. The Canadian ones were not that far from here. This one came all the way from California.

Our water supply would help L.A. and others to be able to have a better chance of fighting fires by keeping all their reservoirs full.

Governor Newsom wanted to claim that all the reservoirs were full. They sure aren't all full up north, are they? That is where the water comes from, by and large.

This effect we are talking about is important to all Americans, especially if you want to keep the food products that you are used to coming and if you want to have the air quality not affect the East Coast from giant fires. It is also just the idea of why we would have our fellow Americans suffering from this needlessly because of a lack of leadership that is coming, in this case, from Sacramento, as they kowtow much more to the environmental groups to keep their records at 100 percent rather than doing forest management and brush management, which I showed you here, and kowtowing to where they found a variety of vetch that is indistinguishable from the vetch that grows everywhere else.

I face that in my home county, too. They are looking for things in order to stop people from being able to build homes on the foothills. They look for the species of the day to do that.

It is basically trying to distinguish different subspecies that they are so infinitesimally able to distinguish that it really turns into a game. We saw that with the snail darter, and we are finding it out with more and more things.

□ 1215

A fuels reduction project would be tremendously helpful. We need much more green light. We need the Forest Service, which manages or has under its purview 193 million acres nationwide.

When they came up with the plan about 3 or 4 years ago that said we want to manage 20 million acres over 10 years, that is 2 million acres a year, and 2 million is about 1 percent of their 193 million. That means it would take 100 years to get over all the lands.

Well, the trees grow a lot faster than a 100-year cycle, especially the small trees and the understory I was talking about that creates the fire-prone areas. A dense forest is one that is going to be a tinderbox, and we see it and experience it all the time.

It takes leadership on that, and it takes having the public understand. When we talk about forest management, people are scared to death by a handful of environmental groups: You guys are going to clear cut everything from here to Oregon or wherever.

That is not the case. This isn't the 1880s, the bad days, when they kind of came and plundered the West, seeking wealth, and all that.

We have rules. We have regulations. We have smart people that manage these and want to take care of their assets. These are family operations in

many cases. They go on generation after generation. Yet, they are having that taken away—farming, ranching, timbering, mining.

I will talk about mining for a moment.

California is trying to push these mandates instead of focusing on the stuff people need, such as highways that flow and water being stored.

Let's look at the dam there. We have an opportunity when we are talking about water supply here. This is Shasta Dam in my district in northern California. It is a Federal project. I think we have an opportunity in this Trump administration coming up to resume some of the work that President Trump led during his first term to talk about a possible raise of Shasta Dam.

This dam was actually designed to be much taller when it was built back in the late 1930s, and it would be pretty simple to add 18 more feet to that. That is the plan that is being looked at. It is called a quick and dirty 18 feet. There is nothing quick about any of this process.

That would add 630,000 more acre-feet. Can you imagine that?

Mr. Speaker, that Santa Ynez reservoir poster I showed—instead of gallons, you put it in acre-feet—holds about 40 acre-feet, okay? This would add 630,000 more acre-feet to this dam that already holds 4.5 million acre-feet.

This is a key to the State water supply right here, Shasta and then Lake Oroville, right in my backyard at home, which is another 3.5 million acre-feet. We wouldn't have that much if we didn't have the vision to build those in the 1930s and 1960s under Democratic leadership. President Roosevelt and Governor Pat Brown had the vision for it. What is going on now?

Everything is all about going into a shell and living in a cave under some environmental interpretation. Where is the leadership?

We also have the opportunity in the western part of my district to build Sites Reservoir in Colusa County. It would hold about 1.5 million acre-feet. Imagine 1.5 million more acre-feet, plus 600,000 more acre-feet from Lake Shasta, 2.1 million acre-feet of water we are losing and already have available to us. We are just losing it out to the Pacific.

The poster showed how much water is going out to the ocean that isn't being used for human purposes. Do you know what? That water flowing to the delta isn't even helping the delta. The delta smelt is basically extinct, and they do what they call trawls. They look for it. They try and capture and do counts on them.

We have put so much more water through there. Starting in 1992, legislation here caused 800,000 acre-feet to be taken away from farming and ranching at that point and push more through the delta. Those numbers have completely gone up since then. The State water board is contemplating even more being pushed out to the delta, freshwater being turned into saltwater.

Some people say: Well, you can do desal. Desalination? Great. You can. It works in some places, but it is really expensive. It consumes a lot of power. It consumes an amazing amount of power, the electricity to separate the salt from the water. Just a few minutes ago, if you were upstream, you would have captured it while it was still freshwater. You would have it available without that extreme expense.

Well, you can still desal in California anyway. You guys have a lot of money and the know-how.

Well, a group called Poseidon tried for 20 years in southern California, I think in Huntington Beach, one of the beach towns. They fought and fought and fought to work through a process and to get permits. Every time they would get something thrown at them, they would try again and say: Okay, if we mitigate for this and we take care of that, we can move forward with the project. Then they would come up with something else.

After 20 years and many millions of dollars to build that desal plant, ultimately the California Coastal Commission, yet another layer of bureaucracy and people who say ''no'' to what you might want to do on the coast, ruled against them, and that is it. They are out. There will be no desal plant in southern California.

Somebody please tell me, what is the solution going to be to add more water supply for California? Well, conservation. Conservation is great. Use less when you can. People are using so much less that they don't have yards anymore. They get yelled at if they wash their car. There are golf courses shutting down.

We don't really have to resort to Third World ways of doing that either because we have so much supply that comes, even in the lighter years, from the other areas if we just save it, distribute it, and wisely use it. We can still do the environmental things we need to do.

The delta doesn't need nearly the amount of water flowing through it to flush the salt. They don't want the salt to intrude too far up and get into other areas where people draw water or it might affect fish.

Even the effluent is something we need to work on, too. A lot of the cities around the delta have sewer treatment systems that sometimes don't keep up. They are not treating it down to really clean water and sometimes there is an emergency, it overflows, and it goes untreated straight into the delta. Good water from other areas has to go flush through there and clean that up.

Why? Why do we have to do it this way? Is it to keep some people's environmental scorecard at 100 percent because they don't want more development; they don't want cutting trees; they don't want building water supply; and they don't want us to add lanes to the highway?

Instead, we get things like high-speed rail. They are still pushing high-speed rail in California, a project that was initially passed narrowly on the ballot to use $9 billion of taxpayer bond money to help develop what would be a $33 billion rail project to make a fast train from SF to L.A.

Within a year, they raised that number to $42 billion. I remember because I was there in the legislature. Then, 2 years after that, they said it is not going to be $33 billion, and it is not going to be $42 billion. It is going to be $98.5 billion. This is 2011 numbers.

The number is now somewhere around $130 billion. They have spent maybe $15 billion or $20 billion or somewhere in there. Now they are seeking more Federal money, about $6 billion to $8 billion more Federal, of your 50-State taxpayer money, in this boondoggle.

It was supposed to be completed in 2020. They only have a few bridges built and no track laid. They are building it in the central part of the State from a place called Merced to an almond orchard, somewhere around Bakersfield. I think it is near Wasco or Shafter. Can you imagine the ridership between those two areas? It is ridiculous.

Yet, people say: Well, we should just give a blank check to California. Not when they make decisions like this. We want to ensure that, if California is going to be moving forward on that, that they are going to do much more.

This is a picture of Gavin Newsom at Paradise, where I was with he and President Trump just a few days after the fire in Paradise. Trump warned him then: Look, man, you have to get out and do the management of the forest. You have to get this stuff off the forest floor.

He said raking it. Then they made fun of him for saying raking.

Well, there are actually tools called rakes that they use in forestry to move this material.

Here you have Trump saying: What the heck? Pointing the way here.

You have Newsom, empty-handed, saying: Well, I don't know, man. We have got to try.

It is 6 years later, and he has done very little to help California to be more fire safe. A fire a couple of years after that in a different part of Butte County ended up being called the north complex—because several fires burned together, and they call that a complex.

We had grant money waiting to go to help local folks do a thinning and planning around some of the little communities there and make those areas a little more fire safe and make fire spread slower.

What happened? After 1½ years' worth of fooling around, fighting permits, the fire broke out anyway and burned the whole place down, and the grant money didn't get used. This is what goes on.

Governor Newsom is not doing much to help these water projects move along with any kind of speed. He feigned it a little bit on the Sites one year saying: Well, we are going to

make the lawsuits end—end the lawsuits faster on it.

I guess we should be thankful, but he is not directing this commission, his water boards, to do much to really, really help, whether that is in the north on our water storage or in the south on the infrastructure there.

Actually, he was blaming the locals on the conditions, whether it was Santa Ynez reservoir or the hydrants. He said: Oh, that is a local thing. That is a local thing.

Yet, he wants to come down there and start talking about the vision for a new L.A., L.A. 2.0, or Los Angeles 2028. They are going to have the Olympics there in 2028, I think.

He is already giddy about how they are going to change L.A. into something else. Is this going to become a new planned community of 15-minute cities and people having limitations on how they are going to live there? Is that what you want?

It seems to be where they are going because he is actually giddy about it. You should see the recordings. He was doing a little dance and stuff like, yeah, we have got a new plan for this. We are going to bring everybody.

It is appalling. People are angry. They are angry at this leadership.

How they can have a situation where that Santa Ynez reservoir was empty and the L.A. Fire Department wasn't even aware of that and didn't know they would not have that kind of water supply for a period of time that they maybe would have counted on? The dots aren't connecting here.

Since the State regulates so much of this, then what is the State doing to ensure, since they have a lot of fires in L.A. and have the Santa Anna winds every year, that they are doing everything they can to make sure it is not vulnerable?

Are we doing everything we can to help streamline permits to build up the infrastructure even more? They aren't. They throw more out. They find more species every day, every week, to throw up a roadblock. The leadership there happily seems to acquiesce to that.

When we talk about what we are going to do, there absolutely has to be accountability for it.

I am grateful for the amount of emergency help that has helped so many Californians in fire-prone situations in other areas, and it isn't their fault.

The U.S. Forest Service has a lot to be questioned about on how they manage lands because their Forest Service lands are adjacent to many of these towns. Indeed, the towns grew up as logging towns, and they used to be able to go out to those areas and manage and use those and cut trees for the Nation's wood and paper product supply needs.

That all started shutting down in the 1970s due to the spotted owl and whatever other species du jour they can come up with to do that, or water quality issues. Oh, my gosh, they are going to affect the water quality.

We already know how to do that. We don't cut trees near the creeks anymore. We don't do much near the creeks and the rivers. We stay away. They know how to do that prescription. It still takes forever to get a permit to do any of these things.

As the State moves toward more mandates on electric cars, on electric stoves, and electric trains and trucks—thankfully, a mandate got pushed off a little bit on trains and trucks because I don't know how people were going to get their supplies and get provisions if nobody can ship it in because of vehicles that don't even exist at the level of emissions that they are talking about.

Just let attrition do its job. Let everybody replace the trucks with new trucks over time, and maybe even us farmers could buy the ones that are only 10 years old that are still nice, running trucks when we only use a few thousand miles a year. No, we don't even get exemptions for that.

It is one thing after another to try and do business, to try to be a farmer, to be a rancher, to be a miner, or anything in the State of California and so much of the West.

I hope this place doesn't emulate some of the regulations that California has coming along, like one called the PRO Act, which means you basically have to be in a union in order to work. You can't be a self-employed contractor.

These are the things that come from California that they are trying to push here. Thankfully, we are going to have a change in direction here in leadership coming from the White House.

If we are going to be more successful, we have to consider the Endangered Species Act working the way it was intended, the way Congress passed it back in the early 1970s.

I don't think the weapon that has turned into would have even passed in Congress because nobody would have wanted to have been responsible for what you see now, with people being sued to death if they have a stocked pond on their land. Somehow that can be interpreted as you have now changed the waterways and you have changed the ability for a species to be there, like the raise of Shasta Dam.

They are going to find a species there to keep it from being raised. It is an existing dam which already had plans on the books to make it taller to begin with, except the war came along, and they kind of put off raising it more. They will find a species to try and stop it from being raised a mere 18 feet and adding 600,000 acre-feet.

Endangered Species Act will be used to try and stop the type of timber management that is needed so badly in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and every other area.

One of the counties that I have part of the forest in that is known as the Mendocino National Forest on the western part of my district and flows into the coastal area, 97 percent of that national forest has burned over about a 20-year or 25-year period.

What a stellar track record. Yes, 97 percent of this particular forest that we are supposed to manage has burned over this period of time. That is worse than an F grade. It is astounding that the citizens are putting up with this.

□ 1230

What I see happening in southern California is they are pushing back on the leadership that has gotten us into this situation. We are going to be there for them. We are going to be there right now as we are, as the firefighters—not me, not us, but we are making sure that things are going to be provided so they can get through this immediate emergency, get the fire out, get people stabilized, and then go forward in the rebuild process.

There is nothing wrong with asking for accountability on how we keep out of the situation in the rebuild, as they did in Paradise, as they do just about everywhere else to improve so we don't subject the next generations to the same danger.

Why would you do that? So you don't have cockamamie ideas like Governor Newsom and others have on re-envisioning L.A. and all that.

What does that mean? Does that mean people are going to have choices? Does it mean they are going to have freedoms? Is there going to be some mandate there on how they are forced to live and how they are supposed to stay in tight communities, things like that?

I do have a degree of anger over this as well because I have been watching it long enough as a legislator, as a private citizen, and watching this happen to my neighbors, watching this happen to the taxpayers of the U.S., but of California. So many people are leaving the State that were in business or have a retirement. They are not going to stay and pay for this anymore. They are angry, too.

Leadership is important. Competence is important. Having the fire systems ready at the go, and if it isn't ready enough, if it isn't big enough, then we talk about: Well, how do we make them better? How do we make them bigger. How do we have more capacity for the hydrants? How do we have more water waiting for us? How is the fire department not allowed to know that the people running Santa Ynez Reservoir have had it empty for nearly a year and that they might draw upon that?

Mr. Speaker, three million gallons in three tanks versus 117 million just up the hill. That would have stretched a few hours' worth of firefighting ability to several days out of that 117 million if it had been there and available.

Being able to fill that 117-million-gallon reservoir over and over again with the aqueduct, with the water that could come from the north—no. Instead, it is running out to the ocean. No. We can't build the reservoirs we need to add to the water supply that

everybody needs, people need, SoCal needs. The crops in San Joaquin Valley that I showed you are so important to people all across the whole country. There are people in my neighborhood that need it.

Again, there is plenty of water. There is plenty of know-how. The loggers, the timber people, so many of them are unemployed and have the know-how that could be managing the forest in a way that is ecologically sound and correct. They are not allowed to do it.

Do you know we have to fight every year for something called SRS, the Secure Rural Schools fund that costs taxpayers? I am blessed that there is not pushback on that. We used to have a timber industry that the receipts from the timber we would cut would go for these local—the money stayed locally, the timber receipts, at least a portion, for counties to pay for schools and roads. That is why it is called the Secure Rural Schools. It pays for the county roads, at least in part, and the local schools.

With the spotted owl and the environmental movement taking the ESA and weaponizing it in the early seventies, late seventies, and the eighties, those timber industries died off. The number of mills we used to have in California—which are an important partner in all this. We need to have those wood mills, so if we finally do get around to logging this product and what people need that we will have the infrastructure to actually do something with it.

Instead, since those receipts are gone and since that economy is gone, my constituents, my county supervisors, and other locals have to come here hat in hand to D.C., can you be sure the Secure Rural Schools fund stays in the next appropriation bill or whichever mechanism we are working on at that time. Would you put that in there for us?

Geri Byrne, a good friend, is heading up the Rural Counties of California. She has been an important partner on that, and I would hate to have to look her in the eye and say: We will try. We think we can get it done. We will probably get it done.

Will we get it done in time? We have to get it done before March, otherwise the counties are going to be upside down on that fund that they need to get through that year.

Wouldn't we rather have the receipts come from the forest? Wouldn't you rather have people doing the work, to produce the timber and wood products and paper products that you need from America and not have to have these good folks come hat in hand and beg for another taxpayer fund? I know what side I am on.

We are held up by leaders, whether it is at my State level or some back here in D.C. in these agencies that are just completely thinking about something else. The urgency to get things done, the urgency to get permits done, they don't seem to care how long it takes to get a permit done. There are people out there waiting, people waiting to do whatever the construction project is, whatever the clearance project is.

It makes you wonder.

That is why I am excited about this DOGE group that Elon Musk and Mr. Ramaswamy are working on to say what parts of government are working and what parts aren't. Where do we fund? Where do we not fund?

Because taxpayers have every right to ask those questions as well. We are talking about this situation here, taxpayers have a right to know: Are they going to do better next time? Yet, the mantra seems to be like, oh, you are placing conditions. Conditions is the dirty word of the week on this. It is all rehearsed. It is all coming out on the same memo.

Let's think of another word. Guardrails. Is that good enough? Put guardrails on it. It doesn't matter the euphemism. You need to be sure that Federal taxpayers are going to see at the end of the day the wise use of that so we are not back here in 40 years doing the same thing over again.

That is so hard-hearted and cold. No, it is not. We are going to help those folks. I am grateful for the help we have had in the north. I know the folks in southern California, once they get their feet under them, will be too. I think they want the freedom to be able to reestablish themselves in little towns like Altadena. A lot of nice, regular folks there. This isn't the rich elite. These are more regular folks. They just want a chance to maybe get back to how they were, and I hope we can help them do that. I hope we can somehow get them back to where they were. Maybe it will be with more resilient homes next time made out of different materials. That is good.

We also need to help them with the brush clearing on the mountains above there that are being stopped by regulations or the funding getting pulled back by Newsom. Mr. Speaker, $100 million, I think, got pulled back and part of that would have been the brush clearing that is so badly needed, which creates a buffer when the Santa Ana winds blow fire toward you. If you don't have that brush there, you have got a much greater chance of stopping the fire before it hits the houses there.

So the people in Altadena would like to have that help, I am sure. They would like to have people that are accountable to bring the leadership that is needed to have that readiness.

We assume, as citizens, that things are ready. We assume our police force is ready, the fire department is ready, the infrastructure is ready, the water is being stored. I guess we assume that because we assume we have smart people in those positions that are thinking ahead. We are doing our day-to-day jobs in this Republic. We are not a democracy; we are a Republic. We elect these people that are supposed to be thinking about that stuff.

Certainly, I come down here and rant about this on the floor and whenever I can in committee, and others always want to talk about something else, like the mass inflow of illegal immigrants that cost California so much money.

California is spending money on a whole lot of things. I mentioned the high-speed rail. We are spending money on a whole lot of things that aren't helping its citizens and, indeed, helping someone else—some that are here illegally, giving benefits that are outrageous.

Well, why should the Federal taxpayer basically help subsidize that? California, during the COVID era, drew about $20 billion from the Federal Government to help supplement unemployment benefits and after a period of time when it was clear, they weren't going to pay it back. California, instead of paying it back, has now decided to sack employers by doubling the unemployment insurance amount they have to contribute as part of the pay package for their employees. It went from 0.6 to 1.2, I believe. That is going to cost the employers. Ultimately, it is going to cost the employees themselves, because there is less ability to give raises. All of that is because California blew the $20 billion on something else instead of the maintenance obligation of paying it back to the Federal Government on that unemployment fund.

Is this good? Is this an accountable record that people say: Oh, yeah, just give them money willy-nilly. Not a chance. Not a chance.

So we can demand accountability and not be bad people for it. We are looking for solutions that are long-term and we will help those folks. Our hearts are with you in southern California because I know at the end of this, instead of the rhetoric you are hearing that might be getting you wound up, you would like accountability as well.

You are already angry at some of the folks down there. You are angry at some of the folks in Sacramento that are putting—you are probably angry that the Democrat-controlled legislature is putting, as a requirement, as a condition for some of the State aid that should be going to southern California, the $50-million package of lawsuit money they want to use to fight Trump. That is tied together in a package right now in the State legislature.

So they are pointing at us for talking about accountability. We don't even have a package put together quite yet as we still have to assess all the damages postfire. We are doing everything we can to help during the fire with what people need, but postfire, you then have to assess that. That takes a little bit of time, and we need accountability.

I hope people demand accountability to the people that put them in this place to begin with in California and at the local level.

We are with you on this. We are with you on that accountability. We will be there to help the right way.

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

HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CIVIL RIGHTS ICON, REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I may not use the entire 60 minutes, but I appreciate the opportunity. I would encourage other Members of the House, who are still in town, to certainly come over and to seek recognition on this as I try to talk a bit about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and why it is so very important that we, at least here in the House, take a moment or two or, in this case an hour or less, to reflect on the life, the legacy, and even some of the myths that have circulated over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to rise to really celebrate the birth of civil rights icon and leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who, had he lived, would have been 96 years of age yesterday, and to talk a bit about the dream that he tried to put forward in his short 39 years of life, a dream that he felt would be the North Star and the beacon for our country with respect to human rights and human dignity.

As I thought about that and I thought about his dream, I am reminded of a passage in Scripture, Mr. Speaker, in the book of Genesis, chapter 37 and verse 18, where it says, ''And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him. And they said one to another: Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say some evil beast hath devoured him and we shall see what will become of his dreams.''

Well, that dream, despite the bullet of a lone assassin on April 4, 1968, did very much grow, thrive, and replicate itself as a dream not just for a race of people or group of people but as a dream for an entire Nation.

I remember in 1980, as a young member of the Baltimore City Council, petitioning the council to join with other local governments around the Nation to push for the establishment of a Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday in our respective towns, cities, and hamlets.

For years, every January 15, I, along with so many others, would drive from Baltimore to Washington to join civil rights leaders and recording artists like Gil Scott-Heron, The Last Poets, Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross, Jesse Jackson, Congressman John Conyers, and thousands of others, and we would rally right here on the steps of this Capitol, in the cold, in January, on the 15th of each year, again, to petition for the establishment of a Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday.

□ 1245

I, like many others, recognize that that in and of itself was a beginning. The real beginning, however, has to go back to the Federal legislation that recognizes Martin Luther King Jr. Day as the bill introduced first by Congressman John Conyers of Michigan just days after the assassination of Dr. King.

Unfortunately, it would take 15 years of those protests, perseverance, attempts, tenacity, and pure resolve by civil rights leaders and others across this Nation for the holiday to become recognized, and then finally signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1983. Then, unfortunately, it would take an additional 17 years for it to be recognized in all 50 States across the country.

Fittingly, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was designed to intentionally inspire all Americans to volunteer and to give back to their communities. In fact, it is the only Federal holiday classified as a national day of service.

Like so many others, I feel personally driven out of my respect for the life and legacy of Dr. King to find a way to celebrate this observance through acts of service, for it is only through reflecting the values and the morals and the principles of Dr. King into our lives that we will enact the dream that he has so often been associated with, where justice is the supreme ruler, freedom is the dominant creed, and equity the common practice.

I would urge us to take a moment in this discussion or any other discussion, a moment of remembrance to really talk about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the man, the myth, and the legacy.

I think it is important to point out that Dr. King was born, as I said before, on January 15, 1929, in the segregated south in Atlanta, Georgia, where his grandfather began the family's tenure many, many years ago in another State as the pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

After graduating from Morehouse College and Crozer Theological Seminary, Dr. King then enrolled in graduate studies at Boston University. It was in Boston where Dr. King would meet Coretta Scott, who was also a student at the nearby New England Conservatory. As we all know and as history has taught us, the two would ultimately marry, and Coretta Scott would become Coretta Scott King, and together they would be a formidable force in their own right, in their own time, and in joint pursuit of equality and justice for all.

This remarkable partnership between Dr. King and Coretta Scott King also brought forth four children who grew up to embrace, uphold, and protect the values that their parents had devoted their lives to. I would be remiss if I did not uplift the names of Martin Luther King III, Bernice Albertine King, Yolanda Denise King, and Dexter Scott King, who we unfortunately lost last January.

In 1954, as I indicated, their father became the pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. King, by this time, was a member of the Executive Committee of the NAACP and would join also the Montgomery Improvement Association. He would also help to create the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization that was formed to provide leadership for a growing and sustaining civil rights movement.

Dr. King rose to prominence as a revered leader of that movement in 1955, when a young woman, a seamstress by the name of Rosa Parks, refused to move to the back of the bus in Montgomery because of the color of her skin. Inspired by one woman's act of moral courage, in the face of an immoral systemic system of law, Dr. King led the Montgomery Bus Boycott that lasted 381 days and is heralded as the catalyst, that one act that began the modern civil rights movement.

Now, in order to understand it, you have to keep it in its proper context. Citizens of Montgomery were so outraged that they could pay and were forced like everyone else to pay their taxes, that they could contribute to the economy, that they could find a way to sustain families, and that they could find a way, as all citizens did, to support the government there, only to be told that they could not ride a bus to get to work unless they sat in the back of the bus because of the color of their skin.

It might be difficult to understand, but it is important to point out that those men and women who wanted to maintain and hold onto their dignity decided that they would walk to work, walk to the store, walk to church as opposed to sitting in the back of that bus any longer. Mr. Speaker, 381 days is a lot of days, and it takes a lot of resolve to get through something like that.

It is one thing to see it in a history book. It is another thing if you are living it and you are walking all those miles every day, through summer, winter, fall, and spring, back and forth, to do the things that you had to do, like get to your job, the things you needed to do, to shop for groceries, and to be able to do anything else, but they did it for 381 days. They did it because of the inspiration that they got from Rosa Parks, and they did it also because of the inspiration that they got from this young preacher by the name of Martin Luther King, Jr.

During that boycott, Dr. King was arrested. His home was bombed, and he was subjected to personal abuse over and over again. Now, he was arrested. No one else that did anything else to stop him was arrested, but he was arrested simply for articulating the problem, supporting the efforts of Ms. Parks, and encouraging a community to stand up and to speak for itself.

As I said, his home was bombed. He was subjected to all kinds of insults and personal abuse. By the way, Dr. King was locked up in jail 29 times for standing up for fairness and fair play.

Yet, he never matched the violence he got with violence of his own.

On June 5, 1956, a Federal District Court ruled that the State of Alabama's segregation policy on public buses was, in fact, unconstitutional. When the United States Supreme Court upheld that ruling, it was affirmed that the Montgomery Bus Boycott, led by Dr. King as a result of the efforts of Rosa Parks, was a true story of triumph, and it was, in fact, for many, year after year, a focal point on what civil disobedience can look like and what success can be born of it.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., would go on to travel for over 6 million miles, speaking over 2,500 times to launch his nonviolent protest movement that spanned the Nation. It began to grow, and it began to unfurl, and it found its way, reaching and touching the hearts of a lot of people who never even gave a thought about civil rights, but when they thought about their own selves, their own families, and their own desire to live and grow up in a country that many of whom had fought for overseas and defended with their lives, people then realized that this was not just about Martin Luther King or Rosa Parks, but it was, in fact, about the moral consciousness of our Nation.

After that successful boycott, Dr. King was arrested again, this time in Birmingham. It was in Birmingham when he wrote and declared from a cell a number of things that America must, in fact, consider. He wrote on scraps of paper because they wouldn't even give him writing pads, but he wrote them nonetheless, and those letters are often referred to today as the ''Letter from Birmingham Jail,'' in which he fiercely declared: ''Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.''

We hear that repeated over and over and over again. We should know that those words in that letter from that Birmingham jail cell brought national and international attention to the civil rights movement as we know it.

Some of you will recall the grainy film and the black and white footage of the great March on Washington that occurred on August 28, 1963, where the eyes and the ears of the entire world would be fixated on the magnificent power and oratory of Dr. King.

I know, as a 14-year-old kid, remembering it, watching on a very small black and white TV set the delayed broadcast because live TV was not what it is today, and I couldn't believe as I sat there the number of people who appeared to be a sea of witnesses that had assembled.

Dr. King that day was introduced as the moral leader of our Nation, and he delivered a message which empowered a quarter of a million people in attendance. His words that day brought my mother to tears as I sat in a row house in west Baltimore with my three younger sisters, all motionless from the eloquent force in which he delivered a message of love over hate in his famous ''I Have a Dream'' speech.

At that historic March on Washington, more now than a half century ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stood before a quarter of a million people, as I said, assembled at the memorial of one of our Nation's greatest leaders, and on that famous day Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., heir to Abraham Lincoln, addressed the crowd in these words:

> We have come to our Nation's Capital to cash a check.
>
> When the architects of our Republic wrote the magnificent words in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence that they, in fact, were signing a promissory note to which all Americans would one day fall heir. This note was a promise that all men and women would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Yet, even before the Republic was born, it had already compromised the moral principles articulated in that Declaration of Independence and in that preamble to the Constitution and in all the other pronouncements that it used to justify its revolution against the king's tyranny by having subjected human beings, my own ancestors, to bondage of the flesh as well as bondage of the spirit.

□ 1300

The enslavement of the Negro, the annexation of the Hispanic, and the termination of the American Indian made our Nation's beginning an iniquitous conception because it was born in hypocrisy and dedicated to a false and twisted concept that White men were superior to non-White men and, therefore, somehow entitled to enslave them, oppress them, and, if necessary, destroy them.

In the 200 years since the writing of that preamble to the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and all the other pronouncements that America issued to justify, again, its revolution against tyranny, we have surpassed the wildest expectations and aspirations of our Founders.

We have gone beyond human measure and created a nation of unparalleled power and unparalleled influence. We have grown from a small band of 13 impoverished Colonies to become the strongest, the most powerful nation on the face of the Earth.

Our wealth as a nation is unmatched. America's military forces, perhaps and despite all other propaganda, really have no equal.

Our industry and our technology remain superior, Europe, China, and Japan notwithstanding.

Because of our ideals and our principles, we wield a mighty and forceful hand in world affairs. There can be no doubt that the American flag is still respected by billions of the world's people as a symbol of freedom from tyranny.

Every morning at the start of school, millions of kids still around the country pause to utter the words: ''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.''

Yet, if Dr. King were here today, he might call into question the fact that that does not always still ring true because, in many ways, we are still not one nation. That is the challenge.

Far too many of our citizens do not see their existence as having been due to or under the direction of God. We are not yet indivisible, and nowhere in our own lifetime can it be said that we have practiced liberty and justice for all of our people.

The genius that our Founding Fathers bequeathed to us was to have been, if realized, a form of government based on opportunity but measured against the promise of America. In many respects, we have still fallen short in ways that continue to haunt us, plague us, and, unfortunately, divide us.

Have things changed for the better? Yes. Has there been real and measurable progress? Yes. But it is not just a matter of having come a long, long way. It is, in fact, a matter of having still yet a long, long way to go.

As we begin the celebration of Dr. King's 96th birthday, let it serve, I hope, as a reminder of a union that he forged in the Halls of Congress that ensured the signing and passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act into law in 1965.

Dr. King's spirit should and really must renew our resolve, particularly as Members of Congress and as Americans of all walks of life, to stand for justice, fairness, and equal opportunity whenever and wherever possible.

Across his life, Dr. King was awarded five honorary degrees, named Man of the Year by Time magazine, and, at the age of 35, became the youngest man to have received the Nobel Peace Prize, but all of that didn't matter to him.

All the accolades and the other things that had been heaped upon him during his life—and, I am sure, since his death—really would not stack up to mean very much in the heart, soul, and mind of Martin Luther King, Jr.

At 39 years of age, the person who led the nonviolent movement was taken from us in a cruel manner by the single bullet of a lone assassin. It really didn't matter, as he said, as he preached his own eulogy, what people said. What mattered is that he tried to live his life to exemplify the dream that he had and that still burns.

I can remember the numbness I felt on that evening of April 4, 1968. Like so many others, I felt my heart race when I heard the words come over the radio that said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is dead.

When I reflect back on his life, as I am doing and I appreciate so many of you who are watching are also doing today, I am still reminded of a man who was unawed by opinion, unseduced by flattery, and undismayed by disaster.

He confronted his life with the courage of his convictions and then confronted his death with the courage of his faith.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I began by referencing that Scripture in the Book of Genesis, because Dr. Martin Luther King really was, and in the hearts of many of us remains, a dreamer. I will close by going back to that passage, Genesis 37: ''And when they saw him from afar, even before he had come near to them, they conspired against him to slay him. And they said one to another, behold the dreamer cometh. Come now therefore and let us slay him, and we will cast him into some old pit, and we will say that some evil beast has devoured him, and we shall see what becomes of his dreams.''

Just like that passage in Genesis, that dream has lived on. It lives in the hearts and the minds of so many of us. It is a dream that young people look at and try to fashion themselves after. It is a dream that many of us who are much older will smile and go to our grave knowing that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was, in the truest sense, a true American that gave all he could, not just for his dream, but for his country.

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

REINING IN CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIGAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this week, I announced legislation to rein in the California Coastal Commission, to strip the California Coastal Commission of the powers that it has been granted by Federal law.

The undeniable reality is that the commission is completely out of control and has veered far from its purpose of protecting the coast.

Mike Stoker, the former Southwest administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said this: ''The California Coastal Commission was created in 1972. For over 50 years, it has been one of if not the most overzealous, overreaching, and self-important regulatory agency I have ever dealt with at the local, State, or Federal level.''

This legislation has become all the more necessary in light of the tragedy that continues to unfold in Los Angeles. The task of rebuilding those communities, the imperative of recovery, is going to be difficult enough as it is, but it will be impossible as long as the California Coastal Commission continues to exercise its powers in such irresponsible ways.

My bill, specifically, will amend the Coastal Zone Management Act to remove the commission's authority to block national security-related activities, critical infrastructure projects, and activities with high economic impact, including post-disaster recovery and rebuilding.

We all got a very clear window into the manifest irrationality of this agency just a couple of months ago when there was a proposal by SpaceX, together with the Air Force, to increase the launch cadence out of Vandenberg Space Force Base to allow for more launches that are launching satellites for important national security purposes and launching other payloads, such as Starlink satellites.

I will note, by the way, that Starlink is right now, as we speak, being used by first responders in the L.A. area who have lost connectivity and would otherwise not be able to have the necessary communications for emergency response.

This was all known, by the way, at the time that this sort of use case for Starlink was part of its potential. I wrote a letter, at the time, supporting the request for more launches, and we specifically cited the use in fighting wildfires as one reason why this is important.

Nevertheless, at the time, just a couple of months ago, with this very clear bipartisan proposal supported by the military to allow SpaceX to do more launches, the California Coastal Commission rejected it and tried to stop SpaceX from increasing its launches, increasing its capacity to support our national security, to improve connectivity.

The reason that they gave was this—this is not just me sort of speculating about their reasons—this is literally what the commissioners said in a public meeting. They said that they do not like Elon Musk's political posts on X on completely unrelated topics, and so to punish him, they were going to reject the proposal that wasn't just from SpaceX but from the U.S. military itself in order to do more launches.

That told us everything about what the California Coastal Commission is all about. That was very recent, but this agency has a long history of decisions that defy all rationality, defy all measures of public interest, and that don't actually serve the purpose of protecting the environment and protecting the coast.

Indeed, when you look at the specific most problematic causes of the catastrophe in L.A., forest management and the water supply, the California Coastal Commission has been a major hindrance in both areas.

In 2019, for example, there was an ongoing project by the L.A. Department of Water and Power, where, through Topanga State Park, they were replacing these aging wooden power line poles that were almost 100 years old. They were in an area that had been identified as having an elevated fire risk. As a very important project, these wooden poles, 100 years old in a high-risk area, they were replacing them with steel and with more fire-resistant materials.

As the New York Post explained, the goal of the project was to improve fire safety for the Pacific Palisades area by replacing those wooden poles with steel. Also, they were installing wind- and fire-resistant power lines. Again, this is all in a high fire-risk area.

The California Coastal Commission caught wind of this, and they learned that there was a particular rare plant, a few of the Brauton's milkvetch, in the area, so they rushed in and said to stop. They brought the project to an immediate halt. It didn't get done, and then, in the process, they, in fact, collected $2 million in fines.

This is the sort of action that the California Coastal Commission has taken.

Consider just a decision from just 2 years ago, when the commission blocked a desalination plant in Huntington Beach that would have increased L.A.'s water supply. The commission denied a permit for Poseidon Water's proposed $1.4 billion desalination plant in Huntington Beach.

Of course, we have all seen how the lack of a sufficient water supply is one of the things that allowed the fires in L.A. to grow unchecked. We had an empty reservoir, for example. Here, just 2 years ago, you had the California Coastal Commission rejecting a major augmentation in the region's supply.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, I mentioned the issue related to SpaceX also undermined our national security, in addition to our ability to innovate and the ability to launch Starlink satellites.

The CCC, the California Coastal Commission, has also on several occasions rejected proposals from the U.S. Navy. For example, it rejected the U.S. Navy's proposal to increase sonar and underwater explosives training off of southern California.

In another instance, it filed a lawsuit against the Navy for proceeding with 14 major training exercises off of southern California, again harming U.S. national security.

Then, finally, there is the issue of housing because it is going to be a major undertaking in order to rebuild these beautiful communities. The California Coastal Commission is most assuredly going to stand in the way of that process. It has a long history of denying project after project. California has a massive housing shortage.

Yet, even when we have projects that have gotten all the necessary approvals, which have met all the very stringent requirements set out by the State, the California Coastal Commission will come in and spike the project.

They have done this so much that a group called Circulate San Diego issued a report recently highlighting how the California Coastal Commission has consistently taken actions that worsen California's housing crisis.

They highlighted examples of how even these very, what some would call, left-leaning set of requirements for

housing that the legislature has set, even projects that have met all of those things, they said: The California Coastal Commission ''has resisted, opposed, and delayed the construction of deed-restricted affordable homes that use programs like Density Bonus Law.'' They noted this is true even when all of the zoning approvals have been obtained.

The report documents examples where the California Coastal Commission opposes projects that the legislature encourages as part of California's efforts to combat climate change. Crosswalks, bicycle lanes, and infill development near projects, the report states, are all goals of recent statewide legislation, yet the California Coastal Commission opposes or delays many of these projects.

Mr. Speaker, the process of rebuilding and recovery in L.A. is going to be a long and difficult one. There are some things that we know we need to do right off the bat. Perhaps the easiest thing, the most obvious thing is to assure that the California Coastal Commission does not stand in the way.

That is why I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and both Houses of Congress to move on this legislation as quickly as possible. This will be an important first step towards rebuilding Los Angeles and towards restoring some common sense in California.

CONGRATULATING BLUE ORIGIN ON SUCCESSFUL ORBIT OF NEW GLENN ROCKET

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Blue Origin on successfully reaching orbit in the first flight of its New Glenn rocket.

New Glenn is a 320-foot rocket that is taller than the Statute of Liberty. It has 7 engines, and it can carry 45 metric tons to low Earth orbit.

According to a report from Blue Origin, in the flight that left at, I believe, 2:03 a.m. this morning, the first stage burned for more than 3 minutes before the second stage separated at an altitude of 70 kilometers. Then the report states the upper stage's two engines appeared to perform flawlessly, pushing what is called the Blue Ring Pathfinder payload toward orbit.

This is an apparatus that is going to allow for the adjustment of other payloads that are in orbit and bring them into different orbits, adjusted orbits, from using that device. Apparently, it is now working properly and is registering data. So far so good is the report.

It goes on to state that the engines burned for nearly 10 minutes before shutting down, having reached an orbital velocity of 28,800 kilometers per hour.

As a spokesperson for Blue Origin states: ''The vehicle underpins our efforts to establish sustained human presence on the Moon, harness in-space resources, provide multi-mission, multi-orbit mobility through Blue Ring, and establish destinations in low Earth orbit. Future New Glenn missions will carry the Blue Moon Mark 1 cargo lander and the Mark 2 crewed lander to the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis program.''

