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No. 36

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 24, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NICHOLAS J. BEGICH, III, 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.

### CONGRATULATING DAME KAREN PIERCE

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ambassador Dame Karen Pierce, who served nearly 5 years as the British Ambassador to the United States and was recently appointed as the United Kingdom's Special Envoy to the Western Balkans.

During Ambassador Pierce's time in the United States, she happily embraced her role as the guardian of the

special relationship between our two countries. During a time of increasingly strident partisanship, Ambassador Pierce was able to find allies across the political spectrum, receiving praise from all sides for her ability to bring people together.

Ambassador Pierce has continued to play a key role in advocating for increasing economic engagement between our two nations—I look forward to a U.S.-U.K. free trade agreement—and she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to global stability. Whether wrestling with security challenges, strengthening economic ties, or championing democratic values, Ambassador Pierce has exemplified the very best diplomacy leadership.

Dame Pierce was indefatigable. It seemed she gathered people to her home in Washington every day and every evening for conversations about the most important matters on the globe. I think I saw more of Karen these last 5 years than I saw of my own family. She was everywhere, and she knew everybody, one of the most important skills of the most important diplomat from our most important ally.

Ambassador Pierce's New Year's Eve celebrations will live long in Washington memory.

Please join me in thanking Ambassador Pierce and wishing her the best on her next mission to the West Balkans. Her legacy of diplomacy will continue to inspire future generations.

ZONING IN ON SERVICE: HONORING GERRY  
HYLAND'S LEGACY

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Gerald W. "Gerry" Hyland, the true pillar of the Mount Vernon community who recently passed away.

For 28 years, Gerry served as the Mount Vernon district supervisor, but he was no ordinary public servant. After getting his LLB from George Washington School of Law, he decided

that was not taxing enough and proceeded to earn a master's of law in taxation from George Washington School of Law.

Gerry was a man who wore many hats, from Air Force colonel to lawyer, but it was his role as a community leader where he truly found his calling. He may have been known as Mr. Pot-hole, but his impact on the community was anything but shallow.

Gerry was known for his sharp legal mind, his dedication to public service, and his uncanny ability to solve problems. His office said that the supervisor never met a pun that he didn't like or a constituent he wouldn't try to help. You might say he had a real knack for zoning in on the issues that mattered most.

Gerry always tried to include his constituents in every big decision. It seems Gerry knew the secret ingredient to community engagement, a healthy serving of Hyland sauce.

As a master of puns, Hyland left a lasting impression with his humor. Before retiring in 2015, at his final board of supervisors meeting, he shared one last pun that perfectly encapsulated his wit: There once was a supervisor who told 10 puns to his colleagues to get them to laugh, but no pun in 10 did.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF DON FOWKES, JR.

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of Don Fowkes. Don, of Duncansville, Pennsylvania, passed away on February 15.

A graduate of Hollidaysburg High School, Don joined the Allegheny Township Police Department in 1968 and honorably served for 32 years, culminating as the chief of police.

□ 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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H733

Don was later elected as township supervisor in 2003, giving 50 years of his life to serving Allegheny Township in Pennsylvania.

My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nancy; his daughters, Tracy and Tonya; and his grandchildren, McKenzie and Jordan.

Don's service and his commitment to community will never be forgotten by the individuals of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING CAREER AND TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this month is Career and Technology Education Month, celebrating the students, teachers, and administrators throughout the country who participate in these important programs.

Last week, I met with the students and staff at Colonial Career and Technology Center at New Oxford High School in Adams County, Pennsylvania, and the Bedford County Technical Center in Everett, Pennsylvania.

It was a pleasure to tour these facilities at both campuses and meet with their dedicated staff and the talented students to learn more about the skills that these students are building each and every day while in those classrooms.

Programs like these give students an opportunity to explore future careers while gaining real-world, hands-on experience in that field. This gives students an opportunity to use their hands and brains as they carve out careers, careers that are so necessary right now throughout America.

I thank all the career and technology centers throughout Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District for preparing students for success in a competitive job market, strengthening regional workforces, and helping to bolster the economic health of our communities.

HONORING MICHAEL STRANK

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Michael Strank of Franklin borough, Pennsylvania, who is one of the patriots who planted the American flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima in late February 1945.

An immigrant from Eastern Europe, Sergeant Strank signed up for the Marine Corps in 1939, and in 1942, he was promoted to sergeant, preparing to go to war in the Pacific after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

In February 1945, Sergeant Strank was on the island of Iwo Jima, where some of the most intense fighting throughout the war had occurred.

On February 23, 1945, Sergeant Michael Strank, along with other Marines, climbed to the top of the volcanic rock and planted Old Glory for all to see.

Though the battle waged for 2 more weeks, Sergeant Strank and his fellow marines created a lasting image that would go on to embody American strength and courage.

Unfortunately, Sergeant Strank never made it home from Iwo Jima, as he was killed in combat just 1 week later. However, the image that he and his fellow soldiers and marines created lives on today, serving as a reminder to all generations of what American perseverance and strength can accomplish.

To Sergeant Strank, I say Semper Fi, and to all who served as part of the Greatest Generation, I thank them.

May the brave men and women who pick up the torch today to protect our freedoms around the globe take inspiration from those who came before them, like Sergeant Strank.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET BETRAYS  
MIDDLE CLASS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, we are now in the eighth week of the 119th Congress, which has distinguished itself with incredibly low productivity and low effort.

So far, we have brought up just a bunch of moldy old leftovers from the last Congress. We have been averaging roughly about two votes a day since the Congress was sworn in on January 3.

Despite the fact that we have a government shutdown looming in about 2 weeks, on March 14, the Speaker is much more focused on other things than trying to again avoid a catastrophe like that.

It appears that this week we actually are going to take up the budget reconciliation bill that again has been worked out down at the Mar-a-Lago hotel over the last 2 months or so, where a conga line of billionaires have been observed walking through, meeting with leadership of the Republican Conference, laying out their priorities, not the American people's priorities, in terms of what they want to see in that reconciliation bill.

This week, we are going to take up, apparently, according to the Speaker's Office, an actual vote on that.

Why is that being given priority over a government shutdown? The real reason that is being given priority is that the tax cuts that were passed in 2017, particularly on personal rates, are going to be expiring in 2025. For the people who benefited the most, the top 1 percent of this country in terms of their economic position, for them, that is their number one priority.

A week ago Friday, in the Budget Committee, on a party-line vote, the Republicans produced their bill, their budget reconciliation bill, which extends those tax cuts, despite the fact that it worsens our budget deficit and leaves middle-class and lower income Americans in the dust.

This chart was done by the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a nonpartisan think tank, which shows again where the benefit of that bill is

going to go. The top 1 percent in income—in the State of Connecticut from where I am from, that is people whose income is about \$1.2 million a year—they are going to get a \$70,000 tax cut. For somebody who is in the lowest quintile, which is income up to \$14,000 a year, you can see on this chart they are going to get about \$130. For a middle-income person who makes roughly about \$114,000 a year, they are going to get about a grand in terms of their tax payments.

Now, if we actually had a mature, reasonable process in this Chamber where Democrats would also be consulted in terms of putting together a plan to make sure that lower income and middle-income individuals' taxes don't go up, we could work out an arrangement, but not with a price tag of which the top 1 percent are going to continue to rake in tax cuts that were, again, shoved into the bill in 2017, lowering the top marginal rate from 39 percent to 36 percent. Again, that was just a complete and total windfall for people who don't need that type of tax relief.

Let's look again at what else the Budget Committee did with this chart, which shows how they are going to pay for extending those tax cuts. The cost of extending those tax cuts for the top 1 percent is \$4.5 trillion over the next 10 years.

There were some other additions that they put into the budget, which are going to add to the deficit. To pay for it, they included a whole bunch of cuts. The big one is to cut the Medicaid program, a program which provides healthcare for 70 million Americans, such as people in nursing homes. Almost half the live births in this country are covered by Medicaid. Young, working-class individuals, because of the ACA expansion, are covered by Medicaid.

Again, this bill talks about cutting \$880 billion, about 20 percent of the cost of the program, indiscriminately with no precision in terms of who it is affecting. It has work requirements. Are people in their nineties in nursing homes really going to do that? Give me a break.

There are some other cuts to higher education to help pay for this.

The bottom line is, at the end of the day, we are still going to be adding to the deficit. The deficit hawks in the Republican Party are adding to the deficit with this measure on top of the deficits that we are already running today.

This bill is fiscally irresponsible and outrageously unfair in terms of who benefits from it. It is extremely harmful to middle-class and working families of this country whose essential need for educational services and healthcare are going to be cut. They will take the hit in terms of advancing this priority.

This is an important vote for the people of this country to be watching. This is a gut check for every Member in this

House about where their priorities are because that is what budgets are about. They are an expression of people's moral values and their priorities in terms of who should get help in our country.

This measure will not help the people who need it, who are still struggling with the high cost of living, and who don't need to basically have the rug pulled out from under them with a measure like this.

□ 1215

#### HONORING BELOVED IOWAN DAVE HEATON

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Dave Heaton, a beloved Iowan, whose passing on February 12 at age 84 has left his wife Carmen; daughter, Mary Elizabeth; the city of Mount Pleasant; and Iowa in mourning.

