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## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON DC,  
February 10, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### FOSTERING A PROSPEROUS AMERICA

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during the last 5 months of President Biden's term, he imposed more than 1,500 regulations on the American people. Our policies should be focused on fostering economic growth for small businesses, not weighing them down with more regulations.

This week, the House will vote on the Midnight Rules Relief Act. This legis-

lation gives Congress the ability to overturn multiple regulations in one action.

Immediately after President Trump was sworn in, he got to work. He got to work improving government efficiency, and now it is time for my colleagues in the House and in the Senate to follow suit so that the American people can once again prosper.

### PROTECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the last 4 years, our Nation saw millions of illegal aliens stream across our borders. In recent weeks, my colleagues and I in the House passed legislation to crack down on criminal aliens to better protect women and girls and to fight back against the fentanyl crisis.

Today, it is time to protect the brave law enforcement officers working to clean up our disastrous borders. H.R. 35, the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, creates new criminal offenses for those who flee law enforcement at our borders and includes mandatory prison time for chases that cause the loss of human life.

This is commonsense legislation that will save the lives of our law enforcement officers and make the streets safe for all Americans. I look forward to supporting its passage here in the House and the positive impact that this legislation will have on all of America.

### HONORING SHATZER FRUIT MARKET AND ORCHARDS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shatzer Fruit Market and Orchards in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, for their exceptional showing at the 2025 Pennsylvania Farm Show. Owned by fourth-generation growers Dwight and Lisa Mickey, the Shatzer Fruit Market won two best-of-class awards, in addition to more than three dozen first-place awards. Over the years, Shatzer's has won over 3,000 ribbons and prizes for its fruit entries.

Having personally visited Shatzer Fruit Market and Orchards, I have seen their enduring commitment to this industry and why they are a favored stop in Franklin County for delicious peaches and apples.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Shatzer Fruit Market and Orchards on their impressive showing at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, and I look forward to seeing their continued success in the orchards and in the marketplace.

### TARIFFS AND ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the first week of President Trump's Presidency, he announced with great fanfare that he was imposing 25 percent tariffs on our neighbors, Canada to the north and Mexico to the south. The Wall Street Journal, hardly a Democratic newspaper, described this effort as the dumbest trade war ever.

It was dumb because, number one, it violated the trade agreement that President Trump himself signed into law in 2020, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Again, tariffs like that are completely violative of that agreement.

Number two, Canada and Mexico made it crystal clear that they would retaliate with tariffs of their own aimed at U.S. businesses and sectors of all sorts.

It is mostly dumb because it is going to raise prices for Americans, which I think most of us in this Chamber who were on the ballot last November can still remember that that was the number one issue that Americans had.

It is going to raise prices not just because I am saying it. The American

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

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



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Farm Bureau, which represents a cross-section of American food producers all across the country, warned the minute that proposal came out that it was going to raise the cost of fertilizer input costs that was going to end up in the grocery stores in terms of higher prices.

American Home Builders, hardly a Democratic group, warned that those tariffs were going to raise the costs of building materials, whether it was wood or metal materials. That is going to translate into higher prices for new homes, the last thing we need in the middle of a housing crisis.

Predictably, February 1, the first day the markets were open, the markets tanked in response to this proposal. Within hours, the President engaged in a face-saving measure to delay those tariffs for 30 days. They are still out there and pending. We will see what happens.

Yesterday, right before the Super Bowl, the President came out with another proposal of a 25 percent tariff on steel and aluminum indiscriminately across the globe to any and all countries who do business with the United States of America.

I want to talk about one Nation in particular, Australia. I co-chair the Friends of Australia Caucus. Today, the U.S. economy has a trade surplus with Australia. We export more into Australia than they export back to us. They have been a signatory with a free trade agreement with no tariffs going back to 2002.

Again, as Secretary of Defense Hegseth stated yesterday at the Pentagon, when he met with the Australia Deputy Prime Minister, our alliance between our two countries, going back to World War I, is probably the most deep and strong of any other Nation in the world.

At that meeting he was also there to receive word from the Australian Government that they are making the first payment on AUKUS, the Australia, U.K., and U.S. security agreement.

Australia is putting \$500 million into the U.S. industrial base to help our shipbuilding sector build more submarines, which is part of the AUKUS deal. It is a total of \$3 billion. Again, the first check was delivered on Friday by the Australian Government for \$500 million.

Two days later, what do we see? We see a 25 percent tariff on steel and aluminum products coming from Australia into the U.S. at a time when we have a surplus with Australia.

Australia is a key strategic ally for our country. They are positioned in the Indo-Pacific at a place where, again, tensions are sky-high. We need their input and their help in terms of making sure that we are going to rebalance that security environment and protect the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific.

Instead, what we are seeing is a completely needless insult to the people of Australia by raising tariffs on Australian products coming into this coun-

try at the same time we are working with them and they are buying three nuclear submarines, cash on the barrel-head, full price, no gimme, no give-away.

Again, by all the measurements that President Trump talks about trade issues and that we are being ripped off by other countries, in this case every one of those arguments fails. The Friends of Australia Caucus is a strong bipartisan caucus that actually understands the importance of Australia.

Again, we will do everything we can to make sure that this administration changes course and treats our friends and our allies with the respect that they deserve in terms of the contributions that they are making to their national security in a critical part of the world and our national security.

#### CONGRATULATING PHILADELPHIA EAGLE COOPER DEJEAN

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, from 712 to 205 to the Super Bowl, former Iowa Hawkeye and current Philadelphia Eagle Cooper DeJean is now a world champion.

The rookie quarterback helped lead the Eagles to their second Super Bowl victory, returning his first professional career interception for a touchdown against the reigning champion Kansas City Chiefs.

If that wasn't special enough, it was also Coop's 22nd birthday. What a way to celebrate a birthday than with a first career interception to a touchdown and winning the Super Bowl.

Cooper, a proud native of Odebolt, Iowa, grew up wanting to be a University of Iowa Hawkeye player. He even wore shoes with the 712 area code during the biggest game of his life. During his time with the Hawkeyes, he earned All-American honors and was regarded as one of the Nation's best quarterbacks.

His NFL success comes as no surprise to those of us who watched him play in Iowa. With last night's performance, Cooper solidified his place as one of the greatest Hawkeyes ever, and he did it in his rookie season. All of Hawkeye Nation and Iowa are proud of Coop. He will always be a Hawkeye.

God bless and Go Hawks.

#### HONORING IOWA CITY VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER AND HEIDI KAUFMAN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible work being done by Heidi Kaufman and the dedicated team at the Iowa City Veterans Administration Medical Center. Their innovative use of aromatherapy in the PACU, or post-anesthesia care unit, is transforming the recovery experience for our veterans.

Through their pioneering efforts, this team has introduced a noninvasive, natural solution to combat post-operative nausea and vomiting. In a re-

cent study, 12 out of 47 patients reported complete relief from nausea using only aromatherapy. Although that is a small amount, it is not pharmaceutical, it is nonaddictive, and the cost is extremely low.

This achievement is a testament to their compassion, skill, and commitment to improving patient care, and it can go far beyond the PACU. Heidi and her team have proven that sometimes the simplest solutions can make the most profound impact. Their work not only enhances the recovery process but also brings comfort and healing to those who have served our country.

We are deeply grateful for their dedication to our veterans and the innovative care they continue to provide. We thank Heidi for her work.

#### SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE STATUS OF ELON MUSK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to remark on the outrage of my colleagues and others over the special government employee status of Elon Musk from the executive branch and constant remarks that he is unelected and unaccountable.

Let me remind my colleagues and those voices, the vast majority of government employees that review and authorize grants, that disburse funds, and that, in fact, issue rules or laws are unelected and unaccountable to the voters.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 7TH ANNUAL DOMINICANS ON THE HILL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 7th Annual Dominicans on the Hill event which will be held tomorrow. It is a time for all participants to celebrate the contributions of Dominican Americans throughout the country.

In fact, we have today in the gallery the Honorable Ricardo de los Santos Polanco, who is the president of the Dominican Senate, and Alfredo Pacheco, who is the president of the house. They will be with us for the next couple of days, and I want to extend the courtesies of the House so that all of us can attend this wonderful event that is being held for the seventh year in a row.

#### PROTECTING DREAMERS, FAMILIES, AND FARMWORKERS

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Dreamers, farmworkers, and families. Much has been said about the immigration issues at the border. I think what has not been said is the fact that we all want to make sure that the border is more secure. There is no disagreement in that.

□ 1215

We can work together to make the border safer, safer for children, for families, for women, for grandparents and for the communities, the border

communities that many of our Members and colleagues represent. We should work together to make sure that the border is safer.

However, Mr. Speaker, there is a reality in the Nation, and that is that Dreamers are young people that are teachers and nurses. They are part of our communities. They own their homes. Many of them have their own businesses. Yet, they haven't been given the opportunity to be a full part of America.

Dreamers have been, on the average, in the United States for about 20 years. They have lived here. Many of them pay taxes. They haven't committed any crimes. They play by the rules. They stay within the parameters of the law. Yet, we have failed to allow them to be fully part of this American experience. We should work very hard to ensure that Dreamers are given that opportunity. In fact, 80 percent of Americans feel that Dreamers should be given that opportunity.

Farmworkers, Mr. Speaker, we all know many of them aren't going to work because they are afraid they are going to be deported. In fact, 40 percent of farmworkers are undocumented, and they are not showing up at the farms. That will show up at our cash register. That will show up at our dinner table.

Farmers are also a sector of the immigrant community that we should help. Prices will come down. They will be able to go to work, and we will get greater goods in our houses, in our grocery stores, and in our supermarkets.

Dreamers and farmers are an important part of the immigration equation that often are left out. You would think that the only part of the immigration debate is the border. We all agree that the border should be safer.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, families should be kept together. The average immigrant family has been here in the country for over 10 years. Families, if they are divided, or if a young boy or a young girl is taken away from his or her mother, that family will be weaker, and as such, our Nation will be weaker.

The equation is simple. Weak families make a weak nation. Separated families become weak families, and as such, make a weak nation.

Dreamers, farmworkers, and keeping families together are an important and central part of the immigration debate, which is a very broad debate that includes other topics.

We all agree that the border should be safer. How is it that we cannot agree and come to a consensus that Dreamers and farmworkers are important and that families must be kept together?

#### RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF SCOUTING AMERICA

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

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

the 115th anniversary of Scouting America.

On February 8, 1910, Chicago businessman William D. Boyce, who grew up in western Pennsylvania, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America, now known today also as Scouting America.

For more than a century, Scouting has built character, fostered leadership, and instilled in young people the values that strengthen families, communities, and our Nation.

Generations of Scouts have learned that leadership is not about titles but about action. It is about stepping up when others step back and about lending a hand when it is needed most.

Time and time again, Scouts have answered the call, whether responding to natural disasters, local emergencies, assisting veterans, or leading conservation efforts in their communities.

Even in my current role as U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District and chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I use the lessons and values learned in Scouting to ease and to guide my decisionmaking.

The Scout Oath tells us that we have a duty to God, country, others, and self. This is a checklist that I use when voting on the House floor.

The first question I ask myself is how this affects my duty to God. Is the bill righteous according to God's Word, according to my faith?

If the bill passes this test, I ask myself whether this fulfills my duty to country. Will this benefit the country and my constituents? What does the Constitution have to say about the decision I am making?

If the bill passes this step, I will move on and ask myself how this fulfills my duty to others. For me, as Representative of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, that is more than 780,000 citizens in 18 counties, a third of the land mass of Pennsylvania. In my role as chairman of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, that is being accountable to every individual in this Nation when it comes to food, fiber, and energy.

If the bill passes that step, I will move on and ask myself how this fulfills my duty to self. While this may sound selfish, it represents the duty I have to myself really based on another principle of Scouting: Am I prepared to do my best?

The Scout Law, Motto, and Oath are moral benchmarks for serving others, our community, and ourselves. Scouting enables the next generation of youth to develop leadership skills, connect with their community, build self-confidence, and gain numerous other benefits for themselves and their country.

The Scouting program is one of the best youth organizations for cultivating a sense of responsibility and leadership development, allowing them to become engaged citizens who care and respect their communities.

I will always cherish the time I spent in Scouting and value its role in shaping me into whom I am today.

I have been involved in Scouting for more than 50 years, including serving as a Scoutmaster and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977. Scouting helped me discover my life purpose: helping others.

I take the lessons learned throughout my young Scouting career and apply them at every aspect of my life today, including at my job serving as a United States Congressman.

As co-chair of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I was proud to introduce a resolution, alongside my fellow Eagle Scout from Georgia, Mr. SANFORD BISHOP, designating Saturday, February 8, as Scouts of America Day to honor the tireless service of Scouts, volunteers, and participants in our communities.

The Scouts have a slogan: "Do a Good Turn Daily." I hope everyone sees the value in helping those around them and continues to pursue kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Scouts, leaders, volunteers, and families who have helped keep this movement strong. Their dedication ensures that Scouting will continue to inspire and guide future generations.

#### PUERTO RICO'S OUTDATED ELECTRIC GRID

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, imagine it is New Year's Eve, and you are full of hope and optimism. This will be your year. You might finally get that promotion or you will graduate. You might finally lose those extra pounds.

All of a sudden, the power goes out. You are used to it. It is maybe the first time it happens that day. It probably isn't the first time it happens that week. It certainly isn't the first time it happens that year.

The hours go by, and the power doesn't come back. The clock strikes 12, you hear the fireworks, you hear the countdowns, but when you try to turn on the power, it doesn't turn back on.

That was the sad reality of nearly 1.2 million Puerto Ricans on New Year's Eve. That is the sad reality that many thousands of Puerto Ricans will face on an average day. Why? Because of an outdated power grid and a slow recovery process after Hurricane Maria.

Puerto Rico's energy crisis is not a partisan issue. The left can treat it as a humanitarian crisis. The right can see it as an obstacle to making America great again. The center can view it as both.

It is a problem and it needs a solution, which is why I, alongside Representatives TORRES and SOTO, sent a letter to the administration in support of our Republican Governor's request

for a federal emergency declaration to address this crisis.

We urge the administration to act. We urge the administration to unblock the Federal resources that Puerto Rico needs to address this problem. We urge the administration to empower the people of Puerto Rico to be able to overcome this issue.

Now, for the benefit of my constituents, I will repeat my remarks in Spanish.

(Spanish translation of the statement made in English is as follows:)

Señor presidente,

Imagina que es la víspera de Año Nuevo.

Estás lleno de esperanza y optimismo. Este será tu año. Vas a terminar la escuela; conseguirás ese ascenso; tal vez, finalmente, perderás esas libras de más.

Y, de repente, se va la luz. Puede que sea la primera vez que pasa ese día, pero probablemente no es la primera vez que pasa esa semana y, sin duda, no es la primera vez que pasa ese año.

Lamentablemente, ya estás acostumbrado. Pero pasan las horas y la luz no regresa.

El reloj marca la medianoche, ves los fuegos artificiales, escuchas la cuenta regresiva, pero no puedes encender las luces. Recibes el nuevo año con un sentimiento de desesperanza, frustración y desconsuelo.

Esa fue la triste realidad de casi 1.2 millones de puertorriqueños el 31 de diciembre.

Esa es la triste realidad de miles de puertorriqueños muchas veces al año.

¿Por qué? Por una red eléctrica anticuada y una recuperación lenta después del huracán María.

Este no es un asunto partidista. La izquierda puede verlo como un asunto humanitario. La derecha puede verlo como un obstáculo para "Make America Great Again". El centro puede verlo como ambas cosas. No importa; esto es un problema y necesita una solución.

Por eso, junto a los representantes Torres y Soto, envié una carta al presidente Trump en apoyo a la solicitud de la gobernadora republicana de Puerto Rico para que se declare una emergencia federal debido a la crisis energética de la isla.

Instamos a la administración a actuar. Los instamos a declarar un estado de emergencia, liberar recursos federales, y empoderar a Puerto Rico a enfrentar este reto.

#### CASE OF ETHEL ROSENBERG

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the case of Ethel Rosenberg, who along with her husband, Julius, was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and executed in 1953.

For decades, evidence has cast serious doubt on the charges against Ethel Rosenberg. She had no KGB code name. In 2001, her brother even admitted falsely testifying against her.

Last year, with the help of my colleague, Intelligence Committee Ranking Member JIM HIMES of Connecticut,

I urged the National Archives and Records Administration to release information that we believed would exonerate Ethel.

Working with Robert and Michael Meeropol, Ethel's sons, we helped shake loose a Freedom of Information Act request for a crucial document written by a senior U.S. Army code breaker and analyst, Meredith Knox Gardner, in 1950.

□ 1230

In August 2024, we finally secured the release of this document, and it confirmed what we suspected and what the Meeropol brothers have always known: Ethel Rosenberg was not a spy.

Not only that, the government knew that she was not a spy and executed her anyway. Let me repeat that. This government, the United States Government, knew way back then that she was innocent and executed her anyway.

In fact, Gardner explicitly wrote in his classified memo that Ethel "did not engage in the work," meaning espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union, "herself."

Despite this concrete evidence, the government has never righted this wrong, and I, for one, think it is unconscionable. The truth is clear: Ethel Rosenberg's execution was motivated by fear and politics, and it was not based on the facts.

I urged former President Biden to exonerate her. The proof is right there in the documents, and we handed over everything. Yet, unfortunately, President Biden did not act.

Ethel Rosenberg's execution was a miscarriage of justice. I think it is a disgraceful stain on our history. It was also a tragedy that left two young boys orphans.

Her sons, Robert and Michael Meeropol, have spent their lives seeking justice for their mother, turning their pain into advocacy. Their work continues through a fund supporting children whose parents have been incarcerated or executed for political reasons. Their own children and family are even involved in this advocacy, and I greatly admire the way they have taken such a terrible tragedy of their lives and used it to put good back into the world.

I deeply admire them, but no family should have to fight this long for the truth. It is my hope that, one day, a Presidential administration will acknowledge the wrongfulness of her death and fully exonerate Ethel Rosenberg so that her name may be cleared once and for all. Until then, let the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD show and every person in this building know that the U.S. Government knew that Ethel Rosenberg was innocent.

We knew that she was not a spy, and we executed her anyway. I find that to be a disgrace, and I want to apologize for the pain and grief her family suffered because of what happened.

Ethel was put to death during the height of McCarthyism, a time of

hysteria when due process was cast aside. She was put to death at a time when due process was not guaranteed and our democratic values were not always upheld. We let fear, anger, and hate get the best of us.

We are currently living through an equally troubling time in our country. People are being targeted and attacked for the way they think, what they say, and who they are.

Facts must still matter, Mr. Speaker. Let's learn from our imperfect history. Nothing will bring Ethel Rosenberg back or erase the pain and challenges her sons have had to face in her absence, but as we continue to work to exonerate her, my hope is that by telling her story, we can prevent this dark chapter in our history from repeating itself.

Ethel's story has not been forgotten, and she must be exonerated.

#### PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY DATA

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address ongoing concerns about Social Security, especially just in this past week since Mr. Musk has decided that he, in an unauthorized position not approved by the Senate and with no accountability, is after everybody's data and information at SSA.

Mr. Speaker, it might surprise some of the viewers in our audience to know why the wealthiest man in the world needs to know your Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid information. Privacy is something that Americans value. Data is something that billionaires can turn into money. Mr. Speaker, we need to know what role Elon Musk and DOGE—or I call it dodge because they dodge accountability—will have with the agency and everyone's hard-earned benefits, as if an unconfirmed, unelected billionaire should have access to yours or anyone's sensitive information.

If the cuts that they are promising and what he is looking for come through, then that means people's personal Social Security will be reduced by 36 percent. It hasn't been enhanced since Richard Nixon was President of the United States. Now, Mr. Musk is out because he has been charged to cut the budget by \$2 trillion. As everyone knows, 70 percent of the Federal budget comes from Social Security, Medicare, and defense.

They are coming after you. Specifically, they need that data also so he and his minions of unauthorized, unaccountable people can go forward.

We have written to Acting Commissioner King. Attorneys general across the country, including my own from the State of Connecticut, Attorney General Tong, are putting forward attempts. Then, we learned today or this

morning that President Trump says that he is just going to ignore the courts because he believes that he is above the law, Mr. Speaker, that he is not accountable to anyone. Now, he is saying that he is not even accountable to the courts because he and the billionaire class have gotten together and said: Don't worry. No one on the Republican side of the House and Senate who controls both the House and Senate is going to speak up and challenge us.

We need to protect Americans' privacy and their Social Security. For 40 percent of all Americans, Social Security is the basis for their retirement and their retirement savings. For 28 million Americans, Social Security is the only thing that they have, and that is why we have to make sure that we are protecting it, as well.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### LIFT EVERY VOICE

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to say happy birthday to my father, John Bell; happy heavenly birthday to my stepfather, Larry Greer; and happy Founder's Day to the national AME Church and, at home in St. Louis, St. Paul AME Church led by Pastor Spencer Booker.

I rise today humbled and with deep gratitude to deliver my first speech here in these Halls, this living testament to both the promise and the challenges of American governance.

I stand not merely as a Representative in Congress but as a proud son of St. Louis, one who believes in the power of bringing every voice into our shared conversation. It is my mission to ensure that every single person in my district feels seen, heard, and valued.

My first foray into public service was as a city councilman elected in 2015 in a place called Ferguson. In 2018, I was the first African American elected to serve as St. Louis County prosecuting attorney, working with community partners to create the first of its kind diversion advisory committee and connecting nonviolent offenders to substance abuse, opioid, and mental health treatment to address underlying root causes of crime. We also created the first conviction incident review unit in St. Louis County, investigating credible claims of wrongful conviction and police misconduct.

Here I stand, elected to this great House, at a time when the current administration has actively intended to make diversity into scarlet letters and is attempting to rebrand the three letters "DEI" into a four-letter curse word.

As we celebrate the lunar new year, we will not forget the contributions of

our AANHPI brothers and sisters in atomic science, medicine, and engineering, to name a few.

We will not forget the contributions of our Hispanic and Latino "brothers and sisters," "hermanos y hermanas," in science, music, medicine, and biochemistry, to name a few.

We will not forget our Muslim brothers' and sisters' contributions in education, science, and medicine, to name a few.

Moreover, we will not forget our Jewish brothers' and sisters' many contributions, but more personally to me, the contributions in the civil rights movement from those who bled and died during the Freedom Rides. Rabbis were locked in arms and risked their lives, marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with Dr. King and others, like the late John Lewis, who also graced these very same Halls.

As we celebrate Black History Month, I would be remiss if I did not also mention the tremendous contributions of Black folks in building this Nation.

To the current administration, I rise to say directly that Black history is American history; diversity is this Nation's superpower; equity is about fairness and fair play, which all Americans believe in; and inclusion literally refers to all of us.

From slavery to Jim Crow to being denied basic civil rights but still fighting for and believing in the promise of this promised land, it is this land that, despite that history, we still love.

This is evidenced by a song you may hear a lot during this month and in June. It is a song dubbed the Black national anthem. As my esteemed colleague Congressman CLYBURN accurately remarked, it is a song everyone can identify with. It is a song not about retribution, as it could have been. It is a song not about hopelessness, as it could be. On the contrary, it is a song about hope, faith, and freedom.

It is a song that does not direct some voices to be lifted, but directs us instead to:

Lift every voice and sing,  
Till Earth and Heaven ring;  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the  
dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the  
present has brought us;

Facing the rising Sun of our new day  
begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of West Virginia) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

In the spirit of a national pastime and a game well played, we rejoice with those who rejoice and do our best to refrain from gloating in the company of those who weep.

For it is not in our victory but the Lord's in which we trust. In the Lord, we will renew our strength. In the Lord's protection, do we find shelter. Inspired by Lord's abiding presence hovering over us, we run and do not grow weary. With the Lord's guidance and care, we will soar to new heights of faith.

In Proverbs, we read that there are many mysteries only the Lord can answer, like how a ship sails on the sea or how an eagle soars to the heights of the sky. But those who trust in the Lord will spread their wings and fly like eagles.

In faith, let us soar and humbly serve the Lord this day.

In Your strong name we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

#### PROTECTING FARM FAMILIES

(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 to recognize crucial legislation that protects farm families. Farming tends to be an asset-rich but cash-poor industry, and America's hardworking farm families should not be unfairly burdened when it comes to accessing higher education.

For generations, these families have contributed to our Nation's food security and economy. Yet, their eligibility

for Federal student aid has been hindered by policies that count their land and equipment as financial assets, despite the fact that these are essential for their livelihoods and not readily available for educational expenses.

I am proud to cosponsor the Farm Family and Small Business Exemption Act, which would ensure that farm families and small business owners are no longer penalized for owning the tools and property that sustain their work.

By preventing these assets from being counted against financial aid eligibility, we are leveling the playing field and assuring that the children of farmers and small business owners have the same opportunities to pursue higher education as their peers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives MANN and PANETTA for leading this commonsense solution. Investing in the future of farm families strengthens rural communities and our country.

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#### SOUTH CAROLINA'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

(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, Governor Henry McMaster just gave the South Carolina State of the State address. I am grateful that under his leadership, the Palmetto State has achieved a historic year, with over \$8 billion in capital investment creating 5,500 new jobs.

Additionally, his goal 3 years ago to drop the State personal income tax rate has exceeded expectations. The tax rate continues to be reduced, helping taxpayers.

I am appreciative to be working with Governor McMaster and the Republican supermajorities, for the first time in 150 years, in the State senate led by President Thomas Alexander; in the house with Speaker Murrell Smith; my colleagues in the Republican Congress; and President Donald Trump are all working to make America great again.

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

I thank President Trump for removing the academy boards to restore duty, honor, and country.

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#### REPUBLICAN BAIT AND SWITCH

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the Republican bait and switch that has been taking place throughout the 119th Congress.

The Republican bait and switch has three elements:

Part 1: Talk about lowering the high cost of living but do nothing about it.

Part 2: Enact massive tax cuts for billionaires and wealthy corporations that will do nothing to improve the quality of life of everyday Americans.

Part 3: Stick working-class Americans with the bill for those massive tax cuts for billionaires and wealthy corporations by destroying Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid as we know it.

House Democrats want nothing to do with the Republican bait and switch, and we will do everything possible to stop it.

The cost of living in the United States of America is far too high. Housing costs are too high. Grocery costs are too high. Insurance costs are too high. Utility costs are too high. Childcare costs are too high. America is too expensive.

It is not acceptable, in the wealthiest country in the history of the world, that far too many everyday Americans are struggling to live paycheck to paycheck. It is time for us to do something about the high cost of living and to build an affordable economy for hard-working American taxpayers.

House Democrats hear you. We see you. We feel you when it comes to the pain being experienced by the American people, and we are determined to do something to make life better for you.

The Republican bait and switch has a very different plan. Last year, all we heard from our Republican colleagues was the need to do something about the high cost of living, while at the same time they ran away from Project 2025 as if it didn't exist.

This year, Republicans have spent all of their time implementing the most extreme parts of Project 2025 that have done nothing to lower the high cost of living. There has not been a single thing, a single bill, a single idea, or a single proposal from my House Republican colleagues to do anything about the high cost of living in the United States of America. Why? It is a Republican bait and switch.

Part 2 of the Republican bait and switch is that their true objective is to enact massive tax cuts for billionaires and wealthy corporations just like they did in 2017 when the GOP tax scam was passed where they set in motion legislation where 83 percent of the benefits would go to the wealthiest 1 percent.

My House Republican colleagues are back at it. There they go again with the same plan but nothing to drive down the high cost of living. Everything is about massive tax cuts for billionaires and wealthy corporations, who in many cases aren't even asking for it. They certainly don't need the relief that everyday Americans need, that working-class Americans need, that middle-class Americans need, and that all those people who aspire to be part of the middle class need. It is a Republican bait and switch.

What is the final element of the Republican bait and switch? Enact these massive tax cuts for billionaires and wealthy corporations and stick working-class Americans with the bill.

The nerve of this group of people who spent all last year lecturing the country about how they were going to do something to drive down the high cost of living, do nothing about it, are planning to enact massive tax cuts for their billionaire buddies, and then, as the final element of the Republican bait and switch, stick working-class Americans with the bill.

House Republicans have no plan to love and cherish Medicaid. Let's be very clear about that. They have no plan to love and cherish Medicaid. Their plan is to destroy Social Security, destroy Medicare, and destroy Medicaid as we know it.

With Republicans controlling the House, the Senate, and the Presidency, it is their intention to try and do it. Just watch what happens at the Republican budget hearing that is upcoming in terms of what is proposed. The cuts to Medicaid will be devastating. Hospitals will close, including in rural America and urban America and in the heartland of America.

Nursing homes will be shut down. Everyday Americans, children, seniors, and those who are suffering with disabilities will be hurt as part of the Republican effort to target earned benefits like Social Security and Medicare and to destroy Medicaid as we know it. It is the Republican bait and switch.

We will continue to expose it to the American people. House Democrats want nothing to do with it, and we are going to do everything in our power to stop it.

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#### HONORING MAJOR GENERAL MASON M. PATRICK

(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 to honor the late, great Major General Mason M. Patrick.

General Patrick, a West Virginia native, West Point graduate, and World War I veteran, honorably served our Nation for 41 years.

In 1921, General Patrick oversaw the creation of the United States Army Air Corps, the precursor to our modern-day Air Force.

Recognizing that true leadership comes from experience, he learned to fly at the age of 59.

His vision to place air power in its own branch was instrumental in building the world's first formidable Air Force.

In 1950, Patrick Air Force Base, in my district, was named in his honor, recognizing his historic contributions to military aviation.

Today, this base is known as Patrick Space Force Base, a testament to how America's leadership in the skies has evolved to dominate new frontiers.

His vision for America's air power laid the groundwork for today's advances in space exploration and defense.

May we always remember General Patrick's contribution to our Nation.

□ 1415

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

February 7, 2025.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803 (a)), I am pleased to appoint the Honorable David Trone of Potomac, Maryland to the Congressional Award Board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
Democratic Leader.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER  
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

DISABLED VETERANS HOUSING  
SUPPORT ACT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 224) to amend section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 224

*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 "Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act".

**SEC. 2. SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**

Section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(20)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(C) SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—When determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income under this paragraph, a State, unit of general local government, or Indian tribe shall exclude any service-connected disability compensation received by such person from the Department of Veterans Affairs.".

**SEC. 3. REPORT.**

The Comptroller General of the United States shall, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit to the Congress a report that—

(1) examines how service-connected disability compensation is treated for the purposes of determining eligibility for all programs administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(2) identifies any instances where service-connected disability compensation is treated in a manner inconsistent with the amendment made by section 2; and

(3) with respect to each program administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in which service-connected disability compensation is treated inconsistently, provides legislative recommendations relating to how such program could better serve veteran populations, and under-served communities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 224, the Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act, introduced by my good friend from Texas, Congresswoman MONICA DE LA CRUZ.