We also have another launch scheduled in just a few hours. I believe this is flight seven for SpaceX's Starship which is the largest rocket ever built, the largest space vehicle ever built. I happened to have the chance to watch launch six which was truly an awe-inspiring experience. I wish them the best of luck today for flight seven.

Both of these developments serve to underscore that we are living in a very exciting time where for decades we didn't see much progress when it came to space exploration. We now have a commercial space industry which has picked up the baton and pushed us towards new frontiers.

In order to enable that, I have introduced the New Space Age Act which is designed to encourage and catalyze the growing commercial space industry by streamlining the process for getting launch approvals and getting the FAA out of the picture because they have tried to unnecessarily hold back progress.

I think this will be a great piece of legislation to enhance America's competitive advantage. We are far outpacing the rest of the world right now when it comes to space and will facilitate many, many more flights in the future which have the capacity to not only enhance our national security and bring about further innovations but also to capture the imagination of Americans as well.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DON BREWSTER

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the life and legacy of Don Brewster, the cofounder of Agape International Missions, who sadly is no longer with us.

As we reflect on the life that Don led, we also celebrate the inspiring 20-year legacy he built. After many years of service as an executive pastor at Adventure Christian Church in Roseville, California, Don and his wife, Bridget, visited Cambodia on a mission trip.

When they returned home, they learned about the horrors of child sex trafficking in the country they had just visited. This led Don and Bridget Brewster to establish Agape International Missions, also known as AIM, to combat child sex trafficking.

Don's heart wasn't just for girls to be rescued but to help them find true healing and to live in freedom. During Don's 20 years of leadership, AIM developed a holistic model to rescue, heal, and empower survivors of sex trafficking in Cambodia and beyond.

With the help of dedicated partners and their mission, Don began a SWAT team to partner with local authorities in shutting down brothels and prosecuting traffickers.

Beyond rescue, survivors received refuge and trauma-informed counseling at AIM's restorative homes, as well as access to education and vocational training through their employment center in Cambodia.

Seeing the need to target the issue at the source, Don went on to establish prevention programs that have transformed communities and continue to protect future generations from ever knowing the horrors of sex trafficking.

Don Brewster worked tirelessly to spread love and compassion wherever he went. We thank Don for the legacy he built and his devotion to the global fight against sex trafficking.

As AIM moves into its 20-year anniversary, Agape International Missions will continue to spread Don's legacy and his transformative work. He had a heart for service that seemed to fill the world. Don Brewster will be deeply missed.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1455

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIGAN) at 2 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 16, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 16, 2025, at 2:30 p.m.:

Appointments: Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission).

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,
KEVIN F. MCCUMBER.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. CRAWFORD, Arkansas, Chairman
Mr. KELLY, Mississippi

Mr. LAHOOD, Illinois
Mr. FITZPATRICK, Pennsylvania
Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT, Georgia
Mr. HILL, Arkansas
Mr. CRENSHAW, Texas
Mr. JACKSON, Texas
Mr. PERRY, Pennsylvania
Mrs. WAGNER, Missouri
Mr. CLINE, Virginia
Mr. STEUBE, Florida
Ms. TENNEY, New York
Mr. FALLON, Texas

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, January 20, 2025, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–36. A letter from the Administrator, Federal Grain Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Formulas for Calculating Hourly and Unit Fees for FGIS Services [Doc. No.: AMS-FGIS-24-0027] (RIN: 0581-AE31) received January 14, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC–37. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (Regulation Z) [Docket No.: CFPB-2023-0029] (RIN: 3170-AA84) received January 8, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–38. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Prohibition on Creditors and Consumer Reporting Agencies Concerning Medical Information (Regulation V) [Docket No.: CFPB-2024-0023] (RIN: 3170-AA54) received January 8, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–39. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2026; and Basic Health Program [CMS-9888-F] (RIN: 0938-AV41) received January 14, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–40. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 14014 of February 10, 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–41. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan that was declared in Executive Order 14064 of February 11, 2022, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–42. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad that was declared in Executive Order 14078 of July 19, 2022, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–43. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Hong Kong that was declared in Executive Order 13936 of July 14, 2020, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–44. A letter from the General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Rules of Practice and Procedure; Civil Money Penalty Inflation Adjustment (RIN: 2590-AB45) received January 14, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. MACE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. MAST, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. FRY, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 470. A bill to provide that the Secretary of Commerce shall not issue an interim or final rule or Secretarial Amendment that includes an area or bottom closure in the South Atlantic for species managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region until the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count study is complete and the data related to that study is integrated into the stock assessment; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mrs. KIM, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BERA, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MALOY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CRANK, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. EZELL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GRAY, Mr. BARR, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FONG, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. FRY, and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada):

H.R. 471. A bill to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. ROUZER, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. ISSA, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SELF, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CLINE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. KING-HINDS, Ms. MACE, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. BARRETT, and Mr. LUTTRELL):

H.R. 472. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify personnel action procedures with respect to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. COMER (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. CLOUD, Ms. FOXX, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. CRANE, Mr. PALMER, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. JACK, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. PERRY, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 473. A bill to restore in-person work at Federal agencies to not less than pre-pandemic levels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. ROSS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. MCDOWELL, and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina):

H.R. 474. A bill to amend the Lumbee Act of 1956; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COSTA, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. AMO, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. BERA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 475. A bill to authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person endangering the integrity or safety of the Zaporzhzhia nuclear power plant; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. AMO, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 476. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person that knowingly participates in the construction, maintenance, or repair of a tunnel or bridge that connects the Russian mainland with the Crimean peninsula; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to

the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FONG (for himself and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 477. A bill to advance scientific research and technology development of hypersonic vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 478. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to establish a 3-year phase-in period for de novo financial institutions to comply with Federal capital standards, to provide relief for de novo rural community banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BRECHEEN (for himself, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. MEUSER):

H.R. 479. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require the Secretary to designate food and food products to be made available under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 480. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a methane border adjustment mechanism; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 481. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the limitation on deductions for personal casualty losses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. HORSFORD):

H.R. 482. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the application of the income tax on qualified tips through a deduction allowed to all individual taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 483. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to delay the implementation of electronic clinical quality metrics for accountable care organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TOKUDA, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 484. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to States to support the establishment and operation of grocery stores in underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FROST, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 485. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. AMO, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H.R. 486. A bill to establish a grant program in the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to fund the establishment of centers of excellence to support research, development and planning, implementation, and evaluation of effective programs in financial literacy education for young people and families ages 8 through 24 years old, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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. CASE (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 487. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by requiring preclearance quarantine inspections for all movement to or from the State of Hawaii by either domestic or international travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 488. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to implement a strategy to combat the efforts of transnational criminal organizations to recruit individuals in the United States via social media platforms and other online services and assess their use of such platforms and services for illicit activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, 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 Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. PERRY, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 489. A bill to establish the Federal Agency Sunset Commission; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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:

H.R. 490. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used for any property or entity owned by Donald J. Trump, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FROST, Mr. COHEN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. CASAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. MFUME):

H.R. 491. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 492. A bill to prohibit the establishment of schedule F of the excepted service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. BEYER, and Mr. MFUME):

H.R. 493. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 4.3 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. STRONG):

H.R. 494. A bill to amend the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 to make improvements to the Federal Cyber Scholarship for Service Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. CRANE (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. LUTTRELL, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 495. A bill to require annual reports on counter illicit cross-border tunnel operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 496. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify the Attorney General that basis for the transmission of certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system was improper, does not apply, or no longer applies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 497. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide clarification with respect to the liability of third party payers for medical assistance paid under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself and Ms. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 498. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself, Mr. GOODEN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H.R. 499. A bill to rename the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Dallas, Texas, as the ''Eddie Bernice Johnson VA Medical Center''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 500. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion of Medicare coverage for hearing aids and examinations therefor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 501. A bill to amend certain laws relating to disaster recovery and relief with respect to the implementation of building codes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. MANN, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 502. A bill to ensure the rural surface transportation grant program is accessible to rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 503. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes to codify the defense of qualified immunity in the case of any action under section 1979, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 504. A bill to amend the Miccosukee Reserved Area Act to authorize the expansion of the Miccosukee Reserved Area and to carry out activities to protect structures within the Osceola Camp from flooding, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:

H.R. 505. A bill to impose additional duties on imports of goods into the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas (for himself, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. VALADAO, Mrs. KIM, Mr. KEAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 506. A bill to require assessments for Foreign Terrorist Organization designations, authorize certain appropriations for certain fiscal years for Operation Stonegarden, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. COSTA, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CUELLAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. COLE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. CRANE):

H.R. 507. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude extensions of credit made to veterans from the definition of a member business loan; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 508. A bill to allow expensing of amounts paid to move business property from China to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 509. A bill to decrease dependency on People's Republic of China manufacturing and decrease migration due to lost regional economic opportunities; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 510. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for a 6 month delay before a final rule may take effect; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARRIGAN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, Mr. OGLES, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. WIED, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. MOORE of West Virginia, Mr. ONDER, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SELF, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. JACK, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 511. A bill to provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID-19 vaccine mandate; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 512. A bill to establish a fund to promote the inspection and consumption of shrimp and products containing shrimp or shrimp parts; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. HUNT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BRECHEEN, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 513. A bill to nullify certain Presidential withdrawals of unleased offshore land, amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to establish limits on the authority of the President to withdraw unleased offshore land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. HINSON (for herself and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H.R. 514. A bill to establish a competitive bidding process for the relocation of the headquarters of Executive agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JACOBS (for herself and Mr. SORENSEN):

H.R. 515. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 516. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 518. A bill to withhold the pay of Members of Congress in certain cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. GUEST):

H.R. 519. A bill to require the Inspector General to submit a report on the Federal subaward reporting system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. ELLZEY, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. STRONG, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. MACE, Mr. BACON, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 520. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include an additional permissible use of amounts provided as grants under the Byrne JAG program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MALOY (for herself, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. ESTES, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KENNEDY of Utah, and Mr. FONG):

H.R. 521. A bill to reserve to Congress the authority to establish or extend a national monument; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Mr. SCHMIDT, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 522. A bill to ensure equal treatment for certain faith-based organizations in certain Small Business Administration programs; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ESTES, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 523. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently increase the standard deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. JAMES, Mr. BOST, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mr. PALMER):

H.R. 524. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny certain green energy tax benefits to companies connected to certain countries of concern; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 525. A bill to prohibit funding to the Government of the Republic of Honduras; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BRECHEEN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. MALOY, and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas):

H.R. 526. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to make certain adjustments to the royalty rates for leases for oil and gas extraction on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 527. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, to establish a grant program for monitoring wildfires by satellite; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mr. EDWARDS):

H.R. 528. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a program for post-disaster reforestation and restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. BABIN, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 529. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to establish deadlines for States to count the ballots cast in elections for Federal office and to certify the results of such elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 530. A bill to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN (for herself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 531. A bill to amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 532. A bill to authorize for a grant program for handgun licensing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROSE (for himself and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 533. A bill to make reforms to the Bank Secrecy Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 534. A bill to authorize certain States to take certain actions on certain Federal land to secure an international border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. BALINT, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 535. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit certain donations to Inaugural Committees, to establish limitations on donations to Inaugural Committees, to require certain reporting by Inaugural Committees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. SCHOLTEN (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 536. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the energy credit for qualified biogas property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 537. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credits for the conversion of commercial buildings to residential units, to provide support and technical assistance to State and local housing agencies to identify and advance housing conversion opportunities for underutilized commercial buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 538. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 539. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 540. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 541. A bill to require the Department of Defense to share best practices with, and offer training to, State and local first responders regarding how to most effectively aid victims who experience trauma-related injuries; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 542. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education from receiving gifts from certain countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 543. A bill to direct the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to report on firearms trafficking along the I-95 corridor; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 544. A bill to provide a private right of action against the maker of any component of a ghost gun, and any person who facilitated a sale of the ghost gun, for injury or death resulting from the use of the ghost gun; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 545. A bill to direct the Attorney General to conduct a study on the efficacy of extreme risk protection orders on reducing gun violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 546. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a grant program for civilian traffic violation enforcement; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Mr. CRANE, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. ROSE, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 547. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require an individual to provide a social security number to claim the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. MEUSER):

H.R. 548. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 549. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the clean fuel production credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 550. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study regarding insurance coverage for damages from wildfires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. ELLZEY,

Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. OWENS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. SELF, Mr. WIED, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HUNT, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. OGLES, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. BABIN, Mr. FALLON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. SCHMIDT):

H.R. 551. A bill to amend section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 552. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to promote and encourage collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning that provide administrative assistance to veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 553. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a patient outreach system relating to mental health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 554. A bill to improve the provision of health care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 555. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include a single comprehensive disability examination as part of the required Department of Defense physical examination for separating members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. GUEST, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BOST, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. MESSMER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. FITZGERALD, Ms. LETLOW, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN):

H.R. 556. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. SELF, and Mr. MOORE of West Virginia):

H.J. Res. 21. A joint resolution disapproving of the rule submitted by the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Modernizing H-2 Program Requirements, Oversight, and Worker Protections''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. SELF, and Mr. MOORE of West Virginia):

H.J. Res. 22. A joint resolution disapproving of the rule submitted by the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Modernizing H-1B Requirements, Providing Flexibility in the F-1 Program, and Program Improvements Affecting Other Nonimmigrant Workers''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. SELF, and Mr. MOORE of West Virginia):

H.J. Res. 23. A joint resolution disapproving of the rule submitted by the Department of Homeland Security relating to ''Increase of the Automatic Extension Period of Employment Authorization and Documentation for Certain Employment Authorization Document Renewal Applicants''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. RULLI, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. PALMER):

H.J. Res. 24. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BERA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TITUS, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. AMO, Mr. IVEY, Ms. MENG, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. FROST, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. MFUME, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, and Ms. JACOBS):

H. Res. 48. A resolution honoring Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by celebrating diversity, promoting tolerance, and condemning hate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BOST, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. COLLINS, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mrs. BICE):

H. Res. 49. A resolution prohibiting Members of the House of Representatives from bringing or displaying a flag of a foreign nation on the floor of the House, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. SELF, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. FALLON, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. GOODEN, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H. Res. 50. A resolution recognizing that article I, section 10 of the United States Constitution explicitly reserves to the States the sovereign power to repel an invasion and defend their citizenry from the overwhelming and ''imminent danger'' posed by paramilitary, narco-terrorist cartels, terrorists and criminal actors who seized control of our southern border; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. FROST, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. TLAIB):

H. Res. 51. A resolution honoring Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., on reaching the historic milestone of 105 years of scholarship, service, sisterhood, and finer womanhood; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SWALWELL, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 52. A resolution recognizing and honoring the work of community organizations and individuals who create and maintain services and educational programs for marginalized groups ensuring the resilience and prosperity of members of the LGBTQIA+ community; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states ''[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.''

By Mr. COMER:
H.R. 473.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution, in that the legislation ''is necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the . . . Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''
By Mr. ROUZER:
H.R. 474.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII
By Mr. MEEKS:
H.R. 475.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. MEEKS:
H.R. 476.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. FONG:
H.R. 477.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 478.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. BRECHEEN:
H.R. 479.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H.R. 480.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 and Amendment XVI
By Ms. BROWNLEY:
H.R. 481.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment XVI
By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.R. 482.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8
By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.R. 483.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, section 8
By Mr. CARSON:
H.R. 484.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. CARSON:
H.R. 485.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. CARSON:
H.R. 486.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. CASE:
H.R. 487.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution
By Mr. CISCOMANI:
H.R. 488.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CLOUD:
H.R. 489.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 490.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
article 1, section 8
By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H.R. 491.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H.R. 492.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H.R. 493.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CONNOLLY:
H.R. 494.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. CRANE:
H.R. 495.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:
The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
By Mr. CRANE:
H.R. 496.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, Congress has the power to regulate commerce among the states, in addition to commerce involving foreign nations and Native American tribes.
By Mr. CRENSHAW:
H.R. 497.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. CRENSHAW:
H.R. 498.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Ms. CROCKETT:
H.R. 499.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 500.
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.
By Mr. EDWARDS:
H.R. 501.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
''Regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''
By Mr. FINSTAD:
H.R. 502.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Ms. FOXX:
H.R. 503.
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, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).
By Mr. GIMENEZ:
H.R. 504.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution stating that Congress has the authority to ''make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution''.
By Mr. GOLDEN of Maine:
H.R. 505.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8.
By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:
H.R. 506.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:
H.R. 507.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:
H.R. 508.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:
H.R. 509.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article One, Section Eight
By Ms. HAGEMAN:
H.R. 510.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. HARRIGAN:
H.R. 511.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 512.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''
By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 513.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''
By Mrs. HINSON:
H.R. 514.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18
By Ms. JACOBS:
H.R. 515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 516.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. KUSTOFF:
H.R. 517.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.
By Mr. LALOTA:
H.R. 518.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution
By Mr. LANGWORTHY:
H.R. 519.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the US Constitution
By Mr. LUTTRELL:
H.R. 520.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8. To make 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.
By Ms. MALOY:
H.R. 521.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. MANN:
H.R. 522.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:
H.R. 523.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. MOOLENAAR:
H.R. 524.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8: ''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;''
By Mr. OGLES:
H.R. 525.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution
By Mr. OGLES:
H.R. 526.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution
By Ms. PETTERSEN:
H.R. 527.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of Section of Article 1
By Ms. PETTERSEN:
H.R. 528.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of Section of Article 1
By Mr. PFLUGER:
H.R. 529.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
By Mr. PFLUGER:
H.R. 530.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:
H.R. 531.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. RASKIN:
H.R. 532.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. ROSE:
H.R. 533.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3
By Mr. ROUZER:
H.R. 534.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. SCANLON:
H.R. 535.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution
By Ms. SCHOLTEN:
H.R. 536.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises Article I, Section 8, clause 1 (Taxing and Spending Clause)
By Ms. SHERRILL:
H.R. 537.
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
By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 538.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
By Mr. STEUBE:
H.R. 539.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mrs. TORRES of California:
H.R. 540.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
According to Article 1. Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.
Article 1: 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
By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 541.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 542.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 543.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 544.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 545.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. TORRES of New York:
H.R. 546.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. VAN DREW:
H.R. 547.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 548.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 549.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1
By Ms. WATERS:
H.R. 550.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''
By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:
H.R. 551.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.
By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 552.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 553.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 554.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 555.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. WITTMAN:
H.R. 556.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. ARRINGTON:
H.J. Res. 21.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
By Mr. ARRINGTON:
H.J. Res. 22.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.J. Res. 23.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. BICE:

H.J. Res. 24.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. HUIZENGA and Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 27: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. MURPHY.

H.R. 38: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 141: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 151: Mr. ESTES, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. MESSMER.

H.R. 186: Mr. HUNT and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 221: Mr. ALFORD, Mr. MCGUIRE, and Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 237: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 250: Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H.R. 260: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. SELF.

H.R. 271: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland and Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 272: Mr. HARRIS of Maryland and Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 273: Ms. PEREZ and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 307: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 322: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 332: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. BAIRD, and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 335: Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. KNOTT.

H.R. 383: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 397: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 404: Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 406: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 425: Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCHMIDT, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 429: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 452: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 469: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.J. Res. 12: Ms. LEE of Florida and Mr. HERN of Oklahoma.

H.J. Res. 17: Mr. SCOTT Franklin of Florida.

H. Res. 16: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H. Res. 23: Mr. PETERS, Mr. MACKENZIE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CROW, Ms. MENG, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 36: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025 No. 9

Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, abide with our lawmakers. Teach them to speak the right words at the right time. Make their speech like precious gold set in silver. May they seek to persuade with patient and gentle words. Lord, give them the wisdom to be friends of that which is eternal and abiding. Teach them reverence for the transcendent as You induce them to ascribe all good things to You.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

LAKEN RILEY ACT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 5, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune (for Ernst/Grassley) Amendment No. 8, to include crimes resulting in death or serious bodily injury to the list of offenses that, if committed by an inadmissible alien, require mandatory detention.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask to speak in morning business for 2 or 3 minutes.

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

NATIONAL PHARMACISTS DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on Sunday, January 12, it was National Pharmacists Day. I think it is quite appropriate that we pay attention and give reward to the work that pharmacists do.

I would like to extend a warm thank-you to Iowa pharmacists for their dedication and for their service.

While we commonly know a pharmacist as someone who fills our prescription needs and educates us about medications, a pharmacist is typically the most accessible healthcare provider, and that is especially true for rural America. Do you know what? Nearly 90 percent of the U.S. population lives within 5 miles of a pharmacy.

For several Congresses, I have been leading a bipartisan effort that is called the Pharmacy and Medically Underserved Areas Enhancement Act. This bill encourages pharmacists—only where they are licensed and trained to do this—to offer healthcare services under Medicare, such as health and wellness screenings, immunizations, and diabetes management. This is necessary because, for many seniors in rural areas, it is simply easier to get to a pharmacist than it is to get to their nearest doctor.

I also know that it is vital to protect rural pharmacists from greedy pharmacy benefit managers who have placed unfair pressures on pharmacies in recent years. In fact, I hear from a lot of Iowa pharmacists that if we don't do something about pharmacy benefit managers, we are going to continue to lose pharmacies in the small communities of rural America and particularly Iowa.

So, since 2018, I and about 65 or 70 of my colleagues have been trying to hold PBMs accountable and do that through legislation—about three different pieces of legislation—so that we can lower prescription drug prices and, in turn, keep our rural pharmacies in business. We want to do this through transparency because nobody knows what PBMs do. It is an opaque operation; yet they make up our formularies. Do they help big pharmaceutical companies or do they help the consumer? We don't know, and we need to do that. So I hope this Congress will move on some legislation to make what PBMs do transparent because with transparency comes accountability.

I am going to keep fighting for our pharmacists and our consumers.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 6

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 6) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

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

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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Cabinet confirmation process is well underway here in the U.S. Senate. Confirmation hearings began this week with Defense Secretary nominee Pete Hegseth in the Armed Services Committee on Tuesday. Yesterday, we had six confirmation hearings—the most confirmation hearings, I might add, in a single day since 2001—and we have more happening today and tomorrow. By the time President Trump takes the oath of office on Monday, the Senate will have held hearings for 12 of his nominees, and there are plenty more to come.

Once the committees complete their work, the process will move to the floor, and we will move as quickly as possible on those votes. I hope Democrats will provide a level of cooperation that will allow us to quickly fill these positions so these nominees can begin their work for the American people.

One of the nominees being considered this week is a familiar face to us in the Senate. Yesterday, our longtime colleague Senator RUBIO found himself on the other side of the dais in the Foreign Relations Committee for his hearing to be Secretary of State. Members of that committee are well acquainted with Senator RUBIO's expertise in foreign policy. He has been a leading voice on these issues here in the Senate and on the Foreign Relations Committee since he arrived here in 2011, and yesterday, his expertise was on full display. Whether he was discussing China, the Middle East, Russia, our alliances, or anything else, our colleague demonstrated his command of international affairs.

MARCO also clearly laid out the philosophy he will bring to the job. He spoke about peace through strength, restoring American leadership, and advancing America's interests.

Our colleague is ready to step into the leadership void that the Biden administration has too often left on the world stage. In too many instances, the Biden administration has chosen to appease our enemies rather than demonstrate strength.

As yesterday made clear, we can expect Senator RUBIO to bring a moral clarity to foreign policy that has been sorely lacking in the last 4 years. That is important—moral clarity—and it has never been a challenge for MARCO RUBIO.

Take our relationship with China. The senior Senator from Florida has been a leading voice on the Chinese Communist Party's malign intentions and their implications for the United States. He has been clear-eyed about what the United States ought to do to outcompete China in this century, and he has been outspoken in calling attention to China's human rights abuses. He was a leading voice on China's repression of its own people in Xinjiang, and he led the charge on the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act in the U.S. Senate. And he didn't stop once it became law; he made sure the legislation was being implemented properly. He called out companies suspected of using forced labor, and he advocated for the Biden administration to do a better job of vetting imports.

All of us here in the Senate know of MARCO's unwavering commitment to freedom. He has been a strong supporter of freedom fighters in Hong Kong, and he has been outspoken in his support for Taiwan as the Chinese Communist Party has grown more aggressive.

He is also a fierce defender of democracy and human rights in Latin America. His family watched their native Cuba deteriorate under a communist dictatorship, and it was conversations with his grandfather about Cuba's plight that drew Senator RUBIO into public service. So it is no surprise he is one of the strongest defenders of the rights of the Cuban people.

He is also a strong voice for democracy and justice in Venezuela. MARCO has been outspoken in his criticism of the Biden administration's appeasement of the Maduro regime, and he was a clear voice in defense of democracy as the country suffered through Maduro's corrupt election last year.

As we heard in his testimony yesterday, our colleague is focused on advancing America's interests. As he said, ''Every dollar we spend, every program we fund, and every policy we pursue must be justified by the answer to three simple questions: Does it make America safer? Does it make America stronger or does it make America more prosperous?'' I think that is what the American people should expect from a Secretary of State and from their government, and anybody who watched his hearing yesterday knows that is what we are going to get from MARCO RUBIO as Secretary of State.

I will have more to say about MARCO and other nominees for the Trump administration as they move through the process here in the U.S. Senate, and I look forward to hearing from each of the President's nominees in the near future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, President Biden delivered his farewell address, reflecting on his 4 years in office, which will be remembered as one of the most productive periods in modern American history. Working alongside President Biden for the American people was the honor of a lifetime.

When President Biden took office, America was in crisis. The pandemic was surging. The economy was reeling. Our democracy was under assault. But President Biden, with good help from Senate Democrats, got right to work, and together, I am proud that we achieved one of the most ambitious legislative agendas in decades.

Working with President Biden, we created nearly 17 million new jobs, the most in a single term. We passed historic legislation, like Chips and Science—that was a baby that I nurtured—the bipartisan infrastructure law, and the Inflation Reduction Act. We lowered the cost of prescription drugs for tens of millions of Americans. We passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. We enshrined marriage equality into law. We confirmed 235 well-qualified and historic judges to lifetime appointments—more judges than any majority has confirmed in decades—and so much more.

President Biden also left America with a somber warning in his address—one that every American should listen to. He cautioned that ''an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power, and influence'' that will threaten all the progress our country has made in the last 4 years.

President Biden is right. An oligarchy is beginning to take shape in America, and you can see it by looking at the incoming Trump administration.

Donald Trump has not even taken office yet, but many of his top advisers and Cabinet picks are extremely wealthy people with deep ties to corporate special interests. Many of these Cabinet picks seem to see the world through the eyes of a very rich and privileged individual—a very limited vision indeed. And the agenda they are pushing—tax cuts for the ultrawealthy and draconian cuts to the working class—is narrow and only furthers inequality in America.

Donald Trump's agenda would precisely benefit the oligarchy class that President Biden is warning about. The progress we have made under President Biden's leadership—lower taxes for families, more affordable healthcare, investments in infrastructure and energy—should not be undone only to assuage the desires of a limited few.

We Democrats will continue the legacy that President Biden created, continue fighting for working families, and make sure that everyone in America—not just the uberwealthy—has a fair shot.

TIKTOK

Mr. President, now on TikTok, the 170 million Americans who use TikTok are rightfully asking the same question: What will happen to the app after the ban enters into effect next week?

Today, I want to say a few words about protecting TikTok's future while also protecting America's national security at the same time.

We aren't against TikTok. We want TikTok to keep going. But we are against a Chinese company that is in cahoots with the Chinese Communist Party owning TikTok. Unfortunately, TikTok, as it exists today, has too many security risks that cannot be ignored. The law passed last year was intended to sever TikTok from the influence of the CCP while keeping the app available for Americans.

It is clear that more time is needed to find an American buyer and not disrupt the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans, of so many influencers who have built up a good network of followers. That is why, last night, Senate Democrats tried to pass a bill that would extend the deadline to give everyone more time to come up with a workable solution, but Senate Republicans blocked our bill, which is stunning because time is running short.

We will continue to work to find a responsible solution to keeping TikTok going, protect American livelihoods, and protect against Chinese Communist Party surveillance. We must and can do all three. I have made my views clear to the current administration, and I will work with the Trump administration and with both parties to keep TikTok alive while protecting our national security.

We can all agree that we must protect Americans' privacy from the prying eyes of the Chinese Communist Party, but we also should agree it must be done in the right way, without risking content creators' livelihoods by rushing this process in a premature way. TikTok should survive but under new ownership.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on nominations, this week, the American people have gotten their first real look at what is in store for them under a second Trump administration, and it is very bad news for the working and middle class. Senate Republicans, of course, are in the majority. They control, to a large extent, the final outcome of each nominee in this Chamber if they stick together. And Donald Trump's hold on Senate Republicans, as we have seen throughout the nominations process, is very, very strong.

Even so, there are two reasons why holding these hearings is extremely important regardless of outcome. First, they create a contrast between the parties. People will see what we stand for and what our Republican colleagues stand for as they support Trump's nominees. And second, the hearings create a record to hold these nominees accountable should they fail on the job down the line—which, unfortunately, I think many will, given their meager qualifications.

The contrast between whom Democrats will fight for and whom Republicans will fight for is becoming exceedingly obvious, thanks to these hearings. On the Democratic side, we want answers to the things Americans are worried most about: What does Donald Trump's agenda mean for jobs, for inflation? What are Trump's tariffs going to do to people's bottom lines? Will it send prices shooting up?

And people are going to ask: Are my prescription drugs going to get more expensive? They are going to ask: Will our broken tax system become even more unfair under President Trump in a way that rigs the system for the ultrawealthy? These are the questions Americans care about. These are the things Democrats want answers to from President Trump's nominees. And in many cases, the answers are very, very troubling.

Second, even if these nominees are confirmed in the end, given that Donald Trump's hold on Senate Republicans is so absolute, the American people deserve to have a record they can reference down the line.

Candidly, many of President Trump's nominees are not fit for the job. Look at Pete Hegseth. Confirming some of these people would be a reckless roll of the dice for our country, but Republicans, under pressure from President-elect Trump, seem willing to press ahead nonetheless.

Should the time come that some of these nominees fail on the job, the hearings we are holding right now will come back to haunt our Republican colleagues because the warnings will have been there from the start. By asking tough questions, by getting nominees on the record, by establishing that many of these individuals are unfit, these hearings will have been the canary in the coal mine that warns everyone that some of these nominees are too great a risk.

So Democrats will continue to uphold our responsibility to scrutinize each nominee on the issues Americans care about. We will continue asking the tough questions because working people deserve to know whose side Donald Trump is truly on. Is it working people, like Donald Trump claims, or is it corporate special interests like his nominations all too often suggest?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Kentucky.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier this week, President Biden went to the State Department and offered a final assessment of his record on foreign policy. He insisted that his leadership had ''increased America's power in every dimension,'' that we were ''stronger at home, stronger in the world, and . . . more capable . . . than we have been in a long time.''

I suspect the only people who buy that assessment were right there in the room with the President. No doubt, those watching from further afield found those remarks unconvincing. What most of us saw was a final rearguard action to cover for an administration that has been in retreat for 4 straight years.

The President's tough talk about Putin is undone by his chronic and well-documented fear of escalation—the hesitation and half measures that kept critical tools out of Ukrainian hands when they could have made a difference. Even his most senior aides inadvertently acknowledged the truth. In a legacy-shopping column in the New York Times, Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin say it was ''steadfast American leadership'' that rallied the world to ''help Ukraine survive the Kremlin's imperial onslaught.''

To help Ukraine survive. Not to help defeat aggression, not to help restore sovereignty, not to help degrade the power of a major adversary—just to let Ukraine's resistance languish on the slow drip of critical capabilities moving far slower than the speed of relevance.

Or take this administration's approach to the Middle East. On Monday, the President was optimistic about the prospects of defeating Iran's terror proxies and restoring credible deterrence under which Israel and its neighbors could live in peace. But absent entirely was any recognition that it was Israel, not the United States, that has created this geopolitical opportunity.

And no recognition that Israel has done so in spite of the administration's best efforts to restrain a sovereign ally's self-defense. In the 468 days since the horrors of October 7, the President's public scolding of a close ally under attack and refusal to check the growing anti-Israel streak poisoning his party have exposed his ironclad commitment to Israel as something of a hollow gesture.

This, after a disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan had given allies and partners enough reason to doubt the strength of America's word—and his administration's competence.

And behind President Biden's bluster about ''winning the worldwide competition'' with China is a record of paltry investment in the hard power America needs to meet aggression and to reassure our allies.

For 4 straight years, he submitted defense budget requests that failed to even keep pace with inflation, let alone the pacing threat of the PRC.

While America's primary long-term strategic competitor extended its lead in developing and producing lethal capabilities, the Biden administration focused on climate diplomacy. And its signature climate protectionism picked avoidable trade fights with allies and

partners we will need to deter or defeat Chinese aggression.

In light of the PRC's headway and closer alignment with other adversaries, America's warfighters are no better equipped today to deter and defeat aggression than we were 4 years ago and no more certain that the institutions designed to support them actually have their backs.

And from Europe to the Middle East to the Taiwan Strait, the forces that wish harm to America, to our people, to our values, to our interests, and to our allies have seized an opportunity.

On Monday, President Biden's foreign policy will end, and a new Commander in Chief will have to contend with his staggering failures. A new administration will have to clean up the mess their predecessors made of American power and American credibility.

It is no secret that the incoming national security team will take a distinctly different approach. The President-elect has expressed repeatedly his intention to reorient American national security decision making around a simple guiding principle: peace through strength. And he would be right to do so.

His administration's work must begin with restoring American hard power and bolstering our deterrent. The world they will inherit is more dangerous and more hostile to U.S. security interests than the one he left to President Biden 4 years ago.

The free world is less likely to trust our commitments, and the authoritarians convening against us are more likely to scoff at our threats. Russia, Iran, North Korea, and the PRC are finding more and more that the desire to weaken the United States and undermine the order we lead is a shared objective and one toward which they are now working together in coordination to weaken the United States.

As I have counseled the President-elect already, we cannot afford to discount this coordination. No matter how loudly others press him to embrace retreat and retrenchment, America cannot address grave threats to our interests a la carte. And as I have said repeatedly, there is no language these adversaries understand more clearly than strength.

There is no surer way to restore meaningful deterrence against them than by investing in our capacity and proving our willingness to impose devastating costs.

It is common to refer to today's challenges as the gravest America has faced since World War II, but we certainly don't invest like we believe that is the case.

So here is a good way of looking at it: Beating the axis in World War II meant spending 37 percent of our GDP on defense; in the Korean War, it took nearly 14 percent; the height of Vietnam, 9 percent; the Reagan buildup at 6 percent. Today we are spending 3 percent of GDP on the arsenal of democracy.

Peace through strength must be more than a pithy phrase—vaguely tough-sounding but functionally benign. It must instead stand for a clear and measurable commitment to rebuild the arsenal of democracy and the most lethal fighting forces in the world.

As chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I take the President-elect's commitments very seriously, and I know he knows that deterring a war is cheaper than fighting one. And I stand ready to work closely with this administration in the current urgent work ahead, rebuilding the capabilities and capacity we need in order to credibly pursue peace through strength.

That work, of course, begins with assembling an experienced and well-qualified team. The incoming administration is right to expect swift consideration of Cabinet nominations and broad deference on the confirmation of nominees whose credentials and records prove them worthy of the highest public trust and whose policy views align with the administration's goal.

Nominees whose professional experience is commensurate with the responsibilities of the office and who have demonstrated in detail their command of relevant policy will certainly have my vote. I intend to support a large slate of nominees who satisfy these conditions. In particular, I will vote to confirm nominees to senior national security roles whose record and experience will make them immediate assets, not liabilities, in the pursuit of peace through strength.

Our chance to turn the page on the damage of the Biden administration's record simply cannot come soon enough.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). The majority whip.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today having been in a number of hearings involving President Trump's nominees overseeing American energy dominance. I tell you, President Trump's energy nominees show that this administration that is coming in, the Trump-Vance administration, is serious about unleashing affordable, available, reliable American energy.

Doug Burgum is President Trump's nominee to be Secretary of the Department of the Interior. He is still testifying right now in the Energy Committee. He is the son of North Dakota, and his roots run deep in the West.

Chris Wright, who had his hearing yesterday, is President Trump's nominee to be the Secretary of Energy. His data-driven leadership and creativity laid the foundation for the fracking boom that we experienced in this Nation that has fueled American energy independence.

And Lee Zeldin, whom I had the privilege of introducing earlier this morning at the EPW Committee, well, he is a nominee to be the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. He is a lawyer; he is a veteran; and he is a former star Member of the House of Representatives. He is going to cut redtape. He is going to balance environmental stewardship with sensible energy production.

All three of these nominees are excellent choices to carry out President Trump's ''all of the above'' energy strategy. They all have my vote.

Like most Americans, President Trump and his nominees understand that energy policy is the foundation of our Nation's future and our success. It is linked directly to the prices that we pay, to the technology that we create, and to the world in which we live.

Unleashing American energy means lower prices, means more innovation at home, and it means more safety and security for our citizens.

Well, we have seen it before. Affordable, reliable energy was the rocket fuel for American security and prosperity, and we saw it during the first Trump administration. But over the last 4 years, Democrats restricted and regulated and tried to reduce American energy production, instead of unlocking its full potential. Their America-last energy strategy policies led to painfully high prices and a more vulnerable nation. I think energy was on the ballot this year, and energy won.

Fortunately, President Trump is placing a premium on energy production. He is already laying the groundwork to take the handcuffs off of American energy production. On day one, I expect the President is going to sign a blizzard of Executive orders to bring back American energy dominance. First day priorities include ending the Democrats' electric vehicle mandate, more drilling on Federal lands, and resuming exports of U.S. liquefied natural gas.

This is certainly good news for my home State of Wyoming. Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. Oil and gas is our bread and butter. We have world-class reserves of coal. We have world-class wind. We have benefited from American energy dominance, and our Wyoming tough energy workers made it all possible. Wyoming energy workers now stand ready to unleash American energy once again.

I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle preach doom and gloom about energy independence. The Democrat leader here on the floor said yesterday Chris Wright, who is the President's nominee for the Secretary of Energy—he called this nominee an energy extremist. Why? Because Chris Wright believes ''oil and gas make the world go round.'' Well, it does.

This is the depth of the Democrats' climate delusion. Oil and gas drive our economy, produce great jobs, and produce our prosperity. And because of American oil and gas, we do it cleaner; we do it safer; and we do it more reliably than anyplace else on planet Earth.

The facts could not be clearer. Since 2005, America has been responsible for

66 percent of emission reduction among developed countries. We do it better than anyone else in the world. We have reduced more emissions than the next six countries combined.

There is a reason why, and it is not because Joe Biden bribed Americans to buy solar panels or buy electric cars. No, it is American energy production, American energy dominance. It is because we unleashed affordable, available, reliable American energy. For the record, we can thank Chris Wright and the fracking boom for unleashing a lot of that energy.

In 2019, America became energy independent for the first time in 50 years. Why? How did it happen? President Trump did it. With Doug Burgum, Chris Wright, and Lee Zeldin on America's team, we are going to do it again.

(The remarks of Mr. BARRASSO pertaining to the submission of S. 140 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is 4 days until President Trump will be inaugurated for the second time as President of the United States. That means we only have 4 more days of President Biden's absentee leadership, but he seems to be making the most of his final days as he goes out the door, and he certainly isn't letting it kick him on the way out.

I think the most egregious example of the abuse of power, really, that President Biden is engaged in, now that the election is over and he doesn't have to stand for a vote among the American people—so he pretty much has given them a thumb in the eye. Perhaps one of the most egregious examples of this was his pardon of his son Hunter on December 1 of last year.

Despite numerous efforts by the FBI and DOJ to protect Hunter Biden from accountability for his crimes, President Biden decided to attack his own Department of Justice and say his son was selectively and unfairly prosecuted. Well, it is hard to imagine someone thinking they were unfairly targeted when the entire government Agencies did everything they could to protect him from coming to justice.