Dave graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, and he enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve and served with an engineering battalion in Washington, Iowa. He taught social studies and government at Van Buren High School, and he also was an assistant coach for the girls' basketball team and a defensive coach for the football team.

Before public service, Dave and his wife, Carmen, ran the Iris Restaurant for 42 years, and Dave's family in Sigourney, Iowa, ran restaurants as well. The Iris Restaurant was a community hub where he carved roast beef and listened to everyone who entered. Known as the best boss, he made it into southeast Iowa's finest dining spot.

For 24 years, Dave served in the Iowa House of Representatives, where his pragmatic compassion shaped mental health, human services, and education policy. As chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, he turned conviction into progress.

His reach extended to education, working with school boards, and inspiring leaders like Jesse Howard. Healthcare in general, but also mental health, were his focus, and later in life he served on the board of directors of the National Alliance of Mental Illness.

He was a giant of a man: mentor, friend and neighbor. Always humble and always selfless, Dave Heaton's legacy of dedication, kindness, and service defines what public life should be. Iowa stands stronger because of him.

Rest in peace, Dave. You will definitely be missed.

#### HAITIAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, I met with priests and leaders of the Haitian immigrant community in Puerto Rico. I heard their accounts of what has been happening since ICE began its raids. The stories were devastating and demoralizing.

Mr. Speaker, imagine living in Puerto Rico for 40 years, building a life, raising children, and contributing to our economy, and facing the fear of being unfairly deported to a country you barely know, one devastated by violence and disaster.

Mr. Speaker, imagine being a documented resident of Puerto Rico and being placed under arrest, simply because you looked or sounded like an undocumented immigrant.

Mr. Speaker, imagine needing medical care but being too afraid to leave your home and seek help out of fear of being detained and deported.

This is not justice, and as our former Governor, Luis Muñoz Marín, once said: Injustice towards some is injustice towards all.

Beyond the ethical concerns, beyond the moral concerns, and beyond the emotional concerns that these injustices raise, there are practical consequences that I urge the administration to consider. The persecution of documented immigrants hurts our communities, our economy, and our businesses.

Businesses in Puerto Rico and across the United States are suffering because immigrants are too afraid to go to work, seek services, or even buy food. I have heard stories of construction workers who don't show up to work and of local restaurants that have suddenly changed their business model from dining-in to delivery. Barrio Obrero, a Dominican neighborhood in San Juan, is not what it used to be.

We are doing our best to protect immigrants and ensure they are treated with dignity and respect. That is why on January 27 I sent an oversight letter, along with the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, to demand answers from DHS and ICE on wrongful tactics used by agents that have caused considerable distress within communities in Puerto Rico and across the country. To date, DHS and ICE have not adequately answered our questions.

On January 29, I personally called the Puerto Rico Association of Mayors and asked them to provide as much assistance as legally possible to protect our immigrant communities.

On February 6, I joined Congressman ESPAILLAT in introducing H.R. 1061, which would prevent immigration enforcement at sensitive locations, such as churches and schools, so that migrants can safely visit.

Our message to the immigrant communities in Puerto Rico and the United States is simple: You are not alone, and we will keep fighting for you.

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

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

Señor Presidente, La semana pasada me reuní con sacerdotes y líderes de la comunidad inmigrante haitiana en Puerto Rico. Escuché sus relatos sobre lo que ha estado ocurriendo desde que ICE comenzó sus redadas. Las historias eran devastadoras y desmoralizantes.

Imagine vivir en Puerto Rico por 40 años—construir una vida, criar hijos, contribuir a nuestra economía—y enfrentarse al temor de ser deportado injustamente a un país que apenas conoces, un país devastado por la violencia y los desastres.

Imagina ser un residente documentado de Puerto Rico y ser arrestado—simplemente porque “parecías” o “sonabas” como un inmigrante indocumentado.

Imagina necesitar atención médica, pero tener demasiado miedo de salir de tu hogar y buscarla por temor a ser detenido y deportado.

Esto no es justicia, y como dijo una vez nuestro exgobernador Luis Muñoz Marín, “en la larga historia de los pueblos, lo que es injusto para algunos, es injusto para todos”.

Más allá de las preocupaciones éticas, morales y emocionales que generan estas injusticias, hay consecuencias prácticas que insto a la administración a considerar. La persecución de inmigrantes documentados perjudica nuestra economía, nuestros negocios y nuestras comunidades.

Los negocios en Puerto Rico y en Estados Unidos están sufriendo. Hemos oído historias de trabajadores de la industria de construcción que no llegan a su lugar de trabajo. Hemos oído historias de restaurantes que han tenido que cambiar su modelo de negocio de cenar en el restaurante a hacer entrega.

Los negocios en Puerto Rico, en lugares como Barrio Obrero, se han visto profundamente afectados, y las comunidades no son lo que eran antes.

Estamos haciendo todo lo posible para proteger a los inmigrantes y garantizar que sean tratados con dignidad, con respeto y como seres humanos.

Por eso, el 27 de enero, lideré una carta junto con el presidente del Caucus Hispano del Congreso, Adriano Espaillat, exigiendo respuestas de DHS y de ICE sobre las tácticas erróneas utilizadas por los agentes en estas redadas. Hasta la fecha, no hemos recibido respuestas satisfactorias.

El 29 de enero, llamé personalmente a la Asociación de Alcaldes y les pedí que brindaran toda la asistencia posible, dentro de la legalidad, a nuestras comunidades inmigrantes. Y el 6 de febrero, me uní al congresista Espaillat para presentar el Proyecto de ley con el fin de proteger los lugares sensibles de redadas.

Nuestro mensaje para las comunidades inmigrantes en Puerto Rico y en Estados Unidos es simple: no están solos y seguiremos luchando por ustedes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Puerto Rico will provide a translation to the Chair.

#### NATIONAL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and celebrate National FFA Week, an annual tradition that highlights the contributions of one of our Nation's most impactful youth organizations.

Last week, from February 15 to 22, we honored the FFA's mission, achievements, and ongoing work in preparing future generations of agricultural leaders.

Founded in 1928, the National FFA Organization has grown into a dynamic force in agriculture, education, leadership development, and career preparedness.

With over 1 million members and chapters in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, FFA stands as a pillar of strength for young men and women pursuing careers in agriculture, agribusiness, and related fields.

FFA is a transformative experience that instills a sense of responsibility, leadership, and service in its members. The agricultural education programs offered through FFA equip students with the technical skills, scientific knowledge, and problem-solving abilities necessary to meet the challenges of feeding, clothing, and fueling our Nation.

Access to agricultural education is critical not only for our rural communities but for the entire country.

Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. As I often say, food security is national security, and investing in the next generation of producers ensures that there is food on our tables, clothes on our backs, and fuel in our vehicles. However, beyond that, agriculture is science, technology, and innovation. Its cutting-edge advancements will drive the future of food production and environmental stewardship.

The blue FFA jacket is more than just a uniform. It symbolizes hard work, commitment, and leadership. The young men and women who wear it today are tomorrow's farmers, veterinarians, researchers, policymakers, and business leaders.

Their dedication to agricultural excellence and community service exemplifies the very best of American values. The impact of FFA extends far beyond agriculture. The leadership training, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that members develop prepare them for a wide range of careers and civic responsibilities.

Many former FFA members have gone on to serve in Congress, lead Fortune 500 companies, and contribute

meaningfully to their local communities, including the recently confirmed U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Brooke Rollins, the first Secretary of Agriculture to have served as a State FFA officer.

As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I understand the vital importance of shaping the next generation of farmers, ranchers, and producers. Through education and hands-on experiences, FFA continues to make a lasting impact on the agriculture industry.

National FFA Week is also an opportunity to recognize the educators, advisers, and mentors who guide these young leaders, as well as the families and communities that support them. Their investment in agricultural education ensures that future generations will continue to innovate, adapt, and lead.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the past successes of FFA while also looking ahead to the incredible contributions that future FFA leaders will make. Their passion, knowledge, and dedication give us confidence in the future of American agriculture and the prosperity of our Nation.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY IS AN EARNED BENEFIT

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 the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for children. That program is Social Security.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, as you know, Congress has not addressed or enhanced Social Security in more than 54 years. Richard Nixon was President of the United States the last time that Congress enhanced Social Security.

I am sure it is of interest to some of our listeners here today that Social Security is the number one insurance program for a Nation who relies on their government to make sure that it passes on savings to them that they have paid for. This is no entitlement. All one has to do is go to their pay stub where it says FICA, Federal insurance contribution. Whose money is that? It is your money.

Yet, Congress hasn't acted on it. However, we want to give that opportunity to everyone to act on it.

What is especially alarming, Mr. Speaker, is now Mr. Musk—an unelected official who operates outside of government, who doesn't need to be approved by the Senate, who is neither a Federal employee nor a volunteer, he has the ear of the President of the United States and can get all the statistics and data that he wants—is currently going after Social Security data.

I commend the Federal employees who have stood up to this illegal act and refused, in an effort to protect

American citizens' valuable information and, most importantly, their privacy.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, you have 115,000 Social Security recipients in your district: 86,000 are retirees; 10,000 are disabled workers who rely on this money; 5,486 widows; 2,600 spouses; 8,613 children; and your district gets on a monthly basis \$197 million.

Where do they spend that?