It has been said that what the American people desire is not bigger government but a much better and more effective government. The reforms proposed in this bill would accomplish just that. This bill would reform a program meant to assist those in need, HUD's, Housing and Urban Development's, Community Development Block Grant program. This includes helping our Nation's low-income veterans with the

housing challenges that many of them face across our Nation. However, the bureaucratic obstacles at HUD know no bounds.

Mr. Speaker, today, veterans are being turned away from this very positive CDBG program. How is that? The formula HUD tells communities to use to see if veterans qualify as low income and are therefore eligible to participate in the CDBG program counts service-connected disability compensation as income, whereas other government programs correctly do not.

The result has been, in some places, especially in our most rural areas, communities have to tell low-income, disabled veterans they are too wealthy to qualify for help.

Truly, Mr. Speaker, you cannot make this up.

Excluding low-income veterans because they are disabled is not what Congress intended for communities to take action on by receiving CDBG funds. Of course, HUD understands this exclusion has been happening. Yet, rather than fix the issue by providing clear rules on how to calculate the income of disabled veterans, the Biden administration kept saying that it was someone else's problem.

Mr. Speaker, that ends today with this good bill.

This bill would reform CDBG's income calculation formula, telling HUD, in no uncertain terms, to stop including service-connected disability compensation as income.

Fixing programmatic flaws and bureaucratic obstacles is exactly what the American people have sent these Members to this House floor to do. It is unfortunate that HUD has had several opportunities to fix its flawed guidance without Congress, but it has refused to act even with multiple letters from our Financial Services Committee.

This commonsense fix, which passed out of the committee with strong bipartisan support and on suspension in this House during the previous Congress, ensures that disabled veterans who have served our Nation with honor receive the benefits that they have earned and deserved. Under the leadership of Representative DE LA CRUZ, we will ensure that HUD stops excluding our Nation's heroes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 224, the Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act, sponsored by Representative DE LA CRUZ.

While I appreciate Ms. DE LA CRUZ's intention to better serve our veterans who have served this country, it is ironic that this bill seeks to improve a program that the Trump administration has already threatened to dismantle through an illegal funding freeze.

Specifically, the Trump administration and Musk's illegal DOGE unit continue to threaten to cut programs and

freeze Federal funding that has already gone out the door, including funds meant to serve veterans. In fact, committee staff continue to hear that some CDBG grantees remain locked out of their payment systems and are therefore unable to access Federal funds authorized by Congress. These are funds that are meant to help low-income and moderate-income communities, including disabled veterans, the very people this bill claims to want to help.

If Republicans are concerned about housing upgrades for disabled veterans who honorably served this Nation, then they should find the honor and courage to stop the Trump administration's and the billionaire boy's illegal actions that are harming our Nation's veterans, whether it is stealing private Federal data on millions of Americans or stealing the funding that would otherwise help a disabled veteran upgrade their home to make it more accessible and livable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to stand up for disabled veterans and oppose co-president Musk's illegal takeover, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. VARGAS from California, for his strong support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), who is the lead sponsor of the bill.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 224, the Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act.

Veterans, particularly disabled veterans, have made extraordinary sacrifices for our Nation, and it is simply unacceptable that those who selflessly defended our freedoms are met with bureaucratic red tape when they return home.

Government overregulation should never stand in the way of veterans' ability to receive the help they need. That is what this legislation will fix.

Due to inconsistencies in the way income eligibility is determined for Community Development Block Grant assistance, a veteran could be disqualified simply because their service-connected disability compensation is counted as income in one case but excluded in another. This simply doesn't make sense.

This is the result of HUD currently allowing multiple different definitions of income for CDBG assistance, some of which count service-connected disability received from the VA as income while one does not. To put it more simply, the same veteran who may have been disqualified for assistance could very well be eligible if the grantee would only have used the proper definition of income.

This legislation will create a standard and ensure VA service-connected disability income is always excluded from income calculations when determining eligibility for CDBG assistance.

By passing this bipartisan legislation, we are correcting an issue that HUD has failed to address. Further, we will require a report from the GAO to identify any additional inconsistencies in the treatment of service-connected disability income within housing programs.

Last Congress, I was proud to see this legislation garner bipartisan support in the Financial Services Committee and pass out of this House as recently as this past December. We will continue to build on this progress to ensure federally funded programs best serve our veterans and do not penalize them for the benefits that they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bipartisan cosponsors for this legislation, including Congressman BRAD SHERMAN, and I urge my colleagues to join me and vote in favor of H.R. 224.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I believe this is the first time the gentleman from Arkansas has been presenting as the chairman, and I want to say that, as a friend, I am very proud of the gentleman, and it is good to see him as chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), who is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Capital Markets.

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

Mr. Speaker, I join with the gentleman in his comments about how we need to protect our veterans from the ill-considered actions of President Trump and, I was about to say Secretary Musk, whatever he is. I, of course, join with Mr. VARGAS in welcoming our new chair of the Financial Services Committee.

I want to focus on the bill at hand, actually two bills at hand. We are dealing with this bill now and about four other bills will go by, and then we will deal with the companion legislation.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ is the chief Republican on my bill, which is going to come up in what I hope will be only 30 or 40 minutes. I am the chief Democrat on her bill.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has created various Federal programs to help those who are housing insecure, particularly veterans. Of course, to qualify for those programs, Mr. Speaker, you have to have an income under a certain threshold, so we have to define what is income. In particular, we have to ask: Do disability benefits paid by the VA count as income which might put a veteran over the threshold and deny the veteran participation in the housing benefits?

I think it should not for a number of reasons. First, we don't want disabled American veterans who are homeless or near homeless to be excluded from homeless programs. Second, the Internal Revenue Code already recognizes that disability benefits paid to veterans should not be considered income.

At the urging of many of us—I was particularly strong on this—the Department of Housing and Urban Devel-

opment has reached the same conclusion, at least from now, but here in Washington, it is not always good to just rely on an agency determination. A simple stroke of a Sharpie can change it one way or the other, now or in 4 years. What you want, Mr. Speaker, is legislation because that is near permanent.

Mr. Speaker, we have statutory provisions that make it clear that disability benefits paid by the VA should not be included in determining eligibility for veterans' housing. There is a reason for that, Mr. Speaker, and that is that you ordinarily think that if two people have the same income, then they are living at the same level. That is not true if you are a disabled veteran because you have the additional difficulties and the additional expenses of being disabled.

A veteran may have to pay for a health aide. The veteran can't get across town to take advantage of a sale. He or she is going to have a variety of additional costs because they are disabled, and that is what their disability benefit pays for, those additional costs. It doesn't necessarily mean that they have a standard of living that includes their disability payment.

Now, we deal with Congresswoman DE LA CRUZ's bill, which I strongly support. I hope it will pass unanimously in the next few minutes. This deals with the HUD Community Development Block Grant program. As I said, my legislation, which will come up hopefully not too long from now, deals with a different HUD program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support both bills. They both have no score, so this doesn't cost the Federal Government any money.

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 10 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, both bills are overwhelmingly supported by veterans organizations, including the VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, The American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, U.S.VETS, and Black Veterans Empowerment Council.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill and its companion legislation.

□ 1615

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN).

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ) for bringing this bill forward, the Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act, which I am proud to co-lead as a bipartisan sponsor on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, our country is facing a housing shortage crisis, and our veterans are hit the hardest, like the Vietnam veterans I spoke to in Bloomfield,

Iowa, who highlighted their lack of affordable quality housing.

Nearly 22 percent of all of Iowa's disabled veterans are finding it a challenge not only to find affordable housing but are also being put in a position where they can no longer gain access.

Mr. Speaker, no more. As a 20-year Air Force veteran, it pains me to see my fellow servicemen and -women literally on the streets in the heart of the heartland.

I have heard directly from our veterans services officers, and this is one of their top concerns. Ms. DE LA CRUZ' bill takes a positive step forward in helping more of our veterans access the resources they need to get into affordable housing. It ensures disability payments do not restrict their access to housing, whether they are in urban, suburban, or rural America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to take up this bipartisan call and support our veterans who need help now, particularly those who have given their all and served in a disabled capacity but have still earned the respect to live in affordable housing.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close if the gentleman from Arkansas has no further speakers.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as the Trump administration continues its attack on the poor, the homeless, and on federally funded assistance with no Republicans stepping up to provide a check and balance on an illegal government takeover, House Democrats cannot sit here and have an honest debate about this policy.

What is more, the Trump administration has vowed to put more of America's housing in the hands of big investors and private equity firms.

The data shows what happens when private investors get their hands on more housing: Costs and junk fees go up, maintenance gets deferred, and evictions go up.

That is why I support this bill, most certainly. I think it goes the other way.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 224 as put forward by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). She has heard strong support on a bipartisan basis on both sides of the aisle from our friends, Mr. VARGAS and Mr. SHERMAN in the minority, and Mr. NUNN in the majority.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 224.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CHINESE CURRENCY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2025

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 386) to require the United States Governor of, and the United States Executive Director at, the International Monetary Fund to oppose an increase in the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 386

*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 "Chinese Currency Accountability Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. OPPOSITION OF THE UNITED STATES TO AN INCREASE IN THE WEIGHT OF THE CHINESE RENMINBI IN THE SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS BASKET OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Governor of, and the United States Executive Director at, the International Monetary Fund to use the voice and vote of the United States to oppose any increase in the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the basket of currencies used to determine the value of Special Drawing Rights, unless the Secretary of the Treasury has submitted to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a written report which includes a certification that—

(1) the People's Republic of China is in compliance with all its obligations under Article VIII of the Articles of Agreement of the Fund;

(2) in the preceding 12 months, there has not been a report submitted under section 3005 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 or section 701 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 in which the People's Republic of China has been found to have manipulated its currency; and

(3) the People's Republic of China adheres to the rules and principles of the Paris Club and the OECD Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits.

#### SEC. 3. SUNSET.

Section 2 shall have no force or effect beginning 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 386, the Chinese Currency Accountability Act.

I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON), for sponsoring this important legislation.

As chairman of the House Financial Services Committee in this Congress, I am delighted that Mr. DAVIDSON has assumed the chairmanship on our Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions.

The Chinese Currency Accountability Act is not a new initiative. It passed the House under suspension of the rules last year after our committee reported it unanimously to the full House.

This bill is important to limit China's influence over one of our most crucial international, multilateral organizations. The International Monetary Fund, the IMF, acts as the world's critical lender to nations, particularly those heavily indebted, to handle critical balance of payments financing. It conducts its business through Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs.

SDRs not only serve as a unit of account for the IMF, but they also act as a reserve asset on the balance sheet of central banks and, as such, SDR assets earn interest.

Prior to 2016, both the value and the interest rate of the SDR was determined by a basket of currencies issued by the independent central banks of the world and overseen by democratic governments. These currencies were the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Japanese yen, and the pound sterling in the United Kingdom.

In 2016, the IMF then added the Chinese renminbi to the basket, even though the use of the renminbi was minuscule and the People's Bank of China is controlled by the Chinese Communist Party. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that the rule of law in China merits this inclusion.

The decision in 2022 by the IMF to increase the weight of the Chinese currency in that basket was equally shocking. Not only did China's political control of the central bank remain unchanged, but the IMF also knew that China's predatory lending through its Belt and Road predatory lending program to emerging markets was threatening the future of the IMF's own programs.

The fact that it went ahead and boosted China's weight in that important SDR basket at the Fund is an embarrassment. Now the IMF finds itself lecturing other countries about central bank independence, but it charges them interest that is partially determined by the decisions at the People's Bank of China.

Hopefully, on this House floor, that irony is not lost on any Member or any

of the countries on the Board of Directors at the IMF.

Mr. DAVIDSON's bill would put an end to rewarding China's bad behavior. His legislation would require the Treasury Department to oppose further increases for Chinese renminbi in the IMF's currency basket until the Department of the Treasury certifies that China is in compliance with the IMF Articles of Agreement and adheres to the lending standards upheld by the world's major creditors.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 386 isn't about holding China to a double standard. It means forcing the People's Republic of China to follow the same international rules of the road if it wants to enjoy the benefits of multilateralism and global leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend Mr. DAVIDSON for this important measure. I urge all of my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 386, the Chinese Currency Accountability Act, sponsored by my friend and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. Speaker, this bill would require the Secretary of the Treasury to oppose a future percentage increase in the weight of China's currency in the IMF's international reserve asset known as the Special Drawing Rights, or SDRs, unless the Secretary of the Treasury independently certifies that China is in compliance with certain obligations to the IMF and with other international standards.

While I support this bill and its intentions, I will note that the Treasury Department stresses that, due to confidentiality between the IMF and its member countries, it is impossible for the Secretary to independently certify that China is complying with the IMF obligations.

I hope that Representative DAVIDSON and his colleagues will work with us to make changes to this bill to ensure that it could be executed as intended.

I also must add that it is enormously ironic that we are passing a bill focused on a nation's transparency at a time when President Trump is running one of the least transparent governments in our Nation's history.

As the last Trump term starts, we, again, do not have disclosures or divestment from the President, meaning we don't know how he is personally benefiting from his administration's actions.

For example, President Trump introduced meme coins for himself and his wife, making it possible for any friend or foe with business before the President to trade millions in Trump cryptocurrency without any identification and verification.

Further, Trump's co-president, Elon Musk, is also refusing to publicly disclose and divest from his conflicted investments, despite being a fake employee of the government who has ac-

cess to millions of Americans' taxpayer dollars and personally identifiable information. It is transparency for the average American, but not for Trump and his oligarchs.

To fight corruption and kleptocracy, it is vital for the United States to have transparency in government. If we expect it of others, then we should model it and demand it for ourselves.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON), the bill's sponsor and author.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body to support H.R. 386, the Chinese Currency Accountability Act of 2025.

Mr. Speaker, this critical bill ensures that the United States stands firm against increasing the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the International Monetary Fund's Special Drawing Rights, their currency basket, unless China changes course.

Frankly, China operates the Belt and Road Initiative in competition with the IMF, so this is a very modest proposal and very incremental. China should not even participate in the IMF while they are working to actually undermine the IMF with their alternative, the Belt and Road Initiative.

Additionally, the Special Drawing Rights are a useful global reserve asset, providing IMF members with claims on five major currencies: the dollar, the euro, now the renminbi, but also the Japanese yen and the British pound.

Most notably, this currency basket influences the IMF lending rate. All other central banks participating are market based. In 2016, the IMF decided they were going to include a non-market-based currency, the Chinese renminbi.

More concerning, in 2022, as Chairman HILL pointed out, the IMF actually increased the weight to 12.8 percent, making it the third most prominent currency, even though China lacks independence.

This bill directs the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury to oppose any further increase in the renminbi's weight unless China complies with its IMF obligations, that it is found to not be a currency manipulator, and that it adheres to the Paris Club and OECD rules on export credits.

None of this undermines China's growth or sovereignty. Instead, it points them to the path that they already promised to pursue when they chose to participate.

Further, when China joined the World Trade Organization, they pledged to become a market economy. While they made early progress, China has ceased such efforts, and they have instead worked to undermine Western institutions like the International Monetary Fund.

This bill has bipartisan support, having passed the House last September.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Finally, the CBO estimates it will have no significant impact on spending or revenue. Our foreign policy and financial institutions should advance our interests, not undermine them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1630

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

Mr. Speaker, as China expands both its economy and global influence, it has been accused of manipulating its currency. This includes the use of its currency at international institutions like the IMF.

This bill would empower the Treasury Department to address that issue, which is a laudable goal. We should fight for the same type of transparency for our own government and government officials, including President Donald Trump and co-president Elon Musk.

It is a good bill, and I support it.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I will echo the comments of my friend from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) about the fact that China is not a full market economy. It has not met its obligations to act as a good sovereign on settling creditor concerns. The belt and road policies of China have deeply indebted so many global south nations in such a way that the IMF does not have a full picture of their financial status in order to have access to the IMF's lending authorities.

This is just another way, Mr. Speaker, for this House to, I think, make better policy and that we ask the IMF to have full transparency on what is happening in China and their participation with the Fund. One way to do that is to accomplish the worthy objectives here in H.R. 386. I ask all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 386.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CHINA EXCHANGE RATE TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 692) to require the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate for increased transparency with respect to exchange rate policies of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 692

*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 “China Exchange Rate Transparency Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Under Article IV of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the People's Republic of China has committed to orderly exchange rate arrangements, the avoidance of exchange rate manipulation, and cooperation with the IMF to ensure “firm surveillance” of the exchange rate policies of the People's Republic of China. Pursuant to Article VIII of the Articles of Agreement of the IMF, the IMF may require the People's Republic of China to furnish data on gold and foreign exchange holdings, including assets held by non-official agencies of the People's Republic of China.

(2) In its November 2022 report, entitled “Macroeconomic and Foreign Exchange Policies of Major Trading Partners of the United States”, the Department of the Treasury concluded, “China provides very limited transparency regarding key features of its exchange rate mechanism, including the policy objectives of its exchange rate management regime and its activities in the offshore RMB market.”. The Department continued: “China's lack of transparency and use of a wide array of tools complicate Treasury's ability to assess the degree to which official actions are designed to impact the exchange rate.”.

(3) In that report, the Department further noted that “China's failure to publish foreign exchange intervention and broader lack of transparency around key features of its exchange rate mechanism make it an outlier among major economies and warrants Treasury's close monitoring.”.

**SEC. 3. ADVOCACY FOR INCREASED EXCHANGE RATE TRANSPARENCY FROM CHINA**

The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (in this Act referred to as the “IMF”) to use the voice and vote of the United States to advocate for—

(1) increased transparency from the People's Republic of China, and enhanced multilateral and bilateral surveillance by the IMF, with respect to the exchange rate arrangements of the People's Republic of China, including any indirect foreign exchange market intervention through Chinese financial institutions or state-owned enterprises;

(2) in connection with consultations with the People's Republic of China under Article IV of the Articles of Agreement of the IMF, the inclusion of any significant divergences by the People's Republic of China from the exchange rate policies of other issuers of currencies used in determining the value of Special Drawing Rights; and

(3) during governance reviews of the IMF, stronger consideration by IMF members and management of the performance of China as a responsible stakeholder in the international monetary system when evaluating quota and voting shares at the IMF.

**SEC. 4. SUNSET.**

This Act shall have no force or effect on or after the date that is 30 days after the earlier of—

(1) the date that the United States Governor of the IMF reports to the Congress that the People's Republic of China—

(A) is in substantial compliance with obligations of the People's Republic of China under the Articles of Agreement of the IMF regarding orderly exchange rate arrangements; and

(B) has undertaken exchange rate policies and practices consistent with those of other issuers of currencies used in determining the value of Special Drawing Rights; and

(2) the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 692, the China Exchange Rate Transparency Act. I thank my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), for his leadership in crafting and sponsoring this legislation.

I also congratulate him for assuming the chairmanship of the Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations for this, the 119th Congress. He is off to a superb start.

H.R. 692 is a critical tool as we reassess our economic relations with the People's Republic of China.

Unlike advanced economies with floating currencies, the Chinese manage their exchange rate through a non-independent central bank and a state-owned set of financial institutions.

The Treasury Department has long been tasked with monitoring foreign countries' intervention in the currency markets, with a legal mandate from this House to call them out when manipulating exchange rates in order to gain an unfair trade advantage.

The problem with China is that its exchange rate management is so opaque that Treasury cannot effectively assess the country's exchange activities.

Year after year, Treasury reports back to Congress showing how Beijing's lack of transparency makes China an outlier among our major trading partners. This is not only alarming for the United States but the world at large as last year the People's Republic of China recorded a trade surplus of nearly \$1 trillion.

Mr. MEUSER's bill requires Treasury to lobby for stronger surveillance of

Chinese currency practices at the International Monetary Fund, the primary institution overseeing foreign countries' exchange rate practices.

In addition, Treasury will have to push the IMF to highlight how China's opaque policies diverge from that of other major economies in the world.

H.R. 692 also requires Treasury to take China's lack of transparency into account when reviewing Beijing's shareholding level as a shareholder in the International Monetary Fund.

During the last shareholding review, Congress made it clear that an increase in voting power for China would be unacceptable given its absolute flouting of the multilateral rules of the road. To the IMF's credit, it agreed to keep China where it was.

Mr. MEUSER's important bill underscores that future increases should also be off the table if China continues to shroud its exchange rate practices in secrecy.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for sponsoring this measure. He is going after China in precisely the manner that Beijing most dislikes, by harnessing multilateral pressure across the world to hold this regime and Beijing accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the China Exchange Rate Transparency Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 692, the China Exchange Rate Transparency Act, sponsored by Representative MEUSER.

China has a history of devaluing its currency against the U.S. dollar, making its exports unfairly cheap and harming American small businesses. One way to confront this is to impose greater accountability on China through the International Monetary Fund.

This bill would require the U.S. to press the IMF to report on the impact of China's exchange rate policies on key IMF tools and consider whether China has been a responsible partner in the international monetary system when evaluating China's voting power at the IMF.

While these are sensible actions that Congress can take to prevent China from using its currency as an economic weapon, they seem like a small step given the big threat. I don't mean solely the very real threat from an aggressive China. I mean, the threat from Donald Trump, whose comments and actions are all designed to weaken America's power on the global stage.

Trump is withdrawing America from global organizations such as the World Health Organization and parts of the United Nations. Trump is attacking our allies like Colombia and Canada, making our friends question whether they are better off in a world with America in the lead.

Trump is starting what even The Wall Street Journal calls is the dumbest trade war ever, driving our partners

away from our markets and the U.S. dollar. He and his co-president, Elon Musk, are illegally and unilaterally ending America's foreign aid programs, causing a disaster for the recipients of that support, but also creating a mammoth void which China will step in and fill.

Perhaps worst of all, President Trump is signaling that America will abandon Ukraine and Taiwan, telling the globe that we are an unreliable partner, especially as a security partner, regardless of law and treaty to the contrary.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to tell Mr. Trump that we will not stand silent as you tear down America and America's role in the world.

Mr. Speaker, let us stand up to China at the IMF, but if, as our majority is signaling, we should adopt Trump's aggressive isolationist policies, then we are giving up the globe to a China that is more than happy to step into our void. That reduces this bill to nothing more than a hollow gesture.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California (Mr. VARGAS) for his remarks, but I will point out to him that here on this House floor today, Mr. Speaker, on both sides of the aisle, we are talking about how to improve oversight through the multilateral process against some countries such as China who don't always have the best interests at heart, both in the trade market and in economic affairs in the country.

I believe that our recently elected, recently inaugurated President absolutely knows how to help hold them accountable. These are the exact kind of tools that will strengthen the hand of our new Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent as he thinks about going to multilateral meetings. These will strengthen the hand of our hopefully soon-to-be-confirmed colleague at the United Nations.

We are here on the House floor today to talk about how we can strengthen American leadership across the globe. One way to do that is to counter China's attempt to manipulate world's rules.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), to describe its benefit.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my very good friend, Chairman HILL, for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, the China Exchange Rate Transparency Act, H.R. 692, a bipartisan bill supported by my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

This legislation directly confronts the People's Republic of China's very

nebulous, opaque, and often manipulative practices in foreign exchange markets, including their policy of intentionally depreciating their own currency, which undercuts the competitiveness of U.S. exports in a random manner that is targeted based upon products in particular industries.

By mandating the U.S. Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to use the voice and vote of the United States to advocate for increased exchange rate transparency from China, we are not just advocating for fairness; we are fighting for the integrity of the global economy in line with our own international trade goals. It is very reasonable.

During Treasury Secretary Bessent's nomination hearing, he explained that the United States can leverage foreign exchange rates to make U.S. exports more competitive; however, achieving this will require every country to abide by the same exchange rate standards. It is time we, in fact, confront China's persistent gaming of international norms. They have been playing by their own rules for too long, and it is detrimental to global economic fairness and stability.

This legislation is not about singling out China; it is about ensuring that all IMF members, including China, adhere to the rules they agreed to. China promised to maintain orderly exchange rate arrangements without manipulation. It is our job to hold them to that promise to ensure they do not continue to exploit the system to their advantage.

We are taking a firm no-nonsense approach to a complex issue, emphasizing our commitment to fair trade and a transparent economic system.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the China Exchange Rate Transparency Act, H.R. 692, which did pass overwhelmingly last Congress by a vote of 379–1.

This legislation is a stand for accountability in international finance, fair trade practices, and the stability of a global economy.

It is very important, and now with the Secretary of the Treasury, Scott Bessent, this will be an added tool for somebody strong and tough like he to utilize to create this economic trade stability and fairness, particularly with China.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS), one of the newest members on the House Financial Services Committee, the committee whip.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, as a new Member of Congress, I am honored to be on the floor today to support this good bill.

For decades, it has been suspected that China manipulates its exchange rate to keep the dollar value of their currency artificially low.

Why do they do this? To simply manipulate the market, to encourage ex-

ports and discourage imports, tipping the scales in their favor. That is not free trade, nor is it fair trade.

Even the World Trade Organization and the International Monetary Fund both prohibit the use of currency manipulation to gain trade advantages.

However, like so many other issues, the Chinese Communist Party's lack of transparency on this issue has been a roadblock to taking action to end this unfair practice.

□ 1645

Let's bring their trade practices into the sunlight. This brilliant bill by my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, who chairs the Financial Services Committee's Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, will require Treasury to push IMF members to take China's lack of transparency into account when considering China's shareholding at the Fund.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good bill as a step forward toward fairer trade with the Communist dictatorship.

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

China has been accused of manipulating its currency to expand both its economy and global influence. Concerns about this include its effects on American interests at international institutions like the International Monetary Fund. This bill proposes a way to address that, and I support it.

I reiterate my concerns, however, that to do so in light of President Trump's efforts to defy the law, Congress, and the Constitution by ending our foreign aid programs, withdrawing from global institutions, and attacking our allies is folly. In order to actually stand against Chinese aggression, one must stand up against our own President's aggression and his malign policies.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close. I thank Mr. MEUSER for his hard work on this bill.

To friends on both sides of the aisle, these are both significant reform efforts in the IMF to improve transparency and particularly for what we have seen over the years as a lack of being willing to play by the multilateral rules that all large developed economies have been doing. Therefore, I really support these bills.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 692, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 692, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HILL OF Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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**PROTECT SMALL BUSINESSES FROM EXCESSIVE PAPERWORK ACT OF 2025**

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 736) to amend title 31, United States Code, to modify the deadline for filing beneficial ownership information reports for reporting companies formed or registered before January 1, 2024.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 736

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Protect Small Businesses from Excessive Paperwork Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 2. MODIFICATION TO FILING DEADLINE FOR CERTAIN PRE-EXISTING REPORTING COMPANIES.**

Section 5336(b)(1)(B) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “before the effective date of the regulations prescribed under this subsection shall, in a timely manner, and not later than 2 years after the effective date of the regulations prescribed under this subsection,” and inserting “before January 1, 2024, shall, not later than January 1, 2026.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 736, the Protect Small Businesses from Excessive Paperwork Act. I thank Representative NUNN of Iowa for his work on this important legislation.

In 2021, Congress passed the Corporate Transparency Act, known as the CTA. The goal of the CTA was to strengthen national security tools to target bad actors and nation-states attempting to launder money through illicit activities. To accomplish this, the CTA established the beneficial ownership information reporting regime

through Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, known across the country as FinCEN.

With an effective date of January 1, 2024, the CTA regulations required roughly 32,600,000 small businesses in the United States to report their beneficial ownership information to FinCEN by the following year. To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, only some 9 million, or one-third, of those required small businesses have filed.

Recent Federal court actions on this confusing and complex rule have just added to the confusion that many of our Members are hearing about from their constituents in their districts.

Although this law was enacted with good intentions, Treasury’s promulgation and implementation of the new reporting regime has been overly complex and particularly burdensome. Over the last year, Members have heard consistently from their constituents that confusion reigns when it comes to beneficial ownership reporting requirements.

We have all heard not only from small businesses that are in the real estate business or some small operating businesses that have a limited liability company or a limited partnership, but we have heard from their CPAs, their certified public accountants, and their legal advisers about all the confusion and concern around these reporting requirements.

It does not help that many small businesses have no idea what FinCEN is, making them wary of submitting such sensitive data to a government agency with which they are not familiar. It is personally identifiable information, the most sensitive information we have: our name, our taxpayer ID number, and ownership of our companies.

That is why Congressman NUNN’s bill provides a 1-year extension of the reporting deadline, which will allow FinCEN to address gaps in its nationwide education campaign and tailor its outreach to small business owners.

This extension ensures that all small business owners that qualify and are required, as beneficial owners, to report have adequate time to try to complete their reporting requirements, while here in Congress we continue to fight back against this particular rule and its structure. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, these small business owners face aggressive penalties if they fail to report, even if it is unintentional.

Small businesses in this country are the backbone of our economy. I hear that said many times every week on this House floor. If that is true, we ought to be working together to get relief for them from this onerous rule. I commend Mr. NUNN for offering relief with this particular legislation.

I want to highlight the work of my Republican colleagues for their cosponsorship of this critical legislation and thank my friends on the other side of the aisle, the gentlewoman from Kan-

sas (Ms. DAVIDS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS), for signing on to H.R. 736. I hope they will help us get this legislation over the finish line to benefit America’s small businesses, even if it is in a moment of reprieve from the avalanche of rules.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting Mr. NUNN’s bill, H.R. 736, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, despite the ill-named bill, I rise in support of H.R. 736, the Protect Small Businesses from Excessive Paperwork Act, sponsored by Representative NUNN.

This bill extends the deadline for existing reporting companies under the Corporate Transparency Act, an essential piece of national security legislation designed to help law enforcement, financial institutions, and others root out the anonymous shell companies that are so often abused by domestic and foreign oligarchs, drug dealers, and terrorists to launder and hide their illicit funds.

Extending the reporting deadline gives businesses extra time to comply with the law and additional time for the U.S. Treasury to do the vital outreach needed to raise awareness among applicable businessowners.

I appreciate that Representative NUNN and Chairman HILL have chosen to offer this bill on the floor today, especially given the broad support for issuing this extension within our committee, but I have to say, given where things stand with the Trump administration, these concerns fall a little flat.

Since the inauguration, President Trump has disbanded Task Force KleptoCapture, which was designed to identify and pursue illicit Russian funds. He has declared that he will no longer prosecute most foreign corruption cases. President Trump has fired hundreds of bank examiners, who are responsible for ensuring that financial institutions are keeping up with their obligations to detect and report possible instances of financial crime. He shuttered the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has returned \$21 billion to defrauded Americans. Further, he and his GOP have fired criminal investigators at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service and prosecutors at the Department of Justice. He himself has offered cryptocurrency products that can be purchased without any verifiable identification, undercutting the very financial crime-fighting agencies that the CTA intends to bolster.

Yes, I urge Members to vote for this bill, though it has little meaning if my GOP colleagues remain silent as President Trump dismantles the national security and law enforcement capacity of the U.S. Government.