And thanks to a diligent and careful judge who was able to expose a sweetheart deal that would have exonerated Hunter Biden previously, he was convicted of illegally possessing a firearm, and he stood charged with massive tax fraud.

President Biden said time and time again: I promise I am not going to pardon him. And then he turned around, and he did.

But he didn't stop there. He used his last days in office to go on a little pardon spree, granting clemency to 39 individuals, as well as commuting the sentences of convicted murderers on death row.

These people were convicted of crimes ranging from conspiracy to commit wire fraud in a mortgage fraud scheme to stealing government property, to signing false documents, bank theft, participating in income tax fraud, and the misuse of a Social Security number.

But the truth is, these are not victimless crimes, and they are not the sort of occurrences we want to see happening more frequently. There is a reason why our criminal justice system provides for accountability and punishment in appropriate circumstances. That is to set an example for others not to go down that path and to have some measure of accountability, which is an important part of justice.

These criminals were not the only people that got a last-minute gift from President Biden. On January 4, President Biden announced a list of 19—19—new recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This included George Soros and others.

George Soros, of course, is a billionaire philanthropist who has doled out billions of dollars for leftwing political causes, from ''defund the police'' movements to anti-Israel organizations, to those who promote open borders, such as we have experienced, tragically, over the last four years.

Of course, these are the same policies that have caused so much suffering and frustration among the American people, which they voted on. I believe it was a referendum on November 5. The people voted to change the direction the country was headed in because most Americans, according to public opinion polling, felt like America was on the wrong path and needed a change of course.

And now a key architect of those failed policies was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Talk about devaluing an award that is supposed to be given for extraordinary service to the country.

Of course, I support the rights of individuals to be generous with their wealth. America is one of the most generous countries in the world, and I think it is something we should be proud of.

I imagine how our colleagues on the other side of the aisle might act if Republicans honored a prominent conservative philanthropist. Do you think the media or our Democratic colleagues would applaud it in the same way? No chance. Conservative philanthropists have been not only not given Medals of Freedom, they have been subjected to endless scrutiny, including politically motivated subpoenas from our Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, just this last year. But now, Democrats are rewarding their own with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

It is like the hearing we had this morning on the Finance Committee. Scott Bessent, the next Secretary of the Treasury, was there. We had to listen to the ranking member go on a diatribe about why it is so important that American taxpayers be exposed to a multitrillion-dollar tax increase. He said this is about tax cuts for the wealthy. But the fact of the matter is—and the nominee pointed this out—that the top 1 percent in the country pay the vast majority of income taxes. But the facts, apparently, are not all that important to our Democratic colleagues.

President Biden wasn't finished rewarding his friends with grants of clemency and Presidential honors before he left office. He also sent a parting gift to one of his favorite beneficiaries, which are radical climate activists.

I don't doubt that the climate is changing. I don't doubt humans have an impact on it. But to say this is the end-all and be-all of all of our policies, to the detriment of our economy, job creation, and so many other important issues, just strikes me as misguided.

One of the consequences is that Americans have been suffering under high prices for energy under President Biden's Presidency. Electricity prices have risen more than 30 percent. We know that these high prices are the direct result of President Biden's policies, which put climate activists in the front seat, while working families are left behind.

But the President couldn't help himself from doing more damage on the way out the door. The day after Christmas, President Biden's Energy Department finalized new climate regulations that would functionally ban almost all natural gas-powered water heaters. Why would he do something like that?

An analysis from the American Gas Association estimates that 40 percent of customers will be directly impacted by a rule with a net cost increase, since they will be required to buy a new electric water heater. The AGA notes that the households affected are largely low income and senior citizens on a fixed income, who are more likely to choose a cost-effective water heater that will now be banned under the rule.

Of course, if people want to buy a more expensive water heater with their own money, I have no objection to that. I am all for the freedom to do so. But to impose additional costs on seniors who have fixed incomes and other low-income families who are struggling to get by under the high prices and the 40-year high inflation under the Biden administration simply adds insult to injury.

But President Biden didn't stop there. Two weeks ago, the Biden administration gave the State of California permission to enforce zero-emissions rules for lawn mowers and leaf blowers. This may sound like a small thing, but it is emblematic of much bigger things, and it adds up. This rule

would prohibit the sale of new equipment under 25 horsepower or 19 kilowatts that failed to achieve ''zero emissions.''

Is there no home appliance or device that is safe from this radical agenda? The Biden administration has targeted gas-powered cars, gas stoves, water heaters, and now they want to get after our lawn mowers and leaf blowers.

As I have said before, I don't have any objection to anyone who wants to improve their carbon footprint, if that is important to them, by purchasing new low-emissions lawn mowers. God bless them if they want to do that. But for working families to have to deal with this mandate, who are just trying to keep up with inflation, a new lawn mower just might not be in their budget.

Well, suffice it to say, the Biden administration is working hard on the way out the door and wreaking havoc in the process.

Mr. President, Republicans are taking note. We know that, with President Trump being sworn into office next Monday, with new majorities in the House and the Senate, things are going to change. The American people voted for change, and they are going to see a change—a change away from these radical policies and special interest pieces of legislation or regulation that hurt the vast majority of Americans for the benefit of an ideological agenda.

One of the tools we are going to be using is something called the Congressional Review Act. As the Presiding Officer knows, this is a powerful tool which allows a vote of Congress and a Presidential signature to essentially veto an administrative Agency rule. There is a timeframe. I believe it is 60 legislative days during which we can look back and essentially impose a legislative veto of that rule.

Using this mechanism, Congress can review and rescind regulations that it disapproves of, because, of course, many of these regulations are promulgated by administrative Agencies that never have to stand for election. They never have to appeal to the voters. They never have to explain themselves to the voters. They just do what they do, which is create more and more red-tape and regulation.

So I am glad we are going to be able to focus, soon after we confirm President Trump's Cabinet, on Congressional Review Act regulatory disapprovals. I plan on introducing a few of these myself so we can reverse many of the Biden administration's misguided regulations. I know other colleagues plan to do the same thing.

President Biden may have been busy over the last few months, since the November 5 election, but we are gearing up to be even busier, undoing much of the mischief that he has wrought during these last couple of months on his way out the door.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to display a framed item during my remarks.

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

NOMINATION OF PETER B. HEGSETH

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, in these serious times, we need a serious candidate to lead our military. We need someone with merit to lead our meritocracy, someone with moral strength to be in charge of protecting our national strength.

For all these reasons and quite a few more, I will not be voting to confirm the extremely unqualified Pete Hegseth as Secretary of Defense. Our troops deserve better than a guy who was seemingly only nominated because he used to host Trump's favorite TV show on FOX News.

I have plenty to say about Mr. Hegseth and the many, many ways in which he would degrade our military readiness. It is no secret I disagreed with Trump on nearly everything during his first term. Yet I still voted to confirm both James Mattis and Mark Esper when he nominated them for this very role. The thing is, Hegseth has never led thousands of people like Mattis had. He never ran an entire Army like Esper did. No, the only thing Hegseth has ever run, he has run it into the ground. The only major organizations he has ever led, he has led into debt.

Pete Hegseth is unqualified, he is unprepared, he is unethical, and, most of all, he is unfit. Mr. Hegseth may talk about how having had dust on his boots makes him worthy of becoming Secretary of Defense. Well, as someone who left her boots in a dusty field in Iraq, let me tell you exactly why he is unfit to lead our heroes.

Mr. Hegseth likes to say that our military is a great meritocracy, and I agree with that. So let's go over his supposed merits for this role.

The Secretary of Defense oversees the Federal Government's largest Agency. They manage a $900 billion budget, along with the 3 million servicemembers and civilians who fall under its umbrella.

During his time in uniform, Pete Hegseth never commanded a unit with more than 200 people. Meanwhile, on the civilian side, both organizations that he led went into debt. In fact, he so badly mismanaged one of them that they had to bring in a forensic accountant to clean up the mess that he had made.

That is it. Those are his only supposed qualifications to head up one of the most complex, important organizations in the world.

Listen, there are plenty of Republicans whose policies I may disagree with but whom I would vote to confirm because I know that they, too, have spent their lives working to keep our country strong and could demonstrate why they are qualified for this role. Mr. Hegseth is not one of those people.

Who knows why Donald Trump picked this guy. Maybe Hegseth's business failures make Trump feel better about his own six bankruptcies. Maybe it is because Hegseth spent years fawning over Trump on FOX News, and Trump's dream Cabinet is a bunch of yes-men who know how to kiss up to him on TV—or maybe it is just that all of ''Cadet Bone Spurs''' draft dodging has left him with no clue as to what kind of leader our military needs.

Look, at his confirmation hearing on Tuesday, I gave Mr. Hegseth every opportunity to show me that I was wrong, to prove that he could do this job, that he does know the first thing—or anything—about what it takes to take on this massive responsibility of being the Secretary of Defense. I asked him basic questions that even the most junior folks working in the Pentagon would know, like naming one of the main international agreements he would be responsible for leading. He couldn't name one. I asked him to tell me just a single country in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Again, he couldn't give me one—and one of those is our longest treaty ally for 190 years—not a single one of the 10.

This was shocking—yet not surprising—from a man whose main form of policy education has come from reading the FOX News teleprompter. This was pitiful—yet predictable—from a guy who has said that we women do not belong in combat, who has dared to claim that the military is lowering its standard so that we, the poor, fragile, fairer sex—and, God forbid, us moms—can serve. Well, the only standards being lowered today are the ones for Secretary of Defense. Our female servicemembers have earned the jobs that they are in, unlike Mr. Hegseth who won't even say whether he would refuse an unlawful order.

I have next to me a framed copy of the Soldier's Creed—a poster that usually hangs over my desk here in the Senate and has done so for the last 8 years. It is the same copy that hung above my bed at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center when I spent over a year in the hospital recovering from my shoot-down. It is the same poster whose lines I read before I was wheeled into each and every one of my surgeries. It is the same one whose words were repeated over and over to myself on the days when I was in so much pain that I couldn't breathe yet was determined to fight my way back to health so I could serve again next to the buddies who saved my life. These words helped me find the strength I needed when I needed it the most because they reminded me of who I was and that I was a proud member of the greatest fighting force on the face of the Earth, whose duty it was to live up to the sacrifices of my fellow soldiers.

I would like to quote a couple of lines from the creed right now.

> I will always place the mission first . . . I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks.

Our troops follow these words every day as we ask them to do the hardest

thing imaginable. We ask them to leave their families, to potentially never hold their spouses' hands again, to maybe never get to see their babies take their first steps. We ask them to do all of that and then walk into enemy fire and be good enough, competent enough, qualified enough that, regardless of the threat they face, they will still be able to do their jobs. We ask them to be so ready for the mission at hand that they can still fly that helicopter, still man that ship, still fight that fire until their very last breaths.

Tell me: How can we ask these warriors to train and perform to the absolute highest standard if we are going to confirm a guy who doesn't seem to care enough to prepare to lead them in any way?

Listen, these are dangerous times on the geopolitical stage. Our adversaries are watching, waiting to see if we really will put in power someone so obviously unqualified.

Mr. Hegseth made a point of saying at Tuesday's hearing that every single warfighter should be hired based on performance, readiness, and merit. And I agree with him. However, he fails to meet every single one of those metrics. He is asking to be handed a job he is not prepared for because of his relationship with Donald Trump, but this role is too important, our troops' lives too precious to let personal ambitions get in the way of the mission at hand.

So let me close with this: Part of being a leader is knowing when you are not competent enough to do the job.

Well, Mr. Hegseth, you are not technically proficient; you are not tactically proficient; and your nomination is an insult to those brave enough to be serving our Nation. So you, sir, are a no go at this station.

I am voting no on Pete Hegseth's nomination to be Secretary of Defense. If my colleagues care more about keeping our Nation strong than genuflecting to Donald Trump, then they should have the courage to vote no as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

S. 5

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Laken Riley Act.

Nearly a year ago, Laken Riley—a college girl more than 1,000 miles from our southern border—was jogging on her university's intramural fields. Also more than 1,000 miles from our southern border, an illegal criminal in our country brutally attacked and murdered her in broad daylight. For 18 minutes, Laken Riley—that young woman in the prime of her life, with boundless potential—fought for her life against an assailant who never should have been in this country to begin with.

The Biden administration's open border policies served the criminal's depravity more than Laken's and her family's. In fact, they served the criminal every bit as much as they failed Laken and her family. Laken's killer easily crossed our southern border with millions of others; and when he committed several crimes and was arrested, a Biden administration-led ICE made no effort to deport him. Had he been appropriately prosecuted for his previous crimes, the Riley family would have celebrated Riley's birthday instead of mourning an empty chair. On February 22, 2024, it would have been an ordinary day for their family instead of the worst day of their lives.

No family should face the nightmare Laken's family endured, and it is our responsibility as lawmakers to correct the glaring failures in our system that led to her tragic and preventable death.

The Laken Riley Act won't bring Laken back, but it is a vehicle for turning the Riley family's pain into purpose and partnering together to protect American families. This legislation's sole goal is to hold known criminal illegal aliens accountable for their actions and enable States to bring civil charges against Federal officials who fail to uphold our immigration laws.

Like all of us serving in this body, I came to the U.S. Senate because I wanted to make a positive difference for the American people. This is one of those opportunities. We have the ability to do that right now by getting this bill to the President's desk. Let's honor Laken's legacy by passing this bipartisan legislation to protect millions of Americans across our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

HONORING OFFICER MICHAEL HORAN

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of Greensboro Police Officer Michael Horan.

On Monday, December 23—2 days before Christmas—Officer Horan was the first officer to respond to a call of a man with a firearm at a Food Lion supermarket in Greensboro, NC. As Officer Horan entered the store and confronted the suspect, the suspect engaged in a struggle that eventually led to Officer Horan being shot and killed. The suspect fled the scene and led law enforcement on a multiple-county chase. The brave men and women from various law enforcement agencies eventually apprehended the suspect on Interstate 40.

Officer Horan personified the very best of law enforcement. Greensboro Police Chief John Thompson stated that Officer Horan was ''a valued and respected member of the Greensboro Police family.''

He worked for the Greensboro Police Department since 2017 and had a distinguished record of service with the U.S. Coast Guard. As a U.S. Coast Guard member, Officer Horan served as a law enforcement officer, tactical fast boat instructor, and search and rescue operator for the safety and security of the United States.

Even when he was off duty, he exemplified valor. In 2019, Officer Horan received a lifesaving award from the Greensboro Police Department for saving a father and son who had been caught in a rip current at a beach at Emerald Isle.

As impressive as Officer Horan was for his exemplary work, it was his job as a family man—a loving husband, father, and son.

One of his colleagues noted:

> One of the main things most people would know about officer Horan, is how much he loved his family.
>
> He loved his daughter. If you ask anybody in the department to describe him—

One friend said—

> I feel like his daughter would be in the conversation.

He loved his family, and he included it in virtually every conversation he had with his colleagues.

He upheld the oath to protect and serve his community and his country. He exemplified what it means to be an extraordinary public servant, and he made the ultimate sacrifice.

My deepest condolences go out to Officer Horan's family for their tremendous loss, and my condolences go out to the community of Greensboro, which lost one of their finest, most decent public servants. We will never forget his service.

Mr. President, Officer Horan actually passed away a year ago last December. We were not in session at the time, so I thought it was appropriate to recognize the anniversary of his death, but I want to talk a little bit more.

(Mr. BUDD assumed the Chair.)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. President, since 2015, when I first took office as a U.S. Senator in my home State of North Carolina, we have tragically lost far too many law enforcement officers. In fact, we have lost 85 in the time that I have been a U.S. Senator, since 2015. This includes deaths related to law enforcement assaults, gunfire, vehicular pursuits, and duty-related illnesses.

These officers took an oath to protect and serve our communities. These heroes made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives to protect their communities. I will not get into all the details about each officer. What I would ask is unanimous consent to provide a list of the following officers since I have been a Member of the U.S. Senate to be printed in the RECORD.

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

> Inspector Robert James Bowling, Automobile Crash, 2015; Patrol Officer Anthony E. Lossiah, Duty Related Illness, 2015; K9 Officer Timothy James Brackeen, Gunfire, 2016; Deputy Sheriff John Thomas Isenhour,

Struck by Vehicle, 2016; Major Jay Russell Memmelaar, Jr., Heart Attack, 2017; Trooper Brandon Carroll Peterson, Heart Attack, 2017; Sergeant Meggan Lee Callahan, Assault, 2017; Correction Enterprises Manager Veronica Skinner Darden, Assault, 2017; Correctional Officer Justin James Smith, Assault, 2017; Correctional Officer Wendy Letitia Shannon, Assault, 2017; Deputy Sheriff Alexis Thunder Eagle Locklear, Automobile Crash, 2018; Deputy Sheriff David Lee'Sean Manning, Automobile Crash, 2018; Trooper Samuel Newton Bullard, Vehicle Pursuit, 2018; Senior Police Officer Christopher James Driver, Automobile Crash, 2018; Master Trooper Kevin Keith Conner, Gunfire, 2018; Corporal Travis Wells, Automobile Crash, 2018; Master Trooper Benjamin Derek Wallace, Heart Attack, 2018; Police Officer Jared William Franks, Automobile Crash, 2018; Police Officer Jason Barton Quick, Struck by Vehicle, 2018; K9 Officer Jordan Harris Sheldon, Gunfire, 2019; Deputy Sheriff Makeem Rictrell Brooks, Automobile Crash, 2019; Trooper Nolan James Sanders, Automobile Crash, 2020; Deputy Sheriff Sypraseuth ''Bud'' Phouangphrachanh, Covid19, 2020; Senior Detention Officer Alexander Reginald Pettiway, Jr., Covid19, 2020; Deputy Sheriff Ryan Phillip Hendrix, Gunfire, 2020; Correctional Officer II Allen Bruce Trivett, Covid19, 2020; Correctional Sergeant II Michael Robert Flagg, Covid19, 2020; Deputy Sheriff LaKiya Louise Rouse, Covid19, 2020; Correctional Officer III Charles Warren Harris, Jr., Covid19, 2020; Lieutenant Terry Sampson, Covid19, 2020; Correctional Officer III Thomas Daniel Roberts, Jr., Covid19, 2020; Correctional Officer Joseph Lloyd Greinke, Covid19, 2020; Correctional Sergeant III Christopher Eugene Sorrenti, Covid19, 2020; Deputy Sheriff Jared Michael Allison, Automobile Crash, 2020; Police Officer Tyler Avery Herndon, Gunfire, 2020; Master Corporal Norman Odie Daye, Jr., Covid19, 2020; Police Officer Jason Nicholas Shuping, Gunfire, 2020; Associate Warden III Julian Arsenio Priest, III, Covid19, 2020; First Sergeant Timothy Lee Howell, Covid19, 2021; Correctional Lieutenant III Anthony Lynn Hardie, Covid19, 2021; Master Trooper James Brent Montgomery, Covid19, 2021; Sergeant LaShonda Owens, Covid19, 2021; Deputy Sheriff Joseph Brandon Gore, Covid19, 2021; Police Officer David Dewayne Parde, Gunfire, 2021; Deputy Sheriff Logan Shane Fox, Gunfire, 2021; Sergeant Christopher David Ward, Gunfire, 2021; Officer Robert Craig Cloninger, Heart Attack, 2021; Deputy Sheriff Dennis Wayne Dixon, Covid19, 2021; Deputy Sheriff Eric Otis Ritter, Covid19, 2021; Correctional Sergeant III Ledell Graham, Covid19, 2021; Probation/Parole Officer II Julie Ann Harper, Covid19, 2021; Police Officer Carl Lee Proper, Covid19, 2021; Captain David Edwin MacAlpine, Covid19, 2021; Police Chief Donald Hall, Covid19, 2021; Sergeant Donald William Ramey, Covid19, 2021; Lieutenant Matthew Eric Dow, Covid19, 2021; Police Officer Julio Cesar Herrera, Jr., Covid19, 2021; Master Deputy William Edward Marsh, Covid19, 2021; Lieutenant William Oscar McMurtray, III, Covid19, 2021; Correctional Lieutenant II Dennis Eugene Boykin, Covid19, 2021; Police Officer Ryan Andrew Hayworth, Vehicular Assault, 2021; Sergeant Michael Shannon McDonald, Covid19, 2021; Police Officer Mia Danielle Figueroa-Goodwin, Automobile Crash, 2021; Trooper John Sumter Horton, Struck by Vehicle, 2022; Captain Reginald Kamal Smith, Covid19, 2022; Correctional Officer III Helen Mae Smith, Heart Attack, 2022; Detective Michael W. Godwin, Covid19, 2022; Sergeant Matthew Ryan Fishman, Gunfire, 2022; Deputy Sheriff Ned P. Byrd, Gunfire, 2022; Detention Corporal Gregory Thomas Horne, Sr., Duty Related Illness, 2022; Police Officer Gabriel Jesus Torres, Gunfire, 2022; Deputy Sheriff José Angel DeLeon, Automobile Crash, 2022; Deputy Sheriff Oscar Yovani Bolanos-Anavisca, Jr., Vehicular Assault, 2022; Deputy Sheriff II Auston Smith Reudelhuber, Automobile Crash, 2023; Sergeant Russell Earl Lavarl Jones, Heart Attack, 2023; Sergeant Philip Dale Nix, Gunfire, 2023; Deputy Sheriff Christopher Johnson, Automobile Crash, 2024; Deputy U.S. Marshal Thomas M. Weeks, Gunfire, 2024; Investigator William ''Alden'' Elliott, Gunfire, 2024; Investigator Samuel Poloche, Gunfire, 2024; Police Officer Joshua Eyer, Gunfire, 2024; Major Michelle Lynn Quintero, Weather/Natural Disaster, 2024; Courthouse Security Deputy James ''Jim'' Lau, Weather/Natural Disaster, 2024; Police Officer Michael Horan, Gunfire, 2024; Master Trooper Anthony S. Godwin, Medical Condition, 2024.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, as we start the 119th Congress, my colleague from North Carolina, who is currently presiding—I think we both agree that we want to emphasize that Congress has a role in supporting and protecting our law enforcement officers across this country.

According to the National Fraternal Order of Police, in 2024, 342 officers were shot in the line of duty. Of those officers, 50 officers were tragically killed by criminals.

Unfortunately, over the past few years, we have seen shameful behavior from certain—and I hope and I pray that it is a minority of our society, but we have people out there raising money for fundraising runs called the 13.12-mile run. Mr. President, ''1312'' translates into ''ACAB,'' and on their website, they proudly proclaim that ''ACAB'' stands for ''All Cops Are Bastards.'' Let that sink in.

It is appalling to hear this kind of rhetoric, and it has to stop. These dangerous statements not only create distrust and disdain for our brave men and women in blue—the vast majority of whom are good, hard-working people that we all know in our communities—but it has made their job to protect and serve more difficult and more deadly.

We have to do better. We have to protect law enforcement. That is why I plan to reintroduce multiple pieces of legislation in the coming weeks.

First among them is going to be the Protect and Serve Act. It makes it a Federal crime for anyone who knowingly causes or attempts to cause bodily harm or injury to a law enforcement officer. It is amazing it is not a crime already. I hope to do so with strong bipartisan support when I file the bill and get it passed in this Congress.

We also must act to punish criminals who intentionally murder law enforcement. That is why I will also be introducing the Justice for Fallen Law Enforcement Act. This legislation would create a criminal penalty for the murder of a local, State, or Federal law enforcement officer, punishable with the death penalty or life imprisonment without parole.

I urge all Americans listening to contact your Senators and Representatives and tell them that you want to protect law enforcement officers and support enhancing penalties for those who would do them harm.

The men and women in blue are heroes. They deserve our support. We need everyone in our communities to stand up to these people who would not want them in the community, who would not want them to respond to a 9–1–1 call. Can you imagine that? Can you imagine our communities if the logical conclusion of these people, who hate law enforcement officers so much that they proudly profess that all cops are bastards, publicly to raise money?

We need to increase awareness, and we need to make absolutely certain that every man and woman in blue knows we have their back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF PETER B. HEGSETH

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to reject Pete Hegseth as the next Secretary of Defense.

Pete Hegseth is the most unqualified nominee for Secretary of Defense in our Nation's history. At his confirmation hearing, Pete Hegseth bobbed and weaved to avoid answering just basic questions about his record, but what Hegseth failed to account for is that his entire record is damning.

I would like my Senate colleagues, people who are seriously considering voting to confirm Pete Hegseth, to think long and hard about this decision. We need a Secretary of Defense who will be ready at 2 in the morning to give life-or-death national security advice to the President. Would you trust Pete Hegseth, who has allegedly been so drunk at work events that he passed out on a bus and urinated in front of the hotel where his colleagues were staying, to answer that call?

We need a Secretary of Defense who will help us root out the problem of sexual assault in the military. Would you trust Pete Hegseth, who has been credibly accused of raping a woman and buying her silence, to protect victims of sexual assault?

We need a Secretary of Defense who will be able to manage the Nation's largest Federal Agency, one that oversees almost 3.4 million people and a budget of nearly $850 billion a year. Would you trust Pete Hegseth, who drove a small veterans nonprofit to the brink of bankruptcy, to manage billions of our tax dollars?

The list of glaring disqualifications goes on and on. Hegseth supports requiring every senior military officer to pass a political litmus test. This politicization of the military is a slap in the face to leaders who have served their country honorably for decades.

But the point is that Pete Hegseth is not just unqualified for the role; he is a walking national security threat.

We need a Secretary of Defense who will help our country meet its recruiting goals—something we are already struggling with. Pete Hegseth has said that women in the military ''shouldn't

be in combat at all.'' Mr. President, 300,000 women have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11. Pete Hegseth has now insulted every one of them. That is not how a leader of the military will inspire people to join our cause.

When people are responsible for our national defense, we ask something extraordinary of them. We ask them to put their lives on the line. All three of my brothers served in the military. My oldest brother was career military. So I know how important that service is and how important it is that we pick the right person to lead our men and women in uniform.

Pete Hegseth claims that our brave women in the military are somehow lowering our standards, but it is his lack of qualifications, his lack of character, and his lack of judgment that lower the standards for Secretary of Defense.

We need a Secretary of Defense whom we can rely on to keep all of us safe. Frankly, it is hard to imagine a worse choice than Pete Hegseth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, the last 4 years have been nothing short of a national nightmare. The runup to the nightmare began in 2020.

After fending off a ridiculous impeachment attempt in the early months of 2020, President Trump was riding high, and the economy was booming.

Under President Trump, we saw record levels of low unemployment for all Americans, especially among Black and Hispanic Americans. Inflation, which is ultimately a tax on the paychecks of hard-working Americans, was also at record lows.

We had the most secure border in history. Dangerous terrorists, cartel members, and human traffickers weren't flooding into our country. Americans' jobs were more secure because they didn't have to compete with millions of foreigners who have entered the country the last 4 years trying to steal their jobs. The cost of buying a home was also cheaper as a result.

Under President Trump, we were energy independent. This made the cost of living more affordable for all Americans. We were able to power American homes, cars, and factories with reliable and abundant energy.

Those are just a few of the domestic successes that Americans were benefiting from under President Trump.

On the global stage, we finally had stability after decades of foreign wars. Under President Trump, there were no new wars. We were respected around the world and feared by our adversaries. Russia didn't dare invade Ukraine when President Trump was in office. NATO countries were told to pay up: Pay your bills. China wasn't imposing its will in the South China Sea or across the world. China was contained, and its influence was diminishing.

Under President Trump, the Abraham Accords were signed, bringing peace to the Middle East. As we have seen the last few years, achieving peace in the Middle East was no easy feat. But President Trump achieved it, and he did it quickly. The United States and the world were in harmony.

The left couldn't stand these many successes that President Trump's administration was achieving at home and abroad, so they pulled out all stops to take him down. That is when the deep state bureaucrats and globalist organizations worked together to intensify the COVID–19 crisis. At the same time, the George Floyd riots erupted and destroyed cities across our country. Liberal DAs and politicians didn't do anything to stop it. It was absolute anarchy—total chaos orchestrated by leftwing politicians, the media, and antifa thugs.

Meanwhile, the media tried to manufacture a scandal because President Trump held up a Bible in front of a historic church, while the rioters burning the city of DC were ignored.

It was all a ploy to take down President Trump and tarnish his legacy.

Before the plot to take out the President was in full swing, we saw America achieving heights we had never ever seen before.

For a moment, the left thought they had bested Trump with the COVID sham and the Floyd riots and ultimately by rigging the election. But after controlling Biden by hiding him in the basement and then installing him as President, the Democrats were like a dog who finally caught the car. Once the Democrats took the White House, they quickly realized they didn't know how to run the country. It is not quite like running a struggle session in a Berkeley classroom or leading an HR call for a woke corporation.

The Democrats had 4 years to show the country they could govern more effectively than President Trump, but what have they done? What is one thing they have done to make our country better? I can't think of one policy, one law or directive that actually benefited the American people.

From day one, Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS invited foreigners to illegally enter our country. They weren't shy. Joe Biden told foreigners to ''surge the border'' and ''You should [all] come.'' While the administration opened the border, they shut down the Keystone Pipeline, making Americans pay more for groceries and gas.

The Biden administration engaged in a culture war domestically, embracing far-left ideas about sexuality, gender, and race. We have been told repeatedly over the past 4 years that men can get pregnant. And the Democrats didn't just push woke ideology on adults; they forced it on children in their classrooms and on social media.

They have supported biological men competing in women's sports. They are perfectly OK with men sharing locker rooms and showering with girls. The Biden administration published a rule that would destroy title IX which was created to protect women and girls, all in the name of gender equity.

You know, not only did Democrats wage war on American culture, they weaponized our justice system, going after President Trump, conservatives, and anyone who dared to oppose their agenda. Just look at how they went after the January 6 protesters, prolifers with the FACE Act, parents at the school boards, and the dozens of illegal actions they took against President Trump.

The Biden administration, with the help of congressional Democrats, passed a bunch of bills with names that sound good, but actually they harm many Americans.

Take the Inflation Reduction Act, for example, one of their prize bills that they have passed in the last few years. It was a legal way to launder money to blue States to bail them out, while red States were hung out to dry.

It pumped money we don't have into the economy, causing the runaway inflation we are dealing with today. The administration was also weak on the world stage appeasing every interest but the interests of the American people. This administration was committed to cozying up to Iran by reinstating the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action as if the world wasn't already a dangerous place. Why would President Biden's administration agree to help Iran improve their nuclear facilities? It makes no sense.

This administration bent over backward for NATO, handing over billions of hard-earned American taxpayer dollars with no plan on ending the war in Ukraine. It executed a disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan that left 13 servicemembers dead, with many others severely wounded. This administration was basically asleep at the wheel.

Who was running the country? Well, it wasn't Joe Biden. It was clear from the 2020 campaign that he didn't have the mental capacity to be President. To make matters worse, he spent 570 days, 40 percent of his Presidency, on vacation. Instead, the White House was run by a committee of leftwing staffers and special interests who ultimately ran the country into the ground, and the media and the Democrats were complicit. It is truly shameful what they have done to this country in the last 4 years.

But now we are finally turning the page. We are entering a new golden age in America with President Trump's return to the White House, and this is our last chance at righting the ship the left has steered so far off course.

President Trump will return our country to the values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We will return to the Judeo-Christian beliefs and principles of the West that made our Nation so great. And how should the Senate help return our country to these principles?

We need to confirm every single one of President Trump's nominees as quickly as possible. We don't have time to drag our feet on any of these nominees. The Democrats never once attempted to block President Biden's Cabinet nominees. Zero Senate Democrats voted against any one of his picks—zero.

President Trump needs to be able to exercise the full power and authority of his office as soon as he is sworn in, and that requires confirming his Cabinet picks.

It will also require the issuing of Executive orders to undo anything that President Biden has done in taking congressional action to put these policies in place.

Expect a flurry of Executive orders, a new offensive idea to rebuild our broken country. Expect Executive orders on the border, on unleashing American energy, and getting DEI out of our government and out of the lives of American people.

We also need to get behind President Trump on passing one reconciliation bill that will secure our border, reignite our energy independence, and cut taxes so the American economy can boom again.

On the global stage, the Senate needs to get behind President Trump pressuring NATO, all the NATO countries, to pay their fair share. No more military handouts for European countries and no more lighting taxpayer dollars on fire on behalf of Ukraine. It is time to get this war over with.

The Senate needs to support President Trump and exert maximum pressure on Iran and other terrorist organizations wreaking havoc on the Middle East and the West.

We also need to join President Trump's commitment on shrinking the Federal Government through strong congressional action. We will do this by working closely with the Department of Government Efficiency, better known as DOGE.

We need to shrink the government, cutting the ridiculous regulations that are crushing American small businesses.

And, finally, we need to focus on accountability. We need to hold people accountable for the damage that has been done to our country. We need to support the pardon of January 6 protesters who were wrongly prosecuted and horribly treated by our justice system.

We need to step up and fight for pro-life, pro-life protesters who were persecuted by the administration under the FACE Act. We need to open investigations into DOJ Civil Rights and National Security Divisions, and that starts by confirming Kash Patel and Pam Bondi to the posts where President Trump needs them and needs them in a hurry.

We need to be aggressive in these pursuits. Senate Republicans need to demonstrate courage and will and resolve like President Trump showed on the campaign trail. Are we willing to take a bullet for this country like President Trump did?

Are we willing to take on the fake news media who will try to undermine his everyday agenda? The job ahead of us won't be easy. The economy is in bad shape, job numbers are down, inflation is sky high. Our enemies are on the move abroad and in the interior of our country, but the American people chose President Trump and the Republicans for such a time like this.

They gave us a mandate to deliver them from the past 4 years of hell that this administration has caused. But now, it is a new day in America. The nightmare is almost over. And in a few more days, the Sun will rise in America. Greatness awaits us if we answer the call of the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, as you and everybody here knows, a little bit over a week ago, fires broke out in Los Angeles County. And some of you have reached out in the time since to offer your support, to offer your assistance, and even offer condolences for those who have perished in this significant disaster. And I want to thank you for your initial outreach.

My colleague Senator SCHIFF and I have come to the floor today to provide you all a little bit of an update and to lay a foundation on some of the key issues that we are going to need to work together on as we move forward.

And let me begin by just taking a step back for a second and acknowledging that, even before the winds increased last week, we knew that the risk of a potential large fire was high. In the midst of a historically dry season in Southern California, forecasters predicted hurricane-force winds, along with little to no humidity—essentially, a dry hurricane condition, if you can imagine that. Californians know that when there is a red flag warning, conditions are ripe for large-scale fires. But what came next, what actually materialized, would become the worst natural disaster in the history of Los Angeles: 100-mile-per-hour winds carrying burning embers from home to home, multiple simultaneous fires burning more than 12,000 structures and more than 40,000 acres.

And to give you a sense of the area I am talking about, I am talking about nearly three times the size of Manhattan. At least two dozen people have lost their lives, with more expected as search and rescue crews continue to comb through the devastation.

And over the course of the last week, I have had the opportunity to visit command posts and meet with firefighters, had the opportunity to distribute meals to many of the victims and to see, to tour, to visit the destruction firsthand. Yes, there are survivors, people impacted from communities like the Pacific Palisades—some with names and faces that you will recognize from television and the entertainment industry. But I assure you there are also a lot of other faces and families that you won't recognize from the working-class and diverse communities throughout Los Angeles County.

It is people like a woman in Altadena who was 9 months pregnant when the Eaton fire burned down not just her home but the new nursery that she had prepared. And it is the 66-year-old man who stayed to try to protect the home that had been in his family for five decades but who was found dead with a garden hose in his hand. You can imagine his last moments. It is one of the reasons why I have been saying over and over that every house you see is really a home, and every home represents a family—a family who now mourns maybe the loss of a relative, maybe the loss of their home, or loss of irreplaceable items like family photo albums or a wedding dress or baby pictures or a loved one's red, white, and blue military burial flag.

But through the destruction, we have also seen some signs of hope, like the firefighter in the Pacific Palisades who offered to go back and save two dogs trapped while the neighborhood was still burning or a 14-year-old Avery who saw the devastation that hit her community and created a charity, Altadena Girls, to provide beauty products and clothes to her friends so that they could feel like themselves again while coping with this disaster.

Every day we hear stories like this, even in the midst of a disaster, people coming to each other's aid.

But even as I stand here today—as we stand here today—the fires are still burning, and the fight continues. Our hearts go out to all the impacted families, and they also go out to the heroic firefighters and other first responders working tirelessly through multiday shifts to put out these fires—not only the brave State and local firefighters, but I want to acknowledge the Federal firefighters too. To the State and local officials working day and night to protect our State and our communities, thank you. And I also want to acknowledge Governor Newsom for his steady hand during this time.

And we are so grateful to our neighboring States who continue to send resources. And, no, not just States that are considered blue States like Oregon and Washington, but States that many people refer to as red States like South Dakota and Wyoming and Montana and Florida, who continue to send resources with no strings attached, no conditions. This is what we do for each other. There is a reason it is called mutual aid.

And I also want to thank every one of my colleagues who, in 2023, helped me

to secure seven C–130 air tankers for California. They were surplus military aircraft that California received and paid to retrofit, the first of which is already on the scene fighting these fires as we speak.

But soon there will come a time when we need to more than just support our response to these disasters; we will need support for our recovery. And we expect Congress to support California just as Congress has been there for States across the country in their times of crisis, with no conditions and no strings attached. Because a recovery isn't just a California fight. We are truly in this together as Americans. Whether it is wildfires across the Western United States or tornados in the Midwest, ice storms in Texas, or hurricanes in the Southeast, Mother Nature does not distinguish between red States and blue States and neither should our disaster response efforts or our recovery efforts. That is why, when tragedy struck just a few months ago from hurricanes Milton and Helene, Democrats didn't demand aid be attached to some Democratic wish list of priorities. Not for a second did we think of attaching strings.

So when I hear about political jabs and insults on social media while my home State is burning, it is not distracting. It is certainly not entertaining. It is offensive, and it is dangerous. Because let's be clear, in times of crisis, California has always been there for the rest of our country. And now we expect our country to be here for California.

If Speaker JOHNSON or any Member of Congress, for that matter, is worried about the Federal debt, let me assure you: California has already paid the bill. California, as you may know, is the largest economy of any State in the nation. We are the single largest contributor of tax revenue to the Federal Treasury by far. In 2022 alone, California paid $83 billion more to the Federal Government than it received.

So from additional disaster assistance funding to a serious conversation about disaster insurance that I am eager to continue, we are going to need everyone onboard.

And to my Republican colleagues who may be wondering whether the policy should change about no strings attached, let me remind you that this is also a fundamental matter of decency as Americans. It is the same decency that my colleague Senator SCOTT from Florida and my colleague Senator TILLIS from North Carolina have shown in their public comments this last week or that several of my California House Republican colleagues have shown by supporting our State's major disaster declaration request. They know, as we should all remember, that this is about our unity as a nation. So, yes, California will need you for the long haul.

And to President-elect Trump, I, too, invite you to tour Altadena and the Pacific Palisades, which, by the way, is about 30 miles from your golf course in Rancho Palos Verdes. Come meet the first responders. Come meet the families that have been affected by these fires.

And, finally, I want to speak to the people of California because it is, indeed, a long road ahead. And there will be more challenges to overcome as we continue the search and rescue phase of this, as we go into the environmental remediation and debris removal, and eventually the rebuilding of homes and businesses. It is a long road, and there will be challenges to overcome indeed.

But I promise you this: There will be a day when the fires are put out, when the homes and entire communities are rebuilt better and more resilient than they have been before and the Sun will shine and the kids will smile.