Right back in your district, Mr. Speaker.

Nobody gets wealthy on Social Security. It is the safety net for capitalism. That is what Roosevelt intended it to be. It is long overdue that we have a vote in the United States Congress to enhance Social Security benefits for all Americans.

□ 1230

There are 10,000 baby boomers who become eligible for Social Security every day. More than 70 million people receive Social Security, and now Mr. Musk and Mr. Trump are out to cut those benefits?

Ask your constituents where those cuts are going to come from, Mr. Speaker. Are they ready to say that cuts ought to be made to the money that they receive?

In something that was widely debunked last week, President Trump made the most outlandish claim that Social Security is contributing money to people who are supposedly 150 years old. That was widely debunked as false and untrue, but it is the kind of thing that is seen in dictatorships or at the start of fascism when people all of a sudden make outlandish claims that are untrue with regard to the Nation's number one insurance program for the elderly and our children, which Congress hasn't enhanced in more than 54 years.

The public ought to be demanding a vote of its Members. Do not let any Member of Congress stand up without saying where they stand on your benefits.

#### 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 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

In the beginning, God, You created the heavens and the Earth. When Your

spirit moved over the chaos of the deep, it brought a purifying wind over the formlessness and void of the Earth.

Lord, let there be light in our darkness. Where warfare continues to rage in Ukraine and where hostilities between Israel and Hamas threaten the fragility of life, in the civil wars in Africa and in urban violence in our own country, Lord, separate the light from the darkness. Speak Your purifying Word and bring order into the turmoil of our world.

You have laid the foundations of the Earth, determined its measurements, and rested it on the cornerstone of Your Word. As You have set the limits of the sea and commanded the proud waves to stop, restrain our surge for power. Demand of humanity the humility to serve You only and submit to Your will.

Look upon the work of our hands this day as we tend to the world You have entrusted to us. For You are the author of all creation, the one who made us. May we give You reason, when You look at Your handiwork, to call it good.

In Your sovereign name we pray.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

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

#### RECOGNIZING WELLSBORO ROTARY CLUB'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

(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 the Wellsboro Rotary Club's centennial anniversary.

For a century, the Wellsboro Rotary Club provided unwavering, dedicated service to the community.

The men and women of the Wellsboro Rotary are guided by The Four-Way Test, which is as follows: Of the things we think, say, or do:

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

These guiding principles are the foundation of the Wellsboro Rotary Club's work, shaping a century of service that has left a mark on Wellsboro and the surrounding communities.

Their impact is evident, from recognizing outstanding students and supporting local charities to installing bicycle service stations and funding scholarships.

At its core, Rotary is about service above self. It is about bringing people together, regardless of background, to make the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Wellsboro Rotary Club for its contributions to the community and congratulate these volunteers on 100 years of making a difference.

#### WE MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my unwavering support for the people of Ukraine.

As Russia persists in its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, it is crucial that we unite against Putin as defenders of freedom. By coming together, we can safeguard Ukraine's sovereignty and the future of democracy.

Ukrainians, demonstrating extraordinary resilience, have displayed unwavering courage on the front lines for nearly 3 years. I remain steadfast in supporting democracy, standing with Ukraine, and opposing all of the enemies of freedom around the world.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. FEDORCHAK). 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 6 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. JOYCE of Pennsylvania) 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.

#### ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESSES NOT FRAUDSTERS ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 825) to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 825

*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 "Assisting Small Businesses Not Fraudsters Act".

##### SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE PROHIBITED AFTER FRAUD CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROHIBITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An associate of a small business concern who is finally convicted of any crime involving or relating to financial misconduct or a false statement with respect to a covered loan or grant shall be ineligible to receive any financial assistance from the Administrator, other than financial assistance under section 7(b).

“(2) BUSINESS CONCERNS.—A small business concern that has as an associate an individual subject to paragraph (1) shall be ineligible to receive any financial assistance from the Administrator, other than financial assistance under section 7(b).

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ASSOCIATE.—The term ‘associate’ means, with respect to a small business concern—

“(i) an officer, director, or owner of more than 20 percent of the equity of, or a key employee of, such small business concern;

“(ii) any entity not less than 20 percent owned or controlled by one or more individuals referred to in clause (i); and

“(iii) any other individual or entity in control of or controlled by such small business concern, except for a licensed small business investment company (as defined in section 103(3) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662(3))).

“(B) COVERED LOAN OR GRANT.—The term ‘covered loan or grant’ means—

“(i) a loan made under—

“(I) paragraph (36) or (37) of subsection (a) of section 7; or

“(II) subsection (b) of such section in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; or

“(ii) a grant made under—

“(I) section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c); or

“(II) section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009a).

“(C) FINALLY CONVICTED.—The term ‘finally convicted’ means, with respect to a person, that such person has been convicted of an offense and such conviction—

“(i) has not been appealed and is no longer appealable because the time for taking an appeal has expired; or

“(ii) has been appealed and the appeals process for such conviction is completed.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (h) of section 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645), as added by subsection (a) of this Act, shall not apply to any contract or other agreement entered into by the Government prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 825, the Assisting Small Businesses Not Fraudsters Act.

Mr. Speaker, SBA financial assistance programs are critical to entrepreneurs. Unfortunately, fraudsters infiltrated pandemic-era loans at an alarming rate. An estimated \$200 billion was stolen from honest, hard-working small businesses who needed help when they were forced to close their doors during the COVID-19 pandemic. The harm these fraudsters caused small businesses is devastating to see.

My bill creates accountability and ensures fraudsters are banned from receiving SBA resources for the rest of their lives. As chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, it is my duty to support America's small businesses, not fraudsters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support prioritizing honest, hard-working entrepreneurs over those who defrauded the government, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today as we debate the first set of Committee on Small Business bills. Our committee has a long tradition of putting politics aside to deliver for our Nation's small business employers.

Small businesses employ roughly half of the private workforce, create the majority of new jobs, drive innovation, and generate almost half of our Nation's economic activity. They are the heart and soul of our communities. Whether it is a neighborhood childcare center, or a bakery on Main Street, they are creating neighborhood jobs and reinvesting in the local economies.

More than 21 million small businesses were launched during the previous administration, with a vast majority of the applications being filed by women, including women of color. This is a clear indicator of positive growth and strong entrepreneurial activity, but more work needs to be done.

Today, we are considering seven bipartisan bills that will create additional opportunities for entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, my hope is that we can work together to conduct oversight of

the Trump administration's policies. I have been particularly troubled by the pauses in Federal funding to small businesses, inflationary tariffs, and Elon Musk's access to the SBA's HR, contract, and payment systems. I welcome the opportunity to look into these matters in a bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, turning to our first bill, H.R. 825 will prohibit anyone convicted of defrauding the government during the COVID-19 pandemic from receiving an SBA loan.

The Small Business Administration disbursed approximately \$1.2 trillion in economic aid during the pandemic. The vast majority of this aid served as a lifeline, helping to keep small businesses afloat during troubling and uncertain economic times.

Unfortunately, bad actors took advantage of the program early in the pandemic when SBA removed or weakened internal controls. Upon taking office, the Biden administration re-instituted longstanding antifraud controls and put new safeguards into place to curb the flow of pandemic dollars to fraudsters.

Before issuing a loan, the SBA would screen applicants on the government's Do Not Pay list and then check its internal database for fraudulent flags or holds. Borrowers had an opportunity to clear their names, but the SBA did not move forward until the holds were cleared.

The bill we are considering today has the same effect as the actions taken by the Biden administration, and it sends a strong message that SBA will not do business with anyone who defrauded the government.

Mr. Speaker, the single most important action that Congress can take to recover fraudulent pandemic funds is to fully fund the inspector general and give the office the resources it needs to go after the bad actors.

Former Representative LUETKEMEYER and I sponsored two bills, which became law, to extend the statute of limitations for fraud in the PPP and the EIDL program to 10 years. Without additional resources, the OIG will not be able to capitalize on these new laws, and American taxpayers will lose out.

In closing, I appreciate the bipartisan work of Chairman WILLIAMS, and Representatives Simon and Mfume.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this important legislation will hold these fraudsters accountable, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SIMON).

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for this opportunity to speak. I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for working with me to introduce this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this effort to prioritize small

businesses in the future through funding opportunities by preventing pandemic fraudsters from accessing Federal small business funds.

Like other communities around the United States, in California's 12th District, small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities. Over 29,000 small businesses in our district bolster our region. These businesses struggled throughout the pandemic.

In Oakland's downtown, for instance, many of these institutions are fighting day in and day out just to stay afloat. I thank the Small Business Administration employees who work hard to support them.

These wonderful Federal employees have been connecting with small businesses in our district with emergency assistance, access to capital, advice on how to keep the doors open in the darkest times, how to pay their workers, and how to be strong servicemembers in our community. I have heard from many of these Federal workers who say they have been under assault by this current administration.

Just last month, I visited the Small Business Administration field office. Less than 2 hours after I left, two of those employees had received layoff notices.

Mr. Speaker, firing Federal employees in this moment does not decrease the need or importance of the agency; it just makes it harder for entrepreneurs, for restaurateurs, for childcare operators, and others to keep their employees paid, to keep their doors open, and to keep our downtowns thriving.