Also, it is ironic that I hear my good friend from Arkansas talk about the most sensitive, vital information that

we have, our personally identifiable information, and at this moment, we don't even know who has access to it.

That is one of the things that angers most Americans. They don't know what Elon Musk is doing with this information or which young kid is running through these organizations getting that information and for what purpose they are using it.

Rome is burning, and my colleagues across the aisle need to stop fiddling and pick up the fire extinguisher.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN), the lead sponsor who has crafted this constructive bill.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues from both Arkansas and California for their support of my bill, the Protect Small Businesses from Excessive Paperwork Act.

Mr. Speaker, in just the opening weeks of Congress, we have already led on bipartisan solutions to help our small businesses be successful and get a reprieve from the vast overreach that currently emanates from Washington, D.C.

Small businesses, as we have noted, are the backbone of America. In my home State, they make up nearly 80 percent of our State's growth alone.

Sadly, there are bureaucrats here in Washington who are focused on fines, fees, and prison time for nearly 32 million small businesses that only woke up to new regulations just showing up on the scene. Unfortunately, nearly 23 million of those small businesses have never even heard or received information about the new requirements that they must meet. In fact, some even mistook them for scams coming out of a Federal agency they have never even heard of.

Small businesses should not bear the risk of fines of up to \$600 per day for every violation and up to nearly 24 months in prison for failure to report on a law they weren't even familiar with.

In the first year alone, it will cost a small business around \$8,000 in compliance fees. That blows my mind. In fact, it compelled me to invite the Director under the Biden administration of FinCEN, Director Gacki, to come to Iowa. Yes, we were Iowa nice to her, but we were Iowa firm. She heard from Sonrisers Popcorn and Berg Electric, which told her how much these new requirements would directly impact their Main Street businesses.

To make matters worse, she informed them with a straight face that over 7 million businesses had already complied. This was with only weeks before final implementation went into effect. To be clear, this meant that around 80 percent of the small businesses remained completely unaware of the new rules and regulations and risked those fines I mentioned.

With 99 percent of Iowa's businesses being small businesses, those fines

would add up and shutter Main Streets across my community and this country. Nationally, it would total around \$160 billion in compliance costs levied upon Main Street businesses, small family farms, and communities across our country.

I think we can all agree that regulators should be focused on protecting small businesses, not fining them out of existence.

Keeping a small business open requires that a mom-and-pop shop put in a lot of hard work and long hours. It means that new entrepreneurs can be innovative and spend money to grow our economy, not trying to meet some arbitrary government regulation. Our government should not stifle entrepreneurs with a heavy hand when they are only doing their best to serve our communities.

□ 1700

That is why I am committed to fighting for Main Street. I am committed to fighting for our family farms. I am committed to fighting for our hometowns.

This bill would help protect small businesses from excessive paperwork. This is a simple solution that we worked on together, and it is one of the most pressing concerns that small businesses face.

Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, we all have small businesses and a hometown responsibility to fight for them today.

I am grateful for everyone who helped to lead and sponsor this bill, including the National Small Business Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and our National Cattlemen's Association. Even cowboys want less regulation.

I also thank our cosponsors on this bill, including our co-leads, House Majority Whip TOM EMMER, and my friends across the aisle, Representative SHARICE DAVIDS and Representative DON DAVIS.

As a result, we have the opportunity to once again make sure that not only America is great but that our hometowns have the opportunity to prosper and hold Washington accountable.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close if the gentleman from Arkansas has no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I once again thank Chairman HILL for his leadership. I do, as well, rise today in strong support of the Protect Small Businesses from Excessive Paperwork Act of 2025, H.R. 736, introduced by my colleague, Congressman NUNN.

Small businesses create jobs, drive innovation, support local communities, and really make the difference in communities. Unfortunately, the previous administration imposed many duplicative and costly regulations on small

businesses simply to make it harder for them to survive. One of the latest and most egregious examples is the FinCEN beneficial ownership information reporting rule, which we are all very aware of at this point. This rule literally forces millions of small businesses that have less than 20 employees and under \$5 million in revenue to file redundant, intrusive, and unnecessary reports to the Federal Government under the threat of very steep penalties of up to \$10,000.

H.R. 736 rightfully delays the beneficial ownership reporting rule 1 year, to 2026, giving the Trump administration and the courts time to assess the proper path forward for small businesses. Actually, this reporting information can provide some usefulness as opposed to just a great burden.

Republicans received a mandate to cut the red tape and push back against unnecessary, punitive regulations—and we are going to do it—that do more harm than good.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Chairman HILL and Representative NUNN for prioritizing this much-needed relief for small businesses. Small businesses need our support, not our red tape and bureaucratic demands for unnecessary, nonsensical information.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that you note the comment made by Mr. MEUSER on the subject of 20 employees or \$5 million. The definition of this bill says that a small business that has to report, these 32-plus million businesses that we are talking about, the definition is that they have fewer than 20 employees and fewer than \$5 million.

My friend from California rightfully said that the concern of the Federal Government is about illicit finance through the use of shell companies incorporated in one of our States. Let that sink in for everybody listening to this debate: \$5 million in revenues, 20 employees.

Mr. Speaker, for decades, before I came to Congress a few years ago, I helped start businesses and helped finance businesses, all of which would dream to have \$5 million in annual revenues and 20 employees.

Think about your best friend who has an HVAC contracting company to help people with their air-conditioning and heating. He works there. His son works for him. They have a couple of million dollars in revenue. It is his whole livelihood. He loves it. He is the best at what he does, but in this world, in this House, he is accused of being a shell company and is being burdened by this rule.

Once again, so many times the government goes after the bad guy and sweeps up everybody. That is why Mr. NUNN has come to this floor to say that we need another year to think about

this. I would certainly urge the incoming administration to rethink the whole process because Mr. VARGAS is right: It is an important thing to do, to try to capture illicit finance, but it is another thing in the world to sweep up every American trying to live the American Dream with their own small business.

We want people who want \$5 million in revenue and have 20 employees. What a joy.

We are united on this today, Mr. Speaker, and I think that is good for the American people to see, too, that we care about what is happening. Occasionally, we get it wrong in government, and we work hard to try to rectify it. That is what ZACH NUNN of Iowa is fighting for small businesses to do.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS), the committee whip.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for bringing this to the floor and my colleagues across the aisle for working together on this important bill. It is great that common sense is making a comeback in America.

I applaud the sponsor of the bill, Mr. NUNN of Iowa. He has done a remarkable job of bringing this to the forefront as people recognize the impact that burdensome paperwork can have on our American economy.

In recent years, the previous administration imposed complex and costly beneficial ownership requirements, backed by the threat of civil and criminal penalties. Compliance could cost up to \$8,000 per year, and little was done by the Treasury Department to communicate those requirements to businessowners.

As a result, with little clarity and even less time to comply, over 30 million small businesses are now facing the risk of thousands of dollars in fines and potentially years behind bars if egregious.

Why are we making criminal suspects out of businessowners? American businesses already file a considerable amount of paperwork to ensure that money launderers and bad actors are unable to operate through shell corporations, as the chairman highlighted.

Why are millions of American small businesses now forced to file these regulations when they have already been burdened by so much extra paperwork?

This extension will also give our new Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Bessent, the time to apply common sense in helping small businesses meet these reporting requirements.

This bill is a strong start to reduce the immense regulatory burden that America's small businesses face each day, and it protects businessowners from unjust criminal liability.

Let's pass this bill and get back to common sense.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Corporate Transparency Act has been called the most

important improvement to the U.S. anti-money laundering framework in a generation. To both effectively enact the law and to assist companies whose reporting is essential to fight against oligarchs and criminal cartels, we need the extension provided by this bill.

As my good friend from Arkansas said, we, too, see and hear small businesses and businessowners. In fact, California has the largest number of small businesses in the United States. We don't want them to get swept up in the Corporate Transparency Act, but at the same time, we also need the ability to identify, investigate, and prosecute the bad actors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to stand up and speak out against what we are seeing today, unfortunately, which is President Trump's vengeful and self-interested destruction of our American national security, and to demand that we get information on how Elon Musk and his young marauders are using Americans' personal information.

We want to know: What are they doing with all of this information that they are gathering about all of these Americans? What is he doing with it? We have no idea, and no one is asking questions on the other side.

Again, it is important that my colleagues listen to their constituents right now, on both sides of the aisle. I know in my district, Republicans and Democrats want to know: What is going on with all of this information that Elon Musk is drawing out of the Federal Government? What is he doing with it? We have no idea. There is no investigation of this. We demand answers, and we think our friends on the other side should demand answers to this also.

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

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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

Mr. Speaker, we have had a good, robust debate on the importance of the right tools for the Treasury, for our States, and for our law enforcement to root out illicit finance.

Today, the Corporate Transparency Act, I think, has been exposed for what it is, which is a tremendous overreach in that effort that has added complexity, financial burden, and confusion for our small businesses.

There is a better way to go about this, and I hope we can work together on both sides of the aisle and with the Treasury Department in the coming months to find that better solution, that least-costly solution, that solution that protects people's privacy, that protects personally identifiable information contained in these filings, and that does it in a way that is less intrusive and less costly.

The concern I have about these big databases, Mr. Speaker, is intrusion

from China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea, our adversaries that every day are trying to break into the systems of the Federal Government and our private sector of this country to gather this personally identifiable information.

We have talked about it on this House floor, Mr. Speaker: IRS, hacked; Office of Personnel Management, hacked; the CFPB, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau databases, hacked; others, hacked; private sector, hacked. This is just another giant database that puts people's data at risk.

Not only do I think there is a better way to do it, a less costly way to do it, and a more effective way to do it, but also a way to do it that protects people's privacy.

I thank Mr. NUNN for working on both sides of the aisle to craft a way. Let's take a new look, and let's do that by approving this bill overwhelmingly, encouraging the Senate to do the same so that we protect these small businesses in the interim, over the next year, from this horrendous cost and confusion by rising in strong support today on both sides of the aisle and passing H.R. 736.

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

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 736.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### CREDIT UNION BOARD MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 975) to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 975

*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 "Credit Union Board Modernization Act".

#### SEC. 2. FREQUENCY OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS.

Section 113 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1761b) is amended—

(1) by striking "monthly" each place such term appears;

(2) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "The board of directors" and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The board of directors";

(3) in subsection (a) (as so designated), by striking “shall meet at least once a month and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) MEETINGS.—The board of directors of a Federal credit union shall meet as follows:

“(1) With respect to a de novo Federal credit union, not less frequently than monthly during each of the first five years of the existence of such Federal credit union.

“(2) Not less than six times annually, with at least one meeting held during each fiscal quarter, with respect to a Federal credit union—

“(A) with composite rating of either 1 or 2 under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (or an equivalent rating under a comparable rating system); and

“(B) with a capability of management rating under such composite rating of either 1 or 2.

“(3) Not less frequently than once a month, with respect to a Federal credit union—

“(A) with composite rating of either 3, 4, or 5 under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (or an equivalent rating under a comparable rating system); or

“(B) with a capability of management rating under such composite rating of either 3, 4, or 5.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

□ 1715

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 975, the Credit Union Board Modernization Act.

I applaud my Committee on Financial Services colleagues, Representatives VARGAS and HUIZENGA, for introducing it. This bipartisan bill will help focus credit unions' time and resources where it really matters, which is serving their members.

Federal credit unions are governed by boards of directors who are currently required by law, Mr. Speaker, to meet at least once a month. This outdated requirement prevents credit unions from attracting talented volunteers and professionals to a credit union's board due to the time commitment of a monthly board meeting.

Under H.R. 975, certain well-functioning credit unions are provided with the option to meet at least six times annually with at least one meeting held during each fiscal quarter of the year.

This crucial change frees up the time and resources used for meetings to put toward the critical mission of providing financial services to their credit union members. Importantly, this bill has guardrails to ensure the safety and soundness of our financial system. Only credit unions with a CAMELS composite rating of a one or two will be permitted to meet at this less frequent rate.

All credit unions, just like commercial banks, are subject to a supervisory rating scale. It is called the CAMELS rating. A credit union is assessed at each of the six categories under that acronym, and they are assigned a composite rating on a scale of one, the best, to five, the worst, based on: capital adequacy, asset quality, management, earnings, liquidity, and sensitivity to market risk, hence the acronym CAMELS.

Therefore, this bill provides an incentive to achieve the strongest supervisory rating so that a credit union might access the flexibility offered by this bill.

Furthermore, by reducing the mandated number of board meetings for federally chartered credit unions, this legislation would promote parity between Federal and State-chartered credit unions as 17 States currently allow for meetings less frequently than monthly.

As I say, fewer mandated board meetings are especially helpful for rural credit unions who struggle to attract talent to their boards and also operate with significant regulatory burden and sometimes long travel. Of course, nothing in this legislation prevents credit union boards from meeting more frequently if they determine that is necessary.

Credit unions play an essential role in our communities across this country, and H.R. 975 will ensure that they are able to operate more efficiently. I thank the gentleman from California's 52nd District, Mr. VARGAS, for introducing this important bipartisan bill.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HILL and Ranking Member WATERS for their support throughout this process.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 975, the Credit Union Board Modernization Act. Credit unions are a vital part of our country's economic stability and success. These not-for-profit, member-owned institutions serve over 140 million Americans. Yet for over 40 years, volunteer-led Federal credit union boards have been burdened by an unnecessary requirement on meeting frequency.

This bill gives financially sound and well-managed Federal credit unions the flexibility they deserve. It will adjust the board meeting requirement by allowing qualifying Federal credit unions to move from the current

monthly meeting to meeting a minimum of six times annually with at least one meeting each fiscal quarter.

This is a commonsense fix that allows Federal credit unions with a proven record of stability to dedicate more time and resources to the local communities they serve, like in San Diego, my hometown, and across the country.

This fix also makes it easier for more Americans who currently are not able to serve on these boards, due to the time commitment, to have an opportunity to bring their perspectives to the table. This bill contains key safeguards to ensure stability and mitigate risk.

Newly formed credit unions and those with poor ratings, as Mr. HILL stated, will still be held to the current monthly meeting requirements. Under this bill, only Federal credit unions with strong ratings from our Federal regulators and proven management capacities and capabilities will be eligible for the new meeting requirements. This reasonable bipartisan bill passed the House twice in both the 117th and 118th Congresses.

Again, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HUIZENGA) for working with me on advancing this legislation and his deep knowledge of the issues. It was actually a pleasure working with him again.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman HILL for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 975, the Credit Union Board Modernization Act. I also want to stand up and echo and reiterate the points that I already addressed because this legislation is so important.

This bill would amend the Federal Credit Union Act to revise the frequency of the board meetings a federally chartered credit union must hold. Under current law, credit union boards must meet once per month, but this bill, H.R. 975, would allow credit unions to lower that threshold of required meetings to six per year.

This bipartisan bill is needed to increase flexibility and unlock more resources for credit unions to better serve their members and our communities.

Additionally, H.R. 975 creates an incentive for credit unions to improve their management ratings by decreasing the number of board meetings for those that have the best management ratings. On the other hand, credit unions that are poorly managed or are new Federal credit unions will still be required to meet on a monthly basis.

I commend my colleagues, Representatives HUIZENGA and VARGAS, for reintroducing this commonsense piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 975 and eliminate burdensome regulations to let credit

unions do what they do best, which is to service their communities.

As you heard, this has been passed in the 117th and 118th Congresses. I think it is time to bring this home, and let's get this done this Congress.

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, credit unions are vital to our economy and to our communities. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and the consumers and small businesses that they serve.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 975. I appreciate Mr. VARGAS sponsoring this good bill and Mrs. KIM speaking on it. They represent the State of California, and the State of California has some of the largest Federal credit unions active and headquartered in their State.

This will be a great service to those credit unions particularly and their home State of California to be able to focus on their members and have a few less meetings. I thank the gentleman from California for his sponsorship.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 975.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HOUSING UNHOUSED DISABLED VETERANS ACT

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 965) to amend section 3(b)(4) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exclude certain disability benefits from income for the purposes of determining eligibility for the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19), and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 965

*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 "Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act".

#### SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN DISABILITY BENEFITS.

Section 3(b)(4)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(4)(B)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (iv) and (v) as clauses (vi) and (vii), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after clause (iii) the following:

"(iv) with respect to the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19), any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, received by a veteran, except that this exclusion may

not apply to the definition of adjusted income;

"(v) with respect to any household receiving rental assistance under the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19) as it relates to eligibility for other types of housing assistance, any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, received by a veteran, except that this exclusion may not apply to the definition of adjusted income;".

#### SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISABILITY BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—When determining the eligibility of a veteran to rent a residential dwelling unit constructed on Department property on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, for which assistance is provided as part of a housing assistance program administered by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and not yet in existence at the time of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall exclude from income any disability benefits received under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code by such person.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(2) DEPARTMENT PROPERTY.—The term "Department property" has the meaning given in the term in section 901 of title 38, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 965, the Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act introduced by my colleague on the Financial Services Committee, Congressman BRAD SHERMAN of California.

Much like the bill that we just considered a few minutes ago from our friend from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), I want to start out by commending our colleague from California for his work on this related issue that once again speaks to the fairness in HUD programs on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

The Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, or HUD-VASH, program was created back in 1992. The purpose was to assist homeless veterans with psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

The VASH program is an important Federal tool that provides housing assistance and supportive services for low-income veterans experiencing homelessness. Of course, it might seem

redundant to some that a program to help homeless veterans would be geared towards those who are low-income, but sometimes with HUD nothing is ever simple.

Much like how HUD treats service-connected disability compensation of veterans as income in its CDBG program, HUD treats any disability benefits a veteran receives under chapter 11 or chapter 15 of title 38 of the U.S. Code as income under HUD-VASH.

A predictable result is some disabled homeless veterans are blocked from using a program to help all homeless veterans because HUD has decided that those low-income veterans that are disabled are too wealthy to qualify. Sound familiar? This is exactly the debate we had a few minutes ago.

Mr. Speaker, someone always has to explain these government bureaucratic messes to me because they never make any common sense.

The reform we are talking about today offered by Mr. SHERMAN fixes this problem. It reforms the HUD income calculation used in the HUD-VASH program to ensure that the disability payments of a low-income veteran do not exclude them from accessing this housing support.

The bill goes on to say that HUD needs to adopt the same income calculation standard for any future veteran housing program it might create using HUD-owned property. I applaud my colleague for calling attention to this problem and for his bipartisan work to find a solution.

While this may seem like an easy fix, this is Washington. There are no easy fixes, and HUD has consistently placed bureaucratic obstacles in the way of program efficiency time and time again.

In fact, when Representative SHERMAN brought this up last year to the Secretary of HUD, he got the same answer that Representative DE LA CRUZ got on her veterans CDBG income question: Hey, that is Congress' job to fix it, not HUD's.

Fix it, indeed we will. The approach the gentleman has taken in crafting this bill is a good one. It is one that will make a big difference in the HUD-VASH program, as well as: How about making a difference for the veterans who are eligible to use it? That is why we are on this House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SHERMAN for his hard work to honor the promises that we have made to our veterans. I urge bipartisan support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 965, the Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act sponsored by Representative SHERMAN. I thank Mr. SHERMAN for his work on this bipartisan bill which ensure homeless veterans, including those who may have higher incomes due to their disability benefits, can access supportive housing through the HUD-VASH program.

However, an important distinction in this bill will expand access to housing for more disabled veterans who are experiencing homelessness, while preserving limited rental assistance for those with the lowest incomes.

□ 1730

I also want to take this opportunity to talk about the importance of preserving the HUD-VASH program as the Trump administration threatens to trample on Congress' constitutional powers of the purse by freezing Federal funds that have already been designed and designated for the American people.

HUD-VASH is arguably the most successful Federal homeless program to date. In fact, under the Biden administration, Democrats were successful in lowering veteran homelessness to its lowest level ever on record. That is what we can get done when we prioritize housing for people, not profit.

HUD-VASH is the only Federal program that is built to end veteran homelessness through the Housing First approach, which Republicans have time and time again tried to discredit. Housing First works because it solves the root of the homelessness crisis, which is a lack of affordable housing.

Specifically, the program ensures people who are experiencing homelessness can first get off the street and into stable housing where they are then supported with wraparound services, such as case management, job training, healthcare services, and more. If Housing First works to help end veteran homelessness, it can work for everyone else, too.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and look forward to a more bipartisan effort to scale up proven Housing First solutions to end homelessness nationwide.

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), who has done so much to advance these reforms in HUD and our committee. We are grateful for her leadership.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

I rise in support of H.R. 965, the bipartisan Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act, which I am proud to co-lead.

Our veterans, particularly disabled veterans, have sacrificed immensely for our Nation. Unfortunately, when they return home, they are met with unnecessary bureaucracy and government overregulation.

Though we can never repay them for their sacrifice, we can show gratitude by ensuring that bureaucratic obstacles do not stand in the way of veterans receiving the support they need.

H.R. 965 will make certain that disability benefits received by a veteran are not counted against a veteran seek-

ing housing assistance under the HUD-VASH program.

These programs are intended to help veterans, so let us ensure that we do all we can to ensure they achieve that mission by enacting commonsense measures.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan solution to ensure those that sacrificed so much for this great country are not penalized for benefits they have earned through their selfless service.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), who is the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Capital Markets, who is the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, these are two companion bills. It has been good working with her. My hope is that we not only pass both these bills today unanimously but that we actually get the Senate to act.

There is nothing more shameful than a homeless, disabled American veteran, one who has lost a limb defending us and now living on the streets.

There are two programs to focus on that are designed to provide housing for the unhoused. The De La Cruz bill, which I was proud to be the chief Democratic advocate of, dealt with the CDBG program. This bill deals with a joint program between HUD and the veterans administration, HUD and the VA, and that is why the bill's title spells out HUDVA.

The issue, again, is how do we define income for eligibility for housing. Certainly we should change that definition when it applies to veterans' housing for veterans on veterans' land.

The worst thing we could do is exclude disabled veterans. This is particularly true because perhaps the most significant parcel that this will affect is in my district, and it is the largest VA hospital in the West. What better place for disabled veterans to live when they need often hospital care than to live right there at the hospital.

This bill amends the HUD definition of annual income to exclude disability payments received by a veteran for eligibility purposes for housing under the HUDVA Supportive Housing program.

Last year, HUD, in a major victory for us, did decide to exclude disability benefits from this definition. It is now, I think, necessary for us to make that a statutory change so that it doesn't change with this or that administration.

Now, to qualify, as I have said, the central issue is whether VA disability benefits count as income. The Internal Revenue Code excludes them from that definition of income. As I said, in talking about the gentlewoman from Texas' bill, if you are disabled and you have disability benefits, those benefits don't necessarily raise your standard of living and raise your income from that standpoint when you have to spend your disability benefits on, for example, home healthcare, the additional

cost of living with a disability, etcetera.

The HUD-VASH program is designed to provide rental assistance. The inclusion of disability benefits in the annual income calculation excludes veterans who are disabled from living at a VA hospital land or part of a complex that includes a VA hospital. This legislation would address this problem.

The bill is supported by virtually all the veterans support organizations, such as VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, U.S. Vets, and Black Veterans Empowerment Council.

The bill is also supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, because it is mayors, after all, who have to deal with the homeless and particularly homeless veterans in their cities.

This bill had 101 cosponsors last Congress and substantial bipartisan support in this Congress. I am pleased to have the co-leadership of Ms. DE LA CRUZ from Texas. It has a zero Congressional Budget Office score, so it does nothing to increase our deficit.

The recent wildfires in my area also exemplify this in that the VA hospital that I referred to is right there close to where these fires broke out.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to passing this bill and to persuade the Senate to do so as well.

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

I would again thank Congressman SHERMAN for working across the aisle, in particular with Representative DE LA CRUZ from Texas on her companion bill, to make sure our Nation's HUD-VASH program works as effectively as possible.

This bill is a step forward in ensuring that every veteran who is experiencing homelessness can access the supportive housing they need, facilitating their successful reintegration into civilian life.

This is especially true for disabled veterans who experience unique barriers to housing that is inaccessible and increasingly unaffordable.

With this bill, we can assure and ensure disabled veterans have the resources they need to lead stable, fulfilling lives after their invaluable service to our Nation.

Again, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I thank Mr. SHERMAN for his good work on this and his partnership with Ms. DE LA CRUZ of Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I also express my deep empathy and support of Representative SHERMAN, Representative CHU, Representative KIM, and others in the L.A. basin who are coping with the horrendous results and tragedy connected with the fires at Pacific Palisades and elsewhere where some 45,000 California homes were destroyed in just the blink of an eye and lives lost.





Is it efficient when a Federal employee hired for 20 years, living in my district, is told to report back to an office in D.C. that never existed?

Is it efficient when officials immediately end public transit services that seniors rely upon and when community health centers that provide essential services to vulnerable populations can't access government websites? These actions are creating inefficiencies and wasting taxpayer dollars.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I encourage the administration to look forward and put their proposals in their upcoming budget requests. Let's begin the constitutional process and real negotiations with checks and balances to benefit the American people.

#### EMERGENCY BORDER CONTROL RESOLUTION

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

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Border Control Resolution to kick-start the resolution process.

As we stand here today, negotiations have stalled in the House. We all know this. We are at a crossroads in this reconciliation process, and it is time for the House and Senate to quickly pass a border funding bill with a debt ceiling increase so President Trump can deliver on his promises to the American people and reassure the financial markets.

The legislation I just introduced is a budget that contains \$200 billion in new funding for President Trump to secure our southern border, fund immigration enforcement, and rebuild America's defenses.

This increased spending is paired with \$486 billion in cuts to Biden's failed and wasteful spending. These cuts will result in a \$286 billion real deficit reduction over 10 years.

The Emergency Border Control Resolution is the first step in the Freedom Caucus' 218 strategy to successfully implement the President's America First agenda.

#### GREAT LAKES GATEWAYS

(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 to celebrate and protect the largest system of freshwater on Earth: The Great Lakes. I will be introducing the bipartisan Great Lakes Gateways Network Act of 2025, alongside my talented colleague, DAVID JOYCE of Ohio.

The Great Lakes have been declared a national treasure by executive order in 2004. The Great Lakes undergird America's industrial and agricultural heartland and encompass terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, including two

globally important migratory bird flyways.

We are home to 20 national wildlife refuges; 7 national parks; America's longest coast and lakeshores, monuments, and memorials; 6 national forests; many State parks; wildlife management areas; and trail systems. These assets generate annually over \$52 billion in economic activity.

The Great Lakes Gateway Network Act of 2025 will help us conserve, restore, and interpret our precious history by catalyzing numerous public and private investments in the linked network of gateway sites.

Mr. Speaker, it is long overdue for the northwest territory and our Great Lakes to shine a light on our region's magnificence and America's freshwater kingdom.

#### USAID'S IMPACT ON HAITI

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

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on the illegal dismantling of USAID and its detrimental effects on Haiti.

Not only is Haiti currently dealing with massive gang violence that has killed thousands of people and displaced millions of people, it is a country also on the verge of famine. The World Food Programme projects that they will run out of food assistance to Haiti in March due to this aid freeze.

This will fuel the gangs who recruit starving children to join them, worsen the already dire humanitarian crisis, and cause thousands more to flee the nation, meaning mass migration to the United States.

Make no mistake, gutting USAID means gutting regional security. It will also directly harm my constituents. The Port of Palm Beach exports \$160 million in food to the Caribbean alone, much of which is distributed by USAID and their partners. The farmers and dockworkers in my district will directly lose out on all critical business.

I urge my colleagues to stand for USAID, the backbone of our national security, and remember either we feed them now or we will end up fighting them later.

#### SUPPORTING AID TO FLORIDA, TEXAS, AND CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud New Yorker, and today I speak as a proud American. An American tragedy has played out in California, and those who have lost their homes and their lives are first and foremost Americans.

This Nation has an obligation to help all of our fellow citizens. For those who claim America first, its is not America first except for California, America

first except for Massachusetts or New York. We owe a debt to help our fellow Americans in California without political considerations or restrictions.

When a hurricane tears through Florida, do we say let's see the Governor's plans to harden infrastructure before we help Floridians? Do we say let's see what local Florida zoning laws allow for buildings near the coast before we grant aid? When tornadoes devastate Texas, do we say how do they make schools less vulnerable before we give Texans assistance?

When Floridians are suffering, I see Americans. When Texans are suffering, I see Americans. As a New Yorker, I support aid to Florida, Texas, and California when they need it without politics.

#### IRON SHARPENS IRON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WIED). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. 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 gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the cowards who think they can prey on women and get away with it. Today, I am going scorched Earth. Let the bridges I burn this evening light our way forward.

As in many areas, God's Word has given me wisdom, God's love has shown me the light, and God's grace has given me the strength to be here today. God placed this burden on my path not to crush me but to ignite something within me—a calling, a purpose, a responsibility, and courage, which I am using in spades today.

□ 1915

The purpose of my speech tonight is to make sure these women will never be forgotten and the men who hurt them will never be allowed to get away with it or hide again.

God uses imperfect people to carry out his perfect plans. I ask God to fill me up, to be his vessel, and to use me for his purpose tonight. I ask for his protection as I expose the Devil's hand today.

In Jeremiah 6:16, it says when we are at a crossroads, that we are to look at the ancient paths, look for the right way, and walk on it.

When I was saved 5 years ago in church, in May of 2019, it was a Saturday night, and I was there: I was at a crossroads in life.

When I heard this sermon, with my child next to me, he put his arm

around me, and he said: Mommy, it is going to be okay. We are going to be okay.

I know in God's faith, in his wisdom, when I listen, he shows us his way. Tonight, it is God who is showing me the right path to take, because this is about truth. This is about unveiling evil that is in the State of South Carolina.

I want to quote Martin Luther King tonight who said: The time is always right to do what is right.

What I am doing tonight, I know in my heart of hearts, is right.

I am going to take this Bible a friend gave to me. I am going to place my hand on this Bible.

I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Today, I am going to free myself from the monster who broke me. Today, I am going to free other women who fell prey to this same man. Today, I will free other women further from a group of men who committed the most evil acts against them.

I want every woman and girl to know in the country: You have a friend and you have a sister in me, and I will fight like hell for you every day of the week.

We must never tolerate abusers masquerading as men of character. Abuse doesn't discriminate. Abuse doesn't care if you are a Republican or if you are a Democrat. Abuse doesn't care who you are or where you come from or how strong you are or what title you hold.

I am living proof that even as a Member of Congress, I found myself face-to-face with the darkest corners of humanity. You really think you know someone until you don't.

In November of 2023, I accidentally uncovered some of the most heinous crimes against women imaginable. We are talking about rape, nonconsensual photos, nonconsensual videos of women and underage girls, and the premeditated, calculated exploitation of women and girls in my district.

Today, you will hear about the depraved men behind these gutless and evil acts. These men didn't just harm their victims. They recorded their depravity as if it were a badge of honor.