Together—together—we are going to get through this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, I rise today to address the Senate on behalf of the people of California. And I thank my colleague Senator PADILLA for his leadership during this time of incredible difficulty and strain for our fellow constituents.

The unimaginable has happened, and our hearts are broken—a city encircled in a blaze and a perfect storm of fire and wind and with a system stretched beyond its breaking point. A natural disaster so immense in size and scale it will dwarf any recovery and rebuilding effort since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire.

It is that immense and impending recovery effort that I am asking—I am pleading—for your help with today.

Already, the support that you and the President have given California have helped firefighters battle the flames, helped save lives, and helped those who lost everything find shelter.

I want to express my particular appreciation for President Biden and what the administration has done, the almost immediate declaration of a disaster which unlocked important FEMA and other funding, the commitment to match—to provide, really—100 percent of Federal funding for the first 6 months of these fire mitigation efforts.

I am very grateful for what the Congress and the President have done.

This recovery is going to be measured in years, not months. Even so, we must bring a sense of urgency to the recovery and not let it linger.

When the flames are finally out, the cleanup begins in earnest, and the rebuilding moves forward with all haste. After the attention of the world has turned away from the raging inferno and its aftermath, ours in this body must not because the loss is immeasurable—lives lost, homes lost, businesses lost, neighborhoods lost, pets lost, memories lost, neighborhoods simply gone in an hour. Entire communities burned to ash. Families brought together in grief. Churches and synagogues have burned down, but their members still gather as one because amidst the darkness and destruction, we have seen rays of hope. For when one part of our State is hurting—literally on fire—we all come together.

First responders from all across our great State and so many others rushed to Southern California. A woman I met at a Red Cross at the Pacoima evacuation site, so grateful, despite everything, for the assistance that she was receiving, for the dignity with which she was treated by these Red Cross workers—she told me she plans to set up a $10-a-month donation from her monthly Social Security disability check. People are dropping off clothes and supplies by the thousands, so much that some of these centers are overwhelmed with people bringing material by.

That is the California way.

This is deeply personal for Senator PADILLA and myself. We know so many families impacted by these fires because they are our neighbors and friends.

I represented Altadena in the House of Representatives for decades. It is a vibrant, diverse community, a city of families, of places of worship, and of deep culture and history. When I drove through Altadena just a few days ago, the destruction was complete—entire city blocks razed. Homes, small businesses, schools gone in just a few minutes like some post-apocalyptic scene.

Driving around that area at night in which small fires still dotted the landscape amidst the rubble, it was hard to recognize what I was seeing. The place where my wife and I got married burned to the ground. So many other community institutions vanished: the Altadena Community Church, gone; the Pasadena Jewish Temple, gone, still smoldering, that temple, when I saw it, and burning inside like an eternal flame, a symbol of God's presence even amidst the unimaginable; the mountains above Altadena, once the scene of such beautiful greenery and nature, now charred beyond recognition.

Just like Altadena, much of the Palisades are just gone. Fire ripped through this community leveling entire neighborhoods. One bakery owner in Topanga described the fires that tore through her community simply as ''Armageddon,'' charred cars, burned-out furniture block after block.

These were generational homes and neighborhoods—neighborhoods people are proud to be part of and raise their children in, now forever changed.

In Altadena, Victor Shaw was found in his house holding a garden hose. He died trying to save his home. His sister Shari barely escaped as the house went up in flames.

One man, Zaire, was separated from his sister who lived next door. Amidst the chaos, he was able to evacuate his baby and elderly mother. The next day when he returned, he found his sister's car outside her home and found her remains in the rubble. ''Evelyn, why didn't you leave,'' he asked.

''[W]hy didn't you leave?''

One father refused to leave the side of his son who had cerebral palsy, fighting to his last breath. The last words he said to his daughter were, ''Baby, I'm getting ready to evacuate, I love you . . . Baby, I got to go, the fire's made it to my yard.''

Anthony Mitchell is a hero.

Edgar McGregor is well known in Pasadena for his daily trash pickups in the foothills. But now, to the community, he will be known for something more. In a Facebook group post, he alerted residents 2 days before the fires to pack go-bags. When it mattered most, he typed two words: ''Get out.''

''Get out.'' His simple post may have saved lives.

People are surviving now but only barely hanging on.

I spoke with Patricia at one of the shelters on the West Side. She stayed a couple of nights in a motel but could no longer afford it, and her asthma was making it hard to breathe.

One firefighter, Jonathan, had been battling the blazes in the Palisades since the first night. I remember talking to this L. A. Fire Department firefighter, and he had told me he wasn't sure he was going to make it out when he was there during the early hours of the fire. I asked him what that was like. He said: Well, there were flames in front of me and flames behind me. The water was running low. My communications were going out. He said it was ''the closest thing to hell I can imagine.''

One family in Altadena who all lived on the same street lost three homes. What was once a dream to live so close to each other had turned into a nightmare.

Over the past week, we have seen firefighters—exhausted and yet unyielding—waging war to save communities and lives and property.

And in the last few days, we have seen some hopeful signs as the level of containment—particularly of the Eaton fire—has increased; more slowly, the containment of the Palisades fire. But we are not out of the woods.

We have seen neighbors helping neighbors. We have seen Angelenos opening their doors to strangers left with little more than the clothes on their back.

These are the angels who remind us that even in our darkest hours—through smoky skies and uncertain times—we do not stand alone because what makes this city of Los Angeles so extraordinary—what makes California extraordinary—is that we are not defined by our tragedies; we are defined by our response to them.

In Los Angeles, resilience is a way of life. It is what has allowed the city to rise from the devastation of earthquakes and floods and riots and fires time and again. And we are stronger, more resilient, more united, more compassionate.

This is a moment when we can and must call ourselves to the better angels of our nature—the angels that are all around us: the paramedics who rescued and evacuated seniors from a nursing home at the edge of a fire line, the volunteers I met who showed up at a shelter ready to help before anyone even asked, the father who stayed behind to try desperately to keep his son alive.

In the coming weeks, after the fires are extinguished, we will seek answers. We must not do so for partisan gain or seeking fault; in fact, just the opposite because only with the truth about what went right and what went wrong can we arrive at solutions.

I remember talking to one woman who lost her trailer in the Palisades. She wants answers about the lack of water to fight the fires. I want to know that too. I want to know if the Federal and State resources we are fighting to procure will be enough to stop the next potential megafire. I want to know what we can do to rebuild and rebuild with speed so the neighborhoods that we lost can be reclaimed by the neighbors who have been displaced, and communities can come together once more.

I am grateful for the Governor's efforts to streamline the permitting process so people can begin to rebuild and rebuild quickly. And I want to know if there is anything more that we can do or could have done to save more lives and more homes. We should all want that.

We should all want to rebuild because Los Angeles is one of our Nation's great cities. And to rebuild, we will need your help without fanfare or partisan rancor.

We need your help. Just like we worked together to help rebuild New Orleans and Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina, we must do so again here. Just like after countless hurricanes struck Florida and the South, we rushed in aid. Just this year, after Hurricane Helene, FEMA is still on the ground in North Carolina helping those in its destructive path. And we won't leave—we can't—until the job is finished. That is what we must do here.

During my time in Congress, I have seen a lot of disaster aid bills. Never in my time have I ever considered whether an area votes red or blue. When people need help, we get them help. When people are fighting to rebuild, we help them rebuild, period. It cannot and should not change no matter who is President, no matter who is in charge of Congress, no matter who the Governor is or who their Senators are.

That is my urgent plea today. We need your help desperately.

Southern California, we will rebuild. We will. But whether we can do so quickly will depend on the actions we take in the next few months.

This big and beautiful diverse city is not just made of steel and stone but of people—people who stand together when the skies turn dark and rise together when the smoke clears.

We are going to rise again because it is who we are. And when we do, we will show the world what it truly means to be the ''City of Angels.''

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California

Mr. PADILLA. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

10–YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSAGE OF WATER FOR THE WORLD ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, some people in the Chamber who served in the Senate may remember my predecessor Paul Simon of Illinois. Simon was ahead of his time on so many issues, including the importance of clean drinking water and sanitation for the poorest people in the world.

He wrote a book called ''Tapped Out.'' He autographed this copy and gave it to me in 1998, many years ago. It certainly was not a New York Times best seller, but Paul wrote about what he said was ''The Coming World Crisis in Water and What We Can Do About It.'' I read this book and reflected on it over the years.

Some 30 years have passed. How many times do people talk about clean drinking water and sanitation? It is so critical to public health and so critical to development. Sometimes, we are looking for a big solution, a complex solution, when a simple solution is the first thing that is needed. Paul Simon realized that and that focusing on providing clean drinking water to some of the poorest places in the world can be transformative.

He understood that to avoid conflict between nations, to keep girls in school and reduce infant mortality, to improve health and economic opportunity, you have to provide people with access to clean water. Data supports this. Each dollar spent on clean water and sanitation returns between $4 and $8 in economic health and other benefits, which is why I decided to do something about it as a Member of the U.S. Senate.

I knew his family, I knew Paul, and I knew the last thing in the world he ever wanted was someone to build a statue of his image for future generations. But he would have been happy with perhaps the bill that I introduced entitled the Paul Simon Water for the World Act, legislation that built on an earlier law to improve access to clean water and sanitation around the world. Former Representative Earl Blumenauer and former Senator Bob Corker, a Republican in Tennessee, were my partners on this bipartisan effort.

Ten years ago, the legislation passed the Senate unanimously—something that is almost unimaginable today with the politics we live with—but that underscored the true urgency and importance of this issue. Not only was

this legislation the right thing to do, but it made access to clean water and sanitation for the world's poor a development priority for the United States.

As a result of the bills that I introduced with my colleagues and sustained bipartisan funding over the last 13 years, American leadership has provided first-time, sustainable access to clean water to more than 76 million people and access to sanitation to 58 million.

I can remember a visit I made years and years ago to Port-au-Prince in Haiti. It is one of the poorest places on Earth, and of course, it is in our hemisphere. A lady who is a medical doctor and administrator of a clinic wanted to show me something. They had been having trouble with waterborne illness, and a lot of people were sick. Some children were dying.

She said they then decided to build a cistern of pure water and to protect it and make sure the village could draw from that water when they needed it. She said it has changed everything. The kids aren't dying. People aren't sick. Things have improved dramatically. She walked out to show me a sewer lid and a pump on it. She said to me, We got this from the United States. It had something to do with a man named Paul Simon. I laughed almost out loud, thinking for goodness' sake. I said, How much did you have to invest in this?

She said $15,000. That is $15,000 that has saved lives and had made a difference, and it was in Paul's name, I was happy to report.

This is incredible work, and I want to salute my staffer Chris Homan, who has traveled around Africa and parts of Asia to see these investments. They do make a dramatic difference in the lifestyle of people, giving them dignity, giving them life, giving them a future.

Another such story is from a rural area of Ghana where these kinds of programs have already eliminated waterborne illnesses. We can see, when visited this project, that the investment—this small investment—by the United States made an affordable and sustainable infrastructure that families can use for sanitation options and safe drinking water. The two have to go hand in hand.

This investment made a project where a disabled woman lives a place where she can find dignity, as the name suggests, for she no longer has to crawl through snake-filled fields to use the river.

But this lifesaving work is far from done. As the climate crisis worsens and industrial needs increase, ensuring global access to clean water supplies is as important as ever.

The book might not have been a best seller, but the idea sure was. And I sure hope that we continue this modest investment in villages around the world that literally saves and transforms lives.

Around 2 billion people on this planet Earth still lack access to safe drinking water, so I hope this historically important, bipartisan investment will continue long into the future ahead of us. Lives depend on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

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Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, if you believe we should be able to detain and deport undocumented immigrants who have committed serious crimes and you took Republicans at their word that the Laken Riley Act was necessary for us to do that, you need to know that is already Federal law. We can and do already detain and deport immigrants who commit serious crimes, and we are not about to change that.

But Republicans have been ignoring the policies we already have on the books to push for a bill that, in its current form, is more extreme, expensive, and broad than it first appears. I am very concerned that without serious amendments, this bill is rife with unintended consequences and powers that could be abused.

As written, it will drastically undermine civil liberties in this country. It will throw our immigration system into absolute chaos by undermining any President's authority to shape Federal policy. It will cost tens of billions of dollars. And here is the kicker. It will end up punishing legal immigrants and diverting resources from detaining true threats to public safety.

First off, let's talk about how extremely broad the language of this bill is. Under this bill, you don't have to be found guilty of a felony to be detained and deported. That is a huge attack on due process. All you need is to be arrested or charged, regardless of whether that is something as small as shoplifting a candy bar, regardless of whether it may become clear that you are innocent, regardless of whether this happened years or even decades ago, and even regardless of whether you are a child.

So let me just underscore that because it is important. This bill has no exemption for kids, no cutoff age, no process to keep it in line with our general child welfare laws. As written, this bill appears so broad that a child could be locked up and put on a plane without their parents. With such sweeping language, I am deeply concerned the Trump administration could abuse this law to deport Dreamers or our farmworkers or other essential workers who, again, may never be convicted of a crime.

And to be fair, it is not just Trump I am worried about because this bill is an open invitation for Republican State officials to dictate individual case outcomes regardless of ICE, derail national immigration policy, and even disrupt international relations.

Under this bill as written, any State attorney general could wreck major humanitarian relief pathways like temporary protected status for Venezuelan or Ukrainian nationals. They can seek court orders to deport individuals without signoff from ICE. And in some cases, they could sue to halt visas from entire countries.

That is a policy that, by its design, will end up punishing the people who are following the law to enter the United States legally. It could punish refugees who are fleeing violence. It could punish people who come here to engage in trade and in commerce that helps our economy grow. It could even punish American citizens if they are hoping to get a visa for their spouse.

With a Federal immigration system that is already too chaotic and complicated, just wait until any State AG can overrule ICE, undermine the President, and throw thousands of legal—legal—visa applications into limbo.

The bill also promises these lawsuits priority, which could be a huge burden on our courts. And if that weren't counterproductive enough, not only would this bill as written punish legal immigrants, it will also divert resources we need to detain genuine threats to our public safety. If ICE is required, as this bill says, to spend resources detaining nonviolent—not even convicted—shoplifting cases and the like, they will have their hands tied as resources are stretched thinner and thinner by an overwhelming number of minor cases, leaving them with fewer and fewer resources then to tackle the most serious cases.

That is especially concerning because DHS already does not have anywhere near the resources to implement this bill. ICE would need, actually, more than three times the current number of detention beds—a 265-percent increase—for this bill. It would need to execute 80 removal flights a week, almost double its current capacity, not to mention it would need to double ground transportation.

That all adds up to ICE needing to nearly double its staff, hiring over 18,000 additional people. And to give you a sense of how unrealistic that is, historically, DHS hasn't been able to onboard more than 1,000 people a year.

And to give you a sense of how expensive this is, ICE estimates it will need more than triple its budget in year one—really, closer to four times their current funding level. We are now talking up to $83 billion for this legislation over the first 3 years to implement it. That is more than the annual budget for the entire Department of Homeland Security. That is a lot of money to spend on a bill that is going to cause chaos, punish legal immigrants, and undermine due process in America, all while drawing resources away from true threats.

Make no mistake, there are serious challenges we have at our border. There is a serious need for sensible immigration reform. But being tough on immigration does not require us to forsake our bedrock principles like due process or our moral obligation to keep children safe. It does not require us to ignore our common sense and waste crucial resources.

So while I hope to work with my colleagues to improve this bill, as I try to improve every bill that I can, I have to say, we have a long road ahead to address my deep concerns with the way this bill threatens due process and the potential for it to be abused.

So I strongly urge my colleagues to demand a far more serious amendment process on this bill, but more than that, I urge them to demand a serious, bipartisan approach to tackling immigration in an effective, humane way, one that protects our country and upholds our values.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR.

Mr. President, on a very different topic, I wanted a chance to talk today about one of the nominees that is coming before us because, when I was a very young girl, the polio vaccine was approved, and to this very day, I remember my mom saying: Thank goodness. We can now send our kids to school and not have to worry they will get sick, be paralyzed, or have to live in an iron lung or worse.

The relief was overwhelming. That is why the fear is so overwhelming now that Donald Trump wants RFK, Jr.—an outright, unapologetic, anti-vax conspiracy theorist—as our Nation's Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Now, I want to be clear. I will not be shy about making my concerns quite plain with the American people. That is part of our Senate's role to advise and consent to the President's nominees. It is our job to vet these nominees and put them through a rigorous process to determine if they are qualified to serve.

That is why I met with RFK, Jr., yesterday, so I could be direct with him about my concerns with his anti-vaccine record and so I could discuss the other challenges our Nation faces where HHS has a really crucial role. I do appreciate his time, and I appreciate the opportunity to look for areas of common ground. But as I have said already, I oppose his nomination because, regardless of any other views he holds, his long history of explicitly anti-vaccine activism is utterly disqualifying.

And I am not the only one who is worried. Even Trump's former FDA Commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, has said RFK, Jr.'s agenda ''will cost lives in this country.''

I mean, just imagine if RFK, Jr., was Secretary when COVID struck. We still might not have vaccines. After all, he called the COVID vaccine the ''deadliest vaccine ever made.''

This isn't a case where we can just look for areas of agreement or hope for the best—maybe drug costs or maybe healthy food. We are talking about a conspiracy theorist who is openly antagonistic to public health and who will have tremendous authority over Americans' lives and their healthcare.

It is not asking too much to have a Secretary of Health who believes in healthy food and believes in vaccines, especially when we are already backsliding on vaccines and seeing real and deadly consequences.

We eliminated measles in 2000, but last year we had 16 outbreaks. Whooping cough has spiked in the country and in my home State of Washington. Polio—even polio—is making a comeback. These are dangerous diseases, and RFK, Jr., would let them spread through our communities and schools like wildfire. And as any parent knows, when a bug goes around a school, it doesn't stop there; it comes home to Mom and Dad and baby brothers and sisters, who could be at serious risks.

So I am here this afternoon to talk some truth to the American people about the stakes here and lay out the facts for anyone who might not appreciate the serious threat posed by RFK, Jr.

Maybe you think: Well, he is not talking about vaccines like polio or measles, or: He is only asking questions. Except, know this: He founded a nonprofit entirely focused on attacking vaccines. RFK, Jr.'s nonprofit has made videos promoting falsehoods about vaccines and autism and sowing distrust in vaccines, especially among the Black community.

They tried to revoke the emergency authorization for kids' COVID vaccines. They sued against measles vaccine requirements, even amid measles outbreaks.

And it is not just RFK, Jr.'s nonprofit that should raise alarm here. He has said he doesn't know if the polio vaccine caused more deaths than it prevented.

Or another example: The HPV vaccine has led to a huge drop in cervical cancer. RFK, Jr., suggested it increases cancer risk.

And let's not get cute here with excuses like, well, he is just asking questions, because when he says we need to know vaccines are safe, he is ignoring the centuries of research we have already done on these vaccines. We do know they are safe.

What is more, he has not just been asking questions. These are statements I am going to give you that RFK, Jr., has made. These are in his own words. He has said:

> I do believe that autism does come from vaccines.

He said:

> They get the shot, that night they have a fever of 103, they go to sleep, and three months later their brain is gone.

Again, he said the COVID vaccine was the ''deadliest vaccine ever made.''

These statements are not just false; they are irresponsible, and they are disqualifying. Given his track record, we cannot just hope that if RFK, Jr., finally gets power to undermine vaccines—a cause that he has, by the way, dedicated considerable time and money and effort to—that he will just give that up. That is not believable, especially when we know the lawyer helping him put together a team has tried to have 14 different vaccines pulled from the market himself—including, by the way, the polio vaccine.

And if you are thinking, well, he can't really do anything about vaccines, you need to think again. If confirmed, RFK, Jr., would have tremendous power to undermine vaccines. He could influence FDA's approval of medicine and drugs. He could directly appoint people to CDC's vaccine board, which influences vaccine coverage and costs.

He said he will fire top researchers by the hundreds and pause infectious disease research for years—a threat far beyond vaccines, I would say.

And let's not downplay the fact that, as Secretary, he would have one of the biggest megaphones in the world to spread anti-vaccine misinformation.

Maybe you are someone who thinks: So what if we have more whooping cough, or: A lot of people had measles, but they lived. I realize some people probably think like that because they have never seen the reality of these terrible diseases because vaccines have been so effective.

A nurse recently shared online what whooping cough can do to a baby, what she has watched families go through herself. I will warn you: It was soul crushing. First, the baby can't stop coughing—not even to eat, not even to breathe.

Then come seizures and strokes, then a breathing tube and a ventilator, and finally a machine to take over failing heart and lung function, and then they die. That is horrific. That is whooping cough, and it is far from the only disease at risk of a comeback. We don't want that to happen here in this country or around the globe.

Let's talk about measles. It is one of the world's most contagious diseases. It is easily spread by coughing and sneezing. It lingers in the air for hours. You are contagious 4 days before you develop a rash and 4 days after. Now, before the vaccine, millions of people caught measles annually, meaning thousands were hospitalized, hundreds died, most of them young children.

But this is not just history. Do you want to know what RFK, Jr., would do as Secretary of Health? I want you to look at Samoa. Before Samoa had a measles outbreak, he was there—he was there propping up vaccine deniers and falsely blaming deaths on the measles vaccine. After Samoa had a tremendous measles outbreak with over 100 hospitalized and at least 83 dead, mostly kids, no apology from him, no admitting he was wrong. Instead, he doubled down and wrote to the Prime Minister suggesting vaccines were part of the problem.

That is who we want to put in charge of our Nation's healthcare? What do we think is going to happen? How many outright lies are we going to tolerate? How many deaths before we realize this nonsense is dangerous?

And, look, the vaccine lies just scratch the surface here. This is someone who won't accept that HIV causes AIDS. This is someone who thinks chemicals in the water might turn people gay; he said that. This is someone

who thinks 5G wireless is being used to ''control our behavior.''

This is not someone we in the U.S. Senate should be telling the American people to trust on healthcare. He is not someone we should be handing the levers of power.

For that matter, the same goes for some of Trump's other healthcare nominees who have ignored science and promoted false conspiracy theories. His nominee to lead the CRC is an anti-abortion extremist with zero public health experience—unless you count peddling the conspiracy theory that vaccines cause autism or promoting junk healthcare plans. Then you have Dr. Oz, who has been named to lead CMS—someone who is known for pushing quack treatments and debunked junk science, who will be shaping health coverage for millions despite clear conflicts of interest.

I cannot drive home enough to the U.S. Senate: This is not a game. These are not political roles without consequence. They have real power over whether Americans can get basic information and healthcare.

I want to end on this note, and it is important. Vaccines save lives. That is not a question. It is not a slogan. It is a fact. If you cannot accept that fact; if you cannot be honest with the American people about it; if, when parents look to you, worried about their newborn, wanting to do what is best for their baby, trusting your advice as a public health leader, if you cannot tell them the same truth that centuries of science and experience tell us, which is that vaccines are safe and effective and lifesaving, then you have absolutely no business leading the Department of Health and Human Services. None. That should not be up for debate.

A vaccine denier should not be our highest ranking healthcare official.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Wisconsin.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I think by now you have seen all kinds of different versions of this depressing chart of total U.S. debt.

Back in 1998—and we will be talking about that year—when Bill Clinton was President and we had our first budget surplus since 1969, the debt level was about $5½ trillion.

When I arrived here in my first year in the Senate in 2011, the debt was about $14 trillion. I ran, quite honestly, because we were mortgaging our children's future.

I will talk a little bit about 2014 when President Obama had a certain spending level that was up to $17½ trillion.

As recent as 2019, before the pandemic, our debt was somewhere around $22½ trillion.

Today, our debt exceeds $36 trillion on a path toward much higher heights.

If you look at President Biden's final budget here, he is predicting our total debt will be $52 trillion in 10 years. This is clearly not sustainable. As I said, this is a depressing reality.

The result of all that debt—one of the many results—was the devaluation of the dollar. A dollar you held in 1998 is only worth 51 cents today. We have basically cut the value of a dollar in half since 1998. In 2014 when President Obama was President—now the value of that dollar is only worth 74 cents. The value of the dollar prior to the pandemic, 2019, is now only worth 80 cents. That is why people can't afford things.

This inflation caused by massive deficit spending—this is the stealth tax on every American. It is a very regressive tax. It primarily hurts people at the bottom part of the income spectrum. Wealthy individuals have stocks, and they have other assets that inflate as the dollar devalues. So, again, this harm primarily affects lower income Americans. The men and women who work are harmed by this.

This can't go on. This is an outrage. This is a tragedy.

I just want to ask a bit of a hypothetical here before we talk about this chart. Let's say you are an American family of four, and you are doing pretty good. You make and you spend about $100,000 a year.

Let's say the next year, you have a serious illness in your family, and all of a sudden, you have major medical bills totaling $50,000. So the next year, you spend $150,000.

Well, let's say you get some good news. That medical condition is now solved. Your family member is healed. What would most American families do? If their income level stayed the same—around $100,000—I don't think they would keep spending at a $150,000 level. They certainly wouldn't borrow $50,000 to maintain that spending level. They would reduce their spending level back to what it was before the illness, right? It would go back to somewhere around 100,000 bucks, maybe a little bit more based on inflation. That is not what the Federal Government did. This, I know, is shocking most Americans as I am laying out the reality of the situation. In 2019, prior to the pandemic, total Federal Government spending was $4.4 trillion. Then we had COVID, and I think we very unwisely shut down a lot of our economy. It destroyed people's businesses. It destroyed people's lives, our miserable failed response to COVID. It cost a lot of money. So Washington went on a massive spending spree, and in the year of the pandemic, we spent actually closer to $6.6 trillion.

Now, again, if it would have been like a normal family, once the pandemic passed, we would have returned to some reasonable spending level, but we didn't do that. The last 5 years now, we spent, on average, $6.5 trillion. That is $2.1 trillion more than we spent in 2019. There is no justification for that.

This last year, we spent a total of $6.9 trillion, $2.6 trillion—$2.5 trillion higher than the $4.4 trillion. Again, there is no justification for that.

So the question I have been asking is, How do we return to a reasonable, prepandemic spending level?

I will guarantee you that the people who voted for President Trump do not expect the Federal Government is going to continue spending at President Biden's and the Democrats who have been in charge, at their spending levels. This is unacceptable. It is unsustainable.

So what I have done is, I have laid out a couple different options here. Again, I will use another analogy. Let's say that same family of four I was talking about with an income of $100,00, let's say they have a baby. Now their population, their family size, has increased 25 percent. I think most people recognize that if that family of four could increase their income 25 percent, from 100,000 to 125,000, and then tack on an amount for inflation—let's say it is 3 percent inflation—up to 128,750, I think most people would recognize now that family has been kept whole. They have been made whole. They have been able to maintain their standard of living.

Well, I think the same thing would be true for the Federal Government, for Americans living within America, you know, looking at different benefits the Federal Government bestows on Americans as it extracts our hard-earned tax dollars.

So I went back to a number of different years prior to the pandemic. I went back to 1998. Again, that was the first year we actually had a budget surplus since 1969. That is how irresponsible the government has always been. But back in 1998, what a magic moment. We actually had a budget surplus. That was under Bill Clinton. We spent $1.7 trillion.

That is obviously too low because we have had inflation, because we have had population growth. So what I have done in each one of these scenarios here is I have taken the basic spending levels. I have increased them based on population growth and inflation, plus I exempt Social Security, Medicare, and interest. And I have plugged in President Biden's 2025 budget amounts for Social Security, Medicare, and interest.

So the result of that analysis for 1998, for Bill Clinton's spending level—I don't think anybody would really argue that Bill Clinton spent too little in 1998—if you did that, the increase would be based on population and inflation, plus you use today's 2025 Social Security, Medicare, and interest expense, you would end up with $5.5 trillion.

Now, it is not a secret. The reason I chose 1998—I looked at all of these

years. Doing that with 1998 spending levels, if you compare that to President Biden's budgeted revenue for this year, which has not decreased because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act—the revenue has consistently increased to $5.5 trillion—we would have a balanced budget. What everybody says is impossible to achieve, going back to Bill Clinton's spending levels, increasing them by population and inflation and using today's Social Security, Medicare, and interest expense would balance the budget. We wouldn't have to increase the debt ceiling. We wouldn't be experiencing or threatened by more inflation.

OK. If that is too reasonable for Washington, DC, let's look at another scenario. Let's take a look at Barack Obama's—President Obama's—spending levels in 2014. Again, I don't think President Obama was spending too little in 2014. I was here. He was spending too much.

But if you take his 2014 levels, inflate them by population growth since then and inflation, using today's Social Security, Medicare, and interest, we would be spending $6.2 trillion this year. Pretty reasonable. Not a balanced budget, but a whole lot better than the 6.9 or the $7.3 trillion that President Biden budgeted for this year—a far more reasonable spending level.

But if you don't like that, if that is just too reasonable, too aggressive for you, just go back to 2019 when we spent $4.4 trillion, increase it by population growth, inflation, using President Biden's Social Security, Medicare, and interest, it would be 6.5. I mean, I think that is completely unacceptable. That has been the average.

If we increase that $2.1 above the $4.4 trillion, it would still be a whole lot better than President Biden's 7.3 trillion or last year's spending of $6.9 trillion.

How can anybody justify spending at this level when we were only spending $4.4 trillion 5 years ago?

Here is what I am suggesting. Set those other scenarios aside. President Trump was just elected. Again, I don't think anybody—certainly not me. I voted for President Trump. I was not expecting President Trump, and I do not expect him, to come into office and accept and spend at President Biden's levels. So I would encourage President Trump to go back and take a look at the final budget he proposed for fiscal year 2021 and look at his estimate for spending in 2025.

So I have done the exact same thing. I am using the fiscal year 2025 estimates from his last budget, but I am using this year's Social Security, Medicare, and interest expense. If we do that, we are looking at a spending level of $6 trillion.

So, again, we can look at individual expense items. You can take a look at defense, if you don't think we are spending enough on that, if it is too risky a world. I mean, somewhere within the range of 5.5, which would literally balance our budget, up to 6, $6.2 trillion, that is a reasonable base that we ought to include in a budget we will be passing this year, and that should drive future spending. That would reset spending levels to a far more reasonable level.

Again, let me just reemphasize, whether we use Bill Clinton's 1998 spending level, which would result in a $5.5 trillion baseline; Barack Obama's 2014 spending levels, which would result in a baseline budget of $6.2 trillion; or President Trump's final budget, which would result in a $6 trillion spending level, that is a reasonable approach.

That is what families do. That is what businesses in America are forced do. They don't just say: Spend whatever you want. Put 70 percent of our spending budget on automatic pilot. We will never look at it. We will just spend whatever we want.

That is how you bankrupt a family. That is how you bankrupt a business. That is how we are mortgaging our children's future. It has to stop.

So I am putting everybody on notice. I am on the Budget Committee. I am on the Finance Committee. I am going to insist that the budget we pass now that Republicans are in control of the Senate returns to some reasonable baseline.

Listen, I am reasonable. I will negotiate. I am not saying this is gospel; this is etched in stone. But President Trump, our majority leader, our majority leadership, House leadership, they are going to have to justify to me how you would justify spending more than these reasonable baselines.

I ran in 2010 because we were mortgaging our children's future. I remember doing parades, shouting that. ''We are mortgaging our children's future.'' It is immoral. It has to stop. We are spending 24, 25 percent of GDP at the Federal Government level. That is not the vision of our Founding Fathers, of sovereign states where government is primarily at the State level, at the local level, where it is close to the people, where it is more efficient, it is more effective, and it is more accountable.

Now Washington is gobbling up all of our resources, borrowing these vast amounts of money, devaluing our currency. They are not solving problems. They are not reducing poverty. They are not making lives better. They are putting American lives at risk.

And as Government grows, our freedoms recede. And Americans have to understand that of all the things that have made this country great, the men and women who have worked and built this marvel of a nation, the one essential ingredient they have always used is just that, freedom. It is freedom that allowed them to dream and aspire and build and create this marvel of a country. It is freedom that will allow these young people sitting in front of me here to do the same thing.

But as long as government continues to grow, those freedoms will necessarily recede. It is a direct relationship. So we have allowed government to grow way too large. It influences far too much of our lives, negatively influences it.

We need to jealously guard our freedom. We need to jealously reclaim our freedom. And the best way to do that is to shrink the size, the scope, and the cost of the government and its influence over our lives. And the only way you do that is you have to reduce total spending by the Federal Government. This is the metric. We talk about all kinds of things. That is the metric.

And one final point: We are not going to be able to tax our way out of this. We don't have a taxation problem; we have a spending problem. I want to make my final comment, the refuting of the false narrative that we hear ad nauseam from the other side. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act did not cause our deficits. When the CBO scored that, the score at the time it passed was that it was going to reduce revenue and increase our deficits by $1.5 trillion. And CBO then after passage, I think April of 2018, projected out revenue for 10 years. If you take a look at that revenue from 2018 to 2024, we actually have the actual results. They projected about $27 trillion worth of revenue over that 7-year period. The actual amount of revenue we raised from 2018 to 2024 was $28.7 trillion. We beat CBO's estimate by $1.7 trillion. So if the original score is 1.5 trillion—it was—in 7 years, we actually beat their estimate by 1.7. We paid for that tax cut in 7 years, plus $200 billion.

And we had the severe COVID recession in the middle of that. So don't believe anybody that tells you that Tax Cuts and Jobs Act caused our deficits. They didn't. They paid for themselves in less than 7 years and then some.

We have a spending problem in this country. There is no justification for going from $4.4 trillion to $6.5 trillion, and now we are at 6.9 with no end in sight.

This is immoral, what we are doing to our children. We have got to get this under control, and this is about as good a rationale, as good a justification for setting some dollar limit and using the budget process unlike we have ever used it before, not just for being able to pass some kind of reconciliation package with a mere majority vote but actually use the budget the way American families and American businesses do to set the spending limits.

And then ask our committees and the chair of our committees to take those budget caps seriously and figure out how they can structure spending, how they can structure these programs to actually live within those budget caps, and, again, if they actually used Bill Clinton's 1998 spending level and inflate it the way I have done here, actually balance the budget.

That is what the people who came out in November voting for President

Trump, that is their goal. That is their expectation. I suggest we live up to their expectations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The Senator from Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO TOM BRANDT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, for the past 8 years, I have benefited from the service, hard work, and loyalty of my communications director and deputy chief of staff Tom Brandt.

Tom has worked in three congressional offices and is well-known and respected in the Senate by reporters, staffers, and my colleagues. His career as a staffer on Capitol Hill is concluding, and I am sad about that; but he will continue serving the American people as he pursues one of his other passions, and that is a passion for space exploration and NASA.

I want to express my gratitude to him for his service to the people of Kansas and to me. Tom is from Oakland Park, KS, and comes from a long line of Kansans. He embodies Kansas values of hard work, determination, and generosity, and I know he learned these traits from his role models, his parents Carl and Nancy Brandt.

You have raised a great son, and I thank you for that.

His career on Capitol Hill began in Missouri Senator Roy Blunt's office, first in the House and then in the U.S. Senate. He earned Roy's trust early on as a driver. That is how we often meet some of our best members of our staff. And he, too, maintained a relationship with Roy during his tenure here in the U.S. Senate. I asked Roy to tell me something about Tom, and he said:

> Tom Brandt came to work for me in the House and was such an asset that I asked him to join our Senate press team. Tom always understood how to take advantage of the moment and the value of a clear message. I know Senator MORAN and his office will miss Tom when he leaves as much as we did.

Tom's career took him to work on various campaigns and, eventually, back to Capitol Hill where he worked for Kansas Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins during her time as the House GOP conference vice chair.

It was in her office that Tom was able to first pursue his passion for NASA. Lynn provided me with some thoughts, in her words, that she wanted to share about Tom:

> Tom is one of my all-time favorite coworkers.

When I asked her—this is me talking now—when I asked her whether I should hire Tom Brandt, she said: He is the best I ever hired.

> He is hardworking, honest, intelligent, kind and funny. Tom has a deep appreciation for his home State of Kansas and served it extremely well in his time in my office.

That is Lynn Jenkins speaking.

> But, in many ways, it was his penance, as you see Tom is perhaps the worst kind of traitor a native Kansan can be—he chose to attend college at the University of Missouri. Tom's interest in NASA and space policy is lifelong.

Again, Congresswoman Jenkins speaking.

> Years ago, when he worked as my communications director, he requested to handle my office's space legislative portfolio. Given I represented a district with no NASA presence and didn't serve on any committee of jurisdiction, no one [in our office actually handled that topic.] In response, my Chief of Staff told Tom, ''Sure, go for it, but it never comes up.'' Tom did take it and immediately reached out to NASA staff. Soon after, he set up my office's first of many interactions with NASA.

That is the end of Lynn Jenkins' quote.

After working in the House and private sector, Tom began working in our office in 2017. It became evident to me early on that one of Tom's greatest strengths is his ability to quickly build friendships and collaborations. He can quickly put folks at ease with his warm smile and personality. I always thought that smile, he was smirking at me every time I saw him. I got accustomed to that smile as something much better than a smirk.

He will take the time to talk with frustrated constituents to assure them they have been heard and that he will do his best to help. And Tom always follows through on his promises.

The relationships he formed over the years expands from everyone—House Members, U.S. Senators, staff in both places—and these relationships have aided Tom in his work.

Early on in his time in my office, he took a trip to Taiwan and established relationships with officials he met in the Taiwanese Government, and he maintained those relationships after returning home. During the COVID–19 pandemic, Taiwan generously offered to send face masks and personal protection equipment to the United States. Tom reached out to his individual friends he had made, and he asked them if any of that equipment could be sent to Kansas to help the hospitals that were in desperate need. Tom's request resulted in Taiwan sending 100,000 surgical masks to Kansas.

In a moment of great need, Tom found a way to bring help and aid to the people of his home State.

In his role as communications director—I expected a lot of press to be sitting in the Gallery, but I see none. In his role as communications director, Tom has been a steadying hand helping me untangle my own thoughts and express my positions in a way that is more clear and winsome.

When I have had to speak after taking an unpopular stand or something that had caused me to be misunderstood—either on policy or legislation—Tom always had my back, advocating for me and my positions, even when he had to face the anger of those who disagreed.

He has helped clear the way for tough but important legislation. I would highlight one, the Empowering Olympic and Amateur Athletes Act that was born out of our investigation into the abuses of gymnasts and other American athletes.

He has shown compassion toward veterans suffering from illnesses as the result of their service, and we worked together to pass the PACT Act to help those who had encountered Agent Orange and burn pit victims.

And he has always shown grit and determination, working through the night on many occasions, helping me find exactly the right words to say to express my position to my constituents and the world.

As an Eagle Scout, Tom lives by the Eagle Scout motto: ''Be prepared.'' He is always prepared with the right answer and for the tough questions from reporters, like the time a reporter reached out to see if ''Senator JERRY MORAN was playing golf with Vice President Pence.'' Tom, in all his wisdom, responded, ''Mike Pence golfs?''

Again, he has the gift to communicate.

While I congratulate Tom on his new job at NASA, his absence will be felt not only by me and by our team but by his many friends and colleagues on Capitol Hill.

Tom, we will miss your communications and policy expertise, your humorous quips and one-liners, your loyalty to the Kansas City Chiefs and Red Friday, and, above all, your friendship and passion for making the world a better place for Kansans and Americans.

I will miss, Tom, our nearly daily walks as I come over here to vote. It is a difficult job to be a comms director for a Senator who almost always shies away about visiting with reporters. Thanks for helping me explain my errors and celebrating our accomplishments. You had no responsibility for the errors and a great deal to do with the accomplishments.