Every dollar that Congress gives to the Small Business Administration in this moment means the difference of a small business opening and employing folks or filing for bankruptcy.

The Small Business Administration has provided \$1.2 trillion, let me say that again, \$1.2 trillion in Paycheck Protection Program loans and other emergency assistance during the pandemic. As the ranking member has told us, unfortunately, there have been serious bad actors who took advantage of these funds, and those folks defrauded not only the government, but they defrauded the mom-and-pop shops on Main Street and, in my case, on Broadway.

Those dollars could have been used to create jobs, revitalize communities, and to help those businesses stay open and thrive. Instead, these fraudsters took advantage of the lax application screenings, which we believe may have resulted in them receiving at least 17 percent of the total Small Business Administration assistance.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration has created new safeguards to reduce the potential for this fraud, but this legislation that is supported by our committee would build

on this effort, making convicted fraudsters ineligible for Federal small business assistance.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who has driven a payroll for over 30 years, I cannot express how important this legislation is at this moment. We love and support our small businesses with all that we have.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI).

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding. I also thank the chairman for bringing this legislation forward along with my colleague from California (Ms. SIMON).

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Assisting Small Businesses Not Fraudsters Act, legislation that will help ensure that small businesses who need and deserve support get it, while cutting out fraudsters seeking to exploit vital relief programs.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. They create jobs, they foster innovation, and they drive our local communities forward. They should be who we lift up and support, and they rightly are the beneficiaries of many Small Business Administration programs.

However, far too often, we have scammers taking advantage of these worthy programs. We saw this, for example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the Paycheck Protection Program, Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program, and other relief funds were a lifeline for so many, but were also exploited by bad actors to the tune of an estimated \$36 billion.

This bill ensures that will no longer happen again. It protects taxpayer dollars, ensuring that they go where Congress intended: only to the legitimate small businesses of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for bringing this forward. Government efficiency is a good thing, but there is a right way to go about it and a legal way to go about it. This bill is a great example of a bipartisan way to go forward.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I gladly rise in support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 825.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

#### SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2025

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 832) to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 832

*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 “Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2025”.

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO PRIMARY FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF ADVOCACY OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PRIMARY FUNCTIONS.—Section 202 of Public Law 94-305 (15 U.S.C. 634b) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and the international economy” after “economy”;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking “complete” and inserting “compete”; and

(3) in paragraph (12), by striking “service-disabled” and inserting “service-disabled”.

(b) DUTIES.—Section 203(a) of Public Law 94-305 (15 U.S.C. 634c) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) represent the views and interests of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities for the purpose of contributing to regulatory and trade initiatives which may affect small businesses.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1615

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 832, better known as the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives VAN DREW, TRAN, and

GOODLANDER, for joining me in support of this critical legislation.

By design, the SBA Office of Advocacy acts as the independent voice representing the views and interests of all small businesses within the Federal Government. This means calling attention to harmful regulations and inefficient rules preventing small businesses from competing for government contracts.

This legislation would clarify the functions and duties of the SBA Office of Advocacy when advocating for small businesses on the world stage, specifically when regulatory international trade initiatives are being developed.

Small business voices can easily be drowned out during these important conversations. This legislation fixes that problem by ensuring the views of Main Street are represented and heard before foreign governments and international entities.

My hope this Congress is that we can continue to look for bipartisan ways to make the SBA Office of Advocacy more effective in helping our American small businesses.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 832, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2025.

The Office of Advocacy was established in 1976 to be an independent voice for small businesses within the Federal Government and is tasked with representing the views of small businesses before Congress, the White House, and other Federal agencies.

The office has regional advocates on the ground that provide outreach to small businesses, local chambers of commerce, and other associations to hear firsthand the concerns of small businesses. It works closely with Federal agencies to elevate these concerns throughout the rulemaking process.

Over the years, their work has saved small businesses billions in regulatory costs while still accomplishing the important goals of the regulations. However, their charter does not specifically state that they have the authority to represent the views and interests of small businesses before foreign governments and international entities.

As our economy has become increasingly more interconnected and more small businesses are tapping into international markets, it makes sense to give the office the authority to advocate on behalf of small businesses overseas.

The Office of Advocacy has proven to be a strong proponent for small businesses in the Federal Government and is well-poised to promote their views in the international regulatory arena.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. GOODLANDER for their bipartisan work on this bill.

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



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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TRAN).

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 832, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act.

This bipartisan bill would provide small businesses with improved access to international markets by expanding the function and duties of SBA's Office of Advocacy.

In particular, the bill authorizes the office to represent the views and interests of small businesses in international discussions and analyze international economic data for the benefit of America's small business owners.

As the world becomes more and more connected, participating in the global economy is vital to small businesses' success.

I proudly represent California's 45th Congressional District, an international hub for America's small businesses. Businesses in my district connect with diverse companies and international markets every day and are a dynamic part of the economic engine driving southern California. Over 90,000 small businesses call Orange County home, including many in Little Saigon, where exporting and importing goods and working with partners overseas is an important part of their success and allows them to grow.

This bill would ensure that small businesses have a strong voice advocating on their behalf regarding international matters and help us to better understand how international economies impact our Nation's small businesses.

I am proud to be a co-lead on this bill, and I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for working together to advance this bill to the floor, as well as my colleagues Congressman VAN DREW from New Jersey and Congresswoman GOODLANDER from New Hampshire, for working with me to improve SBA's Office of Advocacy.

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

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. GOODLANDER).

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud great-granddaughter, granddaughter, and daughter of New Hampshire small business owners. I proudly represent New Hampshire on the Small Business Committee here in the House of Representatives, and today, I am very proud to be a cosponsor of this important bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 832, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act. I am very proud to be doing this together with Chairman WILLIAMS, Congressman VAN DREW, and Congressman TRAN.

My family's small business story is an American story. It is a New Hampshire story. My home State is home to more than 136,000 small businesses. That is 99 percent of all New Hampshire businesses and more than 305,000 small business employees.

Small businesses are truly the beating heart of New Hampshire's economy, from our cutting-edge aerospace and life sciences companies to our retailers on Main Streets. From my hometown, Nashua, all the way up to the North Country, New Hampshire small businesses are truly world class.

At a moment when big businesses in our economy are more consolidated than ever before in so many industries, small businesses are living through some of the most truly uncertain times in American history, from the threats of Federal funding freezes to the threats of trade wars against our neighbors and allies.

In Congress, I am fighting every single day to ensure that New Hampshire small businesses get true advocates and a seat at the table in trade negotiations and discussions that impact our international and interconnected economy. I am looking for a level playing field for small businesses to compete and equal access to critical Federal resources.

I have traveled all across New Hampshire and heard directly from small business owners and employees about the concerns they have about the use of tariffs, which are an important tool in leveling the economic playing field, but they will have a real impact on our small businesses in New Hampshire.

I am really proud to be a part of cosponsoring this legislation because what it is going to be is a common-sense solution to empower an important office within the Small Business Administration, the Office of Advocacy, to represent small businesses on international issues.

It is a critically important seat at the table for our small businesses at a time when they need advocates here in Congress and throughout the executive branch.

I am very proud to be a part of this legislation, and I thank Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for keeping the Small Business Committee one of the most bipartisan committees in Congress.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 832, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 832.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

## SMALL BUSINESS PROCUREMENT AND UTILIZATION REFORM ACT OF 2025

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 818) to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 818

*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 "Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform Act of 2025" or the "SPUR Act".

### SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO SCORECARD REQUIREMENTS.

Section 15(y) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(y)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

"(E) The number of new small business entrants, including new small business entrants that are small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women awarded prime contracts in each North American Industry Classification System code during the fiscal year, and a comparison to the number awarded prime contracts during the prior fiscal year, if available.";

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "subparagraphs (B) through (E) of paragraph (2)" and inserting "subparagraphs (B) through (F) of paragraph (2)"; and

(3) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

"(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) NEW SMALL BUSINESS ENTRANT.—The term 'new small business entrant' means a small business concern that—

"(i) has been awarded a prime contract by a Federal agency; and

"(ii) has not previously been awarded a prime contract by any Federal agency.

"(B) SCORECARD.—The term 'scorecard' means any summary using a rating system to evaluate the efforts of a Federal agency to meet goals established under subsection (g)(1)(B) that—

"(i) includes the measures described in paragraph (2); and

"(ii) assigns a score to each Federal agency evaluated.".

### SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.



The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 818, the SPUR Act, led by my colleagues Representatives STAUBER, CISNEROS, and PEREZ.

The SPUR Act is crucial in assessing the Federal Government's progress in bringing in new companies and expanding the industrial base.

Understanding the number of new small businesses engaged in government contracting will highlight the concerning decline in industrial base participation and track agencies' progress on rebuilding it.

Small businesses are an essential component of the United States industrial base. Despite their importance, over the last few decades, small businesses have been squeezed out of the industrial base at an alarming rate, with nearly half of the businesses leaving over the past 10 years. This threatens America's economic interests and strategic readiness, which must be remedied.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 818, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representatives STAUBER and CISNEROS for their work to bring this important bipartisan legislation to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, Congress and the executive branch have carefully crafted fair and deliberate policies to ensure that small businesses can compete for Federal contracts.

These policies, including and especially the small business procurement goals and set-aside authorities, have leveled the playing field for small businesses and enabled their participation in the Federal marketplace. They have a proven record of success.