When I uncovered evidence of rape, the illegal filming of women, and sex trafficking, I didn't just see victims. I saw a system that failed to protect them.

I saw criminals who thought they could get away with it because no one had the guts, no one had the courage, and no one had the bravery to hold them accountable because we are filled with cowards.

I will burn this system to the ground if I have to.

These men aren't just criminals; they are predators. You can see the names and the faces of these predators on this board to my right tonight.

These predators are not untouchable. These predators are not invisible. These predators are not invincible.

Today, their names will be tied to their crimes and their cowardice forever.

Let me say their names for the RECORD in alphabetical order. Eric Bowman of Sullivan's Island, South Carolina; Patrick Bryant of Mt. Pleasant and Isle of Palms, South Carolina, who also goes by Brendan Patrick Bryant; John Osborne of Charleston, South Carolina; and Brian Musgrave of Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Let me be loud and clear. I would never allow any woman or underage girl anywhere near any of you. When you incapacitate women, it is against the law. When you sexually assault women, it is called rape. If you film women naked without their knowledge, without their permission, and without their consent, it is called voyeurism, and it makes you a Peeping Tom. It is illegal.

When you and your business partners—like these, all business partners—when you and your business partners pay each other and you sexually abuse women, it is called sex trafficking, and it is against the law. It by definition makes you a sex trafficker.

Witness intimidation is also illegal.

To Eric Bowman, Patrick Bryant, Brian Musgrave, and John Osborne: You have bought yourself a one-way ticket to hell. It is nonstop, there are no connections, so I and all of your victims can watch you rot for an eternity. Today is about justice.

Truth has a way of rising no matter how deeply you try to bury it. Tonight is about truth, the painful, the cold, the hard truth.

On the night of October 30, 2023, I received a text message with screenshots from a friend of mine in South Carolina. It showed my then-fiance, Patrick Bryant, active on a dating app.

In South Carolina, politics is a blood sport. I thought this was your usual, run-of-the-mill political game. I thought it was a joke.

When I confronted Patrick Bryant 4 days later, on November 3, the first thing he did was take his phone and put it in a safe and lock it, a safe identical to this one. It was so confusing. I didn't understand why would someone put their cell phone in a safe and lock it.

After more women came forward, I realized this was not for laughs. Soon after, I learned the dating app was the very least of my worries. Let me make clear: I don't care that he was on a dating app.

Two days later, Patrick Bryant put my thumbprint on his phone, one just like this. He put my thumbprint on his phone. He also gave me the four-digit code to his safe.

The night that I was given legal access to his phone, I opened it for the first time. What I discovered shocked me to my core. One of the first videos I saw was of a woman, she was incapacitated and she was being raped. I found some photos of what appeared to be a teenager undressed, in the kind of underwear a child would wear. To me,

the facial expression of this young woman, young girl, teenager, looked scared and nervous.

I saw another video of another woman who was undressed, clearly on a camera, unaware she was being filmed. She was slender, and she had long brown hair. I turned up the volume to hear if there was audio. I heard my voice. I zoomed in on the video, and that woman was me.

My entire body was paralyzed, and I couldn't move. Were my feet on the floor? Was I breathing? I have no idea. I could feel pain shooting out of my heart, out of my chest. I dropped straight down to the floor like I was in a nosedive. The pain running through my veins wouldn't stop. Time was suspended for a moment.

This monster stole my body. It felt like I had been raped. He stole my body without my permission, without my knowledge, and without my consent.

This hidden camera that I found was at a property owned by Patrick Bryant and his business partner Brian Musgrave. Here is a similar camera, bought on Amazon, something this small, that can violate so many to such a heinous degree.

I found an app where the file of at least one of the hidden cameras I discovered was stored. I discovered on this app, for this tiny little camera, there were 10,633 videos on it. Let me repeat. Just one camera I found had 10,633 videos on it.

Patrick Bryant must have forgotten that in my younger days, in my youth, I used to be a computer programmer. I know enough about technology.

I found more photos, this time of female employees. I found photos of wives of male employees, photos of girlfriends and women who very clearly didn't know their private parts were being filmed and photographed.

I found file after file after file.

Patrick Bryant had upskirt photos of one particular victim, a wife of a male employee who was also one of his best friends. He took upskirt photos of his employee's wife spanning at least 8 years. He even took upskirt photos of her on their family vacations. I know she had no idea these photos were being taken because of the way that they were taken. There is no way that she knew about it.

I found about a dozen photos in Patrick Bryant's trash bin of underage girls that he deleted in the hours after he gave me access to his phone. I recognized three of the underage girls as daughters of some of his business partners, some of them in bikinis.

If you are a 50-year-old man and you have teenage girls in bikinis on your phone and it is okay, why would you delete them in the hours after your fiancee got access to your phone? If there is nothing wrong with it, why would these 12-plus photos of these underage girls be in your trash bin? What are you to worry about if there is nothing going on?

Three of the teenage girls I saw in this trash bin of business partners were

in bikinis. One of these jarring photos of a child of one of his business partners was an underage girl, fully clothed, but her legs were spread open, unaware she was being photographed.

□ 1930

Patrick Bryant took this photo from his penis area.

In my accidental discovery, I found multiple devices used by him to record women without their knowledge, and that is before I get to what I uncovered with Patrick Bryant and his business partners.

The weekend I was given access to Patrick Bryant's phone, I found evidence that he got a second mobile device. I documented it.

Patrick Bryant couldn't transfer these files off his device fast enough. I discovered he was transferring terabytes of data onto another device. I documented it.

Patrick Bryant would soon replace his cell phone with a new one. I documented that, too. He forgets that I used to be a computer programmer.

None of this is conjecture. These are not allegations. These are facts. It is documented, sometimes with metadata. I knew how to get that, too.

This is what I found; this is what I saw; and this is what I accidentally discovered.

As you should know by now, I keep all the receipts.

In addition to what I documented, I personally identified—I personally identified—almost a dozen victims. I found some witnesses, and I found more than enough probable cause and then some.

If I found this many victims with this little effort, why—why?—are they still on the streets of South Carolina today?

I am just one person. Imagine how many victims there truly are tonight, and they don't even know that they are victims of this cabal of rapists, this cabal of sex traffickers, this cabal of Peeping Toms.

Exactly 7 days later, after I got access to Patrick Bryant's phone, I was under extreme duress. I found more photos. I found more videos.

On my last night with Patrick Bryant, he physically assaulted me. On the morning of November 13, I fled my home, and I went into hiding. I, as a Member of Congress, fled my home, and I went into hiding. It would be the first of four moves that I made last year.

I still have the mark that Patrick Bryant made on me the night that he assaulted me. Rather than see this mark as a scar, I see this mark of a free woman, free from a monster. I will wear this mark that he made on me for the rest of my life as a badge of honor.

To the friends who took me in, I want to say thank you. You took care of me when I had nowhere to go. You took care of me and my kids.

Last year, I had to tell a woman that she had been raped, and she didn't even know it. She didn't know it. She had no

idea because she was incapacitated at the time of the rape. I knew she was raped because I accidentally found the video of her being raped. I found photos and video of her assault on Patrick Bryant's phone.

One of Patrick Bryant's business associates, John Osborne, sexually assaulted her at the home of Eric Bowman. Patrick Bryant and Eric Bowman both had their phones out like this as she was being assaulted, as she was being raped. The two of them—three of them business partners—the two of them had their phones out just like this, filming her as she was being raped, and she was completely laid out. There was no movement. There was no life. I couldn't even tell if this young woman was alive.

John Osborne today—John Osborne, I want you to hear this in your omission as you are frantically texting people today: I cannot unsee what you did to this young woman, and you will not—you will not—get away with it. None of you will because tonight is about justice for me, and tonight is about justice for all of the women that you all raped, that you all filmed, that you all photographed, and that you all abused for years.

I would later learn that these men, the three of them, Patrick Bryant, Eric Bowman, and John Osborne, planned her rape. It was premeditated.

Eric Bowman knew there were children in the home at the time of the rape, and he decided to orchestrate it anyway.

But that is not the only rape I uncovered at Eric Bowman's home. In a second video, Patrick Bryant can be seen breaking into a room, his pants undone, ready to rape a different incapacitated woman, again laid out. There was no life. There was no movement. I couldn't tell if she was alive.

Eric Bowman, his business partner, filmed it.

When I informed my children we were urgently fleeing our home as if our lives depended on it, my children asked me if Patrick Bryant had ever raped me. I don't know how children know the inherent spirit of humanity, but my kids knew something I did not already know. Children have a way of knowing evil in others when we don't.

In searching for victims over the last year, I met other women who were raped or sexually assaulted by some of these men. The other assaults I uncovered over the last year span over a decade, almost 20 years. In talking to these victims, there is a clear pattern of behavior. Women were incapacitated; they were raped; and someone filmed it.

One night in 2022, I found myself at a property owned by Patrick Bryant and Brian Musgrave on the Isle of Palms in South Carolina. Business partners Patrick Bryant and Eric Bowman were both there. I was served two small vodka sodas, like this glass right here, two small vodka sodas like anyone would have at their neighborhood restaurant.

A short time later, I blacked out. I have never blacked out after having a vodka soda or any adult beverage ever in my life. It has never happened. But I know who has: the women raped on those tapes that I saw, the women raped that I spoke to over the course of the last year. The stories of these women were all too familiar. Now I know why.

My memories of that night are just flashes in and out of the dark, flashes in and out of the night. I was raped that night.

Was it Patrick Bryant? I don't know, but I was raped.

I believe that they purposely incapacitated me.

Was anyone else there? Was it filmed? Was it sold on the dark web? I have no idea, but I know what these men do to their victims.

I learned firsthand about the weaponization of government going through this trauma because I met it head-on. I fought in silence, and it was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do.

In October, Eric Bowman tried to intimidate me, and he tried to silence me, and the State of South Carolina failed to take it seriously as witness intimidation.

During the last year, I turned everything over to law enforcement and then some. I was told I, as a victim, would be investigated. Investigated for what? I am a victim here. I am turning in all of this evidence to you, and now you say: Victims, you are a victim of rape, you are a victim of being drugged, you are a victim of a Peeping Tom and voyeurs, and yet we are going to investigate you.

That is what the State told me.

During the last year, more than once, I was told I could be arrested. Arrested for what?

These types of threats are also a way to intimidate victims, instilling fear so victims hide in the shadows, so victims don't come forward, so victims don't ask for complaints to be filed, so there is no investigation because you strike holy fear into victims, or you tell them there is nothing you can do. You tell them they have no value.

I brought handcuffs with me today. If anyone would like to arrest me for standing up for women, here are my wrists. Arrest me. Take me to jail because I am 100 percent guilty of turning over evidence of Peeping Toms, of turning over evidence of rape, of turning over evidence of voyeurism, of turning over evidence of sex trafficking, and, who knows, probably a heck of a lot more, and more crimes I don't have time to get into tonight.

I am 100 percent guilty of advocating for justice despite every effort to silence me.

There is a silent battle raging every single day. It is not a problem confined to one race. It is not a problem confined to one religion. It is not a problem confined to one socioeconomic class. It is not someone else's problem. It is our problem.

We must face domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, and sex trafficking with courage; we must face it with clarity; and we must face it with compassion. We must also face it with hardcore justice.

There is no room for those who think their strength is in intimidating and harming or threatening others. True strength lies in honor; it lies in respect; and it lies in the truth. Real men are protectors; they are not predators.

South Carolina's chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General Alan Wilson, stated 2 weeks ago tonight that he will let his "record" speak for itself.

Attorney General Alan Wilson, be careful what you wish for because your record speaks loud and clear. Women who come forward in your system are treated like criminals—under your leadership, in your system, and on your watch.

Attorney General Alan Wilson, you know there were deliberate delays in an investigation in what I turned over, 228 days of delay, and you know this, 228 days of delay. That is 7 months, 2 weeks, and 4 days of delay to investigate.

Once again, today, you are kicking the can down the road like you always do—you are known for it—more days, more weeks, and more delay.

Did the attorney general contact the Department of Social Services when the State was told about a rape that happened in a home with children when children were at home? No, he didn't.

Did South Carolina's attorney general have any of these predators indicted after being provided clear, cut-and-dry evidence, including video, photos, and witnesses? No, he did not.

When the attorney of a victim asked to speak to the attorney general, Alan Wilson, directly, he told the attorney not to send him any information, not to send him any documents.

Did the State accept additional physical evidence from me late last year when I stumbled upon it? No, they did not.

I was also told my domestic violence incident would not be investigated.

In your system, Attorney General Alan Wilson, women who come forward are threatened with investigation like I was. In your system, women who come forward are threatened with arrest like I was.

□ 1945

While the law is explicit in protecting victims, in your system, you don't follow the law. I waited 320 days before receiving a victim's rights advocate and only because I was persistent.

I was given a victim's rights advocate 10 months, 2 weeks, and 6 days later—10 months—10½ months, the State waited to give me a victim's rights advocate.

What is wrong with you people?

So let me remind you, Mr. Attorney General: You have one job, and it is to follow the law.

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, you are not a real man

because real men—real men—protect women.

I have no respect for anyone who treats women and victims the way you do.

I will stand up and stand in the way of anyone who will cause harm and abuse, and you are one of them. You have turned a blind eye to women and girls for the last 15 years. I don't have the luxury of looking away.

The larger emotional travesty for the victims here, which overshadows all of these evil acts, is the fact the State has refused to do its job and put these predators behind bars, in effect telling these victims: They have no value.

Justice delayed is justice denied. The delays have been long enough.

My outrage over your broken system and my passion to call it out and fix it isn't personal. I have an ethical and a moral obligation to protect each and every one of my constituents, even if it is from someone I know personally.

To the victims tonight, I want you to know you have value, and you, as a victim, can still have victory after tonight.

To those concerned about false accusation—and there will be some of you out there—yes, fake victims exist, and they do real consequential harm to real victims. But the existence of a few frauds should not and cannot be an excuse to ignore the desperate cries of those who suffer in silence.

Justice demands discernment, not denial.

This isn't a story about bitter ex-girlfriends because some of you will say that, too. That is not true.

This isn't a story about consensual sex tapes, there are plenty of those. I don't care what two consenting adults do. That is the definition of freedom.

This is a story about predators who hunt women for sport. This is a story about rapists. This is a story about sex traffickers. This is a story about Peeping Toms and voyeurs who have never been called to account or held responsible for their heinous crimes against women.

The daughter of Ethel Lance, a victim of the 2015 Mother Emanuel shooting, said to her mom's killer: I forgive you.

If she can do it, I can, too.

Ethel, thank you for being a beacon of forgiveness for Christians out there in the world to know forgiveness can happen.

I don't want to forgive. I don't want to, but I know that, as a woman of faith, I have to, but, also, the Bible reminds us that forgiveness does not forfeit justice.

In Romans 12:19, it says: "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written: 'Vengeance is mine, and I will repay, says the Lord.'"

Today, we are getting justice. As a woman of faith, I draw strength from the teachings of Jesus Christ, and Christ confronted injustice wherever he saw it.

I will not stand silently by while abuse is excused, while it is hidden, and while it is ignored. I will fight to protect victims. I will fight to hold abusers accountable. And I will fight to ensure every woman and child has the safety and security they deserve.

As Gisele Pelicot said: "Shame must change sides."

I no longer live in the shadows. I no longer live in shame. I live in the light. So thank you, Gisele, for being fearless in fighting for your justice.

I want to recognize J.K. Rowling for her resilience in speaking out for women and girls. She, her message, has kept me pushing forward on days when I didn't think I had anything left. There are an untold number of groups working around the clock to support women, I thank you, too.

I spent countless hours working on legislation to protect women and girls since this deeply traumatic event.

I want to thank my staff, who are here and who are watching, for working on this legislation. They have worked incredibly hard to deliver.

Women have rights. Women have the right to privacy. We have the right not to be filmed. We have the right not to be raped. We have the right not to be intimidated and harassed. We have the right to feel safe and secure.

There is more work to be done yet, but to my staff and to my team: You are making an enormous difference for women and girls everywhere. We have filed over a dozen bills in the last 14 months since this has happened.

My bill, the Sue VOYEURS Act, creates a civil right of action for victims of voyeurism.

The Stop VOYEURS Act expands a very narrow criminal prohibition against video voyeurism at the Federal level.

H.R. 7567 addresses deepfakes.

The Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act deports rapists and pedophiles.

The Safe Shelters Act prohibits sex offenders from entering or using the services of emergency shelters.

The Rape Shield Enhancement Act is to protect the women who are raped and to protect their privacy.

My bill, the Stop the Invasion of Women's Spaces Act, defunds any entity who allows an individual to use a single-sex facility that does not correspond with their biological sex.

The Protecting Women's Private Spaces Act prohibits people from using single-sex facilities on Federal property other than those corresponding with their biological gender.

The Prison Rape Prevention Act ensures and requires inmates to be housed based on their biological sex so that women can't be raped by a man who thinks he is a woman.

The VANISH Act addresses revenge porn.

H.R. 8180 increases the civil penalty for revenge porn.

H.R. 1579 prohibits Members and others from using single-sex facilities

other than those corresponding with their gender.

It is not just Federal law, but State law needs to be addressed, too.

In South Carolina, State law 16-17-470 makes voyeurism and Peeping Tom first offenses a misdemeanor, not a felony. It is a couple-hundred-dollar fine and a few years in jail if—if—they prosecute you, and if they get a conviction on that prosecution, which they don't want to prosecute, by the way.

If you would like to work on legislation with us, our office is open. You can go to [mace.house.gov/women](http://mace.house.gov/women), and we will work with you.

Some will ask why am I speaking out?

I was horrified about what I uncovered and cannot stand silent and do nothing about it. Being quiet is not in my DNA, especially when I see wrongdoing.

The probability these predators are continuing their abuse and crimes against women right now as I speak, as I give this speech right now, is very high. And if I found this many victims with this little effort, imagine how many victims are out there today. And so we will put up our hotline.

If you call 843-212-7048, that is our hotline. If you are a victim, let us know. We will help you.

But there are so many victims who may not even know they are victims yet.

I am sounding the alarm on predators who are still roaming the streets of South Carolina, and our chief law enforcement officer, Attorney General Alan Wilson, knows it.

You don't wake up one day and say your first crime of your life, ever, is to premeditate a rape with you and your business partners, with your kids at home, and you film it. Who knows what else they have done over the years?

To the men watching: Their next victim could be your daughter, your sister, your wife.

To the women watching tonight: Their next victim could be you.

I feel duty bound to protect these women and girls with every ounce of my being. I am one of you. We are no different. We are cut from the same cloth, victimized by the same men, and I am here for you.

Do I trust South Carolina's attorney general to bring these women justice? No. I do not.

Even today, they are saying I don't know how the law works, as they condescendingly talk down to a victim.

Let me advise you, Mr. Attorney General: If you go to your website, it is your duty to prosecute rape and sexual assault and sex trafficking, which you bragged about protecting women and girls for the last 15 years. You have done nothing about it. And you refused to act when you were given, on a silver platter, a plate of evidence—videos, photos, witnesses, victims of this, and you turn the other cheek.

If Alan Wilson won't do his job as attorney general, I will do it for him. I

am duty bound to protect and find every single female victim out there, and I will do it single-handedly if I have to.

For too long, women have been told that speaking out against abuse is unbecoming, that it diminishes us. But silence is what diminishes us, and strength comes from shining light on a darkness.

This is an incredibly difficult task. I have been attacked for standing up for women, for our dignity, for our safety, and for our rights.

Just a few weeks ago, I was physically attacked by a pro-trans man for it, too.

I will take all of the arrows and all of the attacks if it means I am taking these attacks for each and every one of you. I am doing this today because we can't delay justice—justice victims like myself need to move forward.

I have lived in fear. I have lived in pain. I have lived in agony, but, after today, I will live free.

If you are a woman who has visited the home of Eric Bowman on Sullivan's Island, South Carolina; if you are a woman who has visited the properties owned by Patrick Bryant and Brian Musgrave on Isle of Palms, South Carolina; if you are a female employee of Patrick Bryant; if you are the wife of a male employee who works for him at any one of his companies headquartered in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina; if you are an underage girl anywhere near Patrick Bryant; if you have been anywhere near Patrick Bryant or Eric Bowman where there has been a cell phone recording device or any recording device or camera; if you believe you may have been drugged or incapacitated, raped, filmed, and photographed without your knowledge, permission, or consent by one or more of these men; or if you believe you may be a victim of the crimes I described today, we set up a hotline for you.

If you will call or text 843-212-7048—when I see a problem, I will do anything to fix it—you can call or text us.

Like so many women, I have suffered tremendous consequences to my physical health. I have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. I live looking over my shoulder. I endure sleepless nights. I have a form of vertigo related to my PTSD nightmares, and the adverse health issues linger 14 months after this traumatic event—deeply traumatic event.

I hit rock bottom last year, but as phoenix rose from the ashes, I, too, am coming back to life. My breakdown was my breakthrough, my devastation was my deliverance, and my God was my grace.

I want to thank my children who are watching tonight. I want to thank my family. My mom is here tonight. She is up here. I love you. Thank you.

I want to thank the Medical University of South Carolina for having one of the best sexual abuse trauma centers in the country. You saved my life and countless others, including some of the victims who are here tonight.

To the women behind the scenes who shared their horror stories and who now lurk in the shadows out of real, terrifying fear about coming forward, I want to thank you, too, for your quiet courage. You know who you are, and you inspired me. You inspired me to keep going.

Today, as I am standing here, not just as a Member of Congress but as a woman and as a survivor, fighting as hard—as hard as I can for other survivors, I am going to put this sticker on. My staff made it for me tonight, and it says in bold letters: Survivor.

I am going to ask this sticker—we have many guests tonight, including some victims. I am going to ask those who are here on the floor tonight to put this sticker on and the lapel pins we made tonight that say: Survivor.

I will be the loudest voice for those forced to stay silent. Living through my trauma and helping other women through theirs, all those victims of crimes we didn't know had been committed—our bodies violated in ways none of us could comprehend.

□ 2000

Today is about justice, and the belief we should do better, and we can do better for every single woman and girl.

I don't want to hear a single excuse about what we can do for women. We can do it, and we can do it now.

To anyone doing business with these men, know who you are doing business with.

You are doing business with rapists. You are doing business with sex traffickers, and you are doing business with Peeping Toms.

Some of the properties where these crimes took place are listed on certain short-term rental sites like Airbnb and VRBO. I say this because there may have been hidden cameras in the properties at which these crimes took place.

Some of the companies these predators are involved with have had or are trying to or might have now government contracts with Federal and State and local governments. The government should not do business with rapists, sex traffickers, and Peeping Toms.

I have many unanswered questions tonight. Were any children endangered? Were any children raped? Were any underage girls victims? Did any children witness rape? Are there still underage children at the physical property where the rapes occurred? How many recordings were taken of women on all these devices by all these men?

I have found several devices. Were the recordings I saw of myself and all these women sold on the dark web? How many women were raped by these men? Who are all the victims of all of these men and will the victims, will these women, ever know?

Had I never found out I was a victim, I would never have known to dig deep to find other victims. To the victims here tonight in the gallery, to the victims watching, my heart bleeds with

yours. We are one. We are the same. We are survivors together, and I will always, always be there for you no matter what.

Today, I stand defiant with my fists in the air to say as loudly and as boldly as I can say: I have the courage, I have the strength, and I have the resilience to take on the challenges of this moment. To the naysayers who are out there, online, on the web and the press today living in my past, I want you to know I don't live there anymore and your lies will never ever break me.

In Genesis 19:26, when Lot and his wife were fleeing Sodom and Gomorrah, God said: Don't look back. Lot's wife looked back. She turned right into dust because she looked back when God said not to.

Today, I am free. Today, I am moving forward and today, I am never looking back.

Let us leave a legacy for our children that they can be proud of, a legacy of courage, a legacy of compassion, and a legacy of unyielding justice. Truth doesn't cause the same fear as spin. Truth is peaceful, even in all of its awful and heinous brutality.

To the victims of these predators, I pray for your protection, I pray for your courage, and I pray for your resilience.

In Ecclesiastes 4, it talks about the strength of a rope, how it is easily not broken. With one strand of a rope, you are weak. You won't survive. Two strands of rope are better than one, but even then, it is not the best. But when you have three strands of a rope, you cannot be broken.

So to the women tonight, the victims of these crimes, to women everywhere, women and girls all across the country, I want you to know you have the courage and you have the bravery necessary. You have the courage required and the voice needed in times like these to hold those accountable for their horrific abuses against you.

Proverbs 27:17 says: Iron sharpens iron as one man sharpens another. I want to thank the citadel for being the iron that sharpened me in my youth.

There is power in the brokenness we feel. Ladies, find your death goddess. Find that death goddess energy and use it. It is hard to explain to others who haven't been in this place, who haven't hit rock bottom, but for those of us that have, this death goddess energy is unmistakable and it is unstoppable.

We don't cower, we don't hide, and we don't shrink. We stand tall, and we rise. We are not destroyed. We say: No more. We fight back. And when we feel defeated, we fight harder. And when we need nourishment, we seek God's wisdom.

Your wound is my wound. Your wound is our wound. Your pain is our pain, and your fear is our fear.

This is who you are, this is your spirit, and this is your superpower. Know I am standing on the battlefield with you. Know I am standing in the trenches with you. Know I am standing in

your fight with you. Know I will always be your iron.

May God bless the women who fell victim to the abuse of these monsters. May God bless the great State of South Carolina. May God bless the United States of America and every single woman and girl out there today.

In my most humble voice, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-390. A letter from the President and Chair, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); Public Law 97-258, Sept. 13, 1982 (as amended by Public Law 108-447, div. G, title I, Sec. 1401(b)); (118 Stat. 3192); to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-391. A letter from the Director, Public Affairs and Congressional Relations, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, transmitting the Office's 2024 Annual Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 14; Feb. 18, 1875, ch. 80, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 106-569, Sec. 1103(c)); (114 Stat. 3031); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-392. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Report to Congress on Children's Mental Health Initiative, FY 2022-2023, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290ff-4(c)(2); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title V, Sec. 565(c)(2) (as amended by Public Law 106-310, Sec. 3105(c)); (114 Stat. 1175); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-393. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Report to Congress: Suicide Prevention Resource Center FY 2023-2024; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-394. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Treatment, Recovery, and Workforce Support Grants Final Report, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290ee-8(j)(2); Public Law 115-271, Sec. 7183(j)(2); (132 Stat. 4070); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-395. A letter from the Executive Director, Office of Information and Communications Technology and Services, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain: Connected Vehicles [Docket No.: 250107-0005] (RIN: 0694-AJ56) received January 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-396. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-397. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Minimum Standards for Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards Acceptable by Federal Agencies for Official Purposes; Phased Approach for Card-Based Enforcement [Docket No.: TSA-2023-0003] (RIN: 1652-AA77) received January 22, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-398. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act Annual Report to Congress 2024, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 20307(b); Public Law 99-410, Sec. 105(b) (as amended by Public Law 111-84, Sec. 587(2)); (123 Stat. 2333); to the Committee on House Administration.

EC-399. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's Appendix D submission to the GSA's FY24 Governmentwide Section 508 Assessment, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 794d(d)(2); Public Law 105-220, title IV, Sec. 408(b); (112 Stat. 1205); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-400. A letter from the Regulations Supervisor, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — 2025 Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustments [Docket No.: ONRR-2022-0003; DS63644000 DR2000000.CH7000 256D1113RT] (RIN: 1012-AA37) received February 5, 2025, 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.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. FISCHBACH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 122. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 77) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes (Rept. 119-3). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### 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. LAHOOD (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. PANNETTA):

H.R. 1152. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the application of the mailbox rule to documents and payments electronically submitted to the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 1153. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to support rural residency training funding that is equitable for all States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 1154. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to issue guidance with respect to space systems, services, and technology as critical infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS (for herself, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. KUSTOFF):

H.R. 1155. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to elect to receive certain replacement refunds electronically; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. CAREY, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. KUSTOFF, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. ESTES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 1156. A bill to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself and Mrs. CAMMACK):

H.R. 1157. A bill to allow individuals to elect to receive contributions to a health savings account in lieu of reduced cost-sharing under health insurance Exchange; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1158. A bill to provide enhanced authority for the President to enter into agreements with the Government of Ukraine to lend or lease defense articles to that Government to protect civilian populations in Ukraine from Russian military invasion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. WATERS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 1159. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for the eligibility of Transportation Security Administration employees to receive public safety officers death benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 1160. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the treatment of locum tenens physicians and advanced care practitioners as independent contractors to

help alleviate physician shortages, including in underserved areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1161. A bill to authorize the President to enter into negotiations to acquire Greenland and to rename Greenland as "Red, White, and Blueland"; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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 (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SMUCKER, and Ms. PETTERSEN):

H.R. 1162. A bill to facilitate direct primary care arrangements under Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MORAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 1163. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. GARCIA of California (for himself, Mr. EDWARDS, and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 1164. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that certain applicants for assistance after a declared major disaster do not receive a notice of denial while the applicant has a pending insurance claim for disaster-related losses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee):

H.R. 1165. A bill to require the inspection of certain foreign cranes before use at a United States port, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. MEUSER):

H.R. 1166. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from procuring certain foreign-made batteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 1167. A bill to prohibit the procurement of solar panels manufactured or assembled in the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. GOODEN (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. GILL of Texas, Ms. MACE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ELLZEEY, Mr. OGLES, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. HARIDOPOLOS):

H.R. 1168. A bill to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to require the disclosure of violations of Federal law with respect to human trafficking or alien smuggling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and 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. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 1169. A bill to exclude certain amounts relating to compensating victims of

the Texas Panhandle fires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 1170. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for expedited access to certain military installations of the Department of Defense for Members of Congress and certain Congressional employees; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia (for herself and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 1171. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include physical therapists and occupational therapists as health professionals for purposes of the annual wellness visit under the Medicare program, 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. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. RULLI, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 1172. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to exclude from creditable wages and self-employment income wages earned for services by aliens illegally performed in the United States and self-employment income derived from a trade or business illegally conducted in the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1173. A bill to amend title 1, United States Code, to provide that, for the purpose of determining eligibility for Federal funds, the District of Columbia shall be treated as a State and any political subdivision of a State or unit of local government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1174. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide that non-Federal revenue generated through certain distance education programs may be counted purposes of the non-Federal revenue requirements applicable to proprietary institutions of higher education (commonly known as the "90/10 rule"); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. MFUME, Mr. FIELDS, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 1175. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to require the Commissioner of Social Security to carry out a demonstration project relating to disability benefits of blind individuals; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 1176. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to clarify the clock hour requirements for certain eligible programs under title IV of such Act; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 1177. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and enhance the work opportunity tax credit, to encourage longer-service employment, and to modernize the credit to make it more effective as a hiring incentive for targeted workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BALDERSO, Mr. CARTER of

Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RULLI, Mr. CLINE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. CHERFILUS, McCORMICK, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1178. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to add alpha-gal to the definition of "major food allergen"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WHITESIDES:

H.R. 1179. A bill to exclude from gross income certain relief payments to the victims of the Chiquita Canyon elevated temperature landfill event; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HARRIS of Maryland (for himself, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. CRANE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. ROY):

H. Con. Res. 10. Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H. Res. 123. A resolution congratulating the Philadelphia Eagles on their victory in Super Bowl LIX; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H. Res. 124. A resolution expressing continued support for the people of Puerto Rico, and urging the Federal Government to expedite the rebuilding of Puerto Rico's electrical grid; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

#### 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. LAHOOD:

H.R. 1152.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes . . ."