Thank you for doing your job so well—pretty good for a Mizzou grad.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—AMENDMENTS

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to talk about the impact of the Laken Riley bill upon children here in the United States of America and to suggest that we have a debate over several amendments designed as to how to more appropriately treat our children who reside here in the United States so we do not end up doing significant injury to them, which I very much believe is going to be the result if we proceed without some changes.

But let me start just by noting that my thoughts are—as I think the thoughts of every Senator are—with Laken Riley's family.

Whenever there is a tragedy—no tragedy should happen, whether it is perpetuated by a citizen or it is perpetuated by an immigrant. Americans should be safe in their communities. It is absolutely clear that we need comprehensive, commonsense immigration reform.

Here in the Senate, Democrats and Republicans worked together back in

2013 to pass just such a bill—an enormous investment in border security 12 years ago, approved in this body by Democrats and Republicans together. That bill never got a hearing in the House of Representatives. So I hope we will, in fact, try to resurrect the spirit that inspired us 12 years ago in this coming year for comprehensive reform.

This particular bill is very troubling in how it impacts children. I am troubled that a bill of such consequence and, quite frankly, legal complexity was brought to the floor without going through a committee. Really, here in the Senate, the way to do responsible work on complicated, consequential bills is to have them go before a committee so the committee can bring in all the experts necessary to resolve disputes and misunderstandings about how the bill might work. From that common understanding, needed reforms can be implemented. But here on the floor of the Senate, where often only one or two of us are here at a time, there is no such consideration. We can't bring experts to the floor here to resolve these issues.

My colleague from Alabama is here today, and when I propose that we consider certain amendments, I anticipate that she is going to object, although I will try to persuade her otherwise with the logic of my presentation. But I would say that the core point stands that this bill is consequential, it is complicated, and the potential impact on children is dramatic. So let's work to prevent something really awful from happening here in our country because I know that is not the intent of my colleague.

This bill as written requires ICE officers to detain individuals who have neither been charged nor convicted of a crime—neither charged nor convicted. Children imprisoned without being charged or convicted of a crime—that is what this bill does.

In the current system, children can be, in fact, detained, but it is at discretion on the front end and discretion on the back end to understand the whole of the circumstances. Is the individual a flight risk? Does the individual pose a risk to the community? Are we talking about an assault with a deadly weapon or are we talking about grabbing and eating an apple while walking down the aisle of a grocery store? That discretion is obliterated in this bill.

If a 5-year-old girl in either of our States—I am from Oregon, and Senator BRITT from Alabama—gets hungry and grabs that apple, the Laken Riley Act says that young girl, if arrested, must be put into an ICE prison—must be, without discretion—and there is no provision in the bill to get that girl out. There is no required review.

This is an obliteration of everything we understand about due process. A child arrested but never charged because there was, in fact, in the end, no evidence—no conviction because since there is no evidence, there is no trial—is still sitting in prison without recourse, in an ICE prison.

This is not the America I know, and I don't believe this is the America my colleagues across the aisle want. So I come here to say let's work together to fix this bill. That is what we are looking to do today.

I have three amendments. I will explain each of the amendments before I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment so that the amendment can, in fact, be debated and voted on.

The first amendment excludes children from this bill. If the idea is that mandatory detention should apply to adults, then let's exclude children. Children would still be subject to potential detention that exists under the current law at the discretion—in fact, under current law, they can be detained with discretion even just for an arrest, before they have been charged or convicted, but there is discretion involved.

I know of no case in which there has been permanent, mandatory imprisonment of a child who has only been arrested and never charged and never convicted in the entire history of the United States of America, and we are about to change that. That is wrong.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment so I can offer my amendment No. 73; that there be up to 15 minutes for debate on the amendment; and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the amendment without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, with all due respect to my colleague from Oregon, he voted against even proceeding to this bill. Now he is attempting to force amendments onto the bill outside of the bipartisan amendment process that we are working through.

Look, I get it. I understand the frustration when your caucus is working and your bill doesn't get called up to be voted on. But the truth is, we are working diligently to make sure that all voices are heard.

I also find it really interesting because for the past 4 years under the failed Biden-HARRIS administration's open border policies, I have not seen one bill be brought to the floor from this side of the aisle to really focus on what is happening to children as a result of these policies.

If you look at our wide-open border, we have had over 468,000 unaccompanied children come across our border in the last 4 years. When you look at the numbers that HHS has put out, they admit to losing at least 85,000 children. Where has the outrage been?

My colleagues and I on this side of the aisle have been diligently bringing this to the forefront time and time again, even holding our own version of a hearing because we couldn't get our Democratic colleagues to shine light on this. How dare they step out of line with Biden and HARRIS and their open border policy and agenda. How dare they. They should have. We did, and we will continue to make sure that we speak up for these kids.

When you look at what is happening to migrant children being trafficked, in many cases, from drug trafficking, to sex trafficking, to stories that are absolutely gut-wrenching and heartbreaking, something has to be done, and it begins with making sure that we have accountability and that we are taking criminals off our streets.

It is not just migrant children who have paid the price for the failed policies of this last administration; it is American children as well.

Look at 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray in Texas, who was brutally raped and murdered by two men who never should have been here. Look at Laken Riley, who last Friday would have celebrated her 23rd birthday had she still been on this Earth. Had this bill been enacted, Laken Riley would still be alive.

This bill is a lifesaving bill. This bill protects children.

We are going to continue to fight to expose the detrimental impact of the Biden-Harris open border policies, and we on this side of the aisle look forward to joining with those on the other side of the aisle who are willing to make commonsense, targeted reforms to keep Americans safe.

Because of that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. My colleague laid out quite a set of factors there, but let's not blur the picture. The picture is this: A child came here when they were 2 months old. They have been here for 12 years or 14. They walk out of a store with a group of children. A police officer thinks they saw them put something into their pocket and arrests them. It turns out they didn't put anything into their pocket. Nothing was in there, but they have been arrested. Now ICE is required to indefinitely imprison that child—that child in Alabama who was going to be a great, outstanding member of their school and of their community—sentencing that child, with no charge, no conviction, no crime, to prison. We know exactly what harm that type of imprisonment does.

That is what this amendment is about. I can't take on all of the other issues, but I will say that last year, we had a bipartisan group develop a comprehensive bill, and my colleagues across the aisle blocked it from coming to the floor. But that was last year's debate.

This is a bill that has a purpose, but I don't think the purpose is to wrongly, indefinitely, mandatorily imprison innocent children. So I would ask my colleague, while you are objecting now, let's continue this conversation because it is that important to fairness in America.

There is a legal difference of opinion currently, so I am just going to describe that. It was sold on the House side by saying that there is a settlement called the Flores settlement which will continue to protect children and prevent this from happening—an innocent child indefinitely detained in prison with no review process.

But let's turn to the counsel for Flores. The counsel for Flores has put out a detailed statement. I have a copy. I understand that other lawyers may have other opinions, but these are the experts.

They say: The Flores settlement does not apply to undocumented children in the community. It applies only to children detained in Federal immigration custody by DHS under Customs and Border Protection or Immigration and Customs Enforcement in certain circumstances and so on and so forth. ''Neither the Flores Settlement, nor any other existing legal protection, would prevent undocumented children from being mandatorily detained by ICE under the Laken Riley Act'' as it is currently written.

It goes on to note and explain that the Flores settlement is a consent decree, and law, Federal law, trumps consent decrees.

It goes on to say that ''children, including toddlers, are not exempted from the Laken Riley Act'' and that ''24 states have no minimum age for prosecuting children,'' meaning you can be arrested at any age, even a toddler.

So I will ask my colleague not, again, to consider granting consent for this amendment, but I would ask that you work with me to explore this topic and see if we can fix this problem to our mutual satisfaction so we don't do harm to children, if you would consider doing that.

Mrs. BRITT. I will always work with you to talk about how we can help children—always.

Mr. MERKLEY. Thank you.

We are in the same hallway over in the Hart Building.

Mrs. BRITT. Neighbors.

Mr. MERKLEY. I look forward to cooperating on many topics, but this is perhaps the most important one at the moment.

A second amendment that I have creates some of the flexibility that exists in current law that doesn't exist under this bill. It requires DHS to employ what is referred to as the best interest standard for the child. This is a standard that is used in virtually every single State in the foster care and child service industry.

And so the amendment reads—it is nice to have very short amendments. It requires DHS to only detain children in a manner consistent with the best interest of the child and that does not abrogate, modify, or replace protections for children in applicable Federal law, regulation, court orders, and decrees—in other words, preserving the flexibility that exists in current law, which means could be detained but that a judge can consider the totality of the circumstances, the level of the crime, whether or not there is a flight risk, whether or not there is a potential harm to the community.

The best interest standard seems like an appropriate thing to apply when we are, in fact, collectively striving for the best interest of the children.

So I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment so that I may offer up amendment No. 72; that there be up to 15 minutes for debate on the amendment; and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the amendment without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, reserving my right to object, we have repeatedly confirmed with ICE that all existing consent decrees would continue to apply. This amendment addresses something the bill doesn't do.

And as I have said, the Laken Riley Act would protect kids. It is bipartisan; it is targeted; and it is common sense. That is why we want to keep it that way. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I do disagree with my colleague because this bill eliminates the flexibility in the current system to consider the totality of the circumstances, and restoring the best interest standard that every State is intimately familiar with is remedying the lack of flexibility in the bill as it is written.

But again, we will continue this conversation. I view coming to the floor and having this dialogue as kind of a way for us to do something that is too rare—way too rare—here in the Senate. We rarely have these types of conversations in front of the American people, and I think it is important we have them, especially when there is some value—that maybe we share the same value but have different interpretations of how that value will be impacted. I am sure we share the same value on trying not to do kids wrong. That is why I value this dialogue with my colleague, and I hope it will lead to the opportunity to resolve these issues.

I have a third amendment, and the third amendment is related to another aspect of the way children are affected, including American citizen children.

Imagine the parent who goes to work who is accused—I don't know—of stealing a tool out of the factory, and so he is arrested or she is arrested. And now, under this bill, that adult has to be locked up—no flexibility on the front end—even though it turns out that they did not steal the tool; they had nothing in their bag that they had with them. The officer thought they did; they didn't. They never get charged. They never get convicted so there is no trial. They are charged. But that parent who has maybe one, two, three, four American citizen children at home waiting for them—they come home from school, and no parent comes home. They have to be locked up under this bill.

So we are not just talking about an impact in this bill on immigrant children. We are talking about an impact on citizen children. Now, I care about both, but I just want to note that there has been a conversation about this bill as if it only affects immigrants. No, it affects American citizens too. It affects spouses who might be American citizens. It certainly affects the children who are likely American citizens.

So this amendment says that if an adult with children under 17 is subject to the mandatory detention that currently has no end, no back end to it, has no ability to appeal—it is permanent detention, permanent imprisonment—that if they have children at home, after 30 days, there would be a court proceeding to consider whether or not the conditions should exist for release after the normal set of issues are considered, such as is this person a danger to the community; is this person a flight risk; can they be released with bail—the same things we have now—because back at that home are a bunch of children, maybe noncitizen children, maybe citizen children, but a bunch of children who are going: My parent never came home. I am not just a latchkey kid with a parent coming home at 10 p.m. because that is when their shift ends; I am a kid who doesn't know what the hell to do now, and my life has been shattered.

So this would create the opportunity for that flexibility that exists in current law after 30 days of mandatory detention. I think it is an appropriate way to address the potential for impact that I am sure no one intended in writing this bill, which was to leave a bunch of children back in a home with no parent and no support.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to set aside the pending amendment so that I can offer amendment No. 71; that there be up to 15 minutes for debate on the amendment; and that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the amendment without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we have heard a lot of things that are untruthful about this bill today. First off, no one's due process is taken with regard to their immigration proceeding that may be moving and the ability to see the criminal proceeding through to the end.

At the end of the day, we have to make a decision, and that is the decision that is in front of my colleagues right now. Are we going to protect open border policies or are we going to protect kids?

I mean, we are seeing, even in this conversation about carveouts and

whatnot—you have got teen migrant gangs running rampant in New York City, allegedly running theft rings, with children as young as 11.

Think about what you do when you think about each one of these things we have discussed today. If you were to carve out a certain kid or a certain age, you don't make that kid safer; you make them a greater target for the drug cartels, for the people looking to move crime.

We have to make sure that we are taking a commonsense approach to this. And at the end of the day, if you don't commit a crime, you are going to be good.

So I am here today to say it is time to pass the Laken Riley Act. It is past time to do that—having a commonsense, targeted approach that, no, does not fix everything.

I hear my colleague's frustration with regard to regular order of last year. I would like to echo that. You think about what we are dealing with right now. We have had over 11 million people come across the border under the Biden-Harris administration. Some people say that number is much higher. There are at least 2 million that came across the border that we don't know who they are, where they are going, or what their intentions are.

You look at the nondetained docket we have here in our country—7.8 million. You look at those who have been given their due process—1.4 million have been issued their final orders of removal, meaning they have been given their due process, and we have said: You have no legal right to be here.

We have got to do better at tackling every bit of that, and doing better starts today. We are not only going to do right by Laken Riley and her legacy; we are going to do right by the children of this country, making it safer and more secure. That is exactly what this bill does. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation, and we must keep it strong and keep it that way.

So on that, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I was hoping those last two words weren't ''I object.'' But this is an important issue that has been raised, and we need to look carefully because there is no intention to leave a houseful of children home alone when the parent poses no flight risk, has committed no crime, poses no risk to the community, and those children are being harmed.

In fact, I do take factual dispute with a few of my colleague's points. She noted that no due process had been taken. When you eliminate the discretion on the front end, you change due process. A judge can no longer say this person is no flight risk, no risk to the community, has children at home, so we will put a high bond. They will absolutely show up. We know where all their relatives are. And that will be best because, if the person is subsequently charged, they will be there for trial.

That due process is stripped away on the front end. There is due process in existence now on the back end, where a person can challenge their detention and whether or not they should be there.

In fact, during the previous Trump administration, there were children who were released with such challenges, but that is taken away. So, yes, due process is dramatically changed, with a huge impact on children.

And my colleague mentioned that we don't want children to be targeted for gangs. Amen to that. Who is more of a target for gangs than children left alone in the home because their parent has been unjustly imprisoned? That does exactly the opposite of what my colleague wants to achieve.

So I know this conversation will continue; at least, I hope it will. We are now under a filed cloture motion, which means the majority intends to close debate probably on Monday, and yet one Democratic amendment has been heard—one. The majority leader has said he wants to do things differently; that he wants there to be an amendment process.

The amendment process I saw when I first came to this Senate consisted of standing up and saying: I have a relevant, germane amendment. I am asking for the existing amendment to be set aside so that mine can be brought up, which puts it in a queue for consideration. People can study it. And then you go to a whole series of votes on all those things that are in that queue.

We did this on Dodd-Frank. We did this on ObamaCare. I think we should do it here because the consequences are high. But if that can't be done, then I would ask my colleague who has worked so hard on this particular bill to take a look at whether the Republican side will agree to hear these amendments and vote on them. They may be voted down, but I think they are important.

I think it is extremely important that kids not be wrapped up in this. They can currently be detained, but it is with discretion of the circumstances. I think it is particularly important that we have a standard for children in terms of their best interest. I think it is particularly important that we have a way, after a few weeks, to have some look at whether children who have been left home alone—and if the circumstances are appropriate and there is no flight risk, the circumstances are appropriate and there is no community risk—to help address that situation or we are harming children this was never meant to harm.

So I ask for my Republican colleagues to consider providing an opportunity because they—it takes 100 percent. Every single Senator has to agree to hear an amendment.

We used to have the Senate code. The Senate code was: I won't object to your amendment. You don't object to mine. They are on the topic before us.

These are on the topic before us. These are not some crazy thing. These are addressing core due process issues that affect children. So I would ask that at least they get some discussion for the possibility of consideration.

I thank my colleague from Alabama for coming and hearing me out as well as—I am not really thanking you for objecting, but I am thanking you in the spirit in which I think you want to do the right thing.

And I will keep striving to convince you that the right thing here is we should debate these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLENE ROWELL

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is nearing the end of the week, and normally, that is when I come down to the Senate floor to do my weekly—I try to make it weekly—Alaskan of the Week speech.

Now, I know for the pages, this is their favorite speech of the week. You get to hear about Alaska; you get to hear about some great Alaskan doing some great stuff. I usually try to give a little update about what is going on in our great State because it is always something interesting. And then I encourage people watching on TV: Come on up to Alaska; you are going to have the trip of a lifetime if you do it.

So today the Alaskan of the Week is someone very special to me and my wife. I am going to talk in detail about all she has done for our State. Her name is Kathlene Rowell. And she has worked for me in Alaska going on 15 years. The Presiding Officer understands that as a former Governor, where you have great staff that do amazing things, not just for you and your team but for the whole State.

Her title in the office has been deputy State director, but she has been so much more than that. She has literally been the glue that has kept my whole team together, not just since I have been in the Senate but even before I became a Senator.

So I am going to talk about Kathlene real quick here in a minute as the Alaskan of the Week. She so much deserves it. Just wanted to mention a few things.

We are all, of course, praying for the people impacted by the fires in California. We are all ready to stand by to help. The States are coming together. My State is certainly a State that understands natural disasters, and, you know, even in Alaska right now, Anchorage just last week—didn't make any news down here—was hit with hurricane-force winds on Sunday, up to 130 miles an hour. A lot of people—hundreds—were without power, a lot of property damage. So, you know, we are thinking about our Alaskan colleagues who were hit by that hurricane—there is no other word—typhoon.

And, of course, praying for everybody in Los Angeles. You know, with a State and population that big, we all know people. I have a good college roommate

buddy of mine Tom McMillin, my two sisters-in-law Janine and Jennifer, they are all being real negatively impacted by that. So we are thinking about them.

In Alaska, I always like to give an update. The Sun is actually coming back. We hit the winter solstice. In Anchorage, we are gaining about 4 minutes of sun a day; in Fairbanks, we are gaining about 5 minutes of sun a day; and in about a week, January 22, the Sun will rise again in Utqiagvik, AK—Barrow, AK—the top of North America. That will be the first time the sun comes up over the horizon in 2 months. So they get a dark winter, and it is cold up there.

The Iditarod, the Last Great Race, is coming up March 2. If you are thinking about coming to Alaska, don't think just this summer. Come up in the winter, too; it is great. So that is a little bit of update to tell what is going on.

Now, back to Kathlene Rowell, the rock in our office whose last day—oh, it breaks my heart, breaks my wife Julie's heart. Her last day was yesterday.

So little bit of background about Kathlene. She moved with her family to Alaska from Chicago when she was 3 years old. Her father worked in the oil fields and had been commuting to Alaska, Illinois, Chicago—back and forth. He thought it was time for the family to come together, so they settled in beautiful Eagle River, AK, a gorgeous—and I mean gorgeous—patriotic community, mountainous community right outside of Anchorage.

Kathlene went to Chugiak High. Go Mustangs. She was an excellent, driven student. Anyone who knows Kathlene knows that ''excellence'' is her motto. Everything she does is excellent.

But we got confirmation from her good friend Robyn Engibous—on my staff, my deputy chief of staff here in DC—who went to school with Kathlene and remains very close, that, yes, Kathlene was a straight-A student. We knew that. She showed horses. She worked at the coffee shop in Eagle River called Jitters, a mainstay in that great community. She excelled academically.

Went to college first in Colorado, then in Washington State. Did a semester with the National Outdoor Leadership, which she loved, and then came back to Alaska, finished up, and graduated from Alaska Pacific University which, very importantly, she did well there. But really, really importantly, she met her husband Ben who is a great guy. Great guy. They are a great couple.

So that is Kathlene's early background. She then worked in the parks division, division of parks and rec, right at the department of natural resources. That is when I first met her. I was the new commissioner at DNR—we call it DNR in Alaska; that covers everything in Alaska. We worked in the same building. I was a brandnew commissioner, and I was looking for a special assistant—a young, smart, talented, special assistant—as the commissioner of the department of natural resources.

Now, this is a big job, right? If Alaska were its own country, it would be the envy of the world in terms of resources, strategic location, critical minerals, our military, you name it. DNR has a lot of responsibility over all these things.

Matter of fact, not to go on a tangent here, but I had an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal today titled ''Greenland Is Nice, but Alaska Is Better.'' Goes into all this stuff about how great Alaska is.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Wall Street Journal Op-Ed, ''Greenland Is Nice, but Alaska Is Better,'' be printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks. Just to give you a sense of our great State there.

So I needed a special assistant. And I was looking at all these resumes and these lawyers and stuff, and here, for the young pages, this is the value of what they call an elevator speech. You have heard of an elevator speech, right? You have to make a pitch; you have to make it quick. So I am getting on the elevator, Kathlene at the time she is probably mid, early twenties. She is very young-looking, so then she looked a lot younger than her early twenties.

And she gets on the elevator, and, boy, oh, boy, it was the elevator pitch: Commissioner Sullivan, I understand you are looking for a special assistant.

The elevator is going up, all these people are listening: I believe I have the qualities, the hard work, the ethics, the commitment to excellence to be your special assistant. I would like to come by your office and interview.

Boom, the door opens. I was like, dang, that was impressive. Elevator pitch. So she made that. Came in, interviewed, and I am like, I am hiring her—none of these gung ho, high-falutin lawyers; I am going to put my trust in this young Alaskan. And, boy, oh, boy, I am so glad I did. It was the best elevator pitch I have ever seen.

Kathlene rolled up her sleeves and learned everything she could, and before you knew it, she was running the department of natural resources, which in Alaska is the giant organization of hundreds and hundreds of people, the key to our economy.

She was working with my other special assistant John Katchen. She was hugely essential to the things we got done at our department of natural resources. We negotiated against ExxonMobil for a giant natural gas deal. You want to talk about a tough thing. Exxon brings in like 25 lawyers to negotiate against a group of 3 of us, right? We took them down.

She organized summits. She helped us redo our State's oil tax regime, which is creating a big spur of development right now. Kathlene was essential in all of this, bringing more producers up to Alaska, a great teammate. Her heart was in serving our State.

Fast-forward a few years, I am going to run for the U.S. Senate—not an easy run. A lot of good Republicans in the primary. There was a Democrat incumbent here; that is never easy. And the first person I said I am going to hire on my campaign team, first person, was Kathlene.

Now, it was a risk. She had a 1-year-old at home at the time, Benjamin, who is now joined by his brother Niles. By the way, Kathlene is a great mom. Her boys are now 12 and 8. When she first started working for me, she had no kids. She has got a beautiful family with her husband Ben and her two wonderful boys.

But it was a risk. She had a great State job, and she is going to, you know, join this guy throwing his hat in the ring. You know, I am not so sure it was looking like an easy deal, but she left her easy—not easy—her secure State job, the first person I hired on my campaign. Organized it. Traveled. And I am pretty sure I would not have won without Kathlene's great work. That was in 2014.

And then she stayed in our office in Alaska, became the deputy State director. And you know how it is, she has been with me and my team, my wife, longer than any other staff member, and she has done an incredible job.

Now, we all know how important staff are, both here in DC and especially back home. They work hard. Let's face it, you know, government jobs aren't always the best: You certainly could probably be making more money in the private sector; the hours can be grueling. But great staff, they are vital to what we do.

They are vital to the work that we get done here in the Senate, in DC, and really vital back home where the work they do for our constituents and the places they travel to are essential. They are essential.

And here is a big thing: As you know, the help that our offices back home do to work for the people we are honored to represent is vital because there are so many giant Federal Agencies—Social Security, the VA, IRS, the Department of Defense, Immigration—that are giant labyrinths that people don't know how to get through.

Our Federal Government can be unwieldy and often unforgiving. So when Alaskans need help on all those things—Social Security checks; VA benefits, we are the State with more veterans per capita than any State in the country; Medicare; the IRS comes screwing up something—they come to us and we work on these cases.

This is a rough number, but since I have been in office, our Alaska staff has worked on more than 12,000 of these cases, and they are really complicated and take hours and hours. We always have at least one person attached to these cases, something they will always remember, and their lives are impacted by whether they are resolved in a good way or bad way.

And as I am sure you probably believe, you don't always hear about this

part of the job of representing people in our great Republic; but in my view, it is probably the best part of the job because you have a direct impact on someone you represent, and you can literally change their lives.

We do that, we put our heart and soul into it, but nobody has put their heart and soul into it more than Kathlene. She has made all of this happen, 12,000 cases.

Now, I also have a fantastic director of constituent services in Anchorage, Carrie Keil, who has completed more than 3,600 of these cases herself. She is amazing. But here is what Carrie said about Kathlene: Kathlene is at the helm of the ship. She is the captain of the ship. She makes all of this possible. She is a master communicator. Her loyalty and integrity to the people of Alaska are unmatched.

That is what you want with great staff.

Margaret Sharpe, she runs our Mat-Su Valley regional area, our regional director, Margaret, who does a great job. She calls Kathlene our hero: She is our conscience. She is the gatekeeper of decorum. She is all about kindness and respect. She keeps all of us kind.

Isn't that a great compliment? That is from Margaret on my team.

Elena Spraker, another great member of my team, our Kenai regional director on the Kenai Peninsula. Covers Kodiak as well. Elena does a great job. She says that she has never worked with anyone with more skills than Kathlene. Elaina says, ''Kathlene is our rock,'' and I agree. That is so true.

You know, in our line of work, in elected jobs, whether Governors or commissioners or Senators, we all know that certain people have an impact that goes way beyond just the work that they do, and Kathlene is one of those. She has worked so hard, often at the sacrifice of time with her beautiful boys and family and her husband. But she set the bar so high on professionalism, in excellence, in everything she does that everybody around her—in our Anchorage office, in our Alaska offices, in our DC offices—everybody around her, myself included, gets lifted up and made better and has improved by being in Kathlene's orbit. Those are special people, and that is what Kathlene is.

Now, she has been a loyal employee, certainly to me and my wife Julie. There was a little going-away party for her back home in Anchorage, 2 days ago. Fortunately, Julie was able to make it. But throughout all, it is not just loyalty to us. It is to the people of Alaska, to helping people, to helping our State move forward.

And, as I said, yesterday was Kathlene's last day. She is going to bring these same skills to a really great credit union in Anchorage—their gain, our loss—but she is always going to be a member of Team Sullivan.

Kathlene, we all say staff is like family here, but Kathlene truly is like family for me and my wife Julie. We definitely would not have gotten this far without her. We are going to miss her terribly.

So, Kathlene, thank you. Thanks for your great work. Good luck in your new job. From the bottom of my heart and Julie's heart, thanks for all you have done for me and Julie, our office, our State, our country. And, of course, I hope you are honored by one of the most prestigious awards anyone can get in America by being our ''Alaskan of the Week.''

Congratulations, Kathlene. Godspeed.

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

[From The Wall Street Journal, Jan. 15, 2025]

OP-ED: GREENLAND IS NICE, BUT ALASKA IS BETTER

(By Sen. DAN SULLIVAN)

There's been a lot of talk about President-elect Trump's idea of buying Greenland. But one U.S. state offers all of Greenland's benefits: Alaska. The problem is that the Biden administration has spent its time trying to turn the Last Frontier into a giant national park rather than recognizing it as a great strategic asset.

Greenland would provide the U.S. a gateway to the Arctic. But America is already an Arctic nation thanks to Alaska. The Russians and Chinese know my state is at the forefront of great-power competition. In the past two years, there have been 12 air incursions into the state's air-defense identification zone, including an unprecedented joint Russian-Chinese strategic bomber operation, and large-scale joint Russian-Chinese naval task forces in our waters.

Greenland plays an important part in missile-defense and early-warning networks, but the cornerstone of America's missile defense is Alaska. Any missiles launched by Russia, China or North Korea against the U.S. would likely fly over the state. That's why it hosts the vast majority of America's radar systems and ground-based missile interceptors. To create an Iron Dome for America—a priority of Mr. Trump—we need to add to our national ballistic-missile interceptor capability in Alaska and build a robust layered missile defense and space-based missile sensor capability.

Greenland is rich in minerals and energy reserves. Alaska is even richer. Our state holds an estimated 40 billion barrels of oil and roughly 235 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. In one field alone, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska reinjects into a reservoir for oil-production purposes as much natural gas each day as Oregon, Washington and California consume.

Alaska also has a wealth of metals and other minerals, some of which are essential for our national defense, economy and renewable-energy sector. President Biden worked to keep them in the ground. The first Trump administration approved a road needed to access one of America's richest mineral deposits, the Ambler Mining District in Alaska's Interior. The Biden administration killed that road last June. Then Mr. Biden traveled to Angola to announce $600 million to build a railroad to help that country market its critical minerals.

Buy Greenland? Sure, if the price is right and the Danes are willing to sell. But as Mr. Trump prepares to unleash Alaska's potential again, it's worth remembering what the father of the U.S. Air Force, Gen. Billy Mitchell, once said: ''I believe . . . whoever controls Alaska controls the world. I think it is the most strategic place in the world.''

Mr. SULLIVAN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, rule XXVI, paragraph 2, of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. Today, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs adopted committee rules of procedure.

Consistent with standing rule XXVI, I ask unanimous consent to have a copy of the rules of procedure of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

PURSUANT TO RULE XXVI, SEC. 2, STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

RULE 1. MEETINGS AND MEETING PROCEDURES OTHER THAN HEARINGS

A. Meeting dates. The Committee shall hold its regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, when the Congress is in session, or at such other times as the Chair shall determine. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair as the Chair deems necessary to expedite Committee business. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 3, Standing Rules of the Senate.)

B. Calling special Committee meetings. If at least three Members of the Committee desire the Chair to call a special meeting, they may file in the offices of the Committee a written request therefor, addressed to the Chair. Immediately thereafter, the clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chair of such request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of such request, the Chair fails to call the requested special meeting, which is to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of such request, a majority of the Committee Members may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special Committee meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Committee chief clerk shall notify all Committee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 3, Standing Rules of the Senate.)

C. Meeting notices and agenda. Written notices of Committee meetings, accompanied by an agenda, enumerating the items of business to be considered, shall be sent to all

Committee Members at least one week in advance of such meetings. The written notices required by this Rule may be provided by electronic mail. In the event that unforeseen requirements or Committee business prevent sufficient notice of either the meeting or agenda, the Committee staff shall communicate such notice and agenda, or any revisions to the agenda, as soon as practicable by telephone or otherwise to Members or appropriate staff assistants in their offices.

D. Open business meetings. Meetings for the transaction of Committee or Subcommittee business shall be conducted in open session, except that a meeting or series of meetings on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in clauses (1) through (6) below would require the meeting to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee Members when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such meeting or meetings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of Committee or Subcommittee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of an informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(b), Standing Rules of the Senate.) Notwithstanding the foregoing, whenever disorder arises during a Committee or Subcommittee meeting that is open to the public, or any demonstration of approval or disapproval is indulged in by any person in attendance at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chair to enforce order on the Chair's own initiative and without any point of order being made by a Member of the Committee or Subcommittee; provided, further, that when the Chair finds it necessary to maintain order, the Chair shall have the power to clear the room, and the Committee or Subcommittee may act in closed session for so long as there is doubt of the assurance of order. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(d), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

E. Prior notice of amendments. It shall not be in order for the Committee, or a Subcommittee thereof, to consider any amendment in the first degree proposed to any measure under consideration by the Committee or Subcommittee unless a written copy of such amendment has been delivered to each Member of the Committee or Subcommittee, as the case may be, and to the office of the Committee or Subcommittee, no later than: (1) 5:00 p.m. five calendar days before the meeting for a first degree amendment in the nature of a substitute proposed by the manager of the measure, (2) 5:00 p.m. two calendar days before the meeting for a first degree amendment, or (3) an earlier deadline, by consent of the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee, which may include second degree amendments, in the case where notices are provided earlier than the deadline required in paragraph C. The written copy of amendments required by this Rule may be provided by electronic mail. This subsection may be waived by a majority of the Members present, or by consent of the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee. This subsection shall apply only when at least 5 calendar days written notice of a session to mark-up a measure is provided to the Committee or Subcommittee.

F. Meeting transcript. The Committee or Subcommittee shall prepare and keep a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to fully record the proceeding of each meeting whether or not such meeting or any part thereof is closed to the public, unless a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee Members vote to forgo such a record. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(e), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

RULE 2. QUORUMS

A. Reporting measures and matters. A majority of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for reporting to the Senate any measures, matters or recommendations. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 7(a)(1), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

B. Transaction of routine business. One-third of the membership of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business, provided that one Member of the Minority is present. For the purpose of this paragraph, the term ''routine business'' includes the convening of a meeting and the consideration of subpoenas or any business of the Committee other than reporting to the Senate any measures, matters or recommendations. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 7(a)(1), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

C. Taking testimony. One Member of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for taking sworn or unsworn testimony. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 7(a)(2) and 7(c)(2), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

D. Subcommittee quorums. Subject to the provisions of sections 7(a)(1) and (2) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Subcommittees of this Committee are authorized to establish their own quorums for the transaction of business and the taking of sworn testimony.

E. Proxies prohibited in establishment of quorum. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

RULE 3. VOTING

A. Quorum required. Subject to the provisions of subsection (E), no vote may be taken by the Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, on any measure or matter unless a quorum, as prescribed in the preceding section, is actually present.

B. Reporting measures and matters. No measure, matter or recommendation shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee Members are actually present, and the vote of the Committee to report a measure or matter shall require the concurrence of a majority of those Members who are actually present at the time the vote is taken. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 7(a)(1) and (3), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

C. Proxy voting. Proxy voting shall be allowed on all measures, matters, and routine business before the Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, provided:

(1) When the Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, is voting to report a measure or matter, proxy votes shall be allowed solely for the purpose of recording a Member's position on the pending question. Proxy votes are not included in the vote tally when reporting the measure or matter.

(2) Proxy voting shall be allowed only if the absent Committee or Subcommittee Member has been informed of the matter on which the Member is being recorded and has affirmatively requested that the vote be so recorded.

(3) All proxies shall be in writing and shall contain sufficient reference to the pending matter as is necessary to identify it and to inform the Committee or Subcommittee as to how the Member establishes the vote to be recorded thereon. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 7(a)(3) and 7(c)(1), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

D. Announcement of vote. (1) Whenever the Committee by roll call vote reports any measure or matter, the report of the Committee upon such a measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in opposition to such measure or matter by each Member of the Committee. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 7(c), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

(2) Whenever the Committee by roll call vote acts upon any measure or amendment thereto, other than reporting a measure or matter, the results thereof shall be announced in the Committee report on that measure unless previously announced by the Committee, and such announcement shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of and the votes cast in opposition to each such measure and amendment thereto by each Member of the Committee who was present at the meeting. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 7(b), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

(3) In any case in which a roll call vote is announced, the tabulation of votes shall state separately the proxy vote recorded in favor of and in opposition to that measure, amendment thereto, or matter. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 7(b) and (c), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

E. Polling. (1) The Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, may poll (a) internal Committee or Subcommittee matters including the Committee's or Subcommittee's staff, records and budget; (b) steps in an investigation, including issuance of subpoenas, applications for immunity orders, and requests for documents from agencies; and (c) other Committee or Subcommittee business other than a vote on reporting to the Senate any measures, matters or recommendations or a vote on closing a meeting or hearing to the public.

(2) Only the Chair, or a Committee Member or staff officer designated by the Chair, may undertake any poll of the Members of the Committee. If any Member requests, any matter to be polled shall be held for meeting rather than being polled. The chief clerk of the Committee shall keep a record of polls; if a majority of the Members of the Committee determine that the polled matter is in one of the areas enumerated in subsection (D) of Rule 1, the record of the poll shall be confidential. Any Committee Member may move at the Committee meeting following the poll for a vote on the polled decision, such motion and vote to be subject to the provisions of subsection (D) of Rule 1, where applicable.

F. Naming postal facilities. The Committee will not consider any legislation that would name a postal facility for a living person with the exception of bills naming facilities after former Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States, former Members

of Congress over 70 years of age, former State or local elected officials over 70 years of age, former judges over 70 years of age, or wounded veterans. The Committee will not consider legislation that would name a postal facility unless it has the support of both Senators in the delegation of the state in which the facility is located.

G. Technical and conforming changes. A Committee vote to report a measure to the Senate shall also authorize the Committee Chair and Ranking Member by mutual agreement to make any required technical and conforming changes to the measure.

RULE 4. PRESIDING AT MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

The Chair shall preside at all Committee meetings and hearings except that the Chair shall designate a temporary Chair to act in the Chair's place if the Chair is unable to be present at a scheduled meeting or hearing. If the Chair (or a designee) is absent 10 minutes after the scheduled time set for a meeting or hearing, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside until the Chair's arrival. If there is no Member of the Majority present, the Ranking Minority Member present, with the prior approval of the Chair, may open and conduct the meeting or hearing until such time as a Member of the Majority arrives.

RULE 5. HEARINGS AND HEARING PROCEDURES

A. Announcement of hearings. The Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, shall make public announcement of the date, time, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one week in advance of such hearing, unless the Committee, or Subcommittee, determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing at an earlier date. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 4(a), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

B. Open hearings. Each hearing conducted by the Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, shall be open to the public, except that a hearing or series of hearings on the same subject for a period of no more than 14 calendar days may be closed to the public on a motion made and seconded to go into closed session to discuss only whether the matters enumerated in clauses (1) through (6) below would require the hearing to be closed, followed immediately by a record vote in open session by a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee Members when it is determined that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken at such hearing or hearings—

(1) will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of foreign relations of the United States;

(2) will relate solely to matters of Committee or Subcommittee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure;

(3) will tend to charge an individual with crime or misconduct, to disgrace or injure the professional standing of an individual, or otherwise expose an individual to public contempt or obloquy or will represent a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of an individual;

(4) will disclose the identity of an informer or law enforcement agent or will disclose any information relating to the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense that is required to be kept secret in the interests of effective law enforcement;

(5) will disclose information relating to the trade secrets of financial or commercial information pertaining specifically to a given person if—

(A) an Act of Congress requires the information to be kept confidential by Government officers and employees; or

(B) the information has been obtained by the Government on a confidential basis, other than through an application by such person for a specific Government financial or other benefit, and is required to be kept secret in order to prevent undue injury to the competitive position of such person; or

(6) may divulge matters required to be kept confidential under other provisions of law or Government regulations. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(b), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

Notwithstanding the foregoing, whenever disorder arises during a Committee or Subcommittee meeting that is open to the public, or any demonstration of approval or disapproval is indulged in by any person in attendance at any such meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chair to enforce order on the Chair's own initiative and without any point of order being made by a Member of the Committee or Subcommittee; provided, further, that when the Chair finds it necessary to maintain order, the Chair shall have the power to clear the room, and the Committee or Subcommittee may act in closed session for so long as there is doubt of the assurance of order. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(d), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

C. Full Committee subpoenas. The Chair, with notice to the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, is authorized to subpoena the attendance of witnesses at a hearing or deposition or the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other materials. A written notice of intent to issue a subpoena shall be provided to the Ranking Minority Member, or staff officers designated by the Ranking Minority Member, by the Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair, immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 72 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery, unless the Ranking Minority Member waives the 72 hour waiting period or unless the Chair certifies in writing to the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee that, in the Chair's opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately. When the Committee or Chair authorizes subpoenas, subpoenas may be issued upon the signature of the Chair or any other Member of the Committee designated by the Chair.