Federal agencies award a record amount of contracting dollars to small businesses each year. However, many other factors, complexities, and policies, like category management and overly strict past performance requirements, are countering the impact of these programs. As a result, the government has over 40 percent fewer

small businesses in its ecosystem than it did just a decade ago.

These trends mean that fewer small businesses are getting larger contracts and that contracts are becoming out of reach for many small businesses, especially those that are not already government contractors.

This legislation is a productive step that will help break that cycle. The SPUR Act will require SBA to take into account new small business government contractors when grading a Federal agency's performance toward meeting its small business goal.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, the Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform Act, also known as the SPUR Act.

I will begin by thanking my colleagues and friends from California and Washington, respectively, Representatives CISNEROS and GLUESENKAMP PEREZ, for their support of this legislation.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. They are the innovators, the job creators, and the driving force behind economic growth.

In Minnesota, small businesses account for over 99 percent of all businesses and employ over half of the workforce. It is no exaggeration to say that the success of our economy is tied to the success of our small businesses.

Despite government set-asides meant to help small businesses compete, participation in Federal contracting has dropped by 50 percent over the past decade. That means fewer small businesses are securing Federal contracts, and fewer are benefiting from the opportunity to grow and innovate.

The Federal Government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world. If we are serious about supporting small businesses, we need to ensure they have a fair shot at competing for these contracts.

□ 1630

Right now, the scorecard system measures whether agencies are meeting their small business contracting goals, but it fails to consider how many of those contracts go to first-time participants. Without this data, we don't know if new small businesses are successfully entering the marketplace or if the same firms are winning contracts year after year.

If small businesses can't break into Federal contracting, innovation is stifled, costs for taxpayers increase, and American entrepreneurs lose out on opportunities to grow.

My bill, the SPUR Act, addresses this issue by requiring the SBA to track and report the number of new small business participants into the Federal

procurement space. This simple but crucial change will ensure that small businesses, especially new and growing ones, have a fair shot at competing.

Too many Federal agencies fall short of their small business contracting goals, leaving billions of dollars in contracts out of reach for American entrepreneurs. The SPUR Act will provide transparency and accountability, ensuring that the Federal Government is doing its part to support small businesses. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, you are from the great State of New York. Forty-five years ago tonight, Team USA, led by Herb Brooks and 12 Minnesotans, beat Finland for the gold medal, and I congratulate them 45 years later.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS).

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform, or SPUR, Act.

I thank Congressman STAUBER and Congresswoman GLUESENKAMP PEREZ for joining me in introducing this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, small business owners and entrepreneurs take a chance when they start their ventures, so it is only right that the Federal Government do what it can to provide them with a greater opportunity to succeed.

Our government plays a vital role in working to keep our economy strong and vibrant, and Federal contracts can be a great opportunity and boon for our small businesses.

However, the government isn't doing enough to ensure our local small businesses have access to these opportunities. We need to not only do more for small businesses with existing Federal contracts but also help attract new small businesses to navigate the Federal contracting process.

The SPUR Act will help ensure more small businesses, like those in the San Gabriel Valley which I represent, can fairly compete for Federal contracts.

The SPUR Act will require Federal agencies to examine the following data:

How many small businesses received a prime contract for the first time and are owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

It will track the concerns of qualified HUBZone small businesses, track the concerns of businesses controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and track the concerns of small businesses owned and controlled by women.

There are several HUBZones in my district, including the cities of El Monte, Covina, Azusa, and La Puente. There are even more small businesses owned by women and people of color in my district. They are working just as hard as other small business owners to realize their dreams, and they deserve to play on the same level playing field as other small business owners that

have experience navigating the Federal bureaucracy.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan piece of legislation, and I thank, again, the co-leads of Congressman STAUBER and Congresswoman GLUESENKAMP PEREZ.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of my colleagues on this bill, and I urge its adoption. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of North Carolina). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 818.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

#### DOE AND SBA RESEARCH ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 788) to provide for Department of Energy and Small Business Administration joint research and development activities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 788

*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 “DOE and SBA Research Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (in this section referred to as the “covered officials”) shall enter into a memorandum of understanding or other appropriate agreement to carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and Small Business Administration mission requirements and priorities.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR AGREEMENT.—The covered officials shall carry out and coordinate the activities described in subsection (a) by entering into one or more memoranda of understanding or other appropriate agreements, as jointly determined by the covered officials.

(c) INCLUSION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—In carrying out the activities described in subsection (a), the covered officials shall ensure the inclusion of small busi-

ness concerns (as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) in such activities, as appropriate.

(d) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the activities described in subsection (a), the covered officials may—

(1) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy, the Small Business Administration, and appropriate entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development activities carried out pursuant to a memorandum or agreement described in subsection (b); and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as appropriate to carry out such activities.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the covered officials shall submit to Congress a report on activities carried out pursuant to a memorandum or agreement described in subsection (b) that includes the following:

(1) Coordination between the covered officials involved in such activities.

(2) Potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department of Energy and the Small Business Administration.

(3) Collaborative research achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial success.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the Small Business Administration.

(f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities carried out pursuant to a memorandum or agreement described in subsection (b) shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

#### SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 788, the DOE and SBA Research Act, led by my colleagues, Representatives LALOTA, MORRISON, and THANEDAR.

This legislation would require the SBA and DOE to enter a memorandum of understanding to help unify and streamline research efforts between the national labs and American small businesses. Currently, the 17 national laboratories across the United States provide the government with some of its most cutting-edge research.

At the same time, our Nation's small businesses contribute extensively to

public and private sector research and development efforts. Aligning research efforts between the DOE and the SBA would increase the efficiency of the national labs and better integrate small business innovation into government research.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 788, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 788, the DOE and SBA Research Act. This legislation would allow SBA and the Department of Energy to enter into an MOU to formalize the research and development activities that are currently underway.

The Department of Energy has 17 national labs that play a crucial role in fostering innovation and driving small business growth. The labs form partnerships with small businesses so that they can leverage the expertise of DOE's scientists and also gain access to world-class labs to test new products. They also foster networking opportunities that enable small businesses to connect, collaborate, and expand their base.

These types of partnerships are critical to increasing small business innovation, providing high-paying jobs for Americans, and ensuring our country remains competitive. I applaud Mr. LALOTA, Dr. MORRISON, and Mr. THANEDAR for their bipartisan work.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, America's small businesses are the backbone of Main Street America, yet too many of them face roadblocks when trying to do business with the Federal Government's largest buyer, the Department of Energy. That is why I proudly introduced the DOE and SBA Research Act, which strengthens the relationship between America's small businesses and the Department of Energy.

This legislation creates a partnership between the Department of Energy and the Small Business Administration for joint research. It expands opportunities for entrepreneurs to fuel innovation and drive economic growth, and it provides small businesses with a clear, more direct path to collaborate with our national labs on groundbreaking research and technology development.

Brookhaven National Laboratory in my district is a perfect example of how small business and Department of Energy partnerships can transform a region into a premier center for scientific innovation. The partnerships made possible by the DOE and SBA Research Act will empower Main Street America to contribute to cutting-edge

research, drive the Department of Energy's mission, fuel American ingenuity, and keep America at the forefront of scientific innovation and technological advancements.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives MORRISON and THANEDAR, for joining me in introducing this important bipartisan legislation.

This legislation passed the House with unanimous support last Congress. Unfortunately, we couldn't get it over the finish line in the Senate in time, so I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for his important leadership in getting it back to the floor and across the finish line a second time in the House. We will get it done this time.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MORRISON).

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 788, the DOE and SBA Research Act.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Supply Chains, I am proud to co-lead this bipartisan legislation with the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. THANEDAR).

This bill would require the Department of Energy and the Small Business Administration to enter into a memorandum of understanding that would improve collaboration between these two agencies. This joint agency effort would expand opportunities for small businesses to participate in research and development opportunities at DOE and its national laboratories.

It is in our economic and national security interests for the United States to remain a leader in R&D and technological advancement. In order to maximize our impact, we must tap into talent wherever we can find it. Too often, small businesses are overlooked when it comes to research and development opportunities.

Small businesses are not only the backbone of our economy, but they also drive forward American innovation and ingenuity. The DOE and SBA Research Act will help ensure that small business owners continue to play a central role in the United States' leadership in these areas.

I thank my colleagues for their collaboration on this critical legislation. I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their support. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 788. It is a good and innovative bill.

I also today wanted to speak in support of H.R. 832, the Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2025.

I am proud to join my good friend and a great colleague and chairman,

ROGER WILLIAMS, in introducing this bill, which will ensure that American small businesses have a strong voice in trade and on the discussions that take place on the global stage.

My home and my district of southern New Jersey represents—as so much of the United States of America—a small business community that is the backbone of our economy; driving innovation, creating jobs, and strengthening communities.

In today's world, small businesses face competition not just from their neighbors and other States, but from businesses and corporations around the globe. These businesses face challenges that larger corporations are often better equipped to navigate.

This bill will clarify the authority of the Small Business Administration's august Office of Advocacy to examine international economic data and represent small business interests in trade negotiations, ensuring that our small business people are not left behind.

America, as we know it, can't exist without small businesses, and this bill will give them a leg up to make the American economy even stronger.