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 1153.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 1154.

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 1 and clause 18.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 1155.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 1156.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 1157.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 1158.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 1159.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1160.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1161.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H.R. 1162.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 1163.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GARCIA of California:

H.R. 1164.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 1165.

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. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 1166.

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. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 1167.

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. GOODEN:

H.R. 1168.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress 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, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally Congress has the

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 1169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:

H.R. 1170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 1171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 1172.

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 Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1173.

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. OWENS:

H.R. 1174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 1175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 1176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 1178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. WHITESIDES:

H.R. 1179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS TO PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 32: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.

H.R. 34: Mr. NEHLS, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 35: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.R. 38: Mr. WIED.

H.R. 51: Ms. RANDALL.

H.R. 77: Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, and Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 162: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 174: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

- H.R. 211: Mrs. SYKES.  
 H.R. 221: Mr. CRANE and Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
 H.R. 222: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
 H.R. 224: Mr. BEGICH.  
 H.R. 247: Ms. WATERS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. GARCIA of California, and Mrs. McIVER.  
 H.R. 250: Mr. DELUZIO and Mr. MACKENZIE.  
 H.R. 274: Mr. ONDER.  
 H.R. 309: Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
 H.R. 330: Mr. MULLIN.  
 H.R. 335: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
 H.R. 349: Mr. PAPPAS.  
 H.R. 377: Mr. ROSE.  
 H.R. 407: Ms. McBRIDE, Mr. LICCARDO, Ms. RANDALL, and Mrs. FLETCHER.  
 H.R. 424: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 425: Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mrs. HINSON.  
 H.R. 433: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H.R. 444: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
 H.R. 447: Ms. RANDALL.  
 H.R. 465: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. ROSE.  
 H.R. 478: Mr. SCHMIDT and Mr. FITZGERALD.  
 H.R. 484: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.R. 485: Mr. FIGURES and Mr. MFUME.  
 H.R. 486: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.R. 491: Mr. IVEY, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. SYKES, and Mr. NORCROSS.  
 H.R. 492: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEXTER, and Ms. WATERS.  
 H.R. 493: Mr. IVEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. RANDALL, and Mr. NORCROSS.  
 H.R. 516: Mr. OWENS, Mr. VASQUEZ, and Mr. Moulton.  
 H.R. 520: Mr. MEUSER.  
 H.R. 524: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.R. 539: Mr. HUIZENGA and Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.R. 569: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. McGuire, and Mr. TAYLOR.  
 H.R. 578: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
 H.R. 609: Ms. SEWELL.  
 H.R. 610: Mr. MFUME and Ms. SEWELL.  
 H.R. 617: Mr. NEGUSE and Ms. LEE of Nevada.  
 H.R. 630: Ms. LOFGREN.  
 H.R. 649: Mrs. HOUCHIN, Ms. BALINT, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, and Mr. COMER.  
 H.R. 654: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
 H.R. 692: Mrs. BICE.  
 H.R. 700: Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 703: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.  
 H.R. 735: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
 H.R. 738: Mr. FIGURES.  
 H.R. 740: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.
- H.R. 756: Mr. BRECHEEN and Mr. FRY.  
 H.R. 768: Mr. MFUME and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
 H.R. 783: Mr. MURPHY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BALDORSON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 801: Ms. SCHOLTEN and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.  
 H.R. 802: Mr. SOTO and Mr. BAIRD.  
 H.R. 816: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 824: Mr. DONALDS.  
 H.R. 833: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
 H.R. 846: Mr. CISNEROS.  
 H.R. 877: Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
 H.R. 879: Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. BACON, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. HOYER, and Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 887: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 897: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. SUOZZI.  
 H.R. 898: Mr. LIEU, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. SUOZZI.  
 H.R. 909: Mr. BACON, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. VALADAO.  
 H.R. 916: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.R. 934: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 943: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 944: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. DEXTER, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 945: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. CHU, and Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 961: Ms. BOEBERT.  
 H.R. 964: Ms. UNDERWOOD.  
 H.R. 965: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. CHU, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MAST, Mr. FROST, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. FRIEDMAN.  
 H.R. 975: Mr. COSTA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. LUCAS.  
 H.R. 976: Mr. PALMER, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.  
 H.R. 987: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. ESTES, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. STRONG, Mr. SELF, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. GRAVES, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.  
 H.R. 989: Ms. WATERS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. McGOVERN, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.  
 H.R. 1002: Mr. POCAN.  
 H.R. 1004: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
 H.R. 1008: Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
 H.R. 1009: Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
 H.R. 1020: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 1028: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.  
 H.R. 1029: Mr. WIED and Ms. HAGEMAN.  
 H.R. 1035: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
- H.R. 1039: Mr. MURPHY.  
 H.R. 1041: Mr. BARRETT and Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
 H.R. 1042: Mr. PETERS.  
 H.R. 1046: Mr. LIEU, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 1048: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 1052: Mr. SELF.  
 H.R. 1057: Mr. CALVERT and Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 1061: Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.  
 H.R. 1063: Mr. STAUBER.  
 H.R. 1066: Mr. SELF.  
 H.R. 1078: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.R. 1079: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 1086: Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
 H.R. 1099: Mr. RYAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. FOUSHÉE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. FRIEDMAN, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
 H.R. 1101: Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. BEYER, Ms. WATERS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. MFUME, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. CONAWAY.  
 H.R. 1106: Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. GARCIA of California, and Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 1116: Mr. SELF, Mr. GILL of Texas, and Mr. TIMMONS.  
 H.R. 1120: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 1123: Mr. GRAVES, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. VAN DREW.  
 H.R. 1131: Mr. ROSE.  
 H.R. 1139: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 1147: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.J. Res. 20: Mr. JACK and Mr. GILL of Texas.  
 H.J. Res. 28: Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. SHREVE.  
 H. Res. 16: Mr. MFUME.  
 H. Res. 33: Mr. MFUME.  
 H. Res. 52: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
 H. Res. 60: Ms. CHU.  
 H. Res. 69: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
 H. Res. 70: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CHERILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MFUME, Ms. WATERS, Ms. RANDALL, and Mrs. BEATTY.  
 H. Res. 94: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. TURNER of Texas.  
 H. Res. 115: Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H. Res. 116: Ms. WATERS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. MORRISON.  
 H. Res. 120: Mr. VAN DREW.



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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. 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.

Great and everlasting God, who was and is and is to come, inspire all who work on Capitol Hill. Lord, help us to see Your image in each other and to draw strength from an awareness of Your sovereignty. Empower us to serve with the spirit of humility and gratitude, remembering that to whom much is given, much is expected.

Lord, strengthen our Senators. Give them the wisdom to know your will and the courage to obey your precepts. May they comprehend your vision for our Nation and world, becoming instruments for Your glory. Lord, fill them with your power so that no weapon formed against them will prosper. Help them to view the shortcomings of others with patience and to be grateful for the exemplary virtues they witness each day.

We pray in your glorious 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 (Mrs. FISCHER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President pro tempore.

### NOMINATION OF BROOKE ROLLINS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, one short issue to just make mention, and then I want to pay tribute to an Iowan.

This week we are going to vote on the Secretary of Agriculture to be confirmed for the Cabinet. That person was voted out of committee unanimously. So I think it is ridiculous for the minority—for a committee where every Democrat and every Republican voted for this nominee—to have even 1 minute of debate. It ought to be approved by unanimous consent.

Now, it may not be, but at least I expressed my opinion, and I gave a rationale why that should be done. We shouldn't be spending 30 hours of debate on somebody that has been approved unanimously by the Agriculture Committee.

### TRIBUTE TO PEGGY WHITSON

So, today, I pay tribute to an outstanding Iowan who celebrated her 65th birthday February 9. An astronaut and patriotic American, Peggy Whitson has never stopped reaching for the stars.

Her hometown is located in Ringgold County. That community of Beaconsfield—its community building—is also the birthplace of another Iowan icon, the Hy-Vee supermarket, famous in about seven Midwestern States.

Peggy Whitson spent 675 days in space, more than any other American

astronaut or woman in the world. This year, she is heading right back to space for a historic fifth space mission.

By all accounts, she is driven to help humanity. We don't often think about space travel as helping humanity, but she does it—from tracking cancer cell growth to developing therapies that save and extend the quality of life here on Earth. So there is something very heavenly that has some earthly good.

This U.S. Senator is proud to wish my fellow Iowan Peggy happy birthday. Peggy, may you continue to defy gravity and achieve stellar good things for many years to come. And I am sure she will.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, 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 MAJORITY LEADER.

The majority leader is recognized.

### NOMINATION OF TULSI GABBARD

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, this week the Senate will be considering its 14th nominee for President Trump's Cabinet, Tulsi Gabbard for Director of National Intelligence.

Ms. Gabbard is a patriot. She is someone who is motivated by service, and she has been serving her country and community since she was 21 years old, when she was elected to the Hawaii State Legislature.

Like many Americans of her generation, she felt called to serve her country after the attacks of September 11.

After her first session in the Hawaii Legislature, she enlisted in the Army National Guard. The following year, she dropped her reelection campaign to volunteer to deploy to Iraq—the first of three deployments that she has made. It was after her second deployment—

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



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now as an officer and platoon commander—that she set her sights on making an impact on national and global issues, eventually being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Tulsi Gabbard has worn the uniform of our country for the last 22 years, leading American soldiers in some of the most dangerous parts of the world. She also served 8 years in Congress, including service on the Homeland Security, Foreign Affairs, and Armed Services Committees. By her own count, she has taken the oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States at least eight times.

As both a military officer and policymaker, Ms. Gabbard has been a consumer of intelligence. She knows that good decisions depend on having the best information, and she knows that the cost of bad information is measured in lives lost.

In recent years, there have been some significant intelligence failures, and these failures aren't confined to one Agency or one part of the world. The intelligence community needs to refocus on its core mission: collecting intelligence and providing unbiased analysis of that information. That is what Tulsi Gabbard is committed to ensuring. If she is confirmed to be DNI, I believe she has the knowledge and leadership capabilities to get it done.

I am also grateful that Ms. Gabbard has expressed a willingness to rightsize the Office of the DNI. When this position was created by Congress in the wake of 9/11, it was designed to be a sort of quarterback, if you will, for the intelligence community. It was designed to be a lean organization focused on coordination and ensuring all the elements of the intelligence community are communicating and working together toward a common purpose. But it quickly became much larger than intended, and it has become a bureaucracy unto itself. So I am glad that Ms. Gabbard plans to focus on identifying and eliminating redundancies and inefficiencies to restore the Office to what it was originally designed to be.

I was also very pleased to hear Ms. Gabbard say at her hearing that section 702 is “essential for our national security.” This foreign intelligence collection program is the key tool used to identify threats to Americans at home and abroad. I was glad to hear Ms. Gabbard acknowledge its importance.

I was also pleased that Ms. Gabbard intends to prosecute leakers to the full extent of the law. In a day and age when anything and everything ends up on the internet, it is essential that we have zero tolerance for those who deliberately compromise classified information, and we must safeguard our sensitive sources and intelligence collection methods.

Madam President, Tulsi Gabbard is a patriotic American. She believes strongly in the mission with which she will be tasked: keeping America safe.

And you don't have to take my word for it; take it from Americans who have served alongside Ms. Gabbard during her 22 years in uniform, from the people who have put their lives in her hands.

One wrote:

Her exceptional qualifications, coupled with a proven track record of leadership and unwavering commitment to safeguarding our national interests, render her the unequivocal choice for this critical position.

From another:

I know Tulsi will be fully committed to protecting ALL Americans during this pivotal moment in American history.

Madam President, it sounds like what we need in a Director of National Intelligence. I look forward to confirming Ms. Gabbard this week.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last week, Pam Bondi was sworn in as the highest law enforcement officer in the United States of America. She is now the U.S. Attorney General. Unfortunately, as many of us feared, Attorney General Bondi took immediate steps to undermine the integrity of the Department of Justice.

President Trump, after Bondi was confirmed, even said:

I know I'm supposed to say she's going to be totally impartial with respect to Democrats. . . . I'm not sure if there's a possibility of totally.

On day one in office, Attorney General Bondi created a so-called Weaponization Working Group—a task force to investigate “the activities of all departments and agencies exercising civil or criminal enforcement authority over the last four years.” Bondi said that she would “investigate the investigators” and “prosecute the prosecutors,” and now she is doing exactly that to seek “retribution” against political enemies, real and perceived, that President Trump has repeatedly threatened.

I wish I could say I am surprised by Attorney General Bondi’s actions, but last week, I stood at this very spot sounding the alarm just before her confirmation vote. The writing was on the wall. Attorney General Bondi has made it clear that her foremost loyalty is to one person—President Trump—and she kept her promise on day one after being sworn into office by Associate Justice Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court.

Bondi’s directive is only one step in misusing the powers of government to carry out President Trump’s retribution against those he perceives to be his enemies, and the list is long. Even

before Attorney General Bondi was confirmed, the Trump administration purged dozens of senior career law enforcement officials at the Department of Justice and the FBI. Many of these senior officials are reportedly being reassigned to immigration cases for which they have little or no expertise.

Last week, FBI law enforcement personnel across the country had little over 48 hours to answer a survey about their work on any case related to the January 6 attack on the Capitol, including whether they handled arrests, led operations, testified in trials, and more.

Consider this for a moment. I don’t know if you were here, Madam President, on that day, but those of us who were will never forget it. An insurrectionist mob left a rally for President Trump and came to Capitol Hill, crashed down the doors and windows, invaded the Capitol, and started beating up on the Capitol Hill Police. The net result: Four policemen died and 140 were seriously injured.

They took control of the U.S. Senate Chamber and the House Chamber and went through their antics, posing for pictures sitting in the chair you are sitting in. They went through my desk and other desks too. It was their day, these so-called tourists, so-called political prisoners.

I have said on the floor before and I have thought about this many times. If we were told that in the House of Parliament in London, a mob had a beaten down the wooden door and taken control of the House of Commons, what would have been the reaction in the United States? First, incredulous: That can’t happen. England is a powerful nation. It has a rich history. A mob took over Parliament?

That is exactly what happened on January 6. A mob took over the Congress of the United States, invaded the Capitol Building like the British in the War of 1812, and forced control at the expense of a lot of people who were prepared to die to defend us that day.

That was a horrible incident. It is a horrible chapter in American history. Now the Trump administration is setting out to erase that history.

The Soviet revisionists would look at this with some pride, to think that politicians in America are engaging in the same historical rewrite that they did for so many decades. This rewrite is to erase January 6 as a reality, to whitewash it, to describe it as something that isn’t. How they will ever overcome the hours and hours of videotapes which verify exactly what happened that day, I don’t know, but they are going to start by cleansing the ranks of those in law enforcement who had anything to do with the 1,600 criminal defendants who were charged because of that day. Apparently, they wanted disclosure of the names of all those who took the assignment given to them at the Department of Justice or the FBI to investigate that crime of January 6. At the FBI, at least six FBI

Executive Assistant Directors have been removed, including those who oversaw the National Security Branch, the Intelligence Branch, and the Criminal, Cyber, Response, and Services Branch. The Trump administration has also removed the Special Agents in Charge of at least four major field offices and the Assistant Director of the Washington Field Office.

The Acting Attorney General has also issued a memo firing a dozen career Department of Justice prosecutors.

She is quoted as saying:

Given your significant role in prosecuting the President, I do not believe that the leadership of the Department can trust you in implementing the President's agenda faithfully.

The Bureau's acting leaders are career FBI public servants who have reportedly resisted the push from Trump administration officials to punish FBI agents who were simply doing the work that was assigned to them to investigate the January 6 attack. If I am not mistaken, it was the largest criminal prosecution in history, and to think that many of the Assistant Attorneys General and members of the FBI had some role in its pursuit is no surprise whatsoever.

So now the Trump administration wants these people to be outed—publicly disclosed—with names and addresses. This weekend, the Bureau turned over the personnel details of thousands of FBI personnel. Thankfully, a temporary court order was issued on Friday that is keeping the Department of Justice from revealing those names.

Is there any danger to these women and men who swore allegiance to the United States and its Constitution and pursued the official duties of the Department of Justice? Why, of course, there is. The previous head of the FBI told us that the situation is grim when it comes to domestic terrorism in the United States. So is he suggesting that, perhaps, the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers can't wait to get this list the Trump administration has produced—a list of those who did their duty under the Constitution and pursued these cases on the January 6 outrage? I am afraid that is a fact.

That temporary court order is the only thing between these White nationalist-extremist groups and the men and women who dedicated their lives to law enforcement in this country. That is where we have come to in just a few short days of the new Trump administration.

Tomorrow, FBI probationary agents and personnel stationed around the world are required to submit justifications for their continued employment. This could lead to the firing of up to 3,000 law enforcement officials. Don't tell me you want to fight crime. Don't tell me you want to stop narcotics and then dismiss 3,000 FBI and Department of Justice officials. These mass layoffs, forced retirements, and involuntary re-

assignments of experienced Department of Justice and FBI officials represent an outright attack on public safety by President Trump.

America will be less safe because of this political charade that is going on in the Department of Justice. These mass layoffs of these experienced people mean that your family, your town, your neighborhood will be less safe. The purge is already leading to widespread disruption and delay in prosecutions, investigations, and sensitive operations. The Joint Terrorism Task Forces have been asked to focus on President Trump's immigration-related initiatives, which means valuable resources and personnel will be shifted away from State and local and Federal partners fighting foreign and domestic terrorism.

As America faces a heightened threat landscape, these removals and reassignments are crippling not only to the Justice Department and the FBI but to the 93 U.S. Attorney's Offices and the 55 FBI field offices across the country. The loss of potentially thousands of Federal law enforcement jobs will put a burden on local field offices; slow ongoing casework; increase the unemployment rates nationwide in law enforcement; and harm local economies.

President Trump may claim to back the blue—he may pose with men and women of law enforcement—but, apparently, he is only interested in doing so when it is politically convenient and consistent with his political agenda.

Before Ms. Bondi's confirmation, my concerns about how she would lead the Department were based on her history as President Trump's personal lawyer, but the leadership of Pam Bondi, the Attorney General, is no longer hypothetical. Her directives and actions are now impacting a lot of innocent people and a lot of good Americans who have dedicated their lives to public service and law enforcement. We need to work together on a bipartisan basis to push back against these attacks on the Department of Justice and the FBI to protect the national security of the United States.

#### NOMINATION OF KASHYAP PATEL

Madam President, I will take to the floor in a day or two to describe what is going to happen next when it comes to Kash Patel—a man who has no experience which merits his selection as Director of the FBI. He has the temperament of a politician who is stalking his opponents. I don't make that up. I just basically read his book, and it spells it out in detail, including his infamous enemies list of some 60 people whom he considers to be part of the deep state or whatever his characterization may be.

To give this man a 10-year tenure as Director of the FBI and the power of that Agency, with thousands of investigators and individuals, is to invite trouble for this generation and the next. He is going to do things in that position which are not consistent with the values that people at the FBI have

brought to that work for more than seven or eight decades, and that is why it is very important we watch it carefully.

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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ENERGY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last week, the Senate voted to confirm Chris Wright as President Trump's Secretary of Energy.

The United States has been blessed with incredible natural resources, and it is something, frankly, that it seems like President Biden sought to deny the American people the benefits of that endowment with vast natural resources. And President Trump is going to reverse those policies and make sure we take full advantage of it for many reasons.

I was proud to support Secretary Wright's nomination, and I can't think of a better candidate to oversee the implementation of one of President Trump's key campaign promises: to unleash American energy in a new golden age of prosperity.

Under 4 years of the Biden administration, Americans suffered from burdensome energy prices resulting from his backward approach to energy policy. We know that inflation was part of what was driving those high energy prices, but also the refusal to take advantage of what God has given us in terms of natural resources. From day one, President Biden prioritized the view of climate radicals, while the interests of Texas families and our national security were apparently an afterthought.

His first action was to revoke the permits for the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, a project that would have allowed us to transport crude oil from Canada to refineries in the Midwestern United States. Because the pipeline was not built on a timely basis, it didn't mean the crude didn't come. It meant it was put into railroad cars and shipped in a way that was, frankly, not as safe and, certainly, not as efficient as a pipeline would be.

And, in 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, and while this law did nothing to reduce inflation, it did create massive subsidies for electric vehicles, most of which average working American families can't afford to buy. But it is the car of choice for many high-income coastal elites.

But it wasn't enough to just subsidize electric vehicles. In 2024, the Biden administration went further in finalizing a rule requiring—requiring—two-thirds

of new cars on the market to be electric or hybrid by 2032. The Biden administration made clear that their end game was to end gas-powered cars.

Now, most Americans who buy a car keep it for an average of about 10 years, and President Biden basically wanted to force them into buying something that was not their preference but was going to be subsidized by hard-working families—again, a vehicle that many of them could not themselves afford. It is hard to see this as anything but an affront to those hard-working families back home in Texas or Alabama or anywhere else in the country.

It is not just the cost that we are talking about here. President Biden's press for fast adoption of electric vehicles was a gift to our greatest strategic adversary. That is because China controls the supply chains for a majority of the critical minerals required to produce EV batteries. Seventy-five percent of lithium-ion batteries, 70 percent of cathode, and 85 percent of anode production capacity required for EV batteries, as well as 50 percent of the processing facilities for lithium, cobalt, and graphite, are all located in China.

On the other hand, the United States produces virtually none of these critical minerals and certainly does not process them, which is admittedly a very difficult and sometimes dirty process. But in China, they process 90 percent of the world's critical minerals, and, frankly, they don't care too much about the consequences.

But President Biden's insistence on this rapid transition from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles put our national security concerns and working families in the backseat to Xi Jinping and the climate radicals. But he didn't stop with electric vehicles.

Last January, President Biden issued a pause on all American exports of liquefied natural gas in order to conduct a study on the environmental impact. Well, I can tell him what a study has shown—what experience has shown is that natural gas has driven down the number of carbon emissions that previously occurred because of the broad use of coal. So natural gas is really a much cleaner source of energy.

Of course, this pause on exports had major repercussions in Texas, which is one of the leaders of the LNG industry.

A 2023 study from the National Association of Manufacturers found that liquefied natural gas contributes \$43.8 billion to our GDP. It supports more than 200,000 jobs and generates \$11 billion in Federal, State, and local tax revenue. In Texas alone, the oil and gas industry specifically supported more than 178,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2023 and purchased nearly \$100 billion of U.S. goods and services.

But President Biden's pause on exports was not the only time the Biden administration chose to pick a fight with Texas over energy.

Last fall, the DC Circuit Court issued a ruling that revoked a permit for the

LNG export terminal at the Port of Brownsville. This export terminal and related projects had already been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Just one of the projects affected by this ruling would have created 6,000 jobs and more than \$18 billion of investments in South Texas.

But the DC Circuit sent them back to the drawing board, insisting that they needed to “adequately consider the environmental justice impact” of these developments.

These were for projects that had already been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Of course, we already know that liquefied natural gas is one of the cleanest sources of energy, and of all the places in the world to source LNG, the United States of America has the highest standards. But environmental considerations aside, this war on American energy exports is in direct conflict with our national security priorities.

Prior to the pause on LNG, the United States was supplying energy to our European allies. This, of course, allowed them to rely far less on Russian energy sources to keep the lights on and keep their houses warm. By turning off our LNG spigot, President Biden sent a gift to Vladimir Putin in the form of another source of revenue. Of course, it is the revenue that comes from the sale of energy in Russia that Putin uses to fund his war machine, which has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Russians and Ukrainians.

President Biden's energy agenda put Texas workers and their families and our national security last, choosing instead to bend a knee to foreign adversaries and to radical climate activists.

But, thankfully, that is not where the story ends. President Trump and Secretary Wright are now at the helm, and President Trump has lost no time in righting the ship to put American consumers and our national security first. President Trump is already off to the races to unleash a golden age of energy dominance in a number of important ways.

On the first day of his Presidency, he reversed President Biden's disastrous LNG pause. This will allow our allies access to the oil and natural gas that come from Texas projects in the Gulf of America rather than relying on our adversaries.

Furthermore, it is not just Texans and our European allies that can benefit from President Trump and Secretary Wright's agenda; by reforming the permitting process, we can make sure everyone within the United States has access to our abundant domestic energy supplies. And it will bring prices down, as President Trump has said is important in his fight against 40-year high inflation under the previous administration.

Unfortunately, some of our New England States—notably States like Maine and Massachusetts—are still reliant on

foreign fuel, and that is because of the lack of pipelines that would take the LNG and transport it up into that part of the United States.

Due to stringent shipping requirements from the Jones Act, it is more costly to transport natural gas from the Gulf of America to New England than it is for these States to import fuel from foreign countries. The Jones Act was intended to protect U.S. shipping, but in this case, it has the unintended effect of decreasing our energy independence. I have no doubt that commonsense permitting reforms can right this wrong.

I look forward to working with President Trump and his administration to unleash American energy through an “all of the above” approach so that Texas and the Gulf of America can once again supply the Nation and the world with reliable, affordable energy.

The Biden administration's energy policy has lined the pockets of America's adversaries to appease climate radicals while hard-working Americans were stuck with the check. But President Trump has promised a golden, new age, and I look forward to making Texas and America the center of that.

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. Madam President, 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.

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

MR. SCHUMER. Madam President, I just got back from Albany and Syracuse, where I visited two of our community health centers—the Syracuse Community Health Center and the Hometown Health Center in Schenectady. These community health centers do amazing work—amazing work. They provide good, effective, efficient healthcare for so many people. In New York State, about 2.4 million people get help from the community health centers. In Central New York that I visited in Syracuse, about 80,000, and in the Capital Region, where Albany is, 110,000.

Let me say that when President Trump instituted his freeze, his funding freeze, it sent shock waves through these two centers and hundreds of others across the country. All of a sudden, payments frozen, funding frozen—no reasoning, no logic, nothing. They wondered: Do they have to lay off people? Could they pay the rent?

They wondered if they could give healthcare, you know, for someone who had a 2-week plan. Maybe the doctor shouldn't prescribe it in week 1 because money wouldn't be around in week 2.

They depend on Federal funding. They get somewhere between 15 to 20 percent of their funding. They have been going on since the 1960s and delivering great, efficient healthcare. And,

all of a sudden, this funding freeze drops on them like a ton of bricks.

And it wasn't just community health centers—veterans organizations, mental health, organizations that provide mental help for people, Head Start.

In Western New York, two of our Head Starts in rural America, in rural Western New York, closed, and 200 families—200 families—had to struggle to find what to do, because when you are a single mom or a single dad or even a mom and dad, a two-parent family, and there is nobody there watching the kids—there is no Head Start—what are you going to do? Should I stay home from work—maybe risk salary being docked, even losing my job?

It was horrible. This occurred across the country.

Now, thank God, people rebelled. Thank God, people made their voices heard, and the funding freeze was rescinded. But the damage still is there.

There is a healthcare center, where I visited in Syracuse—this one was in the Mohawk Valley—that funding of \$71,000 on a thing they were building stopped. Five centers in Virginia closed. And funding is still intermittent in healthcare centers throughout New York State and throughout the country.

Cruel, unfair, awful. These programs help people. No, they don't help the billionaires. I get it. But they help average folks and poorer people get the healthcare they need. They help them see a doctor so that preventive care can happen, which we all know saves us money. They are a shining example of public service that does enormous good for millions of families.

And to anyone who says that these are examples of inefficiency or waste, visit one. Visit some of the scores of them that are in New York. They are the most efficient, effective deliverers of healthcare in the country. They serve people who need it the most, and they are effective.

Let's say you have 3 kids. You are a single mom. And your kid has 104 fever, with probably strep, and you have to see a doctor before it gets worse. You go to a community health center, and you don't sit in a waiting room for 6 hours and have to file endless papers, like you do in a hospital. They take care of you right away. It makes it a lot easier for people to get healthcare, and it makes people want to get that healthcare that their kid might need.

And yet we are still hearing it: these great healthcare centers—funding delayed, funding not coming, funding late. And they depend on this funding. They don't have a 6-month plan. They get funds from the Federal Government every 2 weeks. That pays the rent. That pays the salaries. That buys these supplies they need. You shut it off for a week, and the whole thing could face a real problem.

And so I went to Syracuse and Albany and demanded that, No. 1, this administration say they are no longer fooling around with the money that

these community health centers need, that they get it right away; 2, that they give an explanation as to why it was cut off. What did they do wrong? Help people get healthcare that they need?

And, third, we Senate Democrats are demanding that the funding for these centers, overall, which runs out on March 14, because, as you know, Madam President, there was a bipartisan agreement to fund them fully for the year—Democrats and Republicans—and Donald Trump and Elon Musk said, even before they were in office—Musk is not in office; but before Trump was in office and Musk was working with him—they told the Republicans: Don't fund it. Don't fund this healthcare package.

And so now we are waiting until March 14, but that is a CHC, community healthcare center, cliff. If we don't renew that funding, many, many will close. Millions of people in America who are getting good healthcare—often preventive, often dealing with the immediate problems—will not get it at all.

So those are the three things: Stop fooling around with the funding; keep the flow going. No. 2, explain what anyone did. Why did they stop this funding? And, third, fund us so we don't go over the healthcare cliff.

This was bipartisan. My guess is you, Madam President, probably supported it. But when Donald Trump and Elon Musk said, "Get that funding out; kill the deal," that is what Republicans did.

I made it clear in Syracuse and in Albany that this cannot happen. It is infuriating, and it has nothing to do with inefficiency.

Our hospitals, by the way—our big hospitals—like CHCs because that means their emergency rooms are not overflowed with people who could be taken care of in a much more effective, efficient way.

So I want to make a final point here. We hear from Donald Trump, JD VANCE, Elon Musk, and DOGE that all they want to do is get rid of waste and inefficiency. When you look at community health centers, that is utter nonsense—utter, utter nonsense. There isn't very much inefficiency at them. No one ever said it was, that they were inefficient. In fact, most people who look at it say they are the most efficient providers at a lower cost, with less to do in healthcare, less paperwork, less all of this than other places.

So anyone who thinks that this DOGE experiment is simply getting rid of waste, baloney—baloney. We know what it is about: cut. DOGE is using a meat ax and cutting things that are vital to people.

Why? Why is all this happening? Because a careful look at inefficiency in government, even with a new administration that might want to look at it a little differently, would not just cut everything—not just cut everything.