D. Witness counsel. Counsel retained by any witness and accompanying such witness shall be permitted to be present during the testimony of such witness at any public or executive hearing or deposition to advise such witness while the witness is testifying, of the witness's legal rights; provided, however, that in the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the Government, or of a corporation or association, the Committee Chair may rule that representation by counsel from the Government, corporation, or association or by counsel representing other witnesses, creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness may only be represented during interrogation by staff or during testimony before the Committee by personal counsel not from the Government, corporation, or association or by personal counsel not representing other witnesses. This subsection shall not be construed to excuse a witness from testifying in the event the witness's counsel is ejected for conduct that prevents, impedes, disrupts, obstructs or interferes with the orderly administration of the hearings; nor shall this subsection be construed as authorizing counsel to coach the witness or answer for the witness. The failure of any witness to secure counsel shall not excuse such witness from complying with a subpoena or deposition notice.

E. Witness transcripts. An accurate electronic or stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in executive and public hearings. The record of a witness's testimony whether in public or executive session shall be made available for inspection by the witness or the witness's counsel under Committee supervision; a copy of any testimony given in public session or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session shall be provided to any witness at the witness's expense if the witness so requests. Upon inspecting that transcript, within a time limit set by the Chair, a witness may request changes in the transcript to correct errors of transcription and grammatical errors; the Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair shall rule on such requests.

F. Impugned persons. Any person whose name is mentioned or is specifically identified, and who believes that evidence presented, or comment made by a Member of the Committee or staff officer, at a public hearing or at a closed hearing concerning which there have been public reports, tends to impugn the person's character or adversely affect the person's reputation may:

(a) File a sworn statement of facts relevant to the evidence or comment, which statement shall be considered for placement in the hearing record by the Committee;

(b) Request the opportunity to appear personally before the Committee to testify in the person's own behalf, which request shall be considered by the Committee; and

(c) Submit questions in writing which the person requests be used for the cross-examination of other witnesses called by the Committee, which questions shall be considered for use by the Committee.

G. Radio, television, and photography. The Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, may permit the proceedings of hearings which are open to the public to be photographed and broadcast by radio, television or both, subject to such conditions as the Committee, or Subcommittee, may impose. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(c), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

H. Advance statements of witnesses. A witness appearing before the Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, shall provide electronically a written statement of the witness's proposed testimony at least 2 calendar days prior to the witness' appearance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays in which the Senate is not in session. This requirement may be waived by the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member following their determination that there is good cause for failure of compliance. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 4(b), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

I. Minority witnesses. In any hearings conducted by the Committee, or any Subcommittee thereof, the Minority Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a Majority of Minority Members, to call witnesses of their selection during at least 1 day of such hearings. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 4(d), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

J. Swearing in witnesses. In any hearings conducted by the Committee, the Chair or the Chair's designee may swear in each witness prior to their testimony.

K. Full Committee depositions. Depositions may be taken prior to or after a hearing as provided in this subsection.

(1) Notices for the taking of depositions shall be authorized and issued by the Chair, with notice to the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. Written notice of intent to issue a deposition notice shall be provided to the Ranking Minority Member, or staff officers designated by the Ranking Minority Member, by the Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair, immediately upon such authorization, and no deposition notice shall be issued for at least 72 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery, unless the Ranking Minority Member

waives the 72 hour waiting period or unless the Chair certifies in writing to the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee that, in the Chair's opinion, it is necessary to issue a deposition notice immediately. Committee deposition notices shall specify a time and place for examination, and the name of the Committee Member or Members or staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. Unless otherwise specified, the deposition shall be in private. The Committee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness' failure to appear or produce unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a Committee subpoena.

(2) Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their legal rights, subject to the provisions of Rule 5D.

(3) Oaths at depositions may be administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. Questions shall be propounded orally by a Committee Member or Members or staff. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify, the objection shall be noted for the record and the Committee Member or Members or staff may proceed with the remainder of the deposition, or may, at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from the Chair. If the Chair overrules the objection, he or she may order and direct the witness to answer the question.

(4) The Committee shall see that the testimony is transcribed or electronically recorded (which may include audio or audio/video recordings). If it is transcribed, the transcript shall be made available for inspection by the witness or the witness's counsel under Committee supervision. The witness shall sign a copy of the transcript and may request changes to it, which shall be handled in accordance with the procedure set forth in subsection (E). If the witness fails to sign a copy, the staff shall note that fact on the transcript. The individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in their presence, the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall then be filed with the chief clerk of the Committee. The Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair may stipulate with the witness to changes in the procedure; deviations from this procedure which do not substantially impair the reliability of the record shall not relieve the witness from the witness's obligation to testify truthfully.

RULE 6. COMMITTEE REPORTING PROCEDURES

A. Timely filing. When the Committee has ordered a measure or matter reported, following final action, the report thereon shall be filed in the Senate at the earliest practicable time. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 10(b), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

B. Supplemental, Minority, and additional views. A Member of the Committee who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, Minority, or additional views at the time of final Committee approval of a measure or matter shall be entitled to not less than 3 calendar days excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays in which the Senate is not in session, in which to file such views, in writing, with the chief clerk of the Committee. Such views shall then be included in the Committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report. In the absence of timely notice, the Committee report may be filed and printed immediately without such views. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 10(c), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

C. Notice by Subcommittee Chair. The Chair of each Subcommittee shall notify the Chair of the Committee in writing whenever any measure has been ordered reported by such Subcommittee and is ready for consideration by the full Committee.

D. Draft reports of Subcommittees. All draft reports prepared by Subcommittees of this Committee on any measure or matter referred to it by the Chair shall be in the form, style, and arrangement required to conform to the applicable provisions of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and shall be in accordance with the established practices followed by the Committee. Upon completion of such draft reports, copies thereof shall be filed with the chief clerk of the Committee at the earliest practicable time.

E. Impact statements in reports. All Committee reports, accompanying a bill or joint resolution of a public character reported by the Committee, shall contain (1) an estimate, made by the Committee, of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out the legislation for the then current fiscal year and for each of the next 5 years thereafter (or for the authorized duration of the proposed legislation, if less than 5 years); and (2) a comparison of such cost estimates with any made by a Federal agency; or (3) in lieu of such estimate or comparison, or both, a statement of the reasons for failure by the Committee to comply with these requirements as impracticable, in the event of inability to comply therewith. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 11(a), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

Each such report shall also contain an evaluation, made by the Committee, of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out the bill or joint resolution. The evaluation shall include (a) an estimate of the numbers of individuals and businesses who would be regulated and a determination of the groups and classes of such individuals and businesses, (b) a determination of the economic impact of such regulation on the individuals, consumers, and businesses affected, (c) a determination of the impact on the personal privacy of the individuals affected, and (d) a determination of the amount of paperwork that will result from the regulations to be promulgated pursuant to the bill or joint resolution, which determination may include, but need not be limited to, estimates of the amount of time and financial costs required of affected parties, showing whether the effects of the bill or joint resolution could be substantial, as well as reasonable estimates of the recordkeeping requirements that may be associated with the bill or joint resolution. Or, in lieu of the forgoing evaluation, the report shall include a statement of the reasons for failure by the Committee to comply with these requirements as impracticable, in the event of inability to comply therewith. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 11(b), Standing Rules of the Senate.)

RULE 7. COMMITTEE CONFIDENTIALITY

Any Senator, officer, or employee of the Senate who shall disclose the secret or confidential business or proceedings of the Senate, including the business and proceedings of the committees, subcommittees, and offices of the Senate, shall be liable, if a Senator, to suffer expulsion from the body; and if an officer or employee, to dismissal from the service of the Senate, and to punishment for contempt. (Rule XXIX, Sec. 5, Standing Rules of the Senate.)

RULE 8. SUBCOMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEE PROCEDURES

A. Regularly established Subcommittees. The Committee shall have three regularly established Subcommittees. The Subcommittees are as follows:

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND CENSUS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER MANAGEMENT, FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

B. Ad hoc Subcommittees. Following consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chair shall, from time to time, establish such ad hoc Subcommittees as the Chair deems necessary to expedite Committee business.

C. Subcommittee membership. Following consultation with the Majority Members, and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, the Chair shall announce selections for membership on the Subcommittees referred to in paragraphs A and B, above.

(1) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall serve as nonvoting *ex officio* members of the subcommittees on which they do not serve as voting members.

(2) Any Member of the Committee may attend hearings held by any subcommittee and question witnesses testifying before that Subcommittee, subject to the approval of the Subcommittee Chair and Ranking Member.

D. Subcommittee meetings and hearings. Each Subcommittee of this Committee is authorized to establish meeting dates and adopt rules not inconsistent with the rules of the Committee except as provided in Rules 2(D) and 8(E).

E. Subcommittee subpoenas. Each Subcommittee is authorized to adopt rules concerning subpoenas which need not be consistent with the rules of the Committee; provided:

(1) A written notice of intent to issue the subpoena shall be provided to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, or staff officers designated by them, by the Subcommittee Chair or a staff officer designated by the Subcommittee Chair immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 2 calendar days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays in which the Senate is not in session, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member waive the notice period or unless the Subcommittee Chair certifies in writing to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member that, in the Subcommittee Chair's opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

F. Subcommittee budgets. During the first year of a new Congress, each Subcommittee that requires authorization for the expenditure of funds for the conduct of inquiries and investigations, shall file with the chief clerk of the Committee, by a date and time prescribed by the Chair, its request for funds for the two (2) 12-month periods beginning on March 1 and extending through and including the last day of February of the 2 following years, which years comprise that Congress. Each such request shall be submitted on the budget form prescribed by the Committee on Rules and Administration, and shall be accompanied by a written justification addressed to the Chair of the Committee, which shall include (1) a statement of the Subcommittee's area of activities, (2) its accomplishments during the preceding Congress detailed year by year, and (3) a table showing a comparison between (a) the funds authorized for expenditure during the preceding Congress detailed year by year, (b) the funds actually expended during that Congress detailed year by year, (c) the amount requested for each year of the Congress, and (d) the number of professional and clerical staff members and consultants employed by the Subcommittee during the preceding Congress detailed year by year and the number of such personnel requested for each year of

the Congress. The Chair may request additional reports from the Subcommittees regarding their activities and budgets at any time during a Congress. (Rule XXVI, Sec. 9, Standing Rules of the Senate.)

RULE 9. CONFIRMATION STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES

A. Standards. In considering a nomination, the Committee shall inquire into the nominee's experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity to serve in the position to which the nominee has been nominated. The Committee shall recommend confirmation, upon finding that the nominee has the necessary integrity and is affirmatively qualified by reason of training, education, or experience to carry out the functions of the office to which the nominee was nominated.

B. Information concerning the Nominee. Each nominee shall submit the following information to the Committee:

(1) A detailed biographical resume which contains information relating to education, employment, and achievements;

(2) Financial information, in such specificity as the Committee deems necessary, including a list of assets and liabilities of the nominee and tax returns for the 3 years preceding the time of the person's nomination, a list of any federal funding or awards sought or received or participation in other federal programs for the 10 years preceding the time of the person's nomination, and copies of other relevant documents requested by the Committee, such as a proposed blind trust agreement, necessary for the Committee's consideration; and

(3) Copies of other relevant documents the Committee may request, such as responses to questions concerning the policies and programs the nominee intends to pursue upon taking office. At the request of the Chair or the Ranking Minority Member, a nominee shall be required to submit a certified financial statement compiled by an independent auditor. Information received pursuant to this subsection shall be made available for public inspection; provided, however, that tax returns shall, after review by persons designated in subsection (C) of this rule, be placed under seal to ensure confidentiality.

C. Procedures for Committee inquiry. The Committee shall conduct an inquiry into the experience, qualifications, suitability, and integrity of nominees, and shall give particular attention to the following matters:

(1) A review of the biographical information provided by the nominee, including, but not limited to, any professional activities related to the duties of the office to which the person is nominated;

(2) A review of the financial information provided by the nominee, including tax returns for the 3 years preceding the time of the person's nomination;

(3) A review of any actions, taken or proposed by the nominee, to remedy conflicts of interest; and

(4) A review of any personal or legal matter which may bear upon the nominee's qualifications for the office to which the person is nominated. For the purpose of assisting the Committee in the conduct of this inquiry, a Majority investigator or investigators shall be designated by the Chair and a Minority investigator or investigators shall be designated by the Ranking Minority Member. The Chair, Ranking Minority Member, other Members of the Committee, and designated investigators shall have access to all investigative reports on nominees prepared by any Federal agency, including access to the report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Committee may request the assistance of the U.S. Government Accountability Office and any other such expert opinion as may be necessary in conducting its review of information provided by nominees.

D. Report on the Nominee. After a review of all information pertinent to the nomination, a confidential report on the nominee shall be made in the case of judicial nominees and may be made in the case of non-judicial nominees by the designated investigators to the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member and, upon request, to any other Member of the Committee. The report shall summarize the steps taken by the Committee during its investigation of the nominee and the results of the Committee inquiry, including any unresolved matters that have been raised during the course of the inquiry.

E. Hearings. The Committee shall conduct a public hearing during which the nominee shall be called to testify under oath on all matters relating to the nominee's suitability for office, including the policies and programs which the nominee will pursue while in that position. No hearing shall be held until at least 3 calendar days after the following events have occurred: The nominee has responded to prehearing questions submitted by the Committee; and, if applicable, the report described in subsection (D) has been made to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, and is available to other Members of the Committee, upon request.

F. Action on confirmation. A mark-up on a nomination shall not occur on the same day that the hearing on the nominee is held. In order to assist the Committee in reaching a recommendation on confirmation, the staff may make an oral presentation to the Committee at the mark-up, factually summarizing the nominee's background and the steps taken during the pre-hearing inquiry.

G. Application. The procedures contained in subsections (C), (D), (E), and (F) of this rule shall apply to persons nominated by the President to positions requiring their full-time service. At the discretion of the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, those procedures may apply to persons nominated by the President to serve on a part-time basis.

RULE 10. PERSONNEL ACTIONS AFFECTING COMMITTEE STAFF

In accordance with Rule XLII of the Standing Rules of the Senate and the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (P.L. 104–1), all personnel actions affecting the staff of the Committee shall be made free from any discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, state of physical handicap, or disability.

RULE 11. APPRISAL OF COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The Chair and Ranking Minority Member shall keep each other apprised of hearings, investigations, and other Committee business.

RULE 12. PER DIEM FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL

A per diem allowance provided a Member of the Committee or staff of the Committee in connection with foreign travel shall be used solely for lodging, food, and related expenses and it is the responsibility of the Member of the Committee or staff of the Committee receiving such an allowance to return to the United States Government that portion of the allowance received which is not actually used for necessary lodging, food, and related expenses. (Rule XXXIX, Paragraph 3, Standing Rules of the Senate.)

LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I appreciate that we are beginning an amendment process on S. 5 in the Senate. I hope we continue with that process, as there are still significant improvements to be made to this bill. We must keep our communities safe and prioritize detention of violent offenders, and our focus must be on the most effective path to achieve that goal.

I have introduced, along with Senator KAINE, an amendment that directly addresses the circumstances that led to the tragic murder of Laken Riley without creating a system that diverts resources away from the detention and deportation of violent offenders. I have also offered an amendment that makes clear that the apprehension and deportation of convicted violent offenders should be our highest enforcement priority.

Yesterday, I voted against the Cornyn amendment, which would expand the category of offenses under which individuals are detained following an arrest only, not a conviction or even an indictment. While I appreciate the seriousness of those crimes, this would continue to take resources from detention and deportation of those who pose the greatest threat to our communities and who are actually convicted.

I also voted for an amendment proposed by Senator COONS that would strike the section of the underlying bill that allows States attorneys general to sue the Federal Government when they disagree with any of the thousands of complex immigration enforcement decisions ICE and CBP make every day. Conflicting lawsuits in State courts around the country would paralyze our immigration enforcement system, ultimately jeopardizing public safety. I am disappointed that this amendment failed to pass.

I urge my colleagues to work in a bipartisan way to improve this bill to keep our communities safe while ensuring that our immigration enforcement officials can focus on the greatest public safety risks.

REMEMBERING ELISE J. BEAN

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the life and contributions of one of the Senate's truly outstanding staff persons: Elise J. Bean. Elise, who worked for almost 30 years for Senator Carl Levin on various subcommittees of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, died on January 14 at the age of 68. She started in the Senate as an attorney/investigator on the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management and ended as staff director of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI), leaving when Senator Levin retired. Having chaired PSI in the 118th Congress, I am personally grateful that this historic subcommittee continues to benefit from the powerful and enduring legacy that Elise left.

Anyone who knew Elise would tell you that there was no one like her. She was an institution of congressional oversight. During nearly three decades in the Senate, Elise drove some of the

Chamber's most significant investigations and, thereafter, was a force behind the Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy for a decade. There, she relentlessly promoted bipartisan, fact-based oversight. Elise embraced the notion that Congress is not only capable of high-quality oversight and, in doing so, would turn the tide of history toward fairness and equality.

In the days when Elise ran the PSI staff from its basement office in Dirksen, she led by example, spending long hours at her massive wooden desk, with tall stacks of reports and research lining the perimeter and posterboard hearing exhibits leaning on the walls. She was an irrepressible advocate for better financial policies by exposing wrongdoing, corruption, money laundering, tax avoidance, and all manner of form-over-substance abuses. She got there by way of the facts, hard work, and bipartisanship. PSI's reports were heavy tomes, accompanied by additional volumes of documentary evidence. She was undeterred in seeking the truth, such as when she worked every day through the DC Snowpacalypse of 2009–2010 in PSI's offices interviewing witnesses, lest PSI's ongoing financial crisis inquiry fall behind. For her many investigative and other achievements, she has been honored on a global scale—by the Washingtonian, the National Law Journal, the International Tax Review, and more.

In her 2018 book, ''Financial Exposure,'' Elise joked about regularly drinking Manhattans with Republican colleagues—which was true—but her across-the-aisle attitude was real. Elise invited bipartisan involvement in every stage of PSI's investigations, leading to a final product that was often bipartisan. Her work paved the way for passage of bipartisan legislation, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the CARD Act of 2009, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, and corporate transparency reforms, to name just a few.

''Well, why not?'' Elise would often say. She was not cowed by power or distracted by really anything. She would teach you, too, as she did for hundreds of law clerks and staff, if you were willing to work—seriously work. And for people who wanted to be in public service, she made good on the promise of doing something important to contribute to the common good by being a constructive teacher and mentor. She also taught classes, published studies and a book, and started a law journal. Through the Levin Center, she hosted oversight boot camps for the next generation of staffers and was a regular lifeline for advice.

Elise was generous not just in her work, but also in her sense of fun and warmth for so many people in her circle. Elise threw parties for any reason at all—to recognize staff milestones, a holiday, a Friday, or because the azaleas blooming in spring were lovely. She was devoted to her family, including her husband Paul and her sons Jacob and Joey, and delighted in getting to know the families of her staff and friends. She looked for the good in people, in our government, and created more good in the world. Those who knew her will cherish and strive to continue her legacy.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING REVEREND PAUL D. MOONEY

• Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, on January 10, 2025, Indiana lost a remarkable man of faith with the passing of Rev. Paul D. Mooney of Indianapolis.

Reverend Mooney was born in Noblesville, IN, in 1943, and was raised on his parents' farm in rural Hancock County. From an early age, Paul's exceptional gift for communication was evident. As a teenager, he hosted his own radio show and graduated as president of his high school class. But God had even greater plans for his life. As Reverend Mooney often advised, ''Don't plan your life, because you'll underplan what God has for you.''

Reverend Mooney's parents pastored a small church in Indianapolis, where a young Paul helped with the youth ministry. He married his beloved Micki in 1963, and together, they embarked on a lifelong ministry journey, pastoring thriving churches in Michigan and Indiana.

Throughout his ministry, Reverend Mooney was entrusted by his colleagues in the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI) to serve as superintendent of both the Michigan and Indiana districts. He was later elevated to assistant general superintendent of the international fellowship, which encompasses more than 5 million constituents. He traveled the world, inspiring leaders with his trademark positivity and his legendary storytelling abilities.

Reverend Mooney dedicated much of his life to training and inspiring young people for ministry. As president of Indiana Bible College and Calvary Christian School for over 30 years, he impacted thousands of graduates who are now serving in ministry around the world.

A trusted friend and counselor to Governors, mayors, and legislators in Indiana, Reverend Mooney was a vital source of strength and wisdom for Hoosier leaders. His heart for the people of Indiana will be long remembered. He devoted his life and ministry to serving and loving all people, and he will be greatly missed.

I offer my deepest condolences to Reverend Mooney's children Jonathan, Adena, Jaye, and their families and his many friends around the world who join me in celebrating the life of this great man.•

TRIBUTE TO TREVICK UDELHOVEN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing 4-year-old Trevick Udelhoven of Fergus County as Montanan of the Month for his courage that is larger than life as he battles a life-threatening seizure disorder.

Trevick is your typical Montana cowboy, who loves spending time on the farm, being outdoors and cheering on his beloved Montana State University Bobcats. Sadly, he has recently had to put a pause on farm life to receive care from the Seattle Children's Hospital to receive treatment for his Febrile Infection-Related Epilepsy Syndrome, also known as FIRES. This diagnosis is an extremely rare neurological condition that can affect even the healthiest of adults and children.

Despite the obstacles he has faced, Trevick continues to demonstrate his grit and determination every step of the way. While he suffered brain damage as a result of his seizures, Trevick is working hard in physical, occupational, and speech therapy sessions to regain his strength and abilities. This type of perseverance deserves to be celebrated and cheered for, just as Trevick has always cheered on his Bobcats.

Between Trevick's courage and his incredible support system—his parents Dillon and Lexi and four siblings—he is bound for great things and serves as an inspiration to all. My prayer is that God would continue to bless and heal this little cowboy so that he can get back to the Treasure State.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Trevick Udelhoven for his strength and bravery, in and out of the hospital. Know that Montana is rooting you on, just as you cheered for the Bobcats all season. Keep fighting, Trevick; you make Montana proud.•

TRIBUTE TO HARRY DENDY

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to recognize Harry Dendy as he retires from the sales committee of the Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions. Each year, hundreds of young agriculture enthusiasts gather at the State fairgrounds in Jackson, MS, to show their livestock at this sale. Mr. Dendy has attended every sale since 1975, making this year's sale on February 6 his 50th.

The Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions consistently raises money for 4–H and Future Farmers of America scholarships and programs that shape Mississippi youth to become the State's agriculture leaders. The sale and the programs it supports enable youth to develop both the technical knowledge and soft skills that they will need to become professionals working to feed and clothe the world. There is hardly any better way for youth to learn essential life skills like patience, persistence, hard work, and personal responsibility than by working with livestock.

Mr. Dendy has been a cornerstone of this sale for decades, and his hard work and support have been essential to the

sale's success in youth development. Mr. Dendy's passion for agriculture and its future has been evident throughout his entire life. He first joined 4–H in Chickasaw County, MS, at the age of 10 and later worked for the Farm Credit System for 33 years. He served multiple roles on the 4–H Foundation Board of Trustees and was instrumental in the development of the Mississippi 4–H Learning Center and Pete Frierson 4–H Museum. He was inducted into the National 4–H Hall of Fame in 2011.

I look forward to watching the future of the Dixie National Sale of Junior Champions continue to grow on the foundation that Mr. Dendy has laid. Mr. Dendy leaves behind big shoes to fill, but I am confident his legacy will continue to inspire the sale and its youth toward success for decades to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CONNIE PALACIOZ

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, today, I rise to honor and recognize Ms. Connie Palacioz, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday today.

Connie's work as a riveter for Boeing during WWII and her pivotal role in the restoration of the B–29 Superfortress ''Doc'' have left an indelible mark on the history of aviation. Her dedication and perseverance embody the values that define Kansas and our Nation, and her remarkable achievements and service to our country are certainly deserving of recognition in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Connie's journey is one of resilience and determination, demonstrating the power of teamwork and perseverance. Her efforts on the assembly line during the war, alongside her partner Jerri Warden, a trailblazing moment in its own right, exemplify her unwavering spirit and commitment to forging new paths, despite the challenges of the era. The legacy she has built will continue to inspire future generations, enriching the cultural fabric of Kansas and beyond.

As she celebrates this milestone, I take this moment to express my deep gratitude for the work she has done. It is individuals like Connie who truly make our country great.

Once again, congratulations, Connie, on reaching this incredible milestone. Your contributions to the aviation industry and to our Nation will never be forgotten.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Connie for all that she has accomplished, as well as in wishing her a happy 100th birthday.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER THAT TAKES ADDITIONAL STEPS TO DEAL WITH THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT MALICIOUS CYBER-ENABLED ACTIVITIES DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13694 OF APRIL 1, 2015—PM 8

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order that takes additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015 (Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities), as amended by Executive Order 13757 of December 28, 2016 (Taking Additional Steps to Address the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities), and further amended by Executive Order 13984 of January 19, 2021 (Taking Additional Steps To Address the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities).

Significant malicious cyber-enabled activities continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. To address this continuing national emergency and protect against the growing and evolving threat of malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and United States allies and partners, including the increasing threats by foreign actors of unauthorized access to critical infrastructure, ransomware, and cyber-enabled intrusions and sanctions evasion, section 9 of the Executive Order I have issued updates the criteria to be used by the Secretary of the Treasury in designating a person for sanctions for engaging in specified malicious cyber-enabled activities and related conduct.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 16, 2025*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:09 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 33. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States.

H.R. 144. An act to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes.

H.R. 164. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 33. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 144. An act to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 164. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize Federal agencies to provide certain essential assistance for hazard mitigation for electric utilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 6. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–82. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Washington; Olympic Region Clean Air Agency, Recreational Fires'' (FRL No. 12243–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–83. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department'' (FRL No. 10024–03–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–84. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Revisions; California;

Feather River Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 11647–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–85. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Revisions; Arizona; Maricopa County Air Quality Department'' (FRL No. 12130–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–86. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Excess Emissions During Periods of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction; Partial Withdrawals of Findings of Failure To Submit State Implementation Plan'' ((RIN2060–AW38) (FRL No. 12161–03–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–87. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Missoula, Montana, Air Rule Revisions'' (FRL No. 12252–02–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–88. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Missoula, Montana Oxygenated Fuels Program Removal, Carbon Monoxide, Limited Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 12257–02–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–89. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Review of Final Rule Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act; Correction'' (FRL No. 4908.3–02–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–90. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment'' (FRL No. 5906.9–01–OECA) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–91. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: National Perchloroethylene Air Emission Standards for Dry Cleaning Facilities Technology Review'' ((RIN2060–AV44) (FRL No. 8391–01–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–92. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Aerosol Coatings Amendments'' ((RIN2060–AU94) (FRL No. 7966–03–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–93. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fuels Regulatory Streamlining Amendments'' ((RIN2060–AV26) (FRL No. 8513–01–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–94. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''State Implementation Plan Submittal Deadlines and Implementation Requirements for Reclassified Nonattainment Areas Under the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' ((RIN2060–AW25) (FRL No. 11817–02–OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–95. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Guidance on Clean Electricity Low-Income Communities Bonus Credit Amount Program'' (RIN1545–BR26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–96. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Department of State 2025 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflationary Adjustment'' (RIN1400–AF90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–97. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide assistance to Ukraine under drawdowns previously directed under section 506(a)(1) of the FAA, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–98. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Denmark in the amount of $50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24–075); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–99. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Privacy Act; Implementation'' (RIN0925–AA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–100. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Appeal Procedures for Recoupment of Awards, Bonuses, or Relocation Expenses Awarded for Approved for all Employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs'' (RIN3206–AO69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–101. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prevailing Rate Systems; Change in Criteria for Defining Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas'' (RIN3206–AO69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DAINES, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 106. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 107. A bill to amend the Lumbee Act of 1956; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 108. A bill to make members of the Chinese Communist Party and their family members ineligible for F or J visas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 109. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 110. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to exclude extensions of credit made to veterans from the definition of a member business loan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 111. A bill to provide that the Secretary of Commerce shall not issue an interim or final rule or Secretarial Amendment that includes an area or bottom closure in the South Atlantic for species managed under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region until the South Atlantic Great Red Snapper Count study is complete and the data related to that study is integrated into the stock assessment; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 112. A bill to amend section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HYDE–SMITH:

S. 113. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to establish a 3-year phase-in period for de novo financial institutions to comply with Federal capital standards, to provide relief for de novo rural community banks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 114. A bill to provide for enhanced Federal, State, and local assistance in the enforcement of the immigration laws, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act,

and to authorize appropriations to carry out the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 115. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for unauthorized access to Department of Defense facilities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 116. A bill to rename the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Dallas, Texas, as the ''Eddie Bernice Johnson VA Medical Center''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. LEE, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 117. A bill to provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID–19 vaccine mandate; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 118. A bill to require additional disclosures relating to donations to the Presidential Inaugural Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 119. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to discontinue the collection by the Federal Government of firearm transaction records of discontinued firearms businesses, to require the destruction of such already collected records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 120. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a pilot program for the construction of temporary disaster assistance housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. COONS):

S. 121. A bill to extend the statute of limitations for violations relating to pandemic-era programs to be 10 years; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 122. A bill to amend the Revised Statutes to codify the defense of qualified immunity in the case of any action under section 1979, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 123. A bill to authorize for a grant program for handgun licensing programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 124. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for disciplinary procedures for supervisors and managers at the Department of Veterans Affairs and to modify the procedures of personnel actions against employees of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 125. A bill to end the use of taxpayer funds for entities that perform, provide referrals for, or provide funding for, abortions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 126. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 4.3 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 127. A bill to establish a whole-home repairs program for eligible homeowners and eligible landlords, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 128. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 129. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the application of the income tax on qualified tips through a deduction allowed to all individual taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 130. A bill to reform the antitrust laws to better protect competition in the American economy, to amend the Clayton Act to modify the standard for an unlawful acquisition, to deter anticompetitive exclusionary conduct that harms competition and consumers, to enhance the ability of the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to enforce the antitrust laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 131. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a tax credit for nurse preceptors; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 132. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules for postponing certain deadlines by reason of disaster; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 133. A bill to modify the fire management assistance cost share, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 134. A bill to place limitations on excepting positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 135. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for special base rates of pay for wildland firefighters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 136. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 137. A bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit the Federal Government from entering into contracts with an entity that discriminates against firearm or ammunition industries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BUDD, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MORENO, Ms. ROSEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 138. A bill to require each enterprise to include on the Uniform Residential Loan Application a disclaimer to increase awareness of the direct and guaranteed home loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MORAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 139. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 140. A bill to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 141. A bill to identify and address barriers to coverage of remote physiologic devices under State Medicaid programs to improve maternal and child health outcomes for pregnant and postpartum women; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 142. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and

service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LEE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 143. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to repeal the natural gas tax; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. ERNST, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 144. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 with respect to the definition of biofuels and sustainable aviation fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COTTON, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 145. A bill to require the redesignation of Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 146. A bill to require covered platforms to remove nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. Res. 28. A resolution honoring the service of women in combat roles in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 6

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 6, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 30

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to require each agency to repeal 3 existing regulations before issuing a new regulation, and for other purposes.

S. 50

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 50, a bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes.

S. 84

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 84, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 92

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 92, a bill to require Senate approval before the United States assumes any obligation under a WHO pandemic agreement and to suspend funding for the WHO until such agreement is ratified by the Senate.

S. 103

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 103, a bill to amend the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act to extend the deadline by which TikTok must be sold in order to avoid being banned.

S.J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

AMENDMENT NO. 8

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 8 proposed to S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 15

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 15 intended to be proposed to S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 19

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 19 intended to be proposed to S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 53

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 53 intended to be proposed to S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 53 intended to be proposed to S. 5, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 54

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 54 intended to be proposed to S. 5, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 140. A bill to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I want to turn to a separate matter, and I think all of us are heartbroken by what we see happening in Los Angeles with the devastating fires. There has been a horrific loss of life, of homes, and businesses due to these California fires, and the loss is just staggering.

As we speak, firefighters, first responders—including the Wyoming National Guard—are working around the clock to keep residents safe. I am grateful for their heroic efforts.

As they do their job, we here in the Senate need to do ours, and there are a lot of questions that need to be answered. One of my biggest questions is: How do we prevent that next wildfire from happening? Well, when it comes to the environment, liberal politicians want to control what car we drive, what kind of stove we cook on, how long we can take in the shower. Yet

they neglect our forests. They put up roadblocks to forest management tools that work. They have done that legislatively. They have done it with regulations as well.

What is especially crazy is that these restrictions are made in the name of protecting the environment, an environment that they are hurting. Nothing could be worse for the environment than massive wildfires. And as a result, our public lands have turned into tinderboxes, and it is because of policies that we have seen come out of this body, this administration, Democrat administrations prior to that.

And Wyoming is no stranger to wildfires. This past fire season was especially devastating in Northern Wyoming. I was on the frontlines thanking the firefighters in Wyoming this summer. We had the House Draw fire in Johnson County, the Elk fire that spanned Johnson and Sheridan Counties.

To put this into perspective, in Southern California, we saw about 40,000 acres burn in just over a week—40,000 acres. In Wyoming, it was over 275,000 acres. Now, you might not have heard about this since Wyoming has one of the smallest populations. It actually is the smallest population State in the country. Our population is clearly just a fraction of Los Angeles, but these were big fires. Yet we can learn lessons from each other on how to prevent the next fire.

In the Senate, I have been working to promote effective forest management practices at every level. So today I have introduced a bill called the Wildfire Prevention Act. My bill allows Agencies to treat more acres and remove more redtape to better protect our forests and our fellow Americans. It sets clear standards and clear expectations for forest management that we currently lack in this country. It provides the tools for the Agencies for the prevention and preparation for the next time, and it requires a lot more openness about the limits and the challenges that we face on these important issues.

This is about protection, not punishment. It is about protecting the people, protecting our clean air. And as long as America lacks proper forest management, then we are going to continue to see terrible costly tragedies like what we are seeing today in California and we saw this past summer in Wyoming. With better forest management, we can lessen the damage of forest fires.

The Federal Government can and will help Californians rebuild. California needs to rebuild with resilience. They need to rebuild with a commitment of preventing a similar fire in the future.

We have seen massive mismanagement. Anybody watching the interviews with the Governor of California, the fire chief in California, the mayor of L.A. will say there has been massive mismanagement, gross incompetence by the elected leadership in California. This needs to change to protect the people who live there from the terrible mistakes in judgments of these elected officials.

It is not a crisis that we can solve ourselves or that will solve itself. My bill will make us better prepared to fight fires in the future.

It should be attached to any disaster relief that goes to California.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 140

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Wildfire Prevention Act of 2025''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER RHETORIC

Sec. 101. Accelerating treatments on Federal land.
Sec. 102. Annual reports.
Sec. 103. Transparency in hazardous fuels reduction activity reporting.
Sec. 104. Regional forest carbon accounting.
Sec. 105. Wildland fire performance metrics.

TITLE II—FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sec. 201. Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way.
Sec. 202. Timber sales on National Forest System land.
Sec. 203. Categorical exclusion for high-priority hazard trees.
Sec. 204. Intervenor status.
Sec. 205. Utilizing grazing for wildfire risk reduction.

TITLE III—CULTURAL CHANGE IN AGENCIES

Sec. 301. Mandatory use of existing authorities.
Sec. 302. Public-private wildfire technology deployment and testbed partnership.
Sec. 303. Repeal of FLAME reports.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means—

(A) land of the National Forest System; and

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''hazardous fuels reduction activity'' means any vegetation management activity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including mechanical treatments and prescribed burning.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''hazardous fuels reduction activity'' does not include the awarding of a contract to conduct any activity described in subparagraph (A).

(3) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''National Forest System'' has the meaning given the term in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a)).

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term ''National Forest System'' does not include any forest reserve not created from the public domain.

(4) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, with respect to Federal land described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, with respect to Federal land described in paragraph (1)(B).

(5) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term ''wildland-urban interface'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

TITLE I—ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER RHETORIC

SEC. 101. ACCELERATING TREATMENTS ON FEDERAL LAND.

(a) BASELINE TREATMENTS FOR FUELS REDUCTION AND FOREST HEALTH.—For Federal land, the Secretary concerned shall determine—

(1) for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023—

(A) the number of acres mechanically thinned, for acres commercially thinned and for acres pre-commercially thinned; and

(B) the number of acres treated by prescribed fire; and

(2) the average of the numbers described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) over the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

(b) ANNUAL GOALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For Federal land for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall establish annual—

(A) mechanical thinning goals for acres commercially thinned and for acres pre-commercially thinned; and

(B) prescribed fire goals.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) FISCAL YEARS 2025 AND 2026.—For each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026, the goals established under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall be not less than the number of acres described in subsection (a)(2).

(B) FISCAL YEARS 2027 AND 2028.—For each of fiscal years 2027 and 2028, the goals established under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall be not less than 20 percent more than the number of acres described in subsection (a)(2).

(C) FISCAL YEAR 2029 AND SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS.—For fiscal year 2029 and each fiscal year thereafter, the goals established under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall be not less than 40 percent more than the number of acres described in subsection (a)(2).

(c) REGIONAL ALLOTMENTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall assign annual acreage allotments for mechanical thinning and prescribed fire on Federal land, categorized by National Forest System region or by State, as appropriate.

(d) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary concerned shall make publicly available the data described in subsections (a), (b), and (c), including by publishing that data on the website of the Forest Service and the website of the Bureau of Land Management.

(e) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or conflict with any other provision of law, including—

(1) section 40803(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(b)); and

(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(f) APPLICABILITY OF NEPA.—The establishment of annual goals under subsection (b)(1) and the assignment of regional allotments under subsection (c) shall not be subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

SEC. 102. ANNUAL REPORTS.

Not later than September 30, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall publish on a public website of the Forest Service and a public website of the Bureau of Land Management the following information with respect to the Federal land during the preceding fiscal year:

(1) The number of acres treated pursuant to section 40803(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592(b)).

(2)(A) The number of acres mechanically thinned;

(B) the number of acres treated by prescribed fire; and

(C) whether the number of acres described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) met or exceeded the acres described in section 101(b)(2).

(3) Any limitations or challenges, including litigation or delays in the preparation of environmental documentation, that hindered the Secretary concerned from meeting or exceeding the annual goals established under section 101(b)(1), if applicable.

(4) The number of acres that have undergone a regeneration harvest.

(5) The number of acres described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (4) that are in an area identified as having—

(A) the expectation that, without remediation, at least 25 percent of standing live basal area greater than 1 inch in diameter may die over a 15-year time frame due to insects and diseases, as depicted on the National Insect and Disease Composite Risk Map; or

(B) a very high or high wildfire hazard potential.

(6) The number of acres described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (4) that use either of the following streamlined authorities for environmental review:

(A) A categorical exclusion.

(B) An emergency action authority of the Secretary concerned.

(7) The number of acres described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2) and paragraph (4) with respect to which partners are used to carry out the work through—

(A) a good neighbor agreement under section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a);

(B) a master stewardship agreement;

(C) a contract or agreement entered into under the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (25 U.S.C. 3115a); or

(D) a stewardship end-result contract.

SEC. 103. TRANSPARENCY IN HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY REPORTING.

(a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary concerned shall include in the materials submitted in support of the President's budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report describing—

(A) for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2030, the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during each of the preceding 6 fiscal years, as assessed by the Secretary concerned using—

(i) the methodology of the Secretary concerned in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act; and

(ii) the methodology described in paragraph (2); and

(B) for fiscal year 2031 and each fiscal year thereafter, the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during each of the preceding 6 fiscal years, as assessed by the Secretary concerned using the methodology described in paragraph (2).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the reports required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) in determining the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during each fiscal year covered by the report—

(i) record acres of Federal land on which hazardous fuels reduction activities were completed during each such fiscal year; and

(ii) record each acre described in clause (i) once in the report with respect to a fiscal year, regardless of whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out on such acre during such fiscal year; and

(B) with respect to the acres of Federal land recorded in the report, include information on—

(i) which such acres are located in the wildland-urban interface;

(ii) the level of wildfire risk (high, moderate, or low) on the first and last day of each fiscal year covered by the report;

(iii) the types of hazardous fuels reduction activities completed for such acres, delineating between whether such activities were conducted—

(I) in a wildfire managed for resource benefits; or

(II) through a planned project;

(iv) the cost per acre of hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out during each fiscal year covered by the report;

(v) the region or System unit in which the acres are located; and

(vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire.