I urge my colleagues to support both of these bills, H.R. 788 and H.R. 832, and stand with America's small businesses.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. THANEDAR).

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 788.

First of all, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their bipartisan work. As a serial entrepreneur in the technology innovation sector, I couldn't be happier to stand here and support this bill along with my amazing colleagues, Representative LALOTA and Representative MORRISON.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the indispensable role in enhancing collaboration between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Energy, all in the name of improving research and development efforts.

Let's not forget small businesses are a cornerstone of this country. The innovation we stimulate within this sector is not just important, it is vital for America's future. This legislation does not simply propose research collaboration. It carves a path for our small businesses to lead the way.

It mandates a collaborative report within 2 years of its enactment. This report will empower us to monitor and comprehend the effectiveness of our research collaborations, providing us with the opportunity to revise and refine strategies as necessary.

I am excited, and I hope my colleagues share my enthusiasm about the potential growth and broadening capabilities the DOE and SBA Research Act promise to bring.

Let's always keep sight of the ultimate goal of this legislation which is creating high-paying jobs for our fellow

Americans and safeguarding our Nation's competitive edge on the global stage. Remember, this isn't just about legislation. It is about our future.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 788.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

#### INVESTING IN MAIN STREET ACT OF 2025

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 754) to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 754

*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 "Investing in Main Street Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. INVESTMENT IN SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Section 302(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 682(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "5 percent" and inserting "15 percent"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "5 percent" and inserting "15 percent".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 754, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2025, led by my colleagues, Representatives CHU, FINSTAD, McIVER, and GARBARINO.

As chairman of the Small Business Committee, one of my top priorities is expanding access to capital for small businesses. The Small Business Investment Company, or the SBIC, program plays a crucial role in this effort by attracting private equity investments to help small businesses grow, create jobs, and strengthen our economy.

SBIC has been an invaluable tool for investing in small businesses that build critical technologies and support American national security.

H.R. 754 builds on this success by increasing the maximum allowable investments by SBICs from 5 percent to 15 percent of their excess capital. This change will allow more significant private equity dollars to go toward small businesses.

As we continue working to improve programs that support small businesses, this change will immediately impact our Nation's job creators. I thank my colleague from California for introducing this bipartisan solution to expand successful programs that empower the private sector to invest in small businesses.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill before us today, H.R. 754, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2025.

SBA's Small Business Investment Company program is a multibillion-dollar investment program designed to bridge the gap between a small business owner's need for capital and traditional sources of financing. It achieves this purpose by partnering private and public investments in early-stage startup businesses. It also gives America's small, high-growth companies an opportunity to fund and grow their innovative ideas and create jobs.

The success of this program can be seen with companies like Apple, Intel, and FedEx, which all receive early-stage financing from SBICs. Today, there are 319 SBIC-licensed funds participating in an array of private investment and private credit strategies.

In 2023 alone, SBIC-licensed funds financed approximately \$7.2 billion to 1,142 small businesses and startups across the country, creating or sustaining more than 130,000 jobs. Importantly, financing provided by SBIC-licensed funds to women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned small businesses totaled almost \$670 million in 2023, a 25.7 percent increase from 2022.

Yet, we must do more to ensure the program continues to meet demand. The Investing in Main Street Act of 2025 introduced by my colleagues, Representatives CHU, FINSTAD, and McIVER, will strengthen and grow the

SBIC program by allowing banks and Federal savings associations to invest up to 15 percent of their capital and surplus into SBICs.

This change will correct a discrepancy caused by a historical drafting oversight and bring the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 in line with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's national bank charter percentage requirements.

No bank laws or regulations will be changed or affected by this bill. It will increase investment capital available to SBICs and allow them to invest more in small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ms. CHU, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mrs. McIVER's work on this issue and this bill. I ask my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Minnesota (Mr. FINSTAD).

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 754, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2025, legislation which I am honored to co-lead with my colleague from California.

The Investing in Main Street Act of 2025 makes critical improvements to the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, allowing Small Business Investment Companies, or SBICs, to invest more resources in Main Street businesses across southern Minnesota and across the country.

From Winona to Worthington, small business owners across the district I have the honor to represent rely on early access to capital to start and grow. This legislation will spur further investment in our business community and assist businessowners in accessing the capital needed to pursue the American Dream of owning and operating a small business.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CHU for partnering with me on this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the Investing in Main Street Act of 2025.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bill, H.R. 754, the Investing in Main Street Act of 2025, which would spur innovation, entrepreneurship, and growth in our small businesses nationwide.

Currently, banking rules allow financial institutions to invest up to 15 percent of their capital and surplus in SBICs. Small business investing rules cap these same investments far lower at just 5 percent of capital and surplus.

The Investing in Main Street Act of 2025 simply amends this outdated law to align these caps by allowing banks to invest a full 15 percent in SBICs. Raising this cap would dramatically increase the amount of investment capital available to our country's small businesses for whom even small investments can mean so much.

Already SBICs have helped marquee American companies like Costco, Apple, and Intel get off the ground, back when they were just starting out. SBICs fill a gap in the investment ecosystem and level the playing field for the smallest businesses which often face the highest barriers to securing investments from traditional private investors.

The nearly 319 certified SBICs in operation today have invested or committed over \$38 billion in small businesses nationwide. In 2023 alone, SBICs provided \$7.2 billion in funding to 1,142 small businesses and startups.

By raising the investment cap from 5 percent to 15 percent, we could potentially triple those numbers in the years to come and drive revitalization in communities across the country.

I thank Representatives FINSTAD, McIVER, and GARBARINO for their partnership in this legislation and Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their strong support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill and for the Senate to expeditiously take it up so we can unlock more of the potential of American entrepreneurs.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. McIVER).

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the backbone of our local economy. COVID-19 shuttered the doors of many beloved local businesses, and many more are still continuing on a path of financial recovery. Now, with sky-high prices and rising inflation, small businesses need our support more than ever.

Today, I join Representative CHU to reintroduce the Investing in Main Street Act of 2025 to increase access to capital for small businesses who need it. This bill amends the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 by increasing the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies from 5 percent to 15 percent.

As the ranking member on the Small Business Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, I know firsthand the challenges businessowners face. Small businesses contribute so much to our communities. In fact, they make up over 40 percent of our Nation's GDP, and it is time we give back to our hardworking businessowners.

These additional investments will create more jobs, allow existing businesses to expand and thrive, and reduce barriers to entry for small businesses looking to get off the ground. I am grateful to Representative CHU for leading the charge on this essential improvement to SBIC funding, and I am proud to co-lead this crucial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and my ranking member, Representative VELÁZQUEZ. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Representatives CHU, FINSTAD, and McIVER for their bipartisan work on this bill. I encourage all my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 754.

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.

### RURAL SMALL BUSINESS RESILIENCE ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 804) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 804

*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 Small Business Resilience Act”.

#### SEC. 2. ACCESS TO DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS LOCATED IN RURAL AREAS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall ensure that the Associate Administrator of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience of the Administration takes such actions as necessary to ensure that individuals located in rural areas (as defined in paragraph (16) of section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(16))) for which a disaster declaration has been made under such section 7(b) have full access to assistance provided under such section, including by providing targeted outreach and marketing materials to such individuals.

#### SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

The second paragraph (16) (relating to statute of limitations) of section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) is redesignated as paragraph (17).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1700

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 804, the Rural Small Business Resilience Act, led by my colleagues, Representatives Morrison, Downing, Pappas, and Bean.

As we look ahead to the summer months, many Americans are eager for the warm weather and sunshine, but with that comes the reality that hurricane season is approaching. Many communities, particularly in rural America, are still working to recover from the devastating storms of last season, even as we prepare for the next.

Too often, small businesses and disaster survivors in rural communities are unaware of the critical assistance the SBA provides after disasters. That assistance can be the difference between staying open or shutting down for good.

Rural small businesses face unique challenges. Disaster recovery efforts must be tailored to meet the needs of rural America to ensure they have access to the full range of resources and support. The Rural Small Business Resilience Act is critical to ensuring SBA disaster assistance is tailored to the needs of rural America.

As someone who spent a lifetime in business, I know that getting the correct information to the right people at the right time is key. This bill will ensure disaster survivors in rural communities are not left in the dark when they need help the most.

I urge all my colleagues to vote for H.R. 804, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering H.R. 804, which would require the SBA to close out the GAO recommendation ensuring that individuals in rural areas where a disaster declaration has been made have full access to assistance, including targeted outreach and marketing materials. SBA would have 1 year to close out the recommendation.

On February 22, 2024, GAO issued a report examining how SBA's disaster loan program assists communities after disasters. GAO found that rural areas have characteristics that make recovery difficult, and they face challenges in seeking SBA disaster assistance.

While the SBA had taken steps to address challenges to recovery, including portable outreach centers, virtual outreach, and a whole-of-SBA approach, GAO recommended that SBA distinguish between urban and rural commu-

nities in its outreach and marketing plan and take actions to mitigate the challenges encountered by rural communities.

This bill prioritizes SBA's efforts to close out this GAO recommendation and focus on our Nation's rural communities.

I commend Dr. MORRISON, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. BEAN for their work on this bill.

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

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MORRISON).

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 804, the Rural Small Business Resilience Act.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy, and Supply Chains, I am pleased to put forward this commonsense, bipartisan legislation that will ensure rural small businesses can operate on a level playing field.