And the bottom line is, it is all to cut \$2.5 trillion, \$2 trillion. We know what

they are doing. And, unfortunately, too many of our Republican colleagues are going along. They are making these cuts so they can give the very wealthiest people in America a bigger tax break—take a working-class family that is getting healthcare and say: You don't get it anymore so Mr. Ultrabillionaire can get more tax breaks.

Come on. That is what is going on here, and it is across the board.

We saw what they did with AID. Well, one program AID is working on, as I understand it, is dealing with Ebola in the middle of Africa. Cut out the program? What if Ebola spreads around Africa and even here? Most people think that is a very good program.

Most people thought PEPFAR did a lot of good, but they cut it all. They didn't point out and say: This is inefficient, and that is inefficient. And cut it, but let's keep the good stuff. Uh-uh, cut it all. And we know why, once again. It is because the billionaires want even a bigger tax break.

So my visits to CHCs—the two CHCs I visited, Hometown in Schenectady and Syracuse healthcare in Syracuse—were very moving to me. I saw dedicated people who want to help people. I saw patients come in and get decent healthcare.

And yet it is on the chopping block. That is not what America voted for, Madam President. That is not what America voted for.

So I hope we will have a bipartisan coalition to fund our health centers, and I also hope that this administration, whether it comes to community health centers or so many other good programs across the board, will not freeze their funding, will not just say, "We are cutting you," and will look at things carefully. There is inefficiency; use a scalpel. Get rid of it, but don't cut everything.

And, again, it seems the logic is very simple. They are really not interested in making the government more efficient. They just want to cut a certain huge amount of money. They don't care where it comes from—2.5 trillion, 2 trillion, 1 trillion—regardless of the consequences for working families. It is a shame. It is a shame.

#### WHISTLEBLOWER PORTAL

Now, on our whistleblower portal, so today, we Senate Democrats have a very simple message to the American people and that is: If Donald Trump won't stand up for the rule of law and Senate Republicans won't lift a finger to hold him accountable, Senate Democrats will. So today I joined with a number of my colleagues to announce a new Senate Democratic whistleblower portal to help fill the void that Donald Trump created by firing the government's independent watchdogs.

The whistleblower portal will give civil servants and people of good will the chance to report on potential wrongdoing in government, abuse of power, threats to public safety.

Donald Trump has tried to wipe the government clean of all transparency

and accountability. That is why they got rid of so many of the IGs, for instance.

But Senate Democrats won't let him. We believe in transparency. We believe in accountability.

Donald Trump has tried to reshape our entire democracy to fit his unlawful impulses and serve his personal political interests. Senate Democrats won't let him. And so we have the whistleblower portal.

We are urging Americans who see some real wrongdoing being created by this DOGE thing to report it. I think all Americans want government to be transparent. We all agree that ensuring accountability is vital. But thus far, this new administration has done the opposite.

Today, with the whistleblower portal, we Senate Democrats are taking one step to help keep accountability and transparency alive.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, one more thing, on the upcoming Republican tax cuts, when the Budget Committee meets in a couple of days, basically, there is a great debate between House and Senate Republicans: Should it be one bill or two bills?

Let me tell you. The real issue is: What are they going to cut that hurts working Americans to fund the billionaires, whether it is one bill or two bills—to help not fund the billionaires, to help give greater tax cuts to the billionaires?

Defunding the National Institutes of Health? Cutting that back where health researchers are telling us that it will impede cancer research and the great research that we have done that helped the American people live healthier and longer? Defunding things like CHCs, which I just mentioned? So much else. All for one reason.

I would say to my fellow Americans: Don't get caught up in this gobbledegook—one bill or two bills. We all know the goal is the same: cut, cut, cut—even vital programs that help working Americans—to give tax breaks to the wealthy.

And that is what we will see in this first step when the Budget Committee marks up its bill, supposedly on Wednesday.

One bill, two bills—no. It could be 50 bills. I don't care. It all comes down to the same thing: the end goal for Republicans to pass gargantuan tax cuts for Donald Trump and their billionaire friends.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF TULSI GABBARD

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise this afternoon in opposition to the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard to be Director of National Intelligence because nothing less than our national security is currently on the line.

I am going to start by saying that I have nothing but respect for Ms.

Gabbard's many years of service to our Nation, both in uniform and as a Representative for Hawaii. I don't question Ms. Gabbard's patriotism. I oppose her nomination because I question her judgment.

Now, many may not understand the important role that the Director of National Intelligence plays. If confirmed, Ms. Gabbard will lead the 18 Agencies of the intelligence community. She will also serve as the principal adviser to the President, the National Security Council, and the Homeland Security Council for all intelligence matters related to national security; and in this role as well, she will be responsible for over \$100 billion between the national intelligence program and the military intelligence program.

Now, the stakes here have become all the more critical in recent days. Just in the past couple of weeks, President Trump has issued several directives that could irreparably harm our intelligence efforts and our Nation's ability to defend itself against the many threats we face.

At the FBI, some of our most experienced agents who have protected us for decades from terrorists, drug traffickers, spies, and violent criminals have all been unceremoniously fired. Thousands more may have reason to fear they may be next based on the vindictive list apparently being assembled of every FBI official who was involved in the investigations into the Capitol riot on January 6.

It is not just the FBI. Across the IC, including the CIA, DIA, NSA, NRO, and NGA—an alphabet of Agencies that most folks don't fully appreciate or understand—in every one of these Agencies, I am hearing that intelligence officers and analysts with irreplaceable skills are unfortunately being indiscriminately pressured to resign or retire.

Reportedly, senior law enforcement and national security officials are being asked to take political litmus tests, such as whether the 2020 Presidential election was stolen and whether the January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol was an inside job.

Across the government, whole Agencies are being eliminated and funding impounded in flagrant defiance of the Constitution and the law, while unvetted, unqualified DOGE bros—one who formally worked for a Russia hacker group and was fired for leaking sensitive company secrets to a competitor and yet another who proudly declared himself a “racist” and said he would not mind if “Gaza and Israel were both wiped off the face of the Earth”—that individual, I understand, has actually been rehired after he initially quit—these DOGE bros are illegally burrowing into classified and other sensitive information, jeopardizing our national security and violating Americans' privacy.

To take just one recent example of what is at stake here, just last week, the CIA sent an email, using an unclas-

sified system—an unclassified system—to the White House listing the names of all recently hired employees. This is, again, from the CIA.

It takes months to get a CIA employee security clearance and then a year to train. Suddenly, all of their names are out. This happened evidently in an attempt to comply with an Executive order to reduce the size of the workforce no matter how badly their skills might be needed.

These 200-plus individuals—and I can assure you, with a name or the last letter of a name and appropriate AI tools, based on where these folks are working, you can find out their identities, and these agents may be burned before they even start their careers.

I know that many of my Republican colleagues profess to take the issue of unclassified servers very seriously indeed. There was a whole litany of attack on this earlier. But the fact is, beyond the counterintelligence risk of foolishly exposing these officers' names using channels known to be targeted by foreign hackers, this careless effort to identify and potentially dismiss recently recruited and trained CIA officers also imperils the longstanding bipartisan efforts by the Senate Intelligence Committee to actually modernize and streamline the Agency's hiring process, because we need to make sure that we continue to recruit and retain talented young officers when it comes to confronting the growing national security threat posed by the PRC.

We need leaders in the intelligence community and throughout government who are prepared to stand up to those shortsighted attempts to attack our workforce at the expense of our national security. Unfortunately, I don't believe Ms. Gabbard is such a leader, nor is she well-suited by dint of experience or judgment to serve as Director of National Intelligence.

The DNI is a position of great importance and significance to our national security, created, candidly, after one of our worst security failures in our Nation's history—9/11. For that reason, when Congress established this position—in many ways due to the efforts of my good friend SUSAN COLLINS—it mandated in law that any individual nominated for the position must have “extensive national security expertise.”

As I noted previously, the DNI was created to fill this gap after 9/11. Its mission is to share intelligence not only between the 18 entities that make up the American IC but also to work with our allies. This sharing of information, sharing of intelligence with our allies, is predicated on trust—there is no agreement—trust that we and our allies will protect each other's secrets. Yet, repeatedly, Ms. Gabbard has excused our adversaries' worst actions and instead often blamed the United States and our allies for them.

For example, she blamed NATO for Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. And

despite the unanimous assessment of the Trump administration's DOD, State Department, and IC, she rejected the conclusion that Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons against his own people.

Now, I don't know if her intent in making those statements was to defend those dictators or if she was simply unaware of the intelligence and how her statements would be perceived. In either case, it calls into question her judgment and if she has what it takes to build and develop the trust relationships necessary to give not only our IC workforce but, equally important, give our allies confidence that they can share their most sensitive intelligence with us.

Make no mistake about it, if our allies stop sharing that intelligence, we will be less safe. To offer just one example, last summer, intelligence sharing between the United States and Austria saved countless lives by disrupting a terrorist attack at a Taylor Swift concert, underscoring the importance of these relationships.

Ms. Gabbard has also been publicly outspoken in her praise and defense of Edward Snowden—someone who betrayed the trust and jeopardized the security of our Nation. The vast majority of the information he stole and leaked—before, I would remind you, he ran off and hightailed it to both China and Russia—most of this information, I can assure you, had nothing to do with America's privacy but did compromise our Nation's most sensitive collection sources and methods. In many ways, we are still paying a price for Snowden's betrayal, and it is beyond dispute that his actions put our men and women in uniform in places like Iraq and Afghanistan at risk. Yet Ms. Gabbard has celebrated Snowden as a “brave whistleblower” and advocated for his pardon. This is someone that my friend TOM COTTON, who is the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, called a “traitor” who should “rot in jail for the rest of his life.”

A week ago, at the hearing, member after member—particularly my Republican friends—gave her chance after chance to just be willing to call out Snowden as a traitor. She repeatedly declined. Instead, she said:

The DNI has no role in determining whether or not Edward Snowden is a lawful whistleblower.

Not only does she seem to believe that someone who divulged sensitive national secrets to Russia and China should be celebrated as “brave” and not denounced as a “traitor,” she also does not seem to understand the DNI's role in whistleblower determinations, because, in fact, the DNI has a significant role in transmitting lawful whistleblower complaints to the Intelligence Committees. It would be irresponsible to confirm someone who cannot distinguish between complaints that are made lawfully and those that are not.

Further, it is the statutory responsibility of the DNI to “protect intel-

ligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.” What message would it send to an intelligence workforce to have a DNI who would celebrate staff and contractors deciding to leak our Nation's most sensitive secrets as they see fit?

Now, let me move to another issue of pressing relevance to this nomination, and that is section 702 of FISA. This bill, this tool—it is really hard to overstate the importance. The information we derive from this tool is responsible for about 60 percent of the intelligence in the President's Daily Brief, and it has been instrumental in disrupting everything from terrorists attacks, to fentanyl trafficking, to foreign cyber attacks.

Many in Congress have at various points supported reforms to 702 to better balance security and civil liberties, but, again, Ms. Gabbard has gone so much further. Not only did she vote against reauthorizing 702, she introduced legislation to repeal the whole thing and called its very existence a “blatant disregard for our Fourth Amendment constitutional rights.”

I do understand that after she was nominated to be DNI, she had a conversion—a confirmation conversion—and expressed a change of heart. Now, that is welcome, but it is just not credible. Just last May, she criticized the reforms put into 702. Just last May, she criticized those very reforms she now credits with changing her mind. Again, the reforms, she claimed, “made the law many, many times worse.”

The DNI is responsible for making annual certifications under section 702, without which all collection under the law will cease, and the law itself is up for reauthorization in just over a year—a process typically led by the DNI. I have no confidence in Ms. Gabbard's commitment to either task.

Nor is it the only issue where she has demonstrated poor judgment that should be disqualifying for the role. During an ill-advised trip to Syria and Lebanon in 2017, Ms. Gabbard exercised terrible judgment and elected to meet with Bashar al-Assad amid a conflict in which Assad was using gas and other chemical weapons against his own people. On that same trip, she also met with Ahmad Badreddin Hassoun. Many Americans may not be familiar with Mr. Hassoun, but in 2011, he threatened to commit suicide bomb attacks against the United States.

At her confirmation hearing, Ms. Gabbard claimed not to know about Hassoun's past, but reporting following the hearing makes it clear that her staff made her aware of that at the time of her trip in 2017, to say nothing of the fact that if she had simply googled this guy, that would have revealed his past.

What does it say about her judgment and experience that she would willingly meet with someone who has very publicly issued threats against the United States of America?

Nor is this an isolated lapse. Just last summer, she accepted a trip to

Italy that was paid for by the foundation of Pierre Louvrier—a man with deep connections to sanctioned Russian oligarchs.

At her confirmation hearing, she seemed unable to recognize why the national security interests of the United States might be better protected if TikTok—a social media app that reaches into the homes of millions of Americans—was actually under American ownership rather than being subject to the controls of the PRC and ultimately the Communist Party of China.

The world today is more complex and more dangerous than ever before, and we need serious people with the experience, expertise, and judgment to navigate that complexity. Unfortunately, Ms. Gabbard is not such a nominee.

A vote in favor of her confirmation is an endorsement of President Trump's lawless efforts to hollow out our national security workforce, and her confirmation will further strain the alliances that have kept our country safe for decades; therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose Ms. Gabbard's nomination.

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 called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Gabbard nomination be waived.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 18, Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Tommy Tuberville, Kevin Cramer, Ashley Moody, Mike Crapo, Markwayne Mullin, David McCormick, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Pete Ricketts, James C. Justice, Jon Husted, Bernie Moreno, Josh Hawley, Tom Cotton.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 49 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Luján	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Fetterman Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I am grateful to be on the floor here tonight with my colleague from California, Senator SCHIFF, and others to talk about the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard—now the successful nomination, I guess, of Tulsi Gabbard—to be the Director of National Intelligence.

To say the least, I never thought that we would see a moment in the history of the United States, in the history of our attempt as a Congress to ensure that the American people and that the President get the intelligence they need. In all of these years and over all of these decades, I never imagined we would see someone like Tulsi Gabbard approved on the floor of the U.S. Senate for that job, and I wanted to speak tonight, just briefly, to say why I think that was the wrong direction for the Trump administration and, more importantly, the wrong direction for the American people.

Let me say, first of all, intelligence—and being a member of the Intelligence Committee, I know this is unlike anything else we do around here, because a lot of what happens—my colleague Senator KING from Maine is here—is done in secret. One of the great privileges of being on the Intelligence Committee is that—I think, in part—because it is in secret, there isn't the kind of partisanship that you see on a

lot of the other committees. There isn't the jockeying for position or for political notoriety; that people on that committee are very serious about our work. In part, it is because we all have a responsibility, on behalf of all of the Senators who are not on the committee, to be able to transmit, as well as we can, the intelligence needs of our country, the intelligence findings of the intelligence community, and to play a very important role in oversight, because if we didn't provide that role, the intelligence Agencies could run amuck without the American people ever knowing about it or their Representatives knowing about it.

In fact, the whole reason we have the Intelligence Committee in the Senate is because so many terrible decisions were made by the intelligence Agencies in the postwar period, in the 1950s and 1960s—some of it well-intentioned, you know, during the Cold War, but a lot of it were really bad judgments—that included things like, you know, the attempt to assassinate foreign leaders and to plot revolutions around the globe. This Congress, this Senate, decided that we needed to have oversight for the American people, and we created the Intelligence Committee to do that. It means that we have an institutional structure that ensures that the American people get the best service out of the intelligence community and that the President gets the best intelligence. And that structure was put in place by people who thought it was important for intelligence Agencies not to run amuck and for the President to get the best intelligence possible.

Now we are putting somebody in the job of Director of all of the intelligence Agencies, in a sense, the ODNI, so-called—that is sort of the clearinghouse and the coordinator for all of the intel that the President gets—Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard.

Now, look, she has had a record of public service in the Congress and in the military. I don't dispute that, and I am not calling into question whether or not she is serving the interests of other countries. But I do want to say—and I will be brief—that I think her judgment has been extraordinarily—I would say, exceptionally—bad.

I share her view that there were profound intelligence errors in the lead-up to the Gulf war and in the lead-up to the war in Afghanistan. In the Gulf, in particular, you will remember, you know, the weapons of mass destruction that Saddam Hussein was supposed to have had. He didn't have them. It was a terrible, terrible failure of our Intelligence Committee and a terrible failure of oversight from this Congress, and she is right about that.

The problem is she has, I think, learned the wrong lesson from that, and over and over and over again, when she has the opportunity to support the interests of the United States—I hate to say it—versus those of our adversaries', time and time again, she picks our adversaries or even our allies.

I have heard her say how worried she is about what she describes as the re-militarization of Japan, which, of course, Japan is doing because of the threat from China, with our very, very close cooperation. That is of concern to Tulsi Gabbard.

She went to Syria and famously came back disputing our own intelligence Agencies' findings about Assad's gassing of his own people. To this day, she hasn't really taken that back, and it makes no sense at all.

But the thing that drives me the craziest is that she has been an apologist for what Vladimir Putin has done since the day Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine. Ukraine was a peaceful country with a peaceful border, and Vladimir Putin was the first tyrant since World War II ended. We had set up all of these multilateral institutions across Europe and across the world to prevent the kind of hostility that we had seen break out in World War II, and Vladimir Putin decided he would invade a peaceful country next-door to him. In his mind, he had a right to do that because Ukraine has been viewed by czars—going back hundreds and hundreds of years—as Russian territory.

That is not the way the Ukrainian people look at this. They think of themselves as an independent country. They think of themselves as living in a place where history actually has moved on over the last 500 years or 1,000 years, and they were sitting there, peacefully, when Vladimir Putin invaded them with no provocation at all.

On the evening that Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, Tulsi Gabbard tweeted out at 11:30 at night—her local time—referring to the war, Putin's invasion of Ukraine: This war and suffering could easily have been avoided if the Biden administration and NATO had simply acknowledged Russia's "legitimate security concerns" regarding Ukraine becoming a member of NATO, which would mean U.S.-NATO forces right on Russia's border.

Now, she gets mad when people read that stuff. That is what she said, and she says: Well, don't tell people that I am carrying propaganda for the Russian Government or for Putin. That is not fair.

I don't have to say that, but the Russian television put on TV, in the days after the aftermath of Putin's invasion, the very thing that Congresswoman Gabbard had said about his invasion because they saw it as something that ratified what they had done. And it was so consistent, so aligned with his position—and it continues to be his position today—that he thought it would muddy the waters with people around the world about what they were doing in Ukraine.

I believe Ukraine's battle, from the very beginning, has not been a battle for Ukraine. I think it is a battle for democracy. I think they are on the tip of the spear, you know, in a way that nobody has been since World War II.

The Ukrainian people have been unbelievable, and the Ukrainian soldiers have fought magnificently. There was a view, when Putin invaded Ukraine, that, in 3 days, they were going to be in Kyiv—the Russians—and because of the bravery of the Ukrainian people, because of the bravery of the soldiers, many of whom have given up their lives, they have succeeded beyond the wildest dreams of anybody on this floor, of any of the Monday-morning quarterbacking that has happened in this Capitol and in other capitols around the world. And our allies all around Europe—but also in the Pacific area, as well—all have seen what the Ukrainian people have accomplished.

When she had an opportunity to say something about the Ukrainians and when she had the opportunity to stand with the United States and stand with our allies, she made another choice. She is entitled to that choice. She is entitled to that choice, just as she is entitled to her views about the intelligence failures during the Gulf war. But the fact that she has the idiosyncratic views that she has, whether it is Putin's invasion of Ukraine or her writing a bill in the House to give Edward Snowden a pardon, doesn't qualify her to be the lead intelligence official for the United States of America.

As I said—and I will finish here—we work well in a bipartisan way on these issues. The American people need the President to get intelligence in a way that is trustworthy, that is not shaded in one direction or another, and we all need to be able to trust each other in the delivery of that intelligence.

I will say that I think the President, in nominating Congresswoman Gabbard for this position, has fallen short. I voted for the CIA Director. This is not an issue of his appointments to the intelligence Agencies. But in the case of Congresswoman Gabbard, I think he missed the mark.

I apologize to my colleague from California for going on for so long.

I will yield the floor to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, after Tulsi Gabbard was selected as Donald Trump's nominee for Director of National Intelligence, the Russian newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* was overjoyed. They wrote: "The CIA and FBI are trembling." Sadly, the Russian newspaper is probably right about that.

Another Russian state outlet called her a "Comrade."

On a separate broadcast, top Putin mouthpiece Vladimir Solovyov, after gushing about Kash Patel, said: "And what about our girl? We have our girl there." "Our girl" is evidently the Kremlin's way of referring to our nominee Tulsi Gabbard. His guest asked, so as to be sure, "Intelligence?" The answer was yes.

RT, yet another Russian outlet that Ms. Gabbard "regularly read and shared articles from," took to Twitter to defend her: "We've got your back,

Tulsi." Yes, they certainly do. In September, it was revealed that RT was acting covertly on behalf of Moscow to spread propaganda in the United States. It is not a surprise that RT has Tulsi Gabbard's back. The question is, Should we?

The Director of National Intelligence is the nerve center of our Nation's intelligence network. It is the lynchpin between 18 Agencies tasked with detecting and preventing threats to our national security and coordinating our intelligence resources. It is a job that requires judgment. It requires experience. It requires a high degree of trust. Above all, it requires a deep and unwavering commitment to the truth and a willingness to stand up to despots. Yet the nominee before us is stunningly lacking in all of these qualities.

Ms. Gabbard's record in Congress is not one of distinction in intelligence matters. She did not serve on the Intelligence Committee in the House and was not known for advancing meaningful legislation on intelligence in this space. When she did sign on to legislation, it was to eliminate critically important intelligence programs or it was to praise those who leaked classified information and did great damage to our Nation, like Edward Snowden.

She did not wrestle with the complexities of the intelligence-gathering analysis process. In fact, in the moments when her voice was heard on matters of foreign policy, it was in ways that should concern all of us. She has echoed, amplified, and at times outright defended the positions of autocrats and despots.

When now-deposed Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad gassed his own people, she cast doubt on the findings of our own intelligence Agencies—cast doubt on them just like the Russian propaganda outlets did—this, after she engaged in her own form of freelance foreign policy, traveling to Syria to meet with Assad and get the full scoop on his government's narrative of that murderous crusade.

On her return, she positively crowed about how lovely this dictator was. "He wants to be seen as someone who cares for his country." Well, maybe if he wanted to be seen as someone who cares for his country, he shouldn't have gassed his own people. "He wants to be seen as someone who would not conduct these kinds of atrocities," Tulsi Gabbard said—except that he did. He did commit these kinds of atrocities.

When Vladimir Putin launched his brutal war against our ally Ukraine, she once again parroted Kremlin talking points about so-called "provocations" by NATO. She repeated Russian propaganda claims that the United States had set up secret bioweapons labs in Ukraine and argued that the United States, not Russia, is responsible for Putin's nuclear brinksmanship.

This is the nominee for our intelligence Agencies—not the Kremlin's; this is our nominee, Tulsi Gabbard.

This is who this President seeks to hand over the keys to our national security; to entrust her with the Nation's most closely held secrets; to be the final voice in the room advising the President on intelligence; to be, in the plain words of the law, "the principal adviser to the President, to the National Security Council, and the Homeland Security Council for intelligence matters related to the national security"—this, Tulsi Gabbard.

This nomination is not just unwise, it is dangerous.

Make no mistake, Ms. Gabbard is entitled to her own personal opinions. She can apologize for Assad or Putin or any other murderous dictator to her heart's content. But we are not considering Ms. Gabbard for some position in which her bizarre fondness for foreign despots is beside the point. She is not the nominee for Postmaster General. We are considering her for one of the most important jobs in our intelligence community. For that, Tulsi Gabbard is a walking five-alarm fire and must be rejected—must be.

There is a reason the Director of National Intelligence must have the confidence of both the intelligence professionals that they oversee and the national security establishment—because the job requires accountability; it requires trust; it requires truthfulness.

In 2015, Ms. Gabbard joined a congressional delegation trip to the Middle East, the kind that so many of us in this Chamber have participated in. She visited a Turkish town near the Syrian border where countless refugees were sheltering. Her guide took Ms. Gabbard to meet two Syrian girls, age just 9 and 4 years old, who had been badly burned in a bombing carried out by the Syrian dictator's warplanes. The children's parents had been killed in that attack. These brave, small children told their story to the then-Congresswoman.

In this situation, I think any of us would have roughly the same response: some form of sympathy, some form of empathy, some attempt to provide comfort to these children who saw their lives and their families destroyed in front of them. But Ms. Gabbard had a very different response.

By the account of the guide who was with her, she looked at the children and said: "How do you know if it was Assad? What if it was ISIS?"

I should note that ISIS, of course, has no air force. But, of course, that wasn't really the point, was it? The point was perhaps best illustrated by her guide who was with her that day and who said of that experience—those days with Ms. Gabbard—he said: "It dawned on me that Tulsi wasn't misinformed or ignorant." He said he worried instead that she "had a worldview that was adversarial to the United States"—"adversarial to the United States." Think about that: "adversarial to the United States." And consider whether this is the right person to be the Director of National Intelligence.

Where do we draw the line with Donald Trump? What level of unfitness in a nominee? What level of unconstitutionality in an Executive action? What level of abject disregard of our judicial system? What national security threat or risk will it take? What action could he commit where we would be joined by our Republican colleagues in saying we have had enough?

Where is the line? When is an action too egregious or an appointment too absurd, a risk or threat that is too big? Where is the line? Is it disobeying a lawful court order, which this administration seems to be laying the groundwork to do? Is it confirming a patently unqualified FBI Director who wants to close down FBI headquarters and makes music with felons who beat law enforcement? Is it a Director of HHS who doesn't believe in vaccines or a Director of National Intelligence who has sought to undermine vital intelligence operations and whom the Russians and others viewed as aligned with them instead of with us?

Where is the line? Because, for me, that line has been crossed a long, long time ago.

I cannot—I will not—support this nomination, and I urge my colleagues to think long and hard before they do because if Ms. Gabbard is confirmed, we will not need the luxury of hindsight. We already have the luxury of hindsight. The threats to our Nation are real. Those who wish us harm are busy plotting against us. There are plots to conduct attacks on U.S. soil. There are intelligence warnings about China's intentions to replace U.S. influence around the world and about Russia's relentless assault against our friends and allies.

At a moment when the world is watching, when our allies and our adversaries are questioning America's stability and leadership on the global stage, we cannot afford to confirm a Director of National Intelligence who lacks the qualifications, the judgment, and the credibility to lead. We cannot.

Remember that Russian broadcaster I mentioned earlier, Vladimir Solovyov? Here is some of the rest of that exchange with the guest on his show: "Well with Tulsi Gabbard it's not that simple," the guest replied. "It might not work because . . . what if it's not approved?" The Russians are worried that Tulsi Gabbard might not be approved by this body. That should tell us something.

People, please, do we need the Kremlin to spell it out for us, what they are hoping and, if they prayed, would be praying for us to do?

Solovyov seemingly answered that question for us live on Russian TV: "Why are you suddenly so doubtful?" he asked his guest. Solovyov seemed nervous about the chances for confirmation of the woman he described as "our girl," Tulsi Gabbard. Perhaps he fears that Congress has more common sense than to confirm someone who prefers Russia's worldview over mat-

ters like Ukraine's sovereignty to our own national security professionals. But do we? Do we possess that basic common sense? For the sake of our country, for the sake of our Nation's most sensitive classified information, and for the sake of the workforce that keeps us safe, I hope and pray that we do, that we possess the common sense to vote down Tulsi Gabbard. We will soon find out.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The majority leader.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business for debate only, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### REMEMBERING DANIEL LEVIN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, after the Great Fire destroyed much of central London in 1666, the city was rebuilt with even grander and stronger buildings than before. The most majestic building of all in the new London was St. Paul's Cathedral, designed by the great architect Sir Christopher Wren. There is no monument to Wren. But on the dome of St. Paul's, written in Latin, is an inscription. It says: "If you seek his memorial—look around you."

There is no monument in Chicago to Dan Levin, either. But if you want to see what he meant to Chicago—and what Chicago meant to him—just look around our great city. Daniel Levin was a visionary real estate developer, civic leader, and generous philanthropist who loved Chicago, its neighborhoods, and its people. Sadly, he died a few weeks ago.

Over half a century, Dan Levin's real estate development and management company, the Habitat Company, built structures that redefined Chicago's skyline. Drive into Chicago on the Kennedy Expressway, and you will see the Presidential Towers, four soaring skyscrapers of upscale condos and apartments in the West Loop. Take a cruise along the Chicago River, and you will pass the East Bank Club, one of the finest health and fitness clubs anywhere in America. Follow the river to where it meets Lake Michigan and you will come to Cityfront Plaza, another tower of apartments and condos surrounded by a bucolic green oasis of a park. He created other landmark buildings including South Commons, Columbus Plaza, ONE333, and many others.

But Dan Levin didn't build and manage only luxury properties. His faith in Chicago's people and their extraordinary potential led to Habitat's creation of nearly 25,000 rental housing units for people of all incomes.

His "North Star," his family says, was his belief that all people deserve to

live in a home and a neighborhood they can be proud of.

He described his business philosophy this way: "No project is only an investment in real estate. It is an investment in the future of the community and the lives of the people who live and work there."

His confidence and his love for Chicago led him to take risks and to invest in parts of the city that others overlooked. And time after time, those risks paid off. His buildings attracted other new investments that transformed once blighted areas into vibrant neighborhoods. Dan had a rare gift to see potential where others saw only problems. The Presidential Towers, for example, stand on what was once Chicago's Skid Row.

The East Bank Club was built on the site of an abandoned railroad yard. In a once-gritty neighborhood that many Chicagoans feared to drive through even during the day, Dan created a world-class fitness club and an outstanding restaurant, where he loved to host Seders every Passover. You never knew who you would see at the East Bank Club. You might find yourself in a Pilates class with Oprah when she was a member. Years ago, Dan became friends with a young law professor from the University of Chicago who used to come to the club to play basketball. That young hoopster-professor went on to become President of the United States, Barack Obama.

Dan Levin was a "social entrepreneur" decades before anyone had ever heard that term. He believed that he could make money and do good, and that is exactly what he did for 50 years.

He almost certainly would have made more money if he had concentrated exclusively on upscale buildings. But Dan Levin wasn't in business to make a killing; he wanted to make communities.

Probably his biggest professional challenge came in 1987 when a Federal judge appointed the Habitat Company to serve as a receiver for the then-bankrupt and badly mismanaged Chicago Housing Authority.

The job was massive: Manage all of Chicago's public housing, except senior housing, and rehab or replace thousands of dilapidated housing units.

The receivership lasted 23 years. 23 years. By the time it ended, hundreds of blighted apartment buildings across the city had been torn down, including high rises that had become towers of poverty.