(3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, as applicable.

(b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall implement standardized procedures for tracking data relating to hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) regular, standardized data reviews of the accuracy and timely input of data used to track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

(B) verification methods that validate whether such data accurately correlates to the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned;

(C) an analysis of the short- and long-term effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

(D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities that occur partially within the wildland-urban interface, methods to distinguish which acres are located within the wildland-urban interface and which acres are located outside the wildland-urban interface.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 14 days after implementing the standardized procedures required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) such standardized procedures; and

(B) program and policy recommendations to Congress to address any limitations in tracking data relating to hazardous fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

SEC. 104. REGIONAL FOREST CARBON ACCOUNTING.

Not later than September 30, 2025, and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall—

(1) using data from the forest inventory and analysis program, determine the net forest carbon balance on the land in the National Forest System of each Forest Service region, including whether the National Forest System land is—

(A) a carbon source; or

(B) a carbon sink; and

(2) publish the information described in paragraph (1) on the website of the Forest Service.

SEC. 105. WILDLAND FIRE PERFORMANCE METRICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall submit to the committees of Congress described in subsection (c) a report on existing key performance indicators and potential outcome-based performance measures to reduce wildfire risk on Federal land.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall identify solutions to track the implementation and effectiveness of hazardous fuels reduction activities and forest restoration treatments, including strategies—

(1) to track whether land management activities are reducing wildfire hazards and ways to quantify and track acres in maintenance status;

(2) to track place-based and locally led outcomes;

(3) to standardize national-level monitoring measures;

(4) to quantify catastrophic wildfire risk reduction;

(5) to identify modeling and data challenges that are preventing the transition to annual wildfire risk mapping updates; and

(6) to integrate advanced technologies or a combination of technologies and analyses that will benefit the quality of information reported.

(c) COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DESCRIBED.—The committees of Congress referred to in subsection (a) are—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

TITLE II—FOREST MANAGEMENT

SEC. 201. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPECTION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 50 FEET OF ELECTRIC POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(a)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking ''10'' and inserting ''50''.

(b) PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.—Section 512 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**MANAGMENT**'' and inserting ''**MANAGEMENT**'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (k) and (l), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (i) the following:

''(j) PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION FACILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or easement on National Forest System or Bureau of Land Management land provided to the owner or operator of an electric transmission or distribution facility, the Secretary concerned may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of the electric transmission or distribution facility without requiring a separate timber sale, if that cutting and removal is consistent with—

''(A) the applicable plan;

''(B) the applicable land and resource management plan or land use plan; and

''(C) other applicable environmental laws (including regulations).

''(2) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or easement that includes permission for cutting and removal described in paragraph (1) shall include a requirement that, if the owner or operator of the electric transmission or distribution facility sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the owner or operator shall provide to the Secretary concerned any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

''(3) EFFECT.—Nothing in paragraph (2) shall require the sale of any material removed under a permit or easement that includes permission for cutting and removal described in paragraph (1).''.

SEC. 202. TIMBER SALES ON NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.

Section 14(d) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a(d)) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''$10,000'' and inserting ''$55,000''.

SEC. 203. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree'' means a standing tree that—

(A) presents a visible hazard to people or Federal property due to conditions such as deterioration of or damage to the root system, trunk, stem, or limbs of the tree, or the direction or lean of the tree, as determined by the Secretary;

(B) is determined by the Secretary to be highly likely to fail and, if it failed, would be highly likely to cause injury to people or damage to Federal property; and

(C) is—

(i) within 300 feet of a National Forest System road with a maintenance level of 3, 4, or 5;

(ii) along a National Forest System trail; or

(iii) in a developed recreation site on National Forest System land that is operated and maintained by the Secretary.

(2) HIGH-PRIORITY HAZARD TREE ACTIVITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree activity'' means a forest management activity that mitigates the risks associated with high-priority hazard trees, which may include pruning, felling, and disposal of those high-priority hazard trees.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ''high-priority hazard tree activity'' does not include—

(i) any activity conducted in a wilderness area or wilderness study area;

(ii) any activity for the construction of a permanent road or permanent trail;

(iii) any activity conducted on Federal land on which, by Act of Congress or Presidential proclamation, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited;

(iv) any activity conducted in an area in which activities described in subparagraph (A) would be inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan; or

(v) any activity conducted in an inventoried roadless area.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a categorical exclusion (as defined in 111 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336e)) for high-priority hazard tree activities.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—In developing and administering the categorical exclusion under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) apply the extraordinary circumstances procedures under section 220.6 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), in determining whether to use the categorical exclusion.

(3) PROJECT SIZE LIMITATION.—A project carried out using the categorical exclusion developed under paragraph (1) may not exceed 3,000 acres.

SEC. 204. INTERVENOR STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of a civil action relating to a qualified project described in subsection (b), a unit of local government or an Indian Tribe shall be—

(1) entitled to intervene, as of right, in any subsequent civil action; and

(2) considered to be a full participant in any settlement negotiation relating to the qualified project if the unit of local government or Indian Tribe, as applicable, intervenes.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF QUALIFIED PROJECT.—A qualified project referred to in subsection (a) is a project that—

(1) is located on Federal land adjacent, or with sufficient minimum contacts, as determined by the Secretary concerned, to the land under the jurisdiction of the unit of local government or Indian Tribe, as applicable;

(2) has been approved by the Secretary concerned; and

(3)(A) reduces the risk posed by wildfire, insect, or disease; or

(B) generates revenue from the harvesting of timber.

SEC. 205. UTILIZING GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall develop and submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a strategy to analyze and identify opportunities to use livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool on Federal land, consistent with the laws applicable to the Secretary concerned.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The strategy developed under subsection (a) shall include an analysis of—

(1) opportunities—

(A) to increase the use of any authorities applicable to livestock grazing, including modifications to grazing permits or leases to allow variances;

(B) to use targeted grazing to reduce hazardous fuels;

(C) to integrate advanced technologies to dynamically adjust livestock placement;

(D) to increase the use of livestock grazing to eradicate invasive annual grasses and as a post-fire restoration and recovery strategy, as appropriate; and

(E) to facilitate and expedite the temporary use of vacant allotments during extreme weather events or natural disasters; and

(2) any other opportunities determined to be appropriate by the Secretary concerned.

(c) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRAZING PROGRAMS.—Nothing in this section affects—

(1) any livestock grazing program carried out by the Secretary concerned as of the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) any statutory authority for any program described in paragraph (1).

TITLE III—CULTURAL CHANGE IN AGENCIES

SEC. 301. MANDATORY USE OF EXISTING AUTHORITIES.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, with respect to each unit of Federal land that contains land described in section 102(5), the Secretary concerned shall use not fewer than 1 of the following streamlined authorities for environmental review:

(1) Section 603(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591b(a)).

(2) Section 605(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591d(a)).

(3) Section 606(b) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591e(b)).

(4) Section 40806(b) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592b(b)).

(5) Section 40807 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (16 U.S.C. 6592c).

(6) Section 207 of the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act (16 U.S.C. 6591c note; Public Law 115–141).

SEC. 302. PUBLIC-PRIVATE WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT AND TESTBED PARTNERSHIP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate committees'' means—

(A) the Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Energy and Natural Resources, and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED AGENCY.—The term ''covered agency'' means—

(A) each Federal land management agency (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801));

(B) the Department of Defense;

(C) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(D) the United States Fire Administration;

(E) the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(F) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(G) the Bureau of Indian Affairs; and

(H) any other Federal agency involved in wildfire response.

(3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ''covered entity'' means—

(A) a private entity;

(B) a nonprofit organization; and

(C) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

(4) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''Pilot Program'' means the deployment and testbed pilot program established under subsection (b).

(5) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, acting jointly.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall establish a deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies.

(c) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall—

(1) incorporate the Pilot Program into an existing interagency coordinating group on wildfires;

(2) in consultation with the heads of covered agencies, identify key technology priority areas with respect to the deployment of wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies, including—

(A) hazardous fuels reduction activities or treatments;

(B) dispatch communications;

(C) remote sensing and tracking;

(D) safety equipment; and

(E) common operating pictures or operational dashboards; and

(3) connect each covered entity selected to participate in the Pilot Program with the appropriate covered agency to coordinate real-time and on-the-ground testing of technology during wildland fire mitigation activities and training.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—To participate in the Pilot Program, a covered entity shall submit to the Secretaries an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretaries may require, which shall include a proposal to test technologies specific to key technology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2).

(e) PRIORITIZATION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—In selecting covered entities to participate in the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall give priority to covered entities developing and applying emerging technologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device communications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wildfire mitigation.

(f) OUTREACH.—The Secretaries, in coordination with the heads of the covered agencies, shall make publicly available the key technology priority areas identified under subsection (c)(2) and invite covered entities to apply to test and demonstrate their technologies to address those priority areas.

(g) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and each year thereafter for the duration of the Pilot Program, the Secretaries shall submit to the appropriate committees a report that includes the following with respect to the Pilot Program:

(1) A list of participating covered entities.

(2) A brief description of the technologies tested by such covered entities.

(3) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the technology tested in the Pilot Program and applying it at scale.

(4) Outreach efforts by Federal agencies to covered entities developing wildfire technologies.

(5) Assessments of, and recommendations relating to, new technologies with potential adoption and application at-scale in the wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation efforts of Federal land management agencies (as defined in section 802 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801)).

(h) TERMINATION.—The Pilot Program shall expire on the date that is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 303. REPEAL OF FLAME REPORTS.

Section 502 of the FLAME Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 1748a) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (h); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection (h).

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. RISCH, Ms. SMITH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 142. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to wildland firefighters in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 142

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 ''Wildland Firefighters Congressional Gold Medal Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Wildland fires have increased in intensity and severity over the 30-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act, causing catastrophic destruction to homes, infrastructure, and valuable Federal, State, and private lands. More than 1,000,000,000 acres of land across the United States are at risk of wildfire, including approximately 117,000,000 acres of Federal land that have been identified as high or very high risk for wildfire potential.

(2) The Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs collectively employ more than 18,700 wildland firefighters to combat wildfires across millions of acres of public and private lands each year, while thousands more workers and volunteers serve as State, local, and contract wildland firefighters.

(3) As the wildland-urban interface expands, wildfires increasingly find their way out of the backcountry and into the backyards of communities across the United States. Wildland firefighters are evolving their skillsets, tactics, and strategies to address the growing threat of wildfire in the 21st century.

(4) While the protection of life and property remains a top priority, wildland firefighters also have an important role in responsible forest management and conservation. Wildland firefighters perform prescribed burns and other forest management activities, including timber harvests, contribute to healthy forests, and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk.

(5) Each wildland firefighter is specialized and trained to work in dynamic and extraordinarily dangerous environments. Wildland firefighters routinely work long days while on a 2-week rotation, often sleeping in inhospitable conditions.

(6) According to the Forest Service, firefighters generally work 16-hour days while fighting a fire, and they typically exceed 2,500 operational hours in a 6-month period.

(7) Wildland firefighter crews are all-hazards frontline emergency responders that use any means necessary to protect life and property while responding to floods, hurricanes, pandemics, and acts of terrorism.

(8) Engine and hand crews, the primary firefighting workforce, come in varying sizes and modules that can be tailored to fit the specific needs and terrain obstacles that each fire presents.

(9) Interagency hotshot crews are highly skilled mobile hand crews with elite knowledge about fire suppression tactics.

(10) Pilots and aerial fire suppression crews take to the skies with air tankers and helicopters to drop water and fire retardant, supporting decision-makers on the ground.

(11) Aerially-delivered firefighters, including helitack crews and smokejumpers, exit helicopters and jump from planes into remote and difficult-to-reach areas, providing quick and targeted fire suppression and emergency medical short-haul extraction. These fire personnel provide oversight and direct action on initial and extended attack incidents.

(12) Wildland firefighters in the United States also answer the call to fight wildfires internationally. During the record-setting fires in Australia in 2020, the United States sent 362 firefighters to help. During Canada's historic 2023 fire season, more than 2,000 Federal wildland firefighters answered the call.

(13) As of the date of enactment of this Act, the United States maintains mutual assistance and cooperation agreements for wildland firefighting efforts with Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, and Portugal.

(14) The increases in the severity of wildfires and in annual fire season active months have also increased the demand for wildland firefighters and associated employees. Recruitment and retention of wildland firefighters has been a national issue for many years.

(15) Wildland firefighters put their lives on the line to keep the people of the United States safe, and some pay the ultimate sacrifice to do so. Between January 1, 2019, and January 1, 2025, 98 wildland firefighters have lost their lives fighting fires. Acute and secondary effects from wildfire, such as wildfire smoke exposure, are directly linked to tens of thousands of firefighter and civilian deaths each year.

(16) June 30 to July 6 of each year is recognized as a Week of Remembrance to honor the fallen wildland firefighters who sacrificed their lives to protect the wildlands of the United States.

(17) National Wildland Firefighter Day is held annually on July 2 to recognize all who are devoted to wildland firefighting.

(18) The exemplary efforts of wildland firefighters are deserving of recognition, and it is appropriate and proper to honor those who have previously served, as well as current and future firefighters. Wildland firefighters showcase principles of duty, respect, and integrity in every aspect of service. Each firefighter exhibits strength, resiliency, and grit to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States. Wildland firefighters do not shy away from dangerous situations, but instead risk life and limb to help others. The outstanding accomplishments of these brave individuals continue an unparalleled legacy of public service.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of wildland firefighters, collectively, in recognition of their strength, resiliency, sacrifice, and service to protect the forests, grasslands, and communities of the United States.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation described in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the ''Secretary'') shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the National Interagency Fire Center.

(c) DISPOSITION OF MEDAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the presentation of the gold medal under subsection

(a), the gold medal shall be given to the National Interagency Fire Center, where the gold medal shall be displayed, as appropriate, and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the National Interagency Fire Center should ensure that the display and availability of the medal described in paragraph (1) be at appropriate locations, particularly locations associated with wildland firefighters.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALES.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 28—HONORING THE SERVICE OF WOMEN IN COMBAT ROLES IN THE ARMED FORCES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. SLOTKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 28

Whereas women have honorably served in the Armed Forces with distinction since the Revolutionary War;

Whereas the Department of Defense announced the opening of all military occupations and specialties to women in December 2015;

Whereas women have received numerous commendations for their service in combat since September 2001, including Bronze Stars and Silver Stars;

Whereas, since September 11, 2001, approximately 3,000 women have earned Combat Action Badges and Combat Action Ribbons; and

Whereas women in the Armed Forces serve in special forces units, including as Army Rangers, Air Force Special Operators, and in the Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contribution, bravery, and sacrifices of women serving in combat roles in the Armed Forces; and

(2) encourages the continued celebration of the achievements of women in the Armed Forces to inspire future generations.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 79. Mr. KELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 80. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 81. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 82. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 83. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 84. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 85. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 86. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 87. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 88. Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 89. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 90. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 91. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 8 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY)) to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 92. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 79. Mr. KELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 8, strike the end quote and final period and insert the following:

''(4) COOPERATION ON JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS; REQUEST FOR RELEASE.—

''(A) COOPERATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish rules for cooperating with requests from a Federal, State, Tribal or local official and for complying with court orders to ensure that any alien in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security who is required to appear in a court for another matter in which the alien is a defendant, victim, witness, potential witness, or person cooperating with an investigation of a major criminal activity, including proceedings for an offense described in paragraph (1)(E), is transported or transferred by an officer or employee of the Department for such court proceeding.

''(B) RELEASE.—Any alien being held in custody pursuant to an arrest or charge described in paragraph (1)(E) who is acquitted or not otherwise convicted of such charge within 90 days after the alien's first day of detention shall be entitled to a hearing to challenge the basis for the alien's custody under paragraph (1)(E) or to request to be released under subsection (a)(2).''.

SA 80. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. STATE AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION LAWS ENCOURAGED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, a State, or a political subdivision of a State, that has in effect a statute, policy, or practice that prohibits law enforcement officers of the State, or of a political subdivision of the State, from assisting or cooperating with Federal immigration law enforcement in the course of carrying out the officers' routine law enforcement duties may not receive any of the funds that would otherwise be allocated to the State under section 241(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(i)).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to require law enforcement officials from States, or from political subdivisions of States, to report or arrest victims or witnesses of a criminal offense.

(c) REALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Any funds that are not allocated to a State, or to a political subdivision of a State, due to the failure of such State, or of the political subdivision of such State, to comply with subsection (a) shall be reallocated to States, or to political subdivisions of States, that comply with such subsection.

SA 81. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 2, line 19, strike the end quote and semicolon and all that follows through ''have the meaning'' on page 3, line 1, and insert the following: ″or arson″;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E), the terms 'burglary', 'theft', 'larceny', 'shoplifting', and 'arson' have the meanings

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SA 82. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 8, strike the period and insert the following: ''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subparagraph (C), paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) shall not apply with respect to an alien if the alien is a victim or witness in an active human trafficking investigation or makes a credible claim that the alien is a victim of or witness to human trafficking.

''(B) EXAMPLES.—Examples of circumstances in which paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) do not apply with respect to an alien include if—

''(i) a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency informs the Secretary that the alien may be a victim of human trafficking;

''(ii) the arrest or charges described in paragraph (1)(E) were based on acts committed under duress or as the result of force, fraud, or coercion, or based on information furnished solely by a human trafficker; or

''(iii) the alien has been approved for relief under section 101(a)(15)(T) or has a bona fide petition pending pursuant to such section.

''(C) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (B), paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) shall apply with respect to an alien if the Secretary determines that the alien is a threat to public safety or national security.''.

SA 83. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 8, strike the period and insert the following: ''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subparagraph (C), paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) shall not apply with respect to an alien if the alien is a victim or witness in an active domestic violence or human trafficking investigation or makes a credible claim that the alien is a victim of or witness to domestic violence or human trafficking.

''(B) EXAMPLES.—Examples of circumstances in which paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) do not apply with respect to an alien include if—

''(i) a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency informs the Secretary that the alien may be a victim of domestic violence or human trafficking, and the arrest or charges described in paragraph (1)(E) were based on acts committed under duress or as the result of force, fraud, or coercion, or based on information furnished solely by an abuser or human trafficker;

''(ii) the alien has received a certification pursuant to section 214(p) certifying that the alien is a victim of or witness to domestic violence;

''(iii) the alien has an approved or bona fide petition pending for immigration relief pursuant to section 101(a)(51) or another provision of this Act based on being battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by a current or former spouse, partner, parent, son, or daughter; or

''(iv) the alien has been approved for relief under section 101(a)(15)(T) or has a bona fide petition pending pursuant to such section.

''(C) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (B), paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) shall apply with respect to an alien if the Secretary determines that the alien is a threat to public safety or national security.''.

SA 84. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 236(c)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality, as added by this section, shall take effect upon the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that sufficient Federal funds are available to carry out such section 236(c)(1)(E); or

(B) the first day of a fiscal year for which sufficient Federal funds have been appropriated to carry out such section 236(c)(1)(E).

(2) CONTENTS.—The certification described in paragraph (1)(A) shall include a detailed list of the amounts and programs, including any congressionally-directed spending, that are necessary to carry out such section 236(c)(1)(E).

SA 85. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, line 8, strike the period and insert the following: ''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subparagraph (C), paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) shall not apply with respect to an alien if the alien is a victim or witness in an active domestic violence investigation or makes a credible claim that the alien is a victim of or witness to domestic violence.

''(B) EXAMPLES.—Examples of circumstances in which paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) do not apply with respect to an alien include if—

''(i) the alien has received a certification pursuant to section 214(p) certifying that the alien is a victim of or witness to domestic violence;

''(ii) the alien has an approved or bona fide petition pending for immigration relief pursuant to section 101(a)(51) or another provision of this Act based on being battered or subjected to extreme cruelty by a current or former spouse, partner, parent, son, or daughter; or

''(iii) a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency informs the Secretary that the alien may be a victim of domestic violence, and the arrest or charges described in paragraph (1)(E) were falsely made, based on acts committed under duress or as the result of force, fraud, or coercion, or based on information furnished solely by an abuser.

''(C) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or (B), paragraphs (1)(E) and (3) shall apply with respect to an alien if the Secretary determines that the alien is a threat to public safety or national security.''.

SA 86. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 7 and all that follows through page 3, line 8, and insert the following:

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking '', or'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E)(i) is inadmissible under paragraph (6)(A), (6)(C), or (7) of section 212(a); and

''(ii) is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, a crime of domestic violence, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person; or

''(F) is unlawfully present in the United States and who has voted in a Federal election in violation of section 611 of title 18, United States Code,'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E)—

''(A) the terms 'burglary', 'theft', 'larceny', 'shoplifting', 'assault of a law enforcement officer', and 'serious bodily injury' have the meanings given such terms in the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred; and

''(B) the term 'crime of domestic violence' has the meaning given such term in section 237(a)(2)(E)(i).

''(3) DETAINER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

''(A) issue a detainer for an alien described in subparagraph (E) or (F) of paragraph (1); and

''(B) if the alien is not otherwise detained by Federal, State, or local officials, shall effectively and expeditiously take custody of the alien.''.

SA 87. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2, line 21, strike ''(4)'' and insert ''(5)''.

On page 3, line 8, strike the end quote and final period and insert the following:

''(4) EXCEPTION.—The requirement to take into custody an alien described in paragraph

(1)(E) shall not apply if such detention would result in the release of an alien determined to be a more serious public safety threat or flight risk.''.

SA 88. Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 15 through 19 and insert the following:

''(ii) has been convicted of burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer,'';

SA 89. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 4. CONTEMPT AUTHORITY OF IMMIGRATION JUDGES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Empowering Immigration Courts Act''.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 240(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(b)(1)) is amended by striking the last sentence and inserting the following: ''The immigration judge is authorized to sanction, by fine, any conduct constituting contempt of the judge's authority under this Act, in accordance with section 401 of title 18, United States Code.''.

SA 90. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. CLARIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN ALIENS WHO CAME TO THE UNITED STATES AS CHILDREN AND ALIENS WHO ARE 16 YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

Section 236(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226(c)), as amended by this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) EXCLUSIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien described in subparagraph (B) shall not be subject to custody or detention under paragraph (1)(E).

''(B) ALIEN DESCRIBED.—An alien described in this subparagraph is any alien who—

''(i)(I) has been granted deferred action pursuant to the deferred action for childhood arrivals program described in the memorandum of the Department of Homeland Security entitled 'Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children' issued on June 15, 2012;

''(II) has been granted deferred action pursuant to the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled 'Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals' (87 Fed. Reg. 53152 (August 30, 2022)); or

''(III) is 16 years of age or younger; and

''(ii) is charged with, is arrested for, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting offense.''.

SA 91. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 8 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY)) to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

''(ii) is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, a crime of domestic violence, a felony crime against a minor, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person,'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E)—

''(A) the terms 'burglary', 'theft', 'larceny', 'shoplifting', 'assault of a law enforcement officer', 'felony', and 'serious bodily injury' have the meanings given such terms in the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred; and

''(B) the term 'crime of domestic violence' has the meaning given such term in section 237(a)(2)(E)(i).

SA 92. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 2, strike line 7 and all that follows through page 3, line 8, and insert the following:

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking '', or'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

''(E)(i) is inadmissible under paragraph (6)(A), (6)(C), or (7) of section 212(a); and

''(ii) is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, or assault of a law enforcement officer offense, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person; or

''(F) is unlawfully present in the United States and who has voted in a Federal election in violation of section 611 of title 18, United States Code,'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E), the terms 'burglary', 'theft', 'larceny', 'shoplifting', 'assault of a law enforcement officer', and 'serious bodily injury' have the meanings given such terms in the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred; and

''(3) DETAINER.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

''(A) issue a detainer for an alien described in subparagraph (E) or (F) of paragraph (1); and

''(B) if the alien is not otherwise detained by Federal, State, or local officials, shall effectively and expeditiously take custody of the alien.''.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in open session and executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10 a.m., to vote on committee rules and procedures and to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 9 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

NOTICE: REGISTRATIION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for the 2024 fourth quarter Mass Mailing report is Monday, January 27, 2025. An electronic option is available on Webster that will allow forms to be submitted via a fillable PDF document. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states ''none.''

Mass mailing registrations or negative reports can be submitted electronically at http://webster.senate.gov/secretary/mass_mailing_form.htm or e-mailed to OPR__MassMailings@sec.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact the Senate Office of Public Records at (202) 224–0322.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline with respect to second degree amendments to Calendar No. 1, S. 5, be at 9:45 a.m. on Friday, January 17.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY,JANUARY 17, 2025

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, January 17; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 1, S. 5; further, that at 10 a.m. the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 1, S. 5.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:56 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 17, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

UNITED STATES-TAIWAN EXPEDITED DOUBLE-TAX RELIEF ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 33, the United States-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act.

When a United States resident or business has income subject to taxation in another country, or vice-versa, they face double taxation and must pay both U.S. taxes and taxes of the other nation. However, the United States may enter into a tax treaty with a country to mitigate this double-taxation for residents and companies earning income in each of the countries. The United States has entered into these bilateral tax treaties with 60 other countries.

The United States and China have a bilateral tax treaty dating to 1984, which sets the reciprocal rate of withholding at a reduced rate of 10 percent. However, this treaty has not covered residents of Taiwan, Hong Kong, or Macau. H.R. 33 would create a legislative fix to the double-taxation of Taiwanese residents and companies earning income in the United States by reducing the withholding tax rates on certain on U.S. income from 30 percent to 10 percent. These provisions would not go into effect until Taiwan provides those same benefits to U.S. persons and businesses. This bill would bring our tax policy for Taiwan into alignment with the rates in our tax treaty with China.

In 2022, I was proud to support the CHIPS and Science Act (Pub. L. 117–167), a law to bring semiconductor supply chains back to the United States. CHIPS investments are already creating jobs and improving our national security, including through a $123 million award to Polar Semiconductor in Minnesota that will double their production capacity for sensor and power chips. Taiwan leads the market in semiconductor manufacturing and thanks to the CHIPS and Science Act, the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TCMC) announced last April that it would make an over $65 billion investment in a semiconductor factory in Arizona, the largest direct foreign investment in a new project in United States history.

Passage of H.R. 33 will incentivize further investment from Taiwan into the United States which will create more jobs for hardworking Americans and strengthen our domestic supply chains. I join my colleagues in supporting this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions related to my pregnancy, I was unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 13; YEA on Roll Call No. 14; and YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCILMAN PAT MULVIHILL

HON. MORGAN McGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

McGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilman Pat Mulvihill for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to improving the lives of residents in Louisville Metro's Council District 10.

Since his election in 2015 and subsequent re-elections in 2016 and 2020, Councilman Mulvihill has represented the communities of District 10 with distinction, including neighborhoods such as Petersburg, Buechel, West Buechel, Bashford Manor, Watterson Park, Camp Taylor, Parkway Village, and many others. His steadfast commitment has brought tangible improvements to these neighborhoods and the people he serves.

Councilman Mulvihill's leadership as Democratic Caucus Chan and President Pro-Tem of the Louisville Metro Council, as well as Chair of several key committees—including Labor & Economic Development, Public Works, Facilities, Transportation & Accessibility, and Government Accountability, Ethics & Intergovernmental Affairs—has showcased his dedication to ethical governance, economic development, and public service.

Through his efforts, he has sponsored impactful legislation such as the Itinerant Vendors Ordinance, Pedestrian Safety Ordinance, and Illegal Firearms Discharge Ordinance, each designed to improve safety, accountability, and the quality of life for citizens Councilman Mulvihill's support for critical infrastructure projects, including sidewalk connectivity, the Beargrass Creek Walking Path and Pedestrian Bridge, pickleball courts, and landscaped traffic islands, reflects his vision for a more connected and accessible community.

Councilman Mulvihill's advocacy for preserving Kentucky's history and culture is evident in projects like the Camp Zachary Taylor Memorial Park initiatives, including the replacement of the Norton Pool, the Naturalization Monument and Memorial Plaque, and the preservation of the Motor Pool's architectural components for a future World War I museum.

Beyond Councilman Mulvihill's legislative and infrastructural accomplishments, his dedication to fostering community spirit is demonstrated by the annual events he has supported, such as the Germantown Blues Festival, Schnitzelburg Walks, George Rogers Clark Park Fall Festival, and Boo at the Zoo These events have strengthened bonds within the community and celebrated the unique heritage of District 10.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Mulvihill's tireless work and unwavering dedication to public service have left a lasting legacy. I express my profound gratitude for his leadership, vision, and service, and I wish him well in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF SENIOR CITIZENS INC.

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senior Citizens, Inc., a cornerstone of our community in Savannah, Georgia, as they celebrate their 65th anniversary.

Since 1959, this remarkable organization has been dedicated to helping older adults age successfully, providing essential services that enhance their quality of life.

Senior Citizens, Inc. offers a comprehensive range of programs, including in-home care, Meals on Wheels, adult day health services, and The Learning Center, which provides lifelong learning opportunities. Their Care Navigators serve as a vital resource, connecting seniors and their families to the support they need. Through initiatives like the Senior Companions program, volunteers provide friendship and assistance to their older neighbors, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Their commitment to our veterans through partnerships like the VetAssist Program ensures that those who have served our country receive the care they deserve. As the representative of Georgia's First Congressional District, I am deeply grateful for the unwavering dedication of Senior Citizens, Inc. Their compassionate service has touched countless lives, embodying the spirit of community and care that makes our district exceptional.

Please join me in congratulating Senior Citizens, Inc. on 65 years of outstanding service and in wishing them continued success in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SAM MOORE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sam Moore, who passed away last week at the age of 89.

Sam Moore was a legendary soul singer whose voice became a cornerstone of the 1960's music scene. Born on October 12, 1935, in Miami, Florida, he rose to fame as one half of the iconic duo Sam & Dave.

Alongside his partner Dave Prater, Sam recorded unforgettable hits like ''Soul Man'' and ''Hold On, I'm Comin'.'' Bridging rhythm and blues, gospel, and soul, their songs are still celebrated today for their raw energy and emotional depth.

After parting ways with Dave in the 1970's, Sam pursued a successful solo career, continuing to influence generations of musicians. He earned multiple Grammy Awards and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

When Sam looked to retire, he learned that his record company had not been properly paying his royalties and that he had barely any money in his pension, leading Sam to become an advocate for artists' rights. It's through that advocacy that I had the pleasure of getting to know Sam and his lovely wife, Joyce.

Sam Moore's contributions to music have left a lasting imprint, influenced generations of artists and ensured his place as one of soul music's most celebrated figures. And his story reminds us of the importance of the arts in our society and the need to fairly compensate artists for their work.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNG AMERICANS FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to re-introduce the *Young Americans Financial Literacy Act*. Financial literacy is critical to ensuring future financial responsibility. According to the Council for Economic Education's 2024 Survey of the States, 35 states now require high school students to take a personal finance course to graduate, an increase of 12 states since 2022.

Congress has an opportunity and a responsibility to address the pressing needs of individuals faced with losing their financial stability and the challenges of economic uncertainty. This should include financial literacy education reform and long-term solutions to prevent future personal financial disasters. Research-based financial literacy education programs are needed to reach individuals at all ages and socioeconomic levels, particularly those facing unique and challenging financial situations, such as high school graduates entering the workforce, soon-to-be and recent college graduates, young families, and to address the unique needs of military personnel and their families. High school and college students exposed to cumulative financial education show an increase in financial knowledge, which drives increasingly responsible behavior as they become young adults.

According to the Government Accountability Office, giving Americans the information they need to make effective financial decisions can be critical to their well-being and the country's economic health. The global financial crisis, when many borrowers failed to understand the risks associated with certain financial products fully and currently, the economic hardships presented by the sudden disruptions caused by the spread of COVID–19, underscore the need to improve individuals' financial literacy and empower all Americans to make informed financial decisions. This is especially true for young people as they earn their first paychecks, secure student aid, and establish financial independence. Therefore, focusing on economic education, financial literacy efforts, and best practices for young people between the ages of 8 and 24 is of utmost importance.

America should lead the world with the best-educated students who will drive our economic innovation and success, so please join me in cosponsoring the *Young Americans Financial Literacy Act*. This act:

Establishes a grant program in the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to develop and implement financial literacy programs for young people ages 8 to 24;

Incentivizes the development of partnerships between institutions of higher education, local educational agencies, non-profit organizations, and financial institutions to develop programs aimed at young Americans in different phases of their life;

Ensures the development of evidence-based instructional material that is geared towards targeted groups and addresses unique life situations, including bankruptcy, foreclosure, student loans, credit card misuse; and

Conducts ongoing assessment and accountability of the program over the short- and long-term to ensure that grant money achieves the most significant impact.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the *Young Americans Financial Literacy Act*.

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE LOIS PLAFCAN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Catherine Lois Plafcan, a remarkable constituent from my district, and to pay tribute to her on the celebration of her 100th birthday. It is a distinct honor to pay tribute to Mrs. Plafcan on this joyous occasion and to highlight the extraordinary life and contributions that endear her to so many in our community.

Catherine was born and raised in West Philadelphia and graduated from West Philadelphia High School in May of 1944. During her time in high school, she saw her brother, cousins, and friends enter military service to fight in World War II. She attended business school once she graduated high school to work as a secretary at the Philadelphia Naval Home.

Catherine met her husband John Plafcan playing bingo with friends in Mont Clare, Pennsylvania. They married on June 20, 1953, and were happily married for 52 years before John lost his battle with ALS. They had 3 children: Mark, John, and Tina.

Catherine enjoyed sketching landscapes and clothing. She loved to design dresses and coats and dreamed of becoming a fashion designer. Throughout her 100 years, Catherine has exemplified a spirit of resilience, generosity and dedication and has been an integral member of our community. Catherine truly embodies the spirit of family. She has spent her life putting her family first and her unwavering dedication to her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews is noticed by all who know her. Catherine's commitment to her family is evident in the countless memories she has helped create, and she continues to inspire those around her with her words of wisdom and enduring love.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to please join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and all of God's Blessings to Catherine Lois Plafcan on the celebration of her 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF MS. KATHY WAGAMAN

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Ms. Kathy Wagaman, Executive Director of the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce. Beginning in 2011, Kathy's leadership has been instrumental in the introduction of many programs and initiatives aimed at increasing opportunity and prosperity for businesses throughout the South Haven area. As Kathy looks forward to retirement, Southwest Michigan is grateful for the dedication she has shown throughout her career.

Kathy first visited South Haven in 1988 when she arrived aboard her 29-foot sailboat, this visit sparked a passion for South Haven and all those who call it home. Throughout her career, she has served in many roles including General Sales Manager for the Battle Creek Radio Group, Business Manager for the Holland Rescue Mission, and as a small business owner, Kathy even possesses a U.S. Coast Guard 100-ton captain's license. Regardless of her role, Kathy leads with passion and makes all those around her better.

Under her leadership, the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce has expanded to 457 business and nonprofit members, taken leadership of the farmers market, SNAP programs, and the National Blueberry Festival, and implemented innovative programs like Project Fresh and Youth in Business. Under Kathy's leadership, South Haven has become an even more special place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Ms. Kathy Wagaman for her commitment to the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce, its members, and all residents of Southwest Michigan.

RECOGNIZING LOCAL BROADCASTING LEGEND KEN THOMAS

HON. PETE STAUBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and contributions of

Brainerd, Minnesota, broadcasting legend Ken Thomas.

Ken's broadcasting journey began in 1978 at the WMIN radio station in Maplewood, Minnesota.

Ken then moved to the Brainerd Lakes area, where he spent the next four decades hosting the morning show on WJJY–FM.

Ken has had a number of different morning show partners, but for the past twenty years, he has shared the microphone with his current co-host, Tess Taylor.

Together, Ken and Tess have been the trusted voices that many in the Brainerd area listen to as they enjoy their morning cup of coffee and drive to work.

Ken's joyful and quick-witted commentary even made him a recipient of the National Association of Broadcasters Marconi Award for Small Market Personality of the Year in 2017.

Ken's legacy goes beyond the microphone. He is a longtime supporter of the Brainerd Lakes Area Walk to End Alzheimer's and works as a member of the Sertoma service organization. Additionally, every Thanksgiving, he volunteers to serve meals at the local Legion.

As Ken enters retirement, I hope he finds time to enjoy everything he loves about Brainerd, which includes his loving family, his fellow members of The District cover band and Norman's Bait and Tackle Choir, and the tight-knit community he helped shape.

I congratulate Ken and he will be missed from the airwaves, but he has earned this next chapter.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCILMAN RICK BLACKWELL

HON. MORGAN McGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. McGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilman Rick Blackwell in recognition of his extraordinary leadership and decades of unwavering service to Louisville Metro Council District 12.

As a founding member of the Louisville Metro Council, first elected in 2002 and re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020, he has represented the neighborhoods of Pleasure Ridge Park, Riverport, and Valley Station with distinction.

Councilman Blackwell's dedication to leadership has been evident throughout his tenure, serving as President of the Louisville Metro Council, Democratic Caucus Chair, and in various leadership roles including Chair of the Appropriations Committee, Budget Chair, and as a member of the Firefighters Pension Fund Board of Trustees and Louisville Metro Revenue Commission.

His legislative achievements, including the Rental Registry Ordinance, Sunday Alcohol Sales Ordinance, and Kid's Meals Ordinance, reflect his commitment to improving quality of life for Kentuckians. Transformational projects like the Dixie Highway Corridor Master Plan, the $50 million New Dixie Highway Project, and the Colonial Gardens Public-Private Partnership demonstrate his vision for economic growth and infrastructure advancement.

Through Councilman Blackwell's efforts, Riverview Park has become a cornerstone of community life, featuring renovated boat docks, a splash pad, playground, pickleball courts, and more. The annual Riverview Independence Festival, which he founded, continues to unite Kentuckians with its celebration of music and fireworks, fostering a sense of community pride and connection.

Mr. Speaker, Councilman Blackwell's enduring commitment to serving the people of Kentucky, his leadership in advancing meaningful legislation, and his dedication to fostering thriving communities stand as a testament to the profound impact of his service. I ask that the House of Representatives join me in expressing our profound gratitude for his steadfast commitment to public service and community betterment, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FOOD DESERTS ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act of 2025 to help fight hunger and food insecurity in communities across the country.

I want to share just one example. In June of 2017, Marsh Supermarkets grocery stores announced the closure of many stores throughout the Midwest. Many of these stores were in my district. Many families lacked a car or reliable public transportation to the nearest grocery alternative, often over a mile away. Today, thousands of my constituents are still struggling to find the food they need, with many forced to rely on fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

These options are neither healthy nor affordable.

Sadly, this situation is not unique. Over 29 million people, almost 10 percent of the U.S. population, live without ready access to affordable, nutritious food, and over 2 million people have no transportation to get to their nearest store. Many have seen their local stores close during the pandemic. Others lost access years ago and now face the severe long-term impacts of obesity, diabetes, malnutrition, and other diet-related ailments.

Unfortunately, residents in these low-income areas tend to spend less on groceries, leaving little financial incentive for traditional grocery chains to make costly investments for new locations.

In the world's wealthiest country, nutritious food should be an expectation, not a luxury. That is why I am reintroducing the Food Deserts Act, which creates new avenues to fund stores in underserved communities. This bill will create USDA-funded, state-operated revolving funds that will issue low-interest loans for the operation of grocery stores in food deserts. The bill ensures that recipients of these loans, including for-profit, non-profit, and municipal entities, can provide affordable, healthy food, including fresh produce and staples like milk, bread, and meat. It will also ensure that USDA professionals are available to provide technical assistance to recipients who need it.