This bill requires the Small Business Administration to ensure that small businesses located in rural areas have full access to SBA disaster assistance in the wake of a natural disaster.

The SBA's disaster loan program serves as a lifeline for small business owners in need of capital to repair, rebuild, and recover from the physical and economic losses of a natural disaster.

Unfortunately, the Government Accountability Office recently found that rural communities face unique barriers that inhibit recovery from severe weather events like hurricanes, flooding, and wildfires.

A lack of reliable broadband, cellular service, or physical infrastructure can make it more difficult for small business owners in these communities to learn about and apply for disaster assistance.

We also know that natural disasters are becoming more frequent and more severe. In my home State of Minnesota, natural disasters have caused about \$20 billion in damage and economic loss over the last 5 years alone.

Small businesses are among the most vulnerable to injury. FEMA has reported that more than 40 percent of small businesses do not reopen after a natural disaster.

We can all agree that every small business owner in this country should have fair access to disaster assistance, regardless of where they live. The Rural Small Business Resilience Act will address this disparity by requiring the SBA to conduct targeted outreach to small business owners in rural communities.

I will close by thanking the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DOWNING), the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. PAPPAS), and the gentleman from

Florida (Mr. BEAN) for their partnership on this important, bipartisan legislation. I also thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their support of this bill.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this legislation.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. OLSZEWSKI).

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me time. I also thank Chairman WILLIAMS and my colleagues who are leading on this important legislation.

I rise in support of the bipartisan Rural Small Business Resilience Act.

My home in Maryland’s Second Congressional District is home to nearly 640,000 small businesses, many of which are in rural communities, all with unique needs and challenges.

I support this bill because it will help ensure small businesses in rural communities receive the resources they need and the support they need to recover during times of crisis by requiring targeted outreach and marketing materials and requiring a deadline to get it done.

Small businesses are the heart of our economy. That is especially true in our rural communities. However, we know that small businesses in rural America often face unique challenges that are often overlooked, especially when it comes to disaster relief programs.

It is simple. We need to make sure that small rural businesses aren’t left behind when disasters from pandemics to hurricanes and everything in between strike.

As a county executive, I witnessed firsthand the severe financial pressures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which devastated many small businesses.

I saw how rural communities in particular often struggle with limited resources, reduced access to broadband and cellular services, and longer response times when disaster relief is needed.

This bill will help break down those barriers and ensure that rural businessowners are aware of and can effectively access available resources.

I urge my colleagues on both sides to vote “yes” and show rural America and our Nation’s employers that we are committed to their success.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 804.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

#### SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR RESERVISTS AND VETERANS ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 828) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task force, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 828

*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 “Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans Act” or the “SERV Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR VETERANS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) REPORT.—Along with the budget justification documents for the Small Business Administration submitted to Congress in connection with the budget for a fiscal year submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator shall submit a report—

“(A) discussing the appointments made to and activities of the task force; and

“(B) identifying and outlining a plan for outreach and promotion of the programs and services for veterans, including Veteran Business Outreach Centers, Boots to Business, Boots to Business Reboot, Service-Disabled Entrepreneurship Development Training Program, Veteran Institute for Procurement, Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program, and Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship.”.

#### SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.

(a) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report on the ability of small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals to access credit to—

(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include, to the extent practicable, an analysis of—

(A) the sources of credit used by small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals and the average percentage of the credit obtained from each source by such concerns;

(B) the default rate for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, disaggregated by each source of credit described in subparagraph (A), as compared to the default rate for the source of credit for small business concerns generally;

(C) the Federal lending programs available to provide credit to small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals;

(D) gaps, if any, in the availability of credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals that are not being filled by the Federal Government or private sources;

(E) obstacles faced by covered individuals in trying to access credit;

(F) the extent to which deployment and other military responsibilities affect the credit history of veterans and Reservists; and

(G) the extent to which covered individuals are aware of Federal programs targeted towards helping covered individuals access credit.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered individual” means—

(A) a veteran;

(B) a service-disabled veteran;

(C) a Reservist;

(D) the spouse of an individual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); or

(E) the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces.

(2) RESERVIST.—The term “Reservist” means a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as described in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms “service-disabled veteran”, “small business concern”, and “veteran” have the meanings given those terms, respectively, under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

#### SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 828, the SERV Act, led by my colleagues Representatives DAVIDS, ALFORD, and CONAWAY.

It is an honor to reflect on the tremendous contributions of our veterans who have defended our freedoms and continue serving our country once they transition back to civilian life, often on Main Street America.

Our Nation’s heroes are uniquely positioned to become successful businessowners because of the skills



they gained in the military, which have made them natural and effective leaders. Unfortunately, veterans often face barriers when starting or growing their businesses. Chief among them are access to capital and general awareness of available resources.

The SERV Act seeks to reduce those barriers by directing the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development to create an action plan to improve outreach to veterans and inform them of available resources that directly apply to their unique needs.

We must work together to ensure that our veterans have access to the tools necessary to start or grow their businesses. I urge my colleagues to support our veterans and pass the SERV Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 828, the Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans Act, also known as the SERV Act.

Veteran entrepreneurs are powerful economic engines and job creators. More than 1.6 million veteran businessowners employ nearly 3.3 million Americans and make approximately \$983.9 billion in sales.

With that said, one of the biggest challenges facing veteran-owned small businesses is access to capital. Servicemembers report that it can be difficult to build credit while serving overseas. Studies have shown that a higher percentage of veterans are turned down for loans. The uncertainty underscores the need for investment in veteran-owned small businesses.

The bill we are considering today would require the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to conduct a study on the availability of credit to veteran, service-disabled, and reserve-owned small businesses.

I commend Representatives DAVIDS, ALFORD, and CONAWAY for their bipartisan work on this bill that will identify barriers and improve SBA's outreach to veterans.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and ranking member for their leadership. I appreciate what we are able to do on the Small Business Committee for Main Street America.

I rise today, Mr. Speaker, because as a Member of Congress, it is our duty and responsibility to protect and support our Nation's veterans.

Back in 2023, it was my distinct pleasure to have Commander Taylor Burks of Missouri's Fourth Congressional District testify at a Small Business Committee hearing on veteran entrepreneurship. He is now serving a de-

ployment in the Indo-PACOM, so we wish him well.

We learned not only about the unique skill set that veterans can bring to small businesses but also about the obstacles that veterans face many times when trying to open small businesses and live out the American Dream.

It was imperative for Members to hear how the committee and the Small Business Administration can better serve those who served this great Nation.

As a result, my colleague Representative SHARICE DAVIDS and I introduced the Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans, or the SERV Act.

This bipartisan legislation, which passed through the Small Business Committee unanimously last Congress, will help veteran small business owners and entrepreneurs succeed by studying the barriers faced when starting a business.

This bill will commission a report on the outreach and promotion of existing veteran-focused small business programs to make sure that veterans can access all the available resources, the capital, and the counseling that they need to succeed.

□ 1715

Mr. Speaker, this legislation also mandates the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development to devise an outreach and promotion strategy for programs available to veterans transitioning into the business world.

When veterans' service to our country ends, they should not face additional difficulties in accessing capital and resources. With transparency and increased reporting, we can better ensure that they get the support that they need and the support that they deserve. I am proud to co-lead the SERV Act with Representatives DAVIDS and CONAWAY.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is a win for our districts, our veterans, and our great Nation, the United States of America.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS), the main sponsor of the bill.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for yielding.

I rise in support of the bipartisan Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans Act, or the SERV Act, which I introduced alongside Representatives ALFORD and CONAWAY. This bill honors our veterans' service by helping them succeed as entrepreneurs and small business owners.

My mom served in the Army for 20 years, and my grandfather served in the Army, as well. Through them, I learned about service, leadership, and dedication to country.

Our veterans defended our freedoms, and we owe it to them to provide real support when they return home. Yet, veterans face distinct barriers when starting a business, from accessing capital to overcoming stigmas around disabilities or PTSD. These challenges have contributed to a 35 percent decline in veteran entrepreneurship since World War II.

The SERV Act addresses these challenges head-on, ensuring veterans have the resources that they need to thrive. At a time when harmful Federal worker layoffs at the VA are making it harder for veterans to access support, this legislation is more important than ever. By strengthening SBA programs, we are investing in our veterans, creating jobs, and boosting our local economies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and show our veterans that we have their backs, both in uniform and beyond.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of the Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans Act, otherwise known as the SERV Act. This bill would study the barriers that veterans face when starting or owning a small business.

Starting a small business is not a one-size-fits-all process. Each individual encounters unique challenges when striving to open their dream business. That is why it is essential that, as Members of Congress, we support legislative initiatives aimed at identifying and addressing the obstacles that small business owners and entrepreneurs face.

The SERV Act is one such initiative. It would enhance outreach and promotion of existing veteran-focused small business programs, ensuring that veterans can access all available services, resources, capital, and credit.

This bill would provide a report on the availability of veteran and reservist small business owners' access to credit. It would require the Small Business Administration's Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development to develop an action plan for outreach and promotion of the many programs available to veterans transitioning into the small business world. It will ensure that the task force reports annually to Congress on its outreach efforts for programs available to veterans, service-disabled veterans, reservists, and their spouses.