With Dan as chairman and Valerie Jarrett as the company's CEO, Habitat replaced the high rises with townhouses and replaced concrete with green spaces. All told, the company built or rehabbed 4,000 units of public housing.

Many developers might have been intimidated by such a massive undertaking. But Dan Levin saw it as a civic responsibility and a chance to give back to a city that had given him so much.

You see, Dan wasn't born in Chicago. He was born and grew up in Detroit, the grandson of Jewish Lithuanian immigrants. His father was a Federal judge. His brother became a justice on the Michigan Supreme Court. And two of his cousins, whom he thought of almost like his brothers, became distinguished members of Congress, Senator Carl Levin and Representative Sander Levin.

Dan assumed he would follow in the family footsteps. He graduated from the University of Chicago Law School. After a prestigious clerkship for a Federal judge with the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, he returned to the family law firm, where he worked on a project with a renowned real estate developer whose company constructed many buildings designed by Mies van der Rohe, one of the giants of 20th century architecture.

It proved to be a good fit, and Dan signed on as the company's in-house counsel. In 1960, the firm's founder, Dan's mentor, died in a plane crash. Dan stepped in to finish the project his boss had been overseeing, another van der Rohe building—and he discovered that he loved creating buildings. So he left the law and became a developer.

A short time later, he moved to Chicago, the birthplace of skyscrapers and other architectural marvels. His buildings now stand shoulder to shoulder with some of the great architecture of the 20th and 21st centuries.

In addition to his work, Dan loved classical music. He was a devoted supporter and board member of WFMT, Chicago's classical music station. He was also a trustee of WTTW Public Television, vice chairman of the Environmental Law and Policy Center, and a generous supporter of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, and the Harris School of Public Policy at his alma mater, the University of Chicago.

He was kind, modest, and generous with a happy spirit and a twinkle in his eye. He was equally at ease speaking with Uber drivers as with Presidents.

He was devoted to his family: his son Josh Levin; his daughters Jil Deheeger and Betsy Bernaud; and their spouses; his 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and his step-children Alyssa Rapp and Jeffrey Rapp.

Most of all, he adored his wife and partner, former Ambassador Fay Hartog-Levin. The only time they were separated was when Fay served as U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, and even then, Dan crossed the ocean many times to be by her side.

Loretta and I offer our deep condolences to Fay and all of Dan's family in this sad time.

Daniel Levin was a good man, a visionary leader, and a true mensch. Loretta and I, and the people of Chicago, will miss him. But, as I said, if we want to see his legacy, all we have to do is look around. We are a better city because Dan Levin lived among us.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-13, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Israel for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$6.75 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-13

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Israel.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$5.61 billion.

Other \$1.14 billion.

Total \$6.75 billion.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing and National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Two thousand one hundred sixty-six (2,166) GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bombs Increment 1 (SDB-I).

Two thousand eight hundred (2,800) MK 82 General Purpose, 500-pound bomb bodies.

Thirteen thousand (13,000) KMU-556E/B, KMU-556H/B with SABR-Y, KMU 556F/B, or KMU-556J/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Guidance Kits for the MK-84 bomb body.

Three thousand four hundred seventy-five (3,475) KMU-557E/B, KMU-557F/B, KMU-557H/B with SABR-Y, or KMU-557 J/B JDAM Guidance Kits for the BLU-109 bomb body.

One thousand four (1,004) KMU-572E/B, KMU-572F/B, KMU-572H/B with SABR-Y, or KMU-572J/B JDAM Guidance Kits for GBU-38v1.

Seventeen thousand four hundred seventy-five (17,475) FMU-152 A/B fuzes.

Non-MDE: The following non-MDE items will also be included: FMU-139 fuzes; bomb components; munitions support and support equipment; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (IS-D-AHA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: IS-D-ACQ, IS-D-ACO, IS-D-ACZ, IS-D-ABO, IS-D-ACA, IS-D-ADA, IS-D-ABZ, IS-D-QFZ, IS-D-ACB.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 7, 2025.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Israel—Munitions, Guidance Kits, Fuzes, and Munitions Support

The Government of Israel has requested to buy two thousand one hundred sixty-six (2,166) GBU-39/B Small Diameter Bombs Increment 1 (SDB-I); two thousand eight hundred (2,800) MK 82 General Purpose, 500-pound bomb bodies; thirteen thousand (13,000) KMU-556E/B, or KMU-556H/B with SABR-Y, KMU-556F/B, or KMU-556J/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Guidance Kits for the MK-84 bomb body; three thousand four hundred seventy-five (3,475) KMU-557E/B, or KMU-557F/B, or KMU-557H/B with SABR-Y, or KMU-557J/B JDAM Guidance Kits for the BLU-109 bomb body; one thousand four (1,004) KMU-572E/B, or KMU-572F/B, KMU-572H/B with SABR-Y, or KMU-572J/B JDAM Guidance Kits for GBU-38v1; and seventeen thousand four hundred seventy-five (17,475) FMU-152A/B fuzes. The following non-MDE items will also be included: FMU-139 fuzes; bomb components; munitions support and support equipment; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$6.75 billion.

The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives.

The proposed sale improves Israel's capability to meet current and future threats, strengthen its homeland defense, and serves as a deterrent to regional threats. Israel already has these weapons in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

This proposed sale will be from both U.S. inventory, as available, and from principal contractors: The Boeing Company, located in St. Louis, MO; ATK Tactical Systems Company LLC, located in Rocket Center, WV; L3Harris Fuzing and Ordnance Systems, located in Cincinnati, OH; and McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, located in McAlester, OK. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Israel.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

## TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-13

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

## (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Joint Direct-Attack Munitions (JDAM) consist of a bomb body paired with a war-head-specific tail kit containing an Inertial Navigation System (INS)/Global Positioning System (GPS) (using either Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) and or M-code) guidance capability that converts unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse weather “smart” munitions. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest standoff ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface targets during the day or night. The JDAM can receive target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by on-board aircraft sensors (i.e., forward-looking infrared, radar, etc.) during captive carry, or from a third-party source via manual or automated aircrew cockpit entry. The KMU-556 converts the MK 84 into a GBU-31v1 JDAM. The KMU-557 converts the BLU-109 into a GBU-31v3 JDAM. The KMU-572 converts the MK 82 into a GBU-38v1 JDAM.

2. The MK 82 GP bomb is a 500-pound, free-fall, unguided, low-drag weapon. It is designed for soft, fragment-sensitive targets and is not intended for hard targets or penetrations. The explosive filling is usually tritonal, though other compositions have sometimes been used.

3. The FMU-139 or FMU-152 Joint Programmable Fuze (JPF) are a multi-delay, multi-arm impact fuze compatible with GP blast, fragmentation, and hardened-target penetrator weapons. The JPF settings are cockpit-selectable in flight when used with numerous precision-guided weapons.

4. The GBU-39 Small Diameter Bomb Increment 1 (SDB-I) All Up Round (AUR) is a 250 pound GPS-aided inertial navigation system with day or night, adverse weather, conventional, air-to-ground precision glide weapon capabilities able to strike fixed and stationary re-locatable non-hardened targets from standoff ranges. It is intended to enable aircraft to carry a high number of bombs. Aircraft are able to carry four SDBs in place of one 2,000-pound bomb.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Israel can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Israel.

## ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

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may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-0U. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1), AECA certification 24-16 of December 29, 2023.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosure.

## TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0U

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Israel.  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 24-16; Date: December 29, 2023; Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description: On December 29, 2023, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 24-16 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of four thousand seven hundred ninety-two (4,792) M107 155mm High Explosive projectiles. Also included were various 155mm projectiles; propelling charges; 155mm ancillaries; publications; technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost was \$147.5 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$7.5 million of this total.

This transmittal notifies the inclusion of an additional ten thousand (10,000) M107 and/or M795 155mm High Explosive projectiles. Also included are the following non-MDE items: various 155mm projectiles; publications; technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total value of the new items and services is \$312.5 million. The net cost of MDE will increase by \$20.5 million, resulting in a revised MDE value of \$28 million. The net cost of non-MDE will increase by \$292 million, resulting in a revised non-MDE value of \$432 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$312.5 million to \$460 million.

(iv) Significance: Israel will use the enhanced capability as a deterrent to regional threats and to strengthen its homeland defense.

(v) Justification: The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: February 7, 2025.

## ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-104, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Israel for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$660 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

## TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-104

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Israel.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$648 million.  
Other \$12 million.  
Total \$660 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):  
Three thousand (3,000) AGM-114 Hellfire Air-to-Ground Missiles, to include one or any

combination of the R3, F, F/A, K1, K1A, K2, K3, K3A, KA, N, N3, and/or R variants.

**Non-Major Defense Equipment:** The following non-MDE items will also be included: support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) **Military Department:** Army (IS-B-UCJ).

(v) **Prior Related Cases, if any:** IS-B-UBV, IS-B-ZWX, IS-B-ZVJ.

(vi) **Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid:** None known at this time.

(vii) **Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold:** See Attached Annex.

(viii) **Date Report Delivered to Congress:** February 7, 2025.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Israel—AGM-114 Hellfire Missiles

The Government of Israel has requested to buy three thousand (3,000) AGM-114 Hellfire Air-to-Ground Missiles, to include one or any combination of the R3, F, F/A, K1, K1A, K2, K3, K3A, KA, N, N3, and/or R variants. The following non-MDE items will also be included: support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; software delivery and support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; storage; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$660 million.

The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives.

The proposed sale will improve Israel's capability to meet current and future threats by improving the ability of the Israeli Air Force to defend Israel's borders, vital infrastructure, and population centers. This sale will increase interoperability with U.S. forces and conveys U.S. commitment to Israel's security and armed forces modernization. Israel will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be the Lockheed Martin Corporation, located in Troy, AL. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Israel. The only additional U.S. military support required would be Technical Assistance Field Team visits during training phases.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-104

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) **Sensitivity of Technology:**

1. The AGM-114 is an air-to-surface missile. The Hellfire Missile provides precision striking power against light armored targets, thin skinned vehicles, urban structures, bunkers, caves and personnel.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the Government of Israel can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Israel.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 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. 26. An act to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing.

H.R. 27. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(b)(2) of the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act (Public Law 117-140), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture to fill the existing vacancy thereon: Ms. Michelle Park Steel of Surfside, California.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 26. An act to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 27. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 29. An act 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.

#### 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-320. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Aircraft Registration and Recordation Procedural Updates: Original Documents and Stamping" ((RIN2120-AM07) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2764)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-321. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Issuance of Aircraft Registration and Dealer Certificates" ((RIN2120-AM08) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2765)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-322. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4148" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31585)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-323. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4148" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31584)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-324. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Brevard, NC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2023-2257)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-325. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Victoria, TX" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1624)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-326. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Crosby Municipal Airport, Crosby, ND" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2636)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6,

2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-327. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Kenansville, NC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1981)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-328. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of the Kwajalein Island Class D and Class E Airspace in the Republic of the Marshall Islands” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2685)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-329. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Webster, SD” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0317)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-330. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Presque Isle, ME” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-0687)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-331. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes Q-162 and Q-166; Southwest United” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2104)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-332. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Restricted Area R-2103C and Amendment of Restricted Area R-2103A and R-2103B; Fort Novosel, AL” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2691)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-333. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-68, V-76, V-212, V-222, and V-558, and United States Area Navigation Route T-220 in the Vicinity of Industry, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1707)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025;

to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-334. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “An update of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s Schedule for Filing Fees” ((RIN1902-AG27) (Docket No. RM25-5-000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-335. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule” (Docket No. RM25-4-000) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-336. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Delay of Effective Date for 2 Final Regulations Published by the Environmental Protection Agency between December 11, 2024 and January 6, 2025” (FRL No. 12583.1-02-OA) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-337. A communication from the Acting 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 amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Israel in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-052); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-338. A communication from Senior Attorney Advisor, AmeriCorps, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “AmeriCorps State and National Updates” ((RIN3045-AA84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-339. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, Secretary of Labor’s response to the Office of the Ombudsman’s 2023 Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-340. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-700, “Youth Mentorship Through Community Engagement Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-341. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-689, “Containing Litter and Ensuring Adequate Neighborhood (CLEAN) Collections Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-342. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-693, “Carrier-for-Hire Oversight and Enforcement Amendment Act of

2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-343. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-692, “Fairness in Human Rights Administration Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-344. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-691, “Child and Family Services Agency Investigation Completion Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-345. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-690, “Uniform Directed Trust Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-346. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-688, “Losing Outdated, Violent Exceptions Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-347. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-702, “Pets in Housing Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-348. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-701, “Building Energy Performance Standards Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-349. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-699, “Insurance Regulation Amendment Act of 2024”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-350. A communication from the Executive Director, Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, transmitting, pursuant to Section 301(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, the Office’s annual reports regarding covered payments from the account described in section 415(a) of the Act that were the result of claims alleging a violation of part A of title II of the Act; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. ERNST, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with amendments:

S. 68. A bill to prohibit the suspension of collections on loans made to small businesses related to COVID-19, and for other purposes.

By Ms. ERNST, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, with an amendment:

S. 273. A bill to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in certain loan programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

#### 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. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 492. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve and enhance the work opportunity tax credit, to encourage longer-service employment, and to modernize the credit to make it more effective as a hiring incentive for targeted workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 493. A bill to prohibit United States cooperation with the International Criminal Court, the use of the Economic Support Fund to support the Palestinian Authority, and any Federal funding for the ICC; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 494. A bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 495. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 496. A bill to exclude certain amounts relating to compensating victims of the Texas Panhandle fires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAGERTY:

S. 497. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify eligibility for 501(c)(3) status; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. Kaine):

S. 498. A bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the African Americans who served with Union forces during the Civil War, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 499. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 500. A bill to reauthorize certain programs under the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 501. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy for public health preparedness and response to artificial intelligence threats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 502. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State author-

ity to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 503. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to evaluate and consider the impact of the telecommunications network equipment supply chain on the deployment of universal service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 504. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify certain automatic fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KAINES (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 68. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States shall not deploy United States military assets or personnel to Gaza for purposes of "taking over" Gaza; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to allow reciprocity for the carrying of certain concealed firearms.

S. 83

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 83, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America's public safety officers.

S. 137

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 158

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 158, a bill 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.

S. 248

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 248, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permanently extend certain in-home cardiopulmonary rehabilitation flexibilities established in response to COVID-19, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to prohibit the use of materials that use the term "West Bank", and for other purposes.

S. 399

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 399, a bill to amend section 1507 of title 18, United States Code, to establish appropriate penalties for obstruction of justice by picketing or parading in or near court buildings or residences of judges, jurors, witnesses, or other court officers.

S. 449

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 449, a bill to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite hazardous fuel or insect and disease risk reduction projects on certain National Forest System land, and for other purposes.

S. 467

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 481

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 481, a bill to reprogram all remaining unobligated funds from the IRS enforcement account.

S. 491

At the request of Mr. KAINES, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 491, a bill to establish the position of Director of Foreign Assistance in the Department of State, and for other purposes.

## S.J. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 3, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to “Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales”.

## S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, 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 Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters”.

## S.J. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to “Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program”.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 502. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. 502

*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 “Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2025”.

## SEC. 2. RESTORING STATE AUTHORITY TO WAIVE THE 35-MILE RULE FOR CERTAIN MEDICARE CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL DESIGNATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1820 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—  
(A) in subparagraph (B)(i)—  
(i) in subclause (I), by striking “or” at the end;  
(ii) in subclause (II), by inserting “or” at the end; and  
(iii) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) subject to subparagraph (G), is a hospital described in subparagraph (F) and is certified, on or after the date of the enactment of the Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2025, and before the date that is 9 years after the date of enactment of this subclause, by the State as being a necessary provider of health care services to residents in the area;”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(F) HOSPITAL DESCRIBED.—For purposes of subparagraph (B)(i)(III), a hospital described in this subparagraph is a hospital that—

“(i) is a sole community hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii)), a medicare dependent, small rural hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(G)(iv)), a low-volume hospital that in 2021 receives a payment adjustment under section 1886(d)(12), or a subsection (d) hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(1)(B));

“(ii) is located in a rural area, as defined in section 1886(d)(2)(D), or a rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area (as determined under the most recent modification of the Goldsmith Modification, originally published in the Federal Register on February 27, 1992 (57 Fed. Reg. 6725));

“(iii) is located—

“(aa) in a county that has a percentage of individuals with income at or below the Federal poverty level in 2023 or 2024 that is higher than the national or statewide average in that year; or

“(bb) in a health professional shortage area (as defined in section 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act); or

“(II) has a percentage of inpatient days of individuals entitled to benefits under part A of this title in 2023 or 2024 that is higher than the national or statewide average in that year;

“(iv) has attested to the Secretary that the hospital—

“(I) was operating as of the date of enactment of this subparagraph; and

“(II) had 2 consecutive years of negative operating margins preceding the date of certification described in subparagraph (B)(i)(III), as defined by the Secretary in the regulations or program instruction issued pursuant to section 2(b) of the Rural Hospital Closure Relief Act of 2025; and

“(v) submits to the Secretary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may require, an application for certification of the facility as a critical access hospital, including an attestation outlining—

“(I) the good governance qualifications and strategic plan for multi-year financial solvency of the hospital; and

“(II) the hospital’s commitment to open and maintain, for the duration of the hospital’s designation as a critical access hospital under this section, a new service line or expanded service capacity for a service that is in high demand or limited supply in the hospital’s service area (determined based on the hospital’s most recent community health needs assessment under section 501(r)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or other comparable assessment)), such as obstetrics or behavioral health care services.

“(G) LIMITATION ON CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii), the Secretary may not under subsection (e) certify pursuant to a certification by a State under subparagraph (B)(i)(III)—

“(I) more than a total of 120 facilities as critical access hospitals; and

“(II) within any one State, more than 5 facilities as critical access hospitals.

“(ii) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall follow the following process in carrying out clause (i) with respect to each year in which the Secretary determines that the limitation under clause (i)(I) has not been reached:

“(I) INITIAL ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct an initial assessment of the total number of hospitals described in paragraph (2)(F).

“(II) INITIAL ALLOCATION.—Of the total number of designations available under clause (i), the Secretary shall allocate 1 for a hospital in each State that the Secretary determines (based on the initial assessment under subclause (I)) has one or more hospitals described in paragraph (2)(F).

“(III) REMAINING ALLOCATION.—Of the total number of designations available under clause (i), after application of subclause (II), the Secretary shall allocate the remaining number on a proportional basis based on the total number of hospitals described in paragraph (2)(F) in each State that are eligible (as determined based on the initial assessment under subclause (I)).

“(iii) SUNSET.—Effective beginning on the date that is 9 years after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the Secretary may not certify a hospital as a critical access hospital pursuant to a certification by a State under subparagraph (B)(i)(III).

## (H) INFORMATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITALS CERTIFIED PURSUANT TO RURAL HOSPITAL CLOSURE RELIEF ACT.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—A critical access hospital that is certified under subsection (e) pursuant to a certification by a State under subparagraph (B)(i)(III) shall submit to the Secretary the following at a time, and in a manner, specified by the Secretary:

“(I) REPORTS.—Reports containing such information as the Secretary may specify with respect to items and services furnished as part of the new service line or expanded service capacity for a service as described in the attestation submitted by the critical access hospital under subparagraph (F)(v)(II). To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall align such reporting with other reporting requirements applicable to critical access hospitals under this subsection.

“(II) NOTICE.—If the critical access hospital materially changes the new service line or expanded capacity for a service as so described, notice of such changes along with a plan to satisfactorily maintain access to care (as determined by the Secretary).

“(ii) REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the Secretary determines that a critical access hospital described in clause (i) has failed to submit an annual report required under subclause (I) of such clause or a notice required under subclause (II) of such clause, the Secretary may, as the Secretary determines appropriate, revoke the certification of the critical access hospital under subsection (e); and

(2) in subsection (e), by inserting “, subject to subsection (c)(2)(G),” after “The Secretary shall”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue final regulations or program instruction to carry out subsection (a).

(c) CLARIFICATION REGARDING FACILITIES THAT MEET DISTANCE OR OTHER CRITERIA AND APPLICATION OF OTHER CRITERIA.—Nothing in this section shall affect—

(1) the application of criteria for designation as a critical access hospital described in subclause (I) or (II) of section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4(c)(2)(B)(i)); or

(2) the application of criteria for designation as a critical access hospital described in clauses (ii) through (v) of section 1820(c)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–4(c)(2)(B)).

(d) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States (in this section referred to as the “Comptroller General”) shall conduct a study on the implementation of the amendments made by subsection (a). To the extent such data are available and reliable, such study shall include—

(A) an analysis of—

(i) the characteristics of facilities designated as critical access hospitals pursuant to section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i)(III) of the Social Security Act, as added by subsection (a);

(ii) an analysis of the financial status and outlook for such facilities based on their designation as a critical access hospital pursuant to such section; and

(iii) an analysis of any increase in expenditures under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) as a result of such designation, relative to the expected baseline expenditures under the Medicare program if such facilities had not received such designation; and

(B) an assessment of whether the authority to designate facilities as critical access hospitals pursuant to such section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i)(III) promotes access to care in rural areas.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller General determines appropriate.

**SEC. 3. MEDPAC STUDY AND REPORT ON PAYMENT SYSTEMS FOR RURAL HOSPITALS.**

(a) STUDY.—The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commission”) shall conduct a study, using data from 2018 through 2028, on payment systems for rural hospitals under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.). Such study shall include an analysis of—

(1) facilities designated as critical access hospitals pursuant to section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i)(III) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 2(a);

(2) features of payment systems for rural hospitals, including value-based payment systems, that would—

(A) ensure financial sustainability for the Medicare program; and

(B) preserve access to care for Medicare beneficiaries;

(3) if the Commission recommends any new payment system for rural hospitals under the Medicare program, to the extent feasible, the impacts of transition from existing payment systems to such new payment system.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 8 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), together with recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Commission determines appropriate.

(c) DEFINITION OF RURAL HOSPITAL.—In this section, the term “rural hospital” means—

(1) a critical access hospital (as defined in section 1861(mm)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(mm)(1));

(2) a subsection (d) hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(1)(B))) that is located in a rural census tract of a metropolitan statistical area (as determined under the most recent modification of the Goldsmith

Modification, originally published in the Federal Register on February 27, 1992 (57 Fed. Reg. 6725));

(3) a sole community hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(D)(iii)));

(4) a medicare dependent, small rural hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(5)(G)(iv) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)(iv))); and

(5) a low-volume hospital (as defined in section 1886(d)(12)(C)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)(C)(i))).

**SEC. 4. SUNSET.**

Not later than 9 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a mechanism and provide guidance and technical assistance under which any facility that was designated as a critical access hospital pursuant to a certification by a State under section 1820(c)(2)(B)(i)(III) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 2(a), may transition within 1 year to one of the following payment models:

(1) Such new model or models recommended by the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission in the report submitted under section 3.

(2) The prospective payment model (or models) under which the facility received payment under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) prior to being so designated pursuant to such certification.

(3) Payment as a rural emergency hospital under section 1834(x) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(x)).

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 68—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHALL NOT DEPLOY UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSETS OR PERSONNEL TO GAZA FOR PURPOSES OF “TAKING OVER” GAZA**

Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Welch, Mr. Wyden, and Ms. Duckworth) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

**S. RES. 68**

Whereas the horrific attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023, killed 1,195 Israelis;

Whereas Israeli military operations in Gaza have resulted in more than 45,000 Palestinians killed;

Whereas the January 15, 2025, ceasefire between Israel and Hamas resulted in the long-overdue return of innocent hostages taken by Hamas, the suspension of Israeli military activity in Gaza and the redeployment of forces, and an opportunity for the international community to surge humanitarian aid to Gazans in need;

Whereas, on February 4, 2025, President Trump suggested the United States will “take over the Gaza Strip” and forcibly relocate its people;

Whereas the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination and their own independent state, and to live with dignity and in peaceful coexistence with their neighbors;

Whereas the United States asserting control over Gaza would fracture relations with United States partners in the region and

around the world, validate the Iranian regime’s corrosive rhetoric, and foster higher levels of radicalization and terrorism that would only further threaten the interests of the United States and United States citizens and members of the Armed Forces in the region;

Whereas the people of the United States have no interest in a new and extended military deployment to the Middle East, a new forever war in the Middle East, expending untold billions of taxpayer dollars to support any United States military operations in Gaza, or the forcible displacement of 2,000,000 people from Gaza; and

Whereas there is no congressional authorization, as required by law, for the use of United States military force in Gaza: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States will not deploy United States Armed Forces, risk United States lives, or otherwise use United States funds to fulfill the pronounced objective to “take over” Gaza.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand the Chair has an announcement for the Senate.

**APPOINTMENTS**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces on behalf of the Committee on Finance, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S. Code, the designation of the following Senators as members of the Joint Committee on Taxation: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO); the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY); the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN); the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN); and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL).

**MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 29**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 29) 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.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

**ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11; 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, morning

business be closed, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume Executive Calendar No. 18; that all time during morning business, recess, adjournment, and leader remarks count postclosure; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for weekly conference meetings.

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

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#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

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, following the remarks of Senator WELCH.

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

The Senator from Vermont.

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#### 2024 ELECTION

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, Donald Trump, as we all know, won the last election in November, and he is now the 47th President of the United States. But Donald Trump did not, contrary to what he and the Vice President want people to believe, win by anything close to a landslide.

As this chart shows, out of a total of 155,238,302 votes, Mr. Trump won 77,302,000, or 49.8 percent. Kamala Harris won 75 million, or 48.3 percent. President Trump won, but just slightly over 2 million votes more than Kamala Harris. The difference between them was 1.5 percent of the popular vote.

And although it was one of the smallest margins of victory since the 19th century, President Trump, in his inaugural address, and others in the inner circle of Trump repeatedly called the victory a “landslide,” a “blowout,” a “mandate,” “historic.”

Do you know what a real landslide is? Lyndon Johnson, in 1964, won by 22.6 percent. Ronald Reagan won by 18.2 percent. Those are landslides.

Why does it matter? Because facts matter. The truth matters. And we cannot survive in our democracy without respect—much more respect—for the truth. It is also really important because whether you are running for the U.S. Senate or for the Presidency of the United States, when one goes from candidate for office to the President or the U.S. Senator in office, the responsibility that we have is to all the people in our district and—certainly for the President of the United States—a responsibility to all the people in the United States. We serve all, whether they voted for us or against us.

But what has been happening with the assertion that this was this massive landslide is that it has become the justification for narrow policies that completely disrespect the reality that

so many other Americans need to be represented and heard and, also, is so narrow that even those who voted for President Trump for a variety of reasons are not getting policies they thought would be included.

The “America First” policies, so far, have cut funding for programs to protect water that all Americans need, clean air that we all breathe, whether it is a voter who was for Trump or a voter who was for Harris. We are cutting funding for medical research for cancer, cures for kids who have cancer, for food assistance to feed malnourished kids and parents who are in every district in this country—and, of course, most spectacularly, what we are seeing is the illegal termination of the USAID program, something the courts have rescinded but the administration is rushing pell-mell, nevertheless.

All of this, actually, is in service of being able to find offsets in order to pay for the Trump tax cuts that are heavily weighted to folks who are billionaires like Mr. Musk and, of course, to our major U.S. corporations. The folks who need a tax cut are the everyday Americans who have been trying to make ends meet and are having real trouble doing that.

The White House is not even trying to hide what they are doing. You have got Elon Musk—you know, it is pretty astonishing. He owns Twitter, which is a source of immense misinformation. He is now trying to buy ChatGPT. He has massive amounts of government contracts for Starlink and for his space program. And he has contributed \$280 million to the Trump campaign.

And now, without any elected authority, without any advice and consent to the Senate on a position that is very powerful, the so-called DOGE Administrator, he has access to the private information of millions of Americans—all that confidential information about your Social Security and mine that is in the Treasury Department.

So how is that happening? That is not in service of the folks who didn’t vote for Mr. Trump. It is not even in service of people who did.

It is important that elections and the outcomes of elections be respected. In this last election, just like in 2020, the people who oversaw this election worked hard to ensure that it was free and fair. We don’t all get the outcome that we want, but it was free and fair. The difference in this election is that we, on the losing side, accepted the result. We didn’t falsely claim that it was stolen—the “Stop the Steal” narrative—as President Trump continues to assert about 2020 and most of his Cabinet nominees do as well.

We didn’t try to prevent the outcome from being certified or to promote an insurrection by a violent mob, folks who actually attacked and injured people in this building and police offi-

cers—spit in their face, hit them, hit them with poles. And we had police officers who died after that attack.

Falsely denying the outcome of an election and then using violence to overturn the result of a free and fair election absolutely subverts the democratic process. And as every American voter knows, free and fair elections—like the checks and balances between our three coequal branches of government—are absolutely essential to the well-being and continuation of our democracy.

In the inaugural address that the President gave, I did not hear anything about childcare or the cost of housing or bringing down the cost of prescription drugs and making healthcare more affordable—things that everyday families in every single part of this country need help with to be able to pay those bills and, at the end of the month, have their checkbook still balance.

If and when the President starts focusing on those issues, I and my colleagues are absolutely ready to work with him and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle because those things—affordable broadband, affordable healthcare, affordable housing and rent, some economic security—those are things every single one of us needs. And the challenges that we face, whether it is in red America or blue America—to try to have better policies to make that happen are things that we must be working on together. But not where what comes first, last, and always are these tax cuts that explode the deficit and go to folks who are not now paying their fair share.

So long as President Trump and his allies pretend that he has this massive mandate to literally disrupt and throw out the traditions and norms and guardrails of democracy, that is something I and so many of my colleagues will resist.

We can’t do that. The law matters, respect for your opponents matters, and focusing on the everyday needs of everyday people is what matters most. It is what is the goal all of us should be looking to accomplish.

So there was no mandate—no massive mandate. There was a victory; but with victory, to describe it as this smashing mandate is a suggestion that what awaits us and has already arrived is overreach and failure.

I yield the floor.

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:15 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 10 a.m.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUAL FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Equal Federal Funding for the District of Columbia Act, which would amend title 1 of the United States Code to deem the District of Columbia as both a state and political subdivision of a state (such as a city or county) for the purpose of eligibility for federal funding, unless otherwise provided in a statute. D.C. operates as the functional equivalent of a state, city and county, and D.C. residents pay all federal taxes. Therefore, D.C. deserves to be eligible for federal funding available to each level of government.

While federal statutes generally expressly treat D.C. as a state for federal funding—and most federal grants go to states—federal statutes that provide federal funding directly to political subdivisions are often silent on whether D.C. is to be treated as a political subdivision. In the absence of clear language in a statute, federal agencies are inconsistent in their treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding.