Access to healthy food is something that most of us take for granted. But despite our own experiences, we must remember that millions of our constituents struggle daily to feed their families. With this market-driven approach, I aim to complement existing federal programs and efforts nationwide by ensuring a stable lending stream for struggling grocery stores and sustainable access to food for communities in need.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to support this vital bill.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROY ''TANK'' COLBRUNN

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the life and service of Roy Colbrunn, known affectionately by his friends and family as ''Tank,'' who suddenly passed away at the age of 68. He was a close friend and an outstanding public servant, who will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Tank was raised in Vienna, Ohio and attended Youngstown State University. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corps. During his enlistment, he was selected to serve as one of two USMC representatives on the honor detail, and as a pallbearer of an unknown Revolutionary War soldier.

Tank began his lifelong career as a firefighter as a volunteer with the Vienna Township Fire Department. He accepted a full-time firefighting position at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1985 and quickly rose through the tanks to Captain. He was elected and served several terms as president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), Local F–88.

Beginning in 1997, Tank took his mission of public service beyond the walls of the fire station by serving his community of Xenia Township in multiple roles as a volunteer and part-time firefighter, and as a member of the local zoning board. Tank retired from Wright Patterson in 2013, and from the Xenia Township Fire Department in 2016.

Tank served many roles as an IAFF leader: president of Local F–88, 16th District Field Service Representative to the District Vice President, Air Force Materiel Command IAFF Union Liaison, and Federal Joint Council Vice President.

As a union leader, Tank negotiated six Command Labor Agreement Contracts, numerous local union contracts across the country, and fought for the Interests of Department of Defense firefighters. He was instrumental in moving IAFF Local F–88 to a 48–72-hour schedule, significantly improving the quality of life for firefighters.

Tank was a driving force behind the requirement to staff aircraft rescue firefighting vehicles with three personnel, prioritizing not only the safety of firefighters but also our Nation's air crews. His vast knowledge, leadership, dedication, charismatic personality and unwavering care for those he met earned him much deserved admiration and love from those who are his ''Brothers and Sisters.''

Tank was a big man, with an even bigger heart, known for his kind and gentle nature,

and his wonderful sense of humor. These attributes served him well as a labor mediator. He had an unwavering love for his family, his friends, and his community.

I had the pleasure and opportunity to meet and work with Tank on important fire services issues. I admired his dedication to his profession and to his fellow firefighters, and his tireless work on their behalf. He will be greatly missed, but certainly not forgotten.

I offer my sincerest condolences to his wife, LuAnn, daughter Kaleena, and their entire family.

HONORING PETER YARROW

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of an extraordinary man, Peter Yarrow, of the legendary folk trio, Peter, Paul and Mary. Peter passed away at home in New York City on January 7, 2025, at the age of 86. He is survived by his spouse, Mary Beth McCarthy Yarrow, children Christopher Yarrow and Bethany Yarrow and his beloved granddaughter, Valentina.

The son of Ukrainian Jewish Immigrants, Peter was born and raised in New York City, attended New York's High School of Music and Arts, and graduated from Cornell University in 1959. While at Cornell, Peter took an American Folk Literature course in which singing and guitar playing were prerequisites. Thus began a career that would span the ages. Upon graduating, Peter moved to New York City and began a successful run in the Greenwich Village folk movement with the purpose of creating community through music. Peter, Paul and Mary debuted in 1961, enjoyed huge success with six top 10 hits on the Billboard ''Hot 100'' and five Grammy Awards. Peter's gift for songwriting produced some of the most poignant songs Peter, Paul & Mary have recorded, including ''Puff, the Magic Dragon,'' ''Day is Done,'' ''Light One Candle,'' and ''The Great Mandala.''

Peter had a firm and devout commitment to activism and organizing. He devoted his time and talents to the Civil Rights Movement which brought Peter, Paul and Mary to Washington in 1963, to participate in both the historic March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the historic Selma-Montgomery March in 1965. Peter was a founding board member of the Newport Folk Festival and used his organizing skills to shine light on merging folk performers and songwriters to a wider audience. He was a leader in the Peace/Anti-Vietnam war movement, the equal rights movement, deeply committed to protecting the environment, gender equality, ending homelessness, supporting the hospice care movement, public broadcasting and education.

In 1999, Peter founded the non-profit education and advocacy organization, Operation Respect. Operation Respect's classroom based ''Don't Laugh at Me'' curriculum was created to combat school bullying, promote tolerance and provide children with the tools necessary to express their feelings constructively, resolve conflict peacefully, celebrate diversity and engage with each other cooperatively and compassionately. Operation Respect's success has reached over 22,000 US schools and expanded globally, including Ukraine, Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Hong Kong, Croatia, Canada and Japan with the aim of fostering dialogue and understanding around the world. Operation Respect has found that schools committed to establishing a respectful, safe and compassionate learning environment, experience improvements in academic achievement, student attendance and staff retention, at the same tune reducing bullying, violence and other behavioral issues.

It was an honor to call Peter a friend. I'm grateful for his kindness, compassion, commitment to peace, promotion of human rights, and boundless talent which has been an inspiration for me and will continue to inspire many for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable life and the visionary work of Peter Yarrow.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE CHARLES T. NORWOOD AND THE CHARLES T. NORWOOD AMERICAN LEGION POST 157

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Private Charles T. Norwood and to recognize the significant contributions of the Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157.

Private Charles T. Norwood served with distinction in Company H, 365th Infantry Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division during World War I. On November 11, 1918, mere hours before the Armistice, Private Norwood was wounded in action. He succumbed to his injuries and Lobar Pneumonia on January 17, 1919, becoming the first African American soldier from Raleigh, North Carolina, to make the ultimate sacrifice in World War I. Private Norwood was laid to rest with full military honors in the Raleigh National Cemetery on August 1, 1921. He rests in Section 8, Site 1226.

The Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157 was chartered on December 19, 1924, to honor his memory and service. At a time when American society was segregated, including Veterans Service Organizations, the charter members of Post 157 were African American veterans of World War I. These founding members represented a cross-section of Raleigh's African American community, including medical professionals, businessmen, educators, administrators, and community leaders.

For more than 100 years, the Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157 has served as a beacon of community service, veteran support, and civic engagement in Raleigh. Its establishment and ongoing legacy stand as a testament to the contributions of African American veterans to our nation's history and to the enduring spirit of service that defines the American Legion.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the heroism of Private Charles T. Norwood on the 106th anniversary of his death and commending the Charles T. Norwood American Legion Post 157 for its commitment to veterans and the Raleigh community for more than a century. May this legacy continue to inspire future generations to serve our nation and support our veterans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions related to my pregnancy, I was unable to travel to D.C. to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 10; YEA on Roll Call No. 11; and NAY on Roll Call No. 12.

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE SCLAFANI LONGABUCCO'S 102ND BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Catherine Sclafani Longabucco, an amazing constituent from my district who will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on January 29, 2025. It is a distinct honor to pay tribute to Mrs. Longabucco on this joyous occasion and to highlight the extraordinary life and contributions that endear her to so many in our community.

Throughout her life, Catherine has exemplified a spirit of resilience, generosity and dedication and has been an integral member of our community. Prior to moving to Doylestown in 2021, Mrs. Longabucco raised her three children, Amelia, John, and Frank Jr., with her beloved husband Frank in New York.

Catherine has six great-grandchildren and enjoys learning more about what they are doing in their daily lives. She is an avid sudoku player and challenges herself to complete one puzzle every day in between her volunteering at the Central Bucks Senior Center and playing Rummikub, mahjong and bingo. If you need to find Catherine, she is likely helping to set up for the bingo festivities.

As we celebrate her 102 years of life, we are incredibly grateful for the positive impact she has made on all who know her.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PATRICK O'BRIEN

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrick O'Brien for his service as Fire Chief to the Town of Massena.

Mr. O'Brien has dedicated his life to public service and has served his country and community from a variety of positions. He has worked as a safety and compliance regional manager for MESA Air Group, an information systems technician for the U.S. Navy Reserve, a State Fire Instructor for the Office of Fire

Prevention & Control, the Director of Environmental Health, Safety, and Emergency Management for the State University of New York at Potsdam, and as the Fire Chief to the Town of Massena.

Mr. O'Brien started his work with the Massena Fire Department in 2007 and has been an incredible asset to the department ever since. With over 20 years of emergency planning and response experience, Mr. O'Brien is exceptionally driven and provides incredible service to Massena. His election as Fire Chief in 2023 reflects his relentless drive for quality, risk management, and teamwork which has improved countless lives in the North Country.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, it is my privilege and honor to recognize the great accomplishments of Patrick O'Brien. I congratulate him on his incredible achievements and thank him for his contributions to our North Country community.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCILWOMAN MADONNA FLOOD

HON. MORGAN McGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Louisville Metro Councilwoman Madonna Flood and to acknowledge her exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication, and significant contributions to the people and communities of Louisville.

First elected in 2002, Councilwoman Flood has served as a founding member of the Louisville Metro Council, representing District 24, which includes the communities of Okolona, Highview, and Fern Creek, among others. Through her leadership and commitment to service, she has improved quality of life for countless residents, advocating for policies and investments that have shaped the growth of her district and Louisville Metro as a whole.

As Democratic Caucus Chair and Chair of key committees such as Planning & Zoning, Budget, and Public Safety, she has been instrumental in guiding policy decisions that have made a lasting impact on the city. Councilwoman Flood's role in advancing initiatives like the Fairness Ordinance, Smoking Ban Ordinance, and Adult Entertainment Ordinance exemplifies her commitment to fairness, public health, and safety for all citizens.

Councilwoman Flood's leadership was vital in the construction of the South Central Regional Library, providing a valuable resource for the community, and she worked timelessly to resolve drainage issues in Okolona, improving infrastructure and addressing the needs of her constituents.

Mr. Speaker, Councilwoman Flood's legacy of public service is built upon a foundation of dedication, advocacy, and an enduring commitment to improving the lives of those she served. Her contributions to Louisville's land use, public safety, and quality of life will continue to resonate for generations. I express my profound gratitude for her leadership, vision, and service, and I wish her well in her future endeavors.

REINTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO HUMANITARIAN AND SPORTING LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, as we kick off the first session of the new Congress, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his numerous contributions to our great Nation. I believe it is long past time to recognize an American civil rights activist, humanitarian and sporting legend with Congress' highest honor. Unfortunately, Congress failed to act before The Champ's death in 2016, at the age 74, so I ask my colleagues to join me now in honoring an American hero, on the eve of what would have been his 83rd birthday. Over the course of his illustrious career, Muhammad Ali produced some of our Nation's most lasting sports memories. From winning a Gold Medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics, to lighting the Olympic torch at the 1996 Summer Olympics, his influence as an athlete and a humanitarian spanned over fifty years.

Despite having been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in the 1980s, Ali devoted his life to charitable organizations. Ali, and his wife Lonnie, were founding directors of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Center and Movement Disorders Clinic in Phoenix, Arizona and helped raise over $50 million for Parkinson's research. In addition to helping families cope with illness, Ali led efforts to provide meals for the hungry and helped countless organizations such as the Make-A-Wish-Foundation and the Special Olympics.

Muhammad Ali's humanitarian efforts went beyond his charitable activities in the United States. In 1990 Muhammad Ali travelled to the Middle East to seek the release of American and British hostages that were being held as human shields in the first Gulf War. After his intervention, 15 hostages were freed. Thanks to his devotion to diplomatic causes and racial harmony, Ali was the recipient of many accolades, including being chosen as a "U.N. Messenger of Peace" in 1998 and receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005 from President Bush.

Through his unyielding dedication to his sport and to struggling populations around the world, Muhammad Ali still serves an example of service and self-sacrifice for generations of Americans. The Congressional Gold Medal is a fitting commemoration of his life and work, for which he is deservingly known as "the Greatest."

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our Nation's most lasting and influential figures by signing on to this important legislation. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to include in the RECORD a recent op-ed published in the American Bar Association Human Rights Magazine.

[From the American Bar Association Human Rights Magazine, Nov. 25, 2024]

THE FIGHT FOR MUHAMMAD ALI IN CONGRESS = THE FIGHT AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA

(By Rep. ANDRÉ CARSON)

The fight for fairness is not a one-time battle; it is an ongoing struggle that can be exhausting and frustrating. While sometimes there is a knockout punch that leads to a sudden victory, more often, it is a marathon requiring patience, dedication, and endurance.

This is especially true of legislative victories throughout American history. From the long marches of Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to the hundreds of bus boycotts and sit-ins that finally helped push the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act across the finish line, progress can be painstakingly slow.

Even the fight to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a national holiday took 15 years from the first bill introduced by Rep. John Conyers and Sen. Edward Brooke to passage and enactment of a revised bill authored by Rep. Katie Hall, the first Black woman elected to represent Indiana in Congress. Yet even after President Ronald Reagan signed the bill into law in 1983, the holiday was not recognized in all 50 states until 2000.

Similarly, Rep. Julia Carson, the second Black woman from Indiana elected to serve in Congress, introduced a bill in 2006 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Muhammad Ali. Despite her efforts, that bill never received a committee hearing, let alone a floor vote. Since her death and my election to Congress, I have taken up this mantle, reintroducing the bill eight times—from the 111th Congress in 2009 to the current 118th Congress. Despite widespread support from groups across the country, the bill has still not made it to a vote.

Muhammad Ali, "The Greatest," was a true American hero. After winning a gold medal for the United States at the 1960 Summer Olympics, Ali converted to Islam in 1961 and soon became the world heavyweight champion at the age of 22. In 1964, he rejected his birth name, Cassius Clay, which he called his "slave name," and formally adopted the name Muhammad Ali.

In 1967, as a conscientious objector, Ali refused to be drafted into the military because of his religious and moral opposition to the Vietnam War. Convicted of draft evasion, he appealed his case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which overturned the conviction in 1971. After reclaiming his world heavyweight title, Ali dedicated his post-boxing career to serving as a global ambassador for peace, civil rights, human rights, and fairness for everyone.

Ali has long held a special place in the hearts of Indiana Hoosiers, especially mine. He first visited the Indiana Black Expo's Summer Celebration in 1987 as an activist and returned in 1996 to support my grandmother, Julia Carson, in her first run for Congress, which she won. In 2003, Ali returned to Indianapolis when he served as grand marshal of the Indy 500 before a crowd of 300,000 cheering fans.

My grandmother and Muhammad Ali inspired me early in life to become civically active and stand up for my beliefs. Both were born in Louisville, Kentucky, from humble beginnings and used the prejudice they faced as motivation to succeed. They fought tirelessly to accomplish their goals and became champions in their respective fields—Ali in the boxing ring and my grandmother in the halls of Congress. They shared a passion for defending their beliefs and were never afraid to fight for what was right.

Muhammad Ali deserves a Congressional Gold Medal, yet despite all his contributions, we have not been able to secure the 290 cosponsors needed to get a vote on my current bill, H.R. 709 So far, we have just 91.

Why is it that someone as universally beloved as Ali, a man whose life and legacy have inspired so many around the globe, has yet to receive the recognition he deserves

from Congress? Is it because this recognition is going to a Muslim man? Or because a Muslim man is offering it?

As the longest-serving Muslim member of Congress and the dean of our small but mighty Muslim caucus, I have asked these questions many times. Some point to Ali's draft evasion, labeling him as controversial. But the Supreme Court overturned that conviction. Others suggest race might be a factor. Yet, there are many other Black recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal, including Nelson Mandela, General Colin Powell, Roy Wilkins, and Rosa Parks.

Since 1776, only 184 Congressional Gold Medals have been awarded. It is an interesting list, including individuals like George Washington, Charles Lindbergh, Howard Hughes, Robert Frost, Bob Hope, Walt Disney, Winston Churchill, Frank Sinatra, and Billy Graham, plus iconic athletes like Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, and Larry Doby. Given this roster of distinguished Americans, why not add Muhammad Ali, a man who represents the very best of our country?

Could it be that my colleagues are reluctant to honor a principled Muslim man who lived his faith with deep conviction and practiced Islam every day despite the attacks he endured? Even after his passing, Muhammad Ali continues to inspire generations around the world more than 60 years after winning an Olympic gold medal for the United States.

Islamophobia, like racism, antisemitism, and homophobia, is a pernicious poison that can infect people without their realizing it. It can manifest itself with discomfort or outright resistance to honoring someone like Ali based on fear, ignorance, or flawed and unfair procedures.

For example, the current procedures established by the Republican majority make it extremely difficult to pass a Gold Medal bill. Before the committee of jurisdiction can hold a hearing or a markup, 290 cosponsors are required. In practice, most bills passed by either chamber do not need hundreds of cosponsors for consideration. Additionally, only five Gold Medal bills can be considered per session under these restrictions. The ''quiet part'' is that while few would want to vote against Ali on the floor, most have not cosponsored the bill, blocking it.

How could it have been easier for Muhammad Ali to win an Olympic gold medal at age 18 than be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his lifetime of service to civil rights and humanitarian causes? Is it Islamophobia?

Few will admit to Islamophobia, but actions speak volumes. In this session alone, two of the three members of our Muslim caucus were sanctioned by votes on the House floor. Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D–MI), the only Palestinian-American to ever serve in Congress, was censured by a vote of 234 to 188 for speaking up for Palestinian rights. She was wrongfully accused of promoting a false narrative about the suffering in Gaza, even though over 40,000 innocent Palestinians, mostly women and children, have already been killed. Rep. Ilhan Omar (D–MN), the first Somali-American elected to Congress, was stripped of her seat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee by a vote of 218 to 211 for similarly speaking up for Palestinian rights. These votes did not grab the headlines they should have, but they revealed a disturbing reality: two-thirds of Muslim members of Congress were sanctioned for standing up for their communities. This is a dangerous trend.

Unlike systemic disenfranchisement and discrimination against racial minorities and immigrants, Islamophobia is particularly painful because it persecutes an individual's religion. Our faith is so personal and, for many of us, very private. So, being subjected to this irrational hatred because of our religion is hard, especially in a country founded on religious freedom.

Globally, we are witnessing hijab bans, oppression of Muslims, and fear-based politics that fuel violence, with incidents increasing at an alarming rate. This hits close to home when tragic events, like the stabbing of a six-year-old Muslim boy in Illinois last year, remind us of the consequences of ignorance, hatred, and violence. My heart broke when this child was killed by his neighbor, who was angry at Palestinians over the Israel-Gaza war.

We must call out Islamophobia—whether it is blatant, like the Muslim Ban under the Trump administration, or subtle, like the opposition to legislative recognition of Muhammad Ali. We must not be silent. We must be vigilant in stopping this irrational fear from blocking progress and fairness. Only then can we build political consensus and experience the dream our Founders envisioned, where life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are available to every American, not just some.

There are some encouraging legislative developments: This past summer, we opened the first-ever Interfaith Staff Prayer Room in the Capitol Complex under the auspices of the House Chaplain's Office. The addition of the prayer room was the result of legislation I authored and was enacted as an amendment to the FY2022 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. It provides dedicated physical space for congressional staff and interns of all faiths to pray and meditate at work.

While there has always been a small interfaith place for members of Congress to use, there was nothing available for staff working in crowded cubicles with no privacy. This legislative change has made a positive difference, especially for Muslim staffers, who now have a private place for daily prayers. This small victory shows that progress is possible—we just have to keep running the race together and never give up.

Please note: The views expressed herein have not been approved by the House of Delegates, the Board of Governors, the Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice or the Human Rights Editorial Board of the American Bar Association and, accordingly, should not be construed as representing the policy of the American Bar Association. They are the views of the individual authors themselves in their personal capacities.

REP. ANDRÉ CARSON—MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM INDIANA'S 7TH DISTRICT

Rep. André Carson (D–IN) was first elected in 2008. He is the first Muslim appointed to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, where he serves as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Central Intelligence Agency. He also serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Select Committee on Strategic Competition with the Chinese Communist Party.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE DEMETRIUS ANTHONY YOUNG

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving father, dedicated brother, committed community servant and dear friend of longstanding, Commissioner Demetrius Anthony Young. Sadly, Commissioner Young passed from labor to reward on December 29, 2024. A homegoing service to celebrate his remarkable life was held on January 3, 2025, at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

The genesis of the life of Demetrius Young began with his birth on January 7, 1971, in Albany, Georgia to the union of the late Representative Mary Young Cummings and Mr. Henry ''Hank'' Young, Sr. He was a proud product of the Dougherty County School System, graduating from Monroe Comprehensive High School in 1990. While at Monroe, he was a member of the marching band, playing tritomes and was a drummer. He went on to further his education, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Albany State University and Master of Public Administration with a concentration in public policy in 2020.

Commissioner Young had a distinguished 25-year career in Information Technology. He was a Member Services Engineer for the Community Development Institute in Denver, Colorado where he worked for almost nine years.

He returned to Albany, Georgia after his tenure with the Institute ended. Like his beloved mother before him who served as a City Commissioner for the City of Albany and as a Georgia State Representative, Demetrius had a burning desire to be a public servant. And in 2019, armed with that fire and background, he ran for his mother's old seat on the City Commission and was successful. He ran to be an advocate for those that he represented. He was that and so much more. He was a voice to the voiceless and gave hope to the hopeless. Truly, he was an advocate for East and South Albany. He fought against discriminatory practices in the City Code, expanded access to procurement opportunities for minority owned businesses, and fought fervently against voter suppression in all its forms.

A committed man of faith, Commissioner Young leaned on his faith that was molded from his days as a child at the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church. His faith was his moral compass that guided his life's work.

Commissioner Young loved his family, and nowhere was that exhibited more than with his support of his daughters, JaMiya, Nubia, Kenya and Erika. He was their biggest cheerleader and always reveled in their success.

On a personal note, Commissioner Young and his extended family have been dear friends to me for many years. I served with his mother in the General Assembly for several years. She was a dedicated community servant and passed that love of community on to Demetrius, and I am sure she beamed with pride as she watched his activism and public service. George Washington Carver once said that ''How far you go in life depends on your being tender with young, compassionate with aged; sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong because someday in your life you will have been all of these.'' Commissioner Young went far in life because he advocated and worked on behalf of people from all walks of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my Wife, Vivian, and me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Commissioner Demetrius Anthony Young and in extending our deepest sympathy to his family, friends, colleagues and all who mourn his loss. We pray that all will be consoled by

an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF CONNIE PALACIOZ

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th birthday of Connie Palacioz, an American patriot and Wichita's very own ''Rosie the Riveter.''

Shortly after graduating high school in 1943, Connie volunteered to support our nation during World War II. Several family members were serving in the military, and she felt it was her duty as an American to contribute to the war effort as well.

Connie left her job as a laundress and joined Boeing's B–29 Superfortress assembly line in Wichita, Kansas. Starting at 50 cents an hour, she eventually doubled her wage, a testament to her hard work and dedication. In her role, she supported the production of the nose sections for the aircraft, manufacturing four sections each day. With the help of her partner, Jerri Warden, Connie contributed to the assembly of 1,644 B–29 bombers throughout the war, including one nicknamed ''Doc.''

In 2000, Connie was reunited with ''Doc,'' which had been recovered from the Mojave Desert after decades of exposure to the elements. Remarkably, one of the pieces of the plane found in excellent condition was the nose section that Connie helped build nearly 60 years prior.

Connie became a vital part of the restoration team, volunteering three days a week for sixteen years until the aircraft was fully restored, taking to the sky again in 2016.

At the age of 97, Connie was honored as the inaugural member of the Kansas Women's Hall of Fame in Aviation. Today, I would like to once again honor her for a lifetime of service to our country. I thank Connie.

PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2025

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 28, which would open the door to invasive surveillance and physical inspections of young women and girls as a condition of their participation in sports.

Sports should be safe, accessible, and fair for everyone. Participating in sports helps young people develop skills like leadership and teamwork and builds their self-esteem. All children, no matter their gender, should have the opportunity to develop these skills in a supportive community.

Instead, this Republican-led Child Predator Empowerment Act puts the privacy, security, mental health, and physical well-being of young female athletes at risk. H.R. 28 would allow anyone to challenge and target kids with questions about their gender. It would subject minors to deeply personal questions about their bodies and to physical inspections of their genitals by strangers without their parents present.

The reality is that there are already athletic associations that take issues like fairness and safety into account when determining gender-based eligibility guidelines for different sports at different levels of competition. Professional athletic organizing bodies like the International Olympic Committee and National Collegiate Athletic Association have already addressed participation for trans athletes within their respective sports. There is bipartisan recognition of the damaging impact of a complete ban on the participation of transgender children in youth sports, as evidenced by the vetoes issued by Utah Governor Spencer Cox, Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb, and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum in response to similar legislation introduced and passed by their respective legislatures.

If we want to take action in this Congress to truly support female athletes and women's sports, then we could address issues like equal pay, ending institutional mistreatment of female athletes, and broadening opportunities for participation for historically excluded communities. We could work to protect athletes from sexual abuse, instead of taking up a bill that creates new conditions that predators can exploit. The majority of athlete sexual assault cases involve coaches, trainers, or other sports administrators, who could be inspecting young women and girls under this law.

The enforcement of H.R. 28 would cause lasting damage to student athletes and to school-based athletics, all while isolating and stigmatizing transgender and intersex youth. I urge my colleagues to vote against this deeply misguided legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE 1ST ANNIVERSARY OF MITA

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. Norton. Mr. Speaker, today, I congratulate the restaurant MITA, a rising star in the District of Columbia's thriving culinary scene, on its first anniversary, which was on December 29, 2024.

MITA, spearheaded by Chef Miguel Guerra and Chef Tatiana Mora, is a vegetable-forward, Latin American restaurant located in the historic Shaw neighborhood. In recognition of its culinary excellence and creative approach, MITA earned a Michelin star last year, affirming its status as a premier dining destination.

MITA is one of two new restaurants in D.C. to earn a Michelin star last year. Chef Guerra became the youngest Venezuelan chef to receive a Michelin star, and Chef Mora became the first Venezuelan female chef to earn a Michelin star.

I congratulate MITA, Chef Miguel Guerra and Chef Tatiana Mora for their accomplishments.

THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES PROTECTION ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my Hawaii colleague, Representative JILL TOKUDA, in introducing our bill to protect one of the most unique and fragile environments on Earth, our Hawaii, from devastating invasive species.

Invasive species pose an especially grave threat to Hawaii's ecosystems, natural resources and agricultural communities, in part due to Hawaii's unique geography. Hawaii is the most isolated island chain and one of the most ecologically diverse places in the world. We are 2,282 miles from the Continental United States, 2,952 miles from Japan and 4,772 miles from Washington, D.C., with no other islands in close proximity.

We have within our constrained borders ten of the thirteen world climate zones, with ecosystems ranging from desert to tropical, where plants and animals that found their way to Hawaii evolved like nowhere else. Hawaii has the world's highest percentage of endemic species—90 percent of terrestrial and more than 25 percent of marine species are found nowhere else on Earth. These species include the Hawaiian scarlet honeycreeper, the ʻi‘ iwi; the flowering evergreen; and the state mammal of Hawaii, the ʻilioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal).

However, tragically, in large part due to invasive species, Hawaii has become the endangered species and extinction capital of the world. The Pacific Islands are home to 44 percent of the threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and Hawaii currently has 578 species listed as endangered or threatened, more than any other state. Many of these species are critically endangered and face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Although we will never know the true number of species that have gone extinct in Hawaii, in 2023 alone eight Hawaiian species were declared extinct.

The threat to our state tree, the ʻōhiʻa lehua, is also illustrative of out growing crisis. Used for poi boards and outrigger canoes, the ʻōhiʻa lehua is important to Hawaiian culture and the islands' watersheds. As the first tree to grow in new Hawaii lava flows, ʻōhiʻa grows throughout the watershed creating new soil, stabilizing steep mountain ridges and comprises approximately 80 percent of Hawaii's native forests. However, rapid ʻōhiʻa death, or ROD, caused by an invasive fungal pathogen, kills ʻōhiʻa trees quickly, and threatens the stability of Hawaii's native forests. Since its discovery on Hawai'i Island in 2014, ROD has spread to Kauai, Maui and Oahu, and has killed hundreds of thousands of trees.

Hawaii's unique cucumstances also have given rise to one of our Nation's most diverse and productive agricultural communities. With a year-round growing cycle, our crops have ranged throughout our history from the highest quality sugar and pineapple and cattle to tropical specialty crops like fruit and cut flowers in the highest demand worldwide.

Yet it is exactly because these crops like our natural resources have adapted to Hawaii's uniqueness that they are the most susceptible to devastation from external species

against which they have no natural defenses. Invasive species have drastically impacted agriculture in Hawaii, threatening some of the island's most valuable crops in the state's third-largest industry.

Another prime and very current example of the challenges we face is the coconut rhinoceros beetle. It has become a menacing invader in Hawaii, wreaking havoc on the islands' palm trees and posing a serious threat to both the enviionment and the economy. This formidable beetle, with its massive size and powerful mandibles, burrows into the trunks of coconut palms and other tropical crops, such as kalo and bananas, causing extensive damage. According to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, once the beetles bore into these plants, they can kill them, jeopardizing the entire ecosystem, agriculture and food security.

The destruction of coconut palms by the beetle is especially harmful. These trees are vital to Hawaii's agricultural production, supplying coconuts for food, cosmetics and traditional practices. Additionally, they serve as iconic symbols of the islands' tropical landscape. With no natural predators to keep its numbers in check, the beetle's rapid spread continues to outpace control efforts, making it a growing crisis for Hawaii's environment, economy and cultural heitage.

Yet despite these incontrovertible and growing impacts of external species on Hawaii's natural resources and economy, existing federal law leaves Hawaii largely defenseless against increasingly destructive invasives.

Imports by air and sea, the only means of in-bound transportation to our island state, lack any effective regulation to screen out invasives. This is despite a fairly rigorous screening of exports from Hawaii to the Continental United States to screen out invasives from Hawaii viewed as harmful to mainland agriculture (invasives that, ironically, were invasives into Hawaii to start with).

Our bill, the Hawaii Invasive Species Protection Act, will require the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with other federal departments and the State of Hawaii, to conduct visual, x-ray and canine inspections, as appropriate, on person, baggage, cargo and any other article destined for direct movement to the State of Hawaii. The inspections will search for high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials. The inspections will be conducted at airports, ports and postal sorting facilities prior to direct travel to the State of Hawaii.

Our bill further requires APHIS to work with the State of Hawaii to develop and publish a list of the high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials for the State of Hawaii. It pays for these inspections by increasing Agriculture Quarantine Inspection fees to cover the full cost of inspection.

If we truly care about the threat that continued and escalating invasive species pose to one of the most invaluable and unique ecosystems on earth, in addition to our unique economy and way of life, then the stark reality is that this bill is what it will take. Again, it is not revolutionary when compared to other island countries, most notably New Zealand, that have not only recognized this threat but actually have done something about it.

And it is certainly not revolutionary when compared to longstanding domestic restrictions on exports from Hawaii, leading to the basic point that if these invasive species prevention requirements are good enough for the rest of the country and much of the world then they're good enough for Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to this House for their understanding and careful consideration of Hawaii's challenge and opportunity and ask for our bill's expeditious passage.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. YOUTH ORATORICAL COMPETITION

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 40th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest, hosted by the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Since 1985, the members of the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have hosted this community event in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This year marks the 40th anniversary of this meaningful tradition. This event has evolved into a youth oratorical competition, bringing together students in grades 6–12 from Prince William County Public Schools and surrounding areas. It offers students with a unique opportunity to research, write, and deliver an oration that honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King's legacy continues to inspire people of all ages, including today's youth. His commitment to justice, equality, and nonviolence has profoundly shaped our Nation, urging us to confront injustice and work for a future where all treated with dignity and respect.

This year's speech topic: ''Fulfilling the Promise of Democracy: My Voice, My Choice, My Future,'' is inspired by Dr. King's powerful call for America to live up the ideals of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence by being ''true to what you said on paper.''

I congratulate the following contestants in the 40th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest: Middle School Contestants: Soluchi Eze—Benton Middle School; Chizaram Feliz-Ujorji—Pennington Traditional School; Ezana Tesfaye—Mary G. Porto Traditional School. High School Contestants: Jordyn Nesbitt—Gainesville High School; Rabab Raza—Osbourn High School; Naomi Samuel—Battlefield High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for showcasing the power of Dr. King's tireless commitment to equality and in congratulating the talented students of the 2025 MLK Youth Oratorical Contest. Let us learn from this next generation and consider how we may honor Dr. King's legacy by continuously seeking justice and leading with light in our own communities.

HONORING HOWARD KOCH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Howard Koch, a World War II and Korean War veteran who is celebrating his 100th birthday on January 19, 2025.

Raised in Oakland, California, Koch developed a love of skiing and rock climbing at a young age—skills that would eventually lead to his unique call to service during WWII in the 10th Mountain Division. At 13 years old, Koch learned to ski at the Donner Summit Sugar Bowl Ski Resort, paying for lessons with money he earned from his paper route. His dad would drop him at the Southern Pacific train station and, with rented skis in hand, he would ride up the mountain by himself. He would arrive early in the morning and sleep in the snow until the slopes were open for skiing. Koch soon learned to make his own skis and began his life as an outdoorsman as a member of the Sierra Club.

After graduating from high school at 16 years old, Koch attended UC Berkley as a geology/mining engineering major. A natural athlete, Koch played baseball and was a right guard on the football squad. He still remembers winning a game against USC at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

By the time he turned 18 in 1943, the United States had been at war for two years and he knew he would be drafted. The military was advertising for volunteers who could ski and rock climb to join a division that, at the time, was called the Ski Troops. Eventually renamed to the 10th Mountain Division, this group was America's only mountain and winter warfare fighting unit.

Koch knew this Army unit was where he belonged. He was sent to Camp Hale in Colorado, high in the Rockies to join an elite group of champion skiers, mountain climbers, and European mountaineers for training. In what would be its biggest victory, the 10th completed a night climb on Riva Ridge to land a surprise attack against German troops who were entrenched in the snowy mountains of Italy.

After climbing Riva Ridge, a famous battle that is documented in the film ''Fire On The Mountain,'' Koch was field promoted to 1st Lieutenant and went on with his Division to help capture Mount Belvedere. Soon after, Koch became ill and was sent to the hospital in Livorno, where he stayed for several weeks and then sent back to his company near Torbole.

Before the Nazis surrendered to the 10th Mountain Division commanders, the company commander was injured. At the urging of the sergeants in Koch's platoon, Lt. Colonel Henry Hampton appointed Koch as ''acting company commander.'' He was 20 years old and the youngest 1st Lieutenant. Koch retained this status through the surrender and was then sent with his troops to Slovenia, where he ran a climbing school to keep the soldiers fit and to train replacement troops.

In July 1945, Koch was shipped back stateside to train for amphibious landings with the intent of being shipped to North Tokyo Bay to help end the war. While heading home, the war drew to a close.

After being released from the Army in May 1946, Koch joined the Army Reserve and returned to UC Berkley to earn an accounting degree. In 1948, he met and married Averil, who would be his wife of 72 and a half years. He was working as a successful businessman when, in August of 1950, he was called to active duty for the Korean War. Koch trained as an infantry officer—but once the Army found out about his accounting degree, he was stationed in Japan as a budget and finance officer to oversee the numerous military projects in post-war Japan. When his discharge came, he declined the offer of being promoted to Major so that he could return to his wife.

Koch always kept in touch with his 10th Mountain Division buddies and attended several reunions, including the 50th anniversary re-enactment climb up Riva Ridge that included some of the German soldiers he helped capture. While he remembers the atrocities of war, Koch cherishes the fellowship and camaraderie of his fellow Mountain Soldiers. He will still sing the ballads the 10th sang when they were warming themselves by a fire or hiking miles in the snow.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Howard Koch a happy 100th birthday, and in thanking him for a century of service to our country and our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, due to travel restrictions related to my pregnancy, I was unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 8 and YEA on Roll Call No. 9.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S197–S235

Measures Introduced: Forty-one bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 106–146, and S. Res. 28. **Pages S225–27**

Measures Considered:

Laken Riley Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 5, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S197, S198–S218**

Pending:

Thune (for Ernst/Grassley) Amendment No. 8, to include crimes resulting in death or serious bodily injury to the list of offenses that, if committed by an inadmissible alien, require mandatory detention. **Page S197**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the filing deadline with respect to second-degree amendments to the bill be at 9:45 a.m., on Friday, January 17, 2025. **Page S235**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Friday, January 17, 2025; and that at 10 a.m., Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill. **Page S235**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of an Executive Order that takes additional steps to deal with the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (PM–8) **Page S224**

Messages from the House: **Page S224**

Measures Referred: **Page S224**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S197, S224**

Executive Communications: **Pages S224–25**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page S227**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S227–32**

Additional Statements: **Pages S223–24**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S232–34**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S234**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 5:56 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, January 17, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S235.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the expected nomination of Eric Scott Turner, to be Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Cornyn, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the expected nomination of Doug Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Hoeven and Cramer, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the expected nomination of Lee M. Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Barrasso, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the expected nomination of Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the

Treasury, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Graham, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

REMAIN IN MEXICO

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Remain in Mexico, after receiving testimony from Kenneth Cuccinelli, former Senior Official Performing the Duties of Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security, Spotsylvania, Virginia; Andrew R. Arthur, Center for Immigration Studies, Gastonia, North Carolina; and Adam Isacson, Washington Office on Latin America, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee adopted its rules of procedure, and ordered favorably reported an original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States possesses the authority under current law to take immediate and necessary action to secure the southwest border of the United States.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded hearings to examine the expected nomination of Pamela Jo Bondi, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Nicholas B. Cox, Florida Office of Statewide Prosecution, Office of Attorney General, Tallahassee; Dave Aronberg, Dave Aronberg Law, P.A., West Palm Beach, Florida; Emery Gainey, former Alachua County Sheriff, Gainesville, Florida; and Lisa Gilbert, Public Citizen, and Mary B. McCord, Georgetown University Law Center Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection, both of Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 87 public bills, H.R. 470–556; and 9 resolutions, H.J. Res. 21–24; and H. Res. 48–52, were introduced. **Pages H217–21**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H224**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 20th. **Page H217**

Preventing Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act: The House passed H.R. 30, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable, by a yea-and-nay vote of 274 yeas to 145 nays, Roll No. 17. **Pages H191–H202**

Rejected the Moore (WI) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary by a yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 16. **Pages H200–01**

H. Res. 5, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 30), was agreed to on Friday, January 3, 2025.

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress of an Executive Order to address the continuing national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities and protect against the growing and evolving threat against such activities against the United States and the United States allies and partners referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 119–13). **Page H206**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:24 p.m. and reconvened at 2:55 p.m. **Page H216**

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Representative Crawford, Chair; Representatives Kelly (MS), LaHood, Fitzpatrick, Austin Scott (GA), Hill (AR), Crenshaw, Jackson (TX), Perry, Wagner, Cline, Steube, Tenney, and Fallon. **Pages H216–17**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page S216.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H200–01 and H201.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Committee Meetings

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 119th Congress.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules of the 119th Congress, without amendment. The Committee adopted its Authorization and Oversight Plan, Staff Roster, Subcommittee Assignments and Ratios, Committee Vice Chairs and Subcommittee Chairs and Members for the 119th Congress.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the expected nomination of Kristi Noem, to be Secretary of Homeland Security, 9 a.m., SD–342.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, January 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 5, Laken Riley Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 10 a.m.

The filing deadline for second-degree amendments is at 9:45 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Monday, January 20

House Chamber

Program for Monday: Inauguration of the President and Vice President of the United States.

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