By amending title 1 of the U.S. Code to deem D.C. as both a state and political subdivision for federal funding, this bill would automatically correct imprecise treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding in existing and future statutes and remove discretion from federal agencies in their treatment of D.C.'s eligibility for federal funding.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. GLEN LAMAR HOWER

#### HON. MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Glen Lamar Hower, who passed away peacefully on January 3, 2025, at the age of 90. A beloved husband, father, grandfather, educator, and friend, Dr. Hower's legacy of unwavering commitment to family, friends, students, and community is a testament to his character and values.

Born in 1934, in Dryden, Washington, Dr. Hower's love for the outdoors defined much of his life. He hiked and fished for over seven decades, exploring at least 867 different mountain lakes and documenting his adventures through thousands of slides that captured the beauty of Eastern Washington. His work with the Boy Scouts further demonstrated his dedication to nature, as he led 50-mile hikes and took over 250 scouts on backpacking trips, inspiring generations to appreciate the outdoors.

In 1956, Dr. Hower married Juanita Jane Myers, with whom he raised three children: Karen, Dan, and Dave. Their home was filled with love, laughter, and traditions such as camping, hiking, and backpacking. Later, as a grandfather and great-grandfather, he created the "Annual Grandkids Backpacking Trip," a cherished tradition that lasted for years.

A dedicated educator, Dr. Hower earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Washington State University (WSU) and his Ph.D. from Stanford University. He spent 43 years at WSU as a professor, advisor, and mentor, teaching 125 classes and guiding nearly 5,500 students. Dr. Hower was honored with numerous awards, including the 1992 Outstanding Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the 1996 Golden Key National Honor Society Advisor of the Year. Yet, it was his deep relationships with his students that meant the most to him.

Dr. Hower's impact went beyond academia. His integrity, selflessness, and dedication to others shaped the lives of those he mentored, taught, and loved. After his wife Juanita passed away in 2010, he found love again with Gloria Tinder Hower and they spent 12 happy years together, creating lasting memories.

Dr. Hower is survived by his wife, Gloria; his children and their spouses; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and a large extended family. He is also survived by his lifelong colleagues, students, and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Glen Lamar Hower's life was one of profound impact and grace. He made the world a better place through his service, mentorship, and love for his family. While he will be deeply missed, his legacy will continue to inspire all those he touched.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending condolences to Dr. Hower's family and remembering a man whose life was defined by his dedication to others. May his memory live on in all of us.

### RECOGNIZING MAJOR GEORGE A. DAVIS, JR.

#### HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, you often hear me refer to West Texas as the Food, Fuel, and Fiber Capital of the World—where we feed, power, and clothe our Nation—but our greatest resource is the people who have made and shaped West Texas into the God-fearing and freedom loving place that it is today.

The patriots of West Texas work hard and stand up for what's right. Perhaps no one embodies these values more than the man I honor here, an all-time great West Texan and Medal of Honor Recipient, Major George A. Davis, Jr.

Maj. Davis was born on December 1st, 1920, in Dublin, Texas, before moving to the

West Texas town of Morton, a little over 50 miles west of Lubbock. In 1942, shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Maj. Davis enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Lubbock, Texas, as an Aviation Cadet. During World War II, Maj. Davis piloted a P-47 Thunderbolt with the 342nd Fighter Squadron, 348th Fighter Group. He heroically completed 266 missions, logged 705 combat hours, and shot down 7 Japanese fighter planes between 1943 and 1944, contributing greatly to Allied air superiority.

Following World War II, Maj. Davis again returned to the skies, this time in Korea, where it is said he distinguished himself by going above the call of duty and displaying immense courage in the face of great risk to his life.

On February 10th, 1952, Maj. Davis and his wingman encountered 12 enemy MIG-15 aircraft speeding toward allied fighter-bombers who were engaging the enemy. In an attempt to put himself in between the enemy combatants and our allied bombers, Maj. Davis rerouted his aircraft and dove directly into the MIG formation. While under fire, Maj. Davis destroyed two enemy aircraft, and instead of retreating, reduced his air speed to engage a third MIG-15 in defense of the Allied fighter-bombers. It was this last of many selfless and heroic decisions that led to Maj. Davis suffering a direct hit that took the life of this West Texas hero and sent his plane crashing behind enemy lines some 30 miles south of the Yalu River.

His heroic and selfless acts in support of the mission and his fellow airmen in the face of formidable odds, provided enough cover to allow the allied bombers to successfully complete their mission and continue in the fight for another day. As a result of these acts of uncommon valor, Maj. Davis was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Now, over 70 years later, his fellow veterans are fighting to bring Maj. Davis back home to Lubbock so he can be the first veteran buried at the new West Texas States Cemetery. As one of only seven American pilots to ever become an ace in two different wars and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, three Silver Stars, the Purple Heart, and the Medal of Honor, Maj. Davis is an American hero. I implore my colleagues in Congress to do everything in our power to ensure his family can welcome him home to his final resting place in West Texas.

On behalf of the 19th Congressional District of Texas, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Maj. George A. Davis, Jr. and his entire family for their tremendous sacrifice in service to our Nation.

God Bless, and Go West Texas.

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

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF RALPH DOSS

## HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of World War II veteran Ralph Doss.

Ralph Doss was born on March 30, 1925, and spent his formative years in Chester County. Mr. Doss enlisted in the U.S. Navy at the age of 17, requiring his mother's written permission due to his age. He then served on the USS *Sigourney*, a destroyer, and the USS *Duluth*, a flagship cruiser, in the South Pacific. During his stint on the *Sigourney*, he was involved in the 1943 rescue of Medal of Honor winning fighter pilot Robert M. Hanson.

At the conclusion of the war, Ralph Doss was discharged and settled in Kennett Square, where he worked for Longwood Gardens for 28 years. In his spare time, he wrote poetry, was a professional harmonica musician for four decades, and served as Grand Marshall in the Kennett Square Memorial Day parade.

Since 2008, Mr. Doss called Gordonville in Lancaster County home, where he lives with his wife of 60 years, Dora.

As he approaches his 100th birthday, I would like to honor Mr. Ralph Doss for his selfless military service. We should be proud to have such an outstanding individual in our district.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF AMIT YORAN

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Amit Yoran, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the cybersecurity company Tenable, who recently passed away after a courageous battle with cancer. Mr. Yoran was a pioneering force in cybersecurity from his early days at the United States Military Academy at West Point and as an officer with the U.S. Air Force, to his years as an entrepreneur and business executive, to his return to public service as the founding Director of the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) and the Nation's first Director of the National Cybersecurity Division in the Department of Homeland Security.

As a leader, Mr. Yoran used his diverse experience to become a bridge between the public and private sectors to improve our national cybersecurity and protect critical infrastructure. He was a born leader, who believed in hard work, collaboration, and transparency as a strategy for our collective success.

On behalf of Members and staff of the Committee on Homeland Security, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Amit's family, loved ones, colleagues, friends, and the Tenable team—may his legacy live on. I include in the RECORD the obituary of this man who made our country a safer and better place.

AMIT YORAN (1970–2025)

Amit Yoran, a pioneering force in cybersecurity, passed away on January 3, 2025, at

the age of 54 after a courageous battle with cancer. A resident of Reston, VA, Amit was born on December 1, 1970, in New York City to Shlomit Schonberger and Chaim Yoran, the second of four children, with an older brother Elad Yoran and younger brothers Dov Yoran and Ron Schonberger.

He grew up predominantly in suburban New York, in Pound Ridge, NY, and attended Fox Lane High School in Bedford, NY, where he excelled academically and athletically, playing on both varsity football and wrestling teams.

Amit's remarkable journey continued at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he earned a bachelor of Science degree, majoring in Computer Science. He served as cadet captain and was beloved by his classmates.

After graduating, he was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force, where he served as a computer security officer at the Pentagon, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and other locations within the Department of Defense. Amit's early work in cybersecurity laid the groundwork for a distinguished career that would shape the field for years to come.

Amit earned a Master's degree in Computer Science from George Washington University, studying with renowned professors Lance Hoffman and Dorothy Denning.

Upon transitioning out of the Air Force, Amit began the next phase of his professional life as an entrepreneur and business executive in cybersecurity. He co-founded Riptech with his brother Elad and friend Tim Belcher, where they pioneered the field of network security analysis and managed security services. Riptech's success led to its acquisition by Symantec, where Amit served as Vice President.

Amit's commitment to public service saw him return to the government as the founding Director of the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT) and the Nation's first Director of the National Cybersecurity Division in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), appointed by President George W. Bush.

Upon leaving government, Amit continued to innovate and lead in the private sector. Together with his brothers Elad and Dov, they have been referred to by many in the industry as the First Family of Cybersecurity. As CEO of NetWitness, Amit helped revolutionize the field of network investigations and response. NetWitness's acquisition by RSA Security saw Amit eventually becoming President of RSA, leading it through acquisitions by EMC and then Dell. As CEO of Tenable, Amit took the company public in a successful IPO in July 2018 and served as Chairman and CEO until taking a leave of absence to focus on his health.

Amit married Catherine Lotriente, a Georgetown professor, and together they raised three children, twins Hannah and Josh, and Zoey. A dedicated father, Amit volunteered as a little league football coach and an assistant coach for men's and women's wrestling at Langley High School.

Amit was a giant in the cybersecurity industry. But even more than his many professional accomplishments, Amit is remembered as a deeply caring, dedicated and fun friend. He touched countless people and made a difference in the lives of everyone he touched.

Amit had an incredible sense of humor. He loved all sports, Army football and the Dallas Cowboys in particular, motorcycle riding with his friends and family, annual ski trips with his cousins, working out, and above all else spending time with friends and family and people he loved. As busy as he was, Amit always seemed to have time to speak with someone one-on-one, to understand what was

troubling them and to help them in whatever way he could. Amit was the best friend anyone could have and we all believed and felt that he was our best friend. Despite his many professional successes, Amit never lost sense of who he was and his deep sense of humility.

He is survived by his loving family: children Hannah, Josh, and Zoey, wife Catherine Lotriente Yoran, mother Shlomit Schonberger, brothers Elad Yoran, Dov Yoran, and Ron Schonberger, six nephews and nieces, cousins, and countless friends and colleagues.

Amit's visionary leadership will continue to inspire and guide the cybersecurity community and beyond. His legacy as a caring, dedicated friend will be remembered by all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF  
SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN AT  
THE UNITED NATIONS 69TH COM-  
MISSION ON THE STATUS OF  
WOMEN

## HON. SHRI THANEDAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sonja Dunlap, Lauren Hatto, Jasmine Hunley and Soren O'Dell from Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, who have been selected to represent Girl Scouts of the USA at the United Nations' 69th Commission on the Status of Women.

Each year, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) joins over 5,000 women and girls from around the world at the United Nations headquarters in New York to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Delegates representing GSUSA undergo a rigorous application process and training to prepare them for their participation in the CSW. As delegates, girls will have an opportunity to engage with GSUSA's work around global advocacy, learn about global issues, see firsthand how global entities function, and let their voices be heard on key global issues impacting girls and young women.

The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations, dedicated exclusively to shaping global standards on gender equality as well as the advancement and empowerment of women and girls. Every year, national representatives of Member States gather for a two-week session to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards, and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide. As NGO Consultative members, Girl Scouts of the USA and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts participate to bring the voice of girls and young women to the global stage.

The focus of the sixty-ninth session will be on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. The review will include an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and its contribution towards the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate these four outstanding young women on their selection, and I thank them for their leadership. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

**RECOGNIZING RITA PRICE-SIMPSON'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS**

**HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud Hoosier representing the 3rd district of Indiana. We have beautiful landscapes and many storied histories, but above all we have terrific people who make up our fantastic district.

Today, I'm proud to recognize one such Hoosier. Rita Price-Simpson has been on WRSW radio for 65 years. On that historic station, she has broadcast boys and girls basketball games and football games for 50 years. That is quite a milestone, and Rita is truly a remarkable woman.

She has been inducted into the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame, the Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and the Kosciusko County Basketball Hall of Fame. She has also received the Indiana Torchbearers Award from the Indiana Commission For Women and The Sportscaster of The Year Award from the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association, along with that, she was named the Kosciusko County Woman of The Year.

For her tremendous accomplishments, in fact, WRSW named her studio at the station "The Rita Price Studio." Going along with all those honors, if you look closely at the basketball court at Tippecanoe Valley High School, you will see it has been aptly named the "Rita Price-Simpson Court." To this day, she continues working in sales and broadcasts 65 basketball games and 10 football games every year.

She is happily married with 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. She has been president of the Mentone Chamber Of Commerce, and she is an active member of the Mentone United Methodist Church.

But today she is recognized for the work she loves desperately, and obviously, Mr. Speaker, she loves and honors high school sports right here in her home state of Indiana.

I'm proud to make her name known throughout our Nation's capitol . . . and the fruited plain.

**RECOGNIZING SAVANNAH FEED THE HUNGRY**

**HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Savannah Feed the Hungry, an organization that has served as a pillar of hope and nourishment for Georgia's First District since 2009.

Savannah Feed the Hungry has provided over 1.5 million meals, fighting hunger and food insecurity across the Lowcountry.

What started as a mission to help low-income families has expanded to serve over 14 cities offering: fresh produce distribution, gas giveaways, disaster relief efforts and seminars and workshops for financial and job readiness.

In 2019, Savannah Feed the Hungry, in partnership with St. Joseph/Candler, established the Empowerment Center, which equips individuals with: financial literacy training, job readiness programs, and nutritional education.

Beyond food assistance, the organization promotes urban gardening and healthy cooking classes, fostering self-sufficiency and community engagement.

For 16 years, its annual "Hope for a Plate" holiday dinner has ensured that thousands of people receive a warm meal and companionship during the holidays.

Savannah Feed the Hungry is not just feeding people—it is empowering lives. Its commitment to these values deserves our recognition and support.

**RECOGNIZING SHIRLEY ANN ELLIS**

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service of Shirley Ann Ellis. Shirley has worked as part of my staff for over 30 years, spending 12 of those years as my Chief of Staff in the Wisconsin State Senate. She has also served as my District Director and Senior Advisor for over 20 years throughout my time in the U.S. House of Representatives. It is with sadness, but also great pride, that I announce her retirement today, and it is an honor to recognize her incredible commitment to public service, our Nation, and the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin.

Shirley's remarkable journey began in Waukegan, Illinois, when she was born to parents Ruby Snowden Ellis and Lepolis Ellis. She grew up in my district alongside her sister, Betty Ross, and attended Milwaukee Public Schools starting at the age of four. She graduated from Rufus King High School at just sixteen. Shirley continued her education at Gustavus Adolphus College, earning a bachelor's degree in zoology with a minor in chemistry. At 22 years old, she went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in library science. After completing her education, Shirley worked for the State of Wisconsin for 25 years, 11 of those years she served as the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, where she oversaw investigations into complaints of mistreatment of elderly and disabled individuals in nursing homes and community-based residential facilities. As an unwavering advocate for the most vulnerable members of society, she worked tirelessly to ensure their voices were heard and their injustices were addressed. Her work in this field, combined with her education, laid the foundation for a career defined by exceptional leadership and advocacy in healthcare, justice, labor, and women's issues.

Throughout her career, Shirley has been driven by a commitment to reform and progress, ensuring a more

prosperous, equitable, and inclusive Nation for all.

In 1993, Shirley's journey in public service took a pivotal turn when she became my Chief of Staff during my tenure in the Wisconsin State Senate. Over the next 12 years, she played an essential role in advancing civil and women's rights, expanding welfare, investing in education, and reforming the criminal justice system. Her leadership during this time was invaluable, and she became an indispensable part of my team.

With my election to this chamber in 2004, Shirley continued her work as my Senior Advisor and District Director. Simply put, without her extraordinary management and leadership, I would not be standing where I am today. The legislation and policies that have transformed the lives of my constituents and this country would not have come to fruition without Shirley's dedication and service. As District Director for the Fourth Congressional District of Wisconsin, she ensured that every community, group, and individual had their concerns heard, uplifted, and addressed. She continues to serve as a bright example of how governance can transform lives and inspire progress.

At the heart of Shirley's service was her deep love for community and family. She was married to Gabriel Lee Shaw, Jr., for 42 years. Known to me as my brother-in-love, Gabe was Shirley's steadfast foundation and source of strength. Even beyond his passing in December of 2023, he remains a guiding light and inspiration for her advocacy. Those of us who know Shirley recognize that her compassion, trust, integrity, intelligence, and loyalty have been shaped by a love that transcends time.

Shirley's dedication to public service is unparalleled. She has spent her career advocating for the most vulnerable people in our country, giving a voice to those who would otherwise remain unheard in this chamber. There was never a moment when she wasn't deeply in tune with the needs of the people she served. The progress we have witnessed across my district, the City of Milwaukee, and our Nation is a testament to her tireless efforts. While the impact of her work cannot be measured in numbers, it is felt in the countless lives she has touched and transformed. We will continue to see her legacy in the future leaders of this country, many of whom regard her as a mentor, role model, and a shining example of what it means to lead with integrity, empathy, and empowerment. Shirley has received many praises for her vast knowledge of political and community networks. In 2020, she was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the DPMC and was selected as a Senior Advisor for the 2020 DNC Host Committee and by the Biden for President campaign as Strategic Advisor for the State of Wisconsin. This was a result of Shirley's unmatched management skills and experience in the political field.

Having worked alongside Shirley for 33 years, I will deeply miss her leadership and the way she brought my staff and constituents together. However, as her close friend, I am ecstatic to see what blessings this new chapter of life holds for her. Though she may no longer serve as my District Director, I know her spirit of service will remain unyielding. Shirley will continue to put others first, championing causes close to her heart and advocating for those around her. She has led her life with service first, and I am confident when

I say that her graciousness, bravery, and compassion will never leave her spirit.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, it is with tremendous pride that I recognize the remarkable service of Shirley Ann Ellis today. She has changed the lives of so many, including my own constituents. On behalf of the people of the Fourth Congressional District, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States, I thank Shirley Ann Ellis for her 45 years of stunning service, powerful leadership, and loyal dedication to the public good.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF DANIEL L. RITCHIE**

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Daniel L. Ritchie, a true friend and towering figure in Colorado's civic and educational landscape.

A man of humility, integrity, and vision, Dan Ritchie left an indelible mark on the University of Denver, the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and countless other institutions that he supported with his generosity and leadership.

Born in China Grove, North Carolina, Dan Ritchie was a man of extraordinary drive and intellect. He earned degrees from Harvard University, beginning a career that spanned finance, broadcasting, and philanthropy. From his work as CEO of Westinghouse Broadcasting to his tenure as DU chancellor, he brought a steady hand and a keen strategic mind to every challenge he faced.

When Dan became chancellor of DU in 1989, the institution was in financial peril. Through bold action and personal sacrifice—selling his own ranch to bolster fundraising efforts—he transformed DU into a world-class university, expanding its academic programs, growing its endowment, and elevating its national reputation. His leadership made DU a hub of excellence, where students and faculty could thrive in a reinvigorated learning environment.

Beyond the university, Dan Ritchie extended his vision to the broader Denver community. As chairman of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, he guided the organization through turbulent financial times, ensuring that future generations could experience the transformative power of live theater. His commitment to early childhood education through the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation and his work with the Daniels Fund further reflected his deep belief in the power of education to change lives.

Despite his many accomplishments and accolades, Dan Ritchie never sought the spotlight. He lived by a simple yet profound code—his ‘cowboy ethics’—which emphasized courage, fairness, and an unwavering commitment to one’s community. He led not for recognition, but for the betterment of those around him. He was a friend and mentor to generations of civic leaders—always with an open door and wisdom to share.

As we remember Daniel L. Ritchie, let us not only celebrate his remarkable achievements but also carry forward his example. Let us be inspired by his generosity, his unwavering dedication to education and the arts, and his belief that each of us has a role to play in improving our communities. Colorado has lost a great leader, but his legacy will endure through the institutions he strengthened and the countless lives he touched.

I extend my deepest condolences to Dan's family and friends. May he rest in peace.

**CELEBRATING THE 100TH  
BIRTHDAY OF MRS. VERGIA JONES**

**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 10, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Vergia Jones. Mother Vergia Jones was born on January 6, 1925, as the eldest of eight children. She dedicated her life to service, both in her professional career and in her community. She retired as a nurse assistant from Cook County Hospital, where she provided compassionate care to countless patients.

Known for her commitment to health and wellness, Mother Jones earned the affectionate title of a “health nut” due to her love for growing her own food and preparing nutritious meals, including poke salad and greens, every day. Her passion for well-being extended beyond herself, as she devoted much of her time to missionary work.

A licensed missionary, Mother Jones remained faithful to her calling by ensuring those in need had access to food. She personally delivered food boxes to individuals who were homebound and played an active role in the Monday Night Meal Program and the Thursday food giveaway at Evening Star Missionary Baptist Church until the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to that, she was a dedicated member of Free Will Missionary Baptist Church, where she taught Women’s Sunday School for several years.

In addition to her church and community work, Mother Jones was an entrepreneur, selling Stanley Home Products for many years. Her dedication to faith, family, and service has made a lasting impact on everyone who has had the privilege of knowing her.

Mother Jones is the proud matriarch of a large and loving family, which includes seven children, 17 grandchildren, over 20 great-grandchildren, and more than 27 great-great-grandchildren. Now, at 100 years old, she enjoys the well-earned luxury of being cared for by those she once nurtured, surrounded by the love and appreciation of her family and community. Her life stands as a testament to unwavering faith, generosity, and dedication to helping others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating this remarkable milestone.

**SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily

Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

**MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

**FEBRUARY 12**

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Business meeting to consider S. 298, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to headquarters to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, S. 300, to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, S. 371, to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration, and committee rules for the 119th Congress.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025.

SD-216

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the Arctic and Greenland's geostrategic importance to U.S. interests.

SD-253

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine advancing carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technologies and ensuring effective implementation of the USE IT Act.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor.

SD-G50

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Native communities' priorities for the 119th Congress.

SD-628

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SD-219

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine optimizing longevity from research to action.

SD-106

FEBRUARY 13

9 a.m.

## Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and the nomination of Kashyap Patel, of Nevada, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.

SD-216

9:30 a.m.

## Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be

immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

## Committee on the Budget

Business meeting to continue to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025.

SD-608

## Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education.

SD-562

## Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress; to be immediately followed by a

hearing to examine eliminating waste by the foreign aid bureaucracy.

SD-342

10:30 a.m.

## Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine navigating Syria policy after Assad.

SD-419

## POSTPONEMENTS

FEBRUARY 13

9:30 a.m.

## Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on farmer and rancher views on the agricultural economy.

SD-106

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### *Chamber Action*

#### *Routine Proceedings, pages S805–S822*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 492–504, and S. Res. 68. **Page S819**

#### **Measures Reported:**

S. 68, to prohibit the suspension of collections on loans made to small businesses related to COVID–19, with amendments.

S. 273, to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in certain loan programs of the Small Business Administration, with an amendment.

**Pages S818–19**

#### **Announcement from the Chair:**

**Joint Committee on Taxation:** The Chair announced on behalf of the Committee on Finance, pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, U.S. Code, the designation of the following Senators as members of the Joint Committee on Taxation: Senators Crapo, Grassley, Cornyn, Wyden, and Cantwell. **Page S821**

**Gabbard Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence. **Pages S805–14**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 49), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S811–12**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, February 11, 2025; and that all time during morning business, recess, adjournment and Leader remarks count post-cloture.

**Pages S821–22**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S817**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S817**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page S817**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S817–18**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S819–20**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S820–21**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today. (Total—49) **Page S812**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:15 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S821–22.)

### *Committee Meetings*

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

No committee meetings were held.

## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 28 public bills, H.R. 1152–1179; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 10; and H. Res. 123–124, were introduced. **Pages H612–14**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H614–15**

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 122, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 77) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for “midnight rules”, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–3). **Page H612**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H587**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:43 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H591**

**Congressional Award Board—Appointment:** Read a letter from Representative Jeffries, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following individual to the Congressional Award Board: David Trone of Potomac, Maryland. **Page H593**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:15 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H593**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:41 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H605**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Disabled Veterans Housing Support Act:** H.R. 224, to amend section 102(a)(20) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and moderate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income; **Pages H593–95**

**Chinese Currency Accountability Act of 2025:** H.R. 386, to require the United States Governor of, and the United States Executive Director at, the International Monetary Fund to oppose an increase in the weight of the Chinese renminbi in the Special Drawing Rights basket of the Fund; **Pages H595–96**

**China Exchange Rate Transparency Act:** H.R. 692, amended, to require the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate for increased transparency with respect to exchange rate policies of the People's Republic of China, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas to 7 nays, Roll No. 36; **Pages H596–99, H605**

**Protect Small Businesses from Excessive Paperwork Act of 2025:** H.R. 736, to amend title 31, United States Code, to modify the deadline for filing beneficial ownership information reports for reporting companies formed or registered before January 1, 2024, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 408 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 37; **Pages H599–H601, H606**

**Credit Union Board Modernization Act:** H.R. 975, to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings; and **Pages H601–03**

**Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act:** H.R. 965, to amend section 3(b)(4) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exclude certain disability

benefits from income for the purposes of determining eligibility for the supported housing program under section 8(o)(19). **Pages H603–05**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H605 and H606.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### MIDNIGHT RULES RELIEF ACT

**Committee on Rules:** Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 77, the “Midnight Rules Relief Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–2, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 77, the “Midnight Rules Relief Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cline and Raskin.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

**Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:** to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 10 a.m., SH–216.

**Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:** organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee, and subcommittee assignments for the 119th Congress, 10 a.m., SD–366.

**Committee on Finance:** business meeting to consider the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, 11:30 a.m., SD–215.

**Select Committee on Intelligence:** closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

**House**

*Committee on Agriculture*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining the Economic Crisis in Farm Country”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations*, Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs, hearing entitled “Mexico’s Water Treaty Violations and the Impact on Americans”, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Artificial Intelligence, hearing entitled “A Golden Age of Digital Assets: Charting a Path Forward”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled “Examining the PRC’s Strategic Port Investments in the Western Hemisphere and the Implications for Homeland Security, Part I”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Part 1: Committee Funding for the 119th Congress”, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, hearing entitled “Reining in the Administrative State: Regulatory and Administrative Law Reform”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Restoring Energy Dominance: The Path to Unleashing American Offshore Energy”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled “Restoring Multiple Use to Revitalize America’s Public Lands and Rural Communities”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, hearing entitled “Examining the Growth of the Welfare State, Part I”, 1:30 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “America Builds: Clean Water Act Permitting and Project Delivery”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “Bureaucratic Barriers: Making VBA Education Services Work for Veterans and not the Bureaucracy”, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled “IRS Return on Investment and the Need for Modernization”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Modernizing American Health Care: Creating Healthy Options and Better Incentives”, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Absent an agreement and if all time is used, at approximately 12:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

**Senate Committees**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

*Committee on Armed Services*: February 13, to hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Northern Command and United States Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs*: February 11, to hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, 10 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on the Budget*: February 12, business meeting to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025, 10 a.m., SH-216.

February 13, Full Committee, business meeting to continue to markup the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2025, 10 a.m., SD-608.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation*: February 12, to hold hearings to examine the Arctic and Greenland’s geostrategic importance to U.S. interests, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*: February 11, organizational business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee, and subcommittee assignments for the 119th Congress, 10 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works*: February 12, to hold hearings to examine advancing carbon capture, utilization and sequestration technologies and ensuring effective implementation of the USE IT Act, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Finance*: February 11, business meeting to consider the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, 11:30 a.m., SD-215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations*: February 13, to hold hearings to examine navigating Syria policy after Assad, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*: February 12, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

February 13, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Linda McMahon, of Connecticut, to be Secretary of Education, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*: February 13, business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the committee during the 119th Congress; to be immediately followed by

**CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD**

**Week of February 11 through February 14, 2025**

**Senate Chamber**

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence, post-cloture.

a hearing to examine eliminating waste by the foreign aid bureaucracy, 10 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on Indian Affairs*: February 12, to hold an oversight hearing to examine Native communities' priorities for the 119th Congress, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

*Committee on the Judiciary*: February 12, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

February 13, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and the nomination of Kashyap Patel, of Nevada, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SD-216.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship*: February 12, business meeting to consider S. 298, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to headquarters to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, S. 300, to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, S. 371, to require certain reports on small business disaster assistance to be published on the website of the Small Business Administration, and committee rules for the 119th Congress, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

*Select Committee on Intelligence*: February 11, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

February 12, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging*: February 12, to hold hearings to examine optimizing longevity from research to action, 3:30 p.m., SD-106.

## House Committees

*Committee on Appropriations*, February 12, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Career Ready Students: Innovations from Community Colleges and the Private Sector", 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services*, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Protecting American Interests in a Convergent Global Threat Environment", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, February 12, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1048, the "DETERRENT Act"; H.R. 649, the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025"; H.R. 1069, the "PROTECT Our Kids Act"; H.R. 1005, the "CLASS Act"; and H.R. 1049, the "Transparency in Reporting of Adversarial Contributions to Education Act", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, February 12, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled "AI in Manufacturing: Securing American Leadership in Manufacturing and the Next Generation of Technologies", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Federal Reserve's Semi-Annual Monetary Policy Report", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, February 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The USAID Betrayal", 8:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on House Administration*, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Part 2: Committee Funding for the 119th Congress", 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Censorship-Industrial Complex", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, February 12, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 231, the "Colorado River Basin System Conservation Extension Act of 2025"; H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.; H.R. 302, the "Water Rights Protection Act of 2025"; H.R. 331, to amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes; H.R. 618, to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the City of North Las Vegas and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, and for other purposes; H.R. 1001, to provide for a memorandum of understanding to address the impacts of a certain record of decision on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund; H.R. 1044, to amend Public Law 99-338 with respect to Kaweah Project permits; H.R. 1110, the "Grazing for Wildfire Risk Reduction Act"; and the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

February 12, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Leaving Indian Children Behind: Reviewing the State of BIE Schools", 2 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, February 12, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency, hearing entitled "The War on Waste: Stamping Out the Scourge of Improper Payments and Fraud", 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, February 12, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled "From Transformative Science to Technological Breakthroughs: DOE's National Laboratories", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, February 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Driving Economic Growth: SBA Lending Programs and the Vital Role of Community Banks", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, February 12, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled "America Builds: A Review of Programs to Address Roadway Safety", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*, February 12, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Roles and Responsibilities: Evaluating VA Community Care", 2:15 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, February 12, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1155, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow taxpayers to elect to receive certain replacement refunds electronically; H.R. 997, the "National Taxpayer Advocate Enhancement Act of 2025"; H.R. 998, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require additional information on math and

clerical error notices; H.R. 1152, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the application of the mailbox rule to documents and payments electronically submitted to the Internal Revenue Service; and

H.R. 1156, to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*  
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 11

Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence, post-cloture.

Absent an agreement and if all time is used, at approximately 12:30 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, and on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

*(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 11

House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of H. Res. 122—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 77) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for “midnight rules”.

**Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue**

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