For many of our Nation's veterans, transitioning back to civilian life can be daunting, especially for those seeking to start their own small business.

As an Air Force veteran and vice ranking member on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I believe it is not only crucial but imperative that our government support our Nation's veterans in every possible way.

The SERV Act is a bill that will provide robust support for veterans' small business development and help veterans achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their support of this legislation and moving it forward. Certainly, I thank the lead sponsors, Representatives ALFORD and DAVIDS, for their gracious support of me and for helping to sponsor this bill and move it forward.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ms. DAVIDS, Mr. ALFORD, and Mr. CONAWAY for their commitment to our Nation's veterans. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 828, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 828.

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.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 825;

H.R. 832; and

H.R. 818.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

## ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESSES NOT FRAUDSTERS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unin-

ished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 825) to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 405, nays 0, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 43]

YEAS—405

Adams	Connolly	Gonzales, Tony
Aderholt	Correa	Gonzalez, V.
Agullar	Costa	Goodlander
Alford	Courtney	Gosar
Allen	Craig	Gottheimer
Amo	Crane	Graves
Amodei (NV)	Crank	Gray
Ansari	Crawford	Green (TN)
Arrington	Crenshaw	Green, Al (TX)
Auchincloss	Crockett	Greene (GA)
Babin	Crow	Griffith
Bacon	Cuellar	Grothman
Baird	Dauids (KS)	Guest
Balderson	Davidson	Guthrie
Balint	Davis (IL)	Hageman
Barr	Davis (NC)	Hamadeh (AZ)
Barragán	De La Cruz	Harder (CA)
Barrett	Dean (PA)	Haridopolos
Baumgartner	DeGette	Harrigan
Bean (FL)	DeLauro	Harris (MD)
Beatty	DelBene	Harris (NC)
Begich	Deluzio	Harshbarger
Bell	DeSaulnier	Hayes
Bentz	Dexter	Hern (OK)
Bera	Diaz-Balart	Higgins (LA)
Bergman	Dingell	Hill (AR)
Beyer	Doggett	Himes
Bice	Donalds	Hinson
Biggs (AZ)	Downing	Horsford
Biggs (SC)	Dunn (FL)	Houchin
Bilirakis	Edwards	Hoyer
Bishop	Elfreth	Hoyle (OR)
Boebert	Ellzey	Hudson
Bonamici	Emmer	Huffman
Bost	Escobar	Huizenga
Boyle (PA)	Espallat	Hurd (CO)
Brecheen	Estes	Issa
Bresnahan	Evans (CO)	Ivey
Brown	Evans (PA)	Jack
Brownley	Ezell	Jackson (IL)
Buchanan	Fallon	Jackson (TX)
Budzinski	Fedorchak	Jacobs
Burchett	Feenstra	Jayapal
Burlison	Fields	Jeffries
Bynum	Figures	Johnson (GA)
Calvert	Finstad	Johnson (SD)
Cammack	Fischbach	Jordan
Carbajal	Fitzgerald	Joyce (OH)
Carey	Fitzpatrick	Joyce (PA)
Carson	Fleischmann	Kamlager-Dove
Carter (GA)	Fletcher	Kaptur
Carter (LA)	Flood	Kean
Carter (TX)	Fong	Keating
Casar	Foster	Kelly (MS)
Case	Foushee	Kelly (PA)
Casten	Fox	Kennedy (NY)
Castor (FL)	Frankel, Lois	Kennedy (UT)
Castro (TX)	Franklin, Scott	Khanna
Cherfilus-	Friedman	Kiggans (VA)
McCormick	Frost	Kiley (CA)
Chu	Fry	Kim
Cisneros	Fulcher	Knott
Clark (MA)	Garamendi	Krishnamoorthi
Clarke (NY)	Garbarino	Kustoff
Cleaver	Garcia (CA)	LaHood
Cline	Garcia (IL)	LaLota
Cloud	Garcia (TX)	LaMalfa
Clyburn	Gill (TX)	Landsman
Clyde	Gillen	Langworthy
Cohen	Gimenez	Latimer
Cole	Golden (ME)	Latta
Collins	Goldman (NY)	Lawler
Comer	Goldman (TX)	Lee (FL)
Conaway	Gomez	Lee (NV)

Lee (PA)	Norman	Smucker
Leger Fernandez	Nunn (IA)	Sorensen
Letlow	Oberholte	Soto
Levin	Ocasio-Cortez	Stansbury
Liccardo	Ogles	Stanton
Lieu	Olzewski	Stauber
Lofgren	Omar	Steil
Lucas	Onder	Steube
Luna	Owens	Stevens
Luttrell	Pallone	Strickland
Lynch	Palmer	Stutzman
Mace	Panetta	Subramanyam
Mackenzie	Pappas	Thompson (CA)
Magaziner	Perez	Thompson (MS)
Malliotakis	Perry	Thompson (PA)
Maloy	Peters	Tiffany
Mann	Pfleger	Timmons
Mannion	Pingree	Titus
Massie	Pocan	Tlaib
Mast	Pou	Tokuda
Matsui	Pressley	Tonko
McBath	Quigley	Torres (CA)
McBride	Ramirez	Torres (NY)
McClain	Randall	Trahan
McClain Delaney	Raskin	Tran
McClellan	Reschenthaler	Turner (OH)
McClintock	Riley (NY)	Turner (TX)
McCormick	Rivas	Underwood
McDonald Rivet	Rogers (AL)	Valadao
McDowell	Rogers (KY)	Van Drew
McGarvey	Rose	Van Dwyne
McGovern	Ross	Vargas
McGuire	Rouzer	Vasquez
McIver	Roy	Veasey
Meeks	Ruiz	Velázquez
Menendez	Rutherford	Vindman
Messmer	Ryan	Wagner
Meuser	Salazar	Walberg
Mfume	Salinas	Wasserman
Miller (IL)	Sánchez	Schultz
Miller (OH)	Scalise	Watson Coleman
Miller-Meeks	Scanlon	Weber (TX)
Mills	Schakowsky	Webster (FL)
Min	Schmidt	Westerman
Moolenaar	Schneider	Whitesides
Moore (AL)	Scholten	Wied
Moore (NC)	Schrier	Williams (GA)
Moore (UT)	Schweikert	Williams (TX)
Moore (WV)	Scott (VA)	Wilson (SC)
Moran	Scott, Austin	Wittman
Morelle	Scott, David	Womack
Morrison	Self	Yakym
Moskowitz	Sessions	Zinke
Moulton	Sewell	
Mrvan	Sherman	
Murphy	Shreve	
Nadler	Simon	
Neal	Simpson	
Neguse	Smith (MO)	
Nehls	Smith (NE)	
Newhouse	Smith (NJ)	
Norcross	Smith (WA)	

## NOT VOTING—27

Ciscomani	Larsen (WA)	Pelosi
DesJarlais	Larson (CT)	Petersen
Gooden	Loudermilk	Rulli
Grijalva	McCaul	Sherrill
Houlahan	McCullum	Spartz
Hunt	Meng	Stefanik
James	Miller (WV)	Strong
Johnson (TX)	Moore (WI)	Waters
Kelly (IL)	Mullin	Wilson (FL)

□ 1853

Ms. SCHOLTEN changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 43.

# SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCACY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 832) to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 396, nays 15, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 44]

YEAS—396

Adams	Connolly	Jimenez
Aderholt	Correa	Golden (ME)
Aguilar	Costa	Goldman (NY)
Alford	Courtney	Goldman (TX)
Allen	Craig	Gomez
Amo	Crank	Gonzales, Tony
Amodei (NV)	Crawford	Gonzalez, V.
Ansari	Crenshaw	Goodlander
Arrington	Crockett	Gottheimer
Auchincloss	Crow	Graves
Babin	Cuellar	Gray
Bacon	Davids (KS)	Green (TN)
Baird	Davis (IL)	Green, Al (TX)
Balint	Davis (NC)	Greene (GA)
Barr	De La Cruz	Griffith
Barragán	Dean (PA)	Grothman
Barrett	DeGette	Guest
Baumgartner	DeLauro	Guthrie
Bean (FL)	DelBene	Hageman
Beatty	Deluzio	Hamadeh (AZ)
Begich	DeSaulnier	Harder (CA)
Bell	Dexter	Haridopolos
Bentz	Diaz-Balart	Harrigan
Bera	Dingell	Harris (MD)
Bergman	Doggett	Harris (NC)
Beyer	Donalds	Harshbarger
Bice	Downing	Hayes
Biggs (SC)	Dunn (FL)	Hern (OK)
Bilirakis	Edwards	Higgins (LA)
Bishop	Elfreth	Hill (AR)
Bonamici	Ellzey	Himes
Bost	Emmer	Hinson
Boyle (PA)	Escobar	Horsford
Bresnahan	Espallat	Houchin
Brown	Estes	Hoyer
Buchanan	Evans (CO)	Hoyle (OR)
Budzinski	Evans (PA)	Hudson
Burchett	Ezell	Huffman
Calvert	Fallon	Huizenga
Cammack	Fedorchak	Hurd (CO)
Carbajal	Feenstra	Issa
Carey	Fields	Ivey
Carson	Figures	Jack
Carter (GA)	Finstad	Jackson (IL)
Carter (LA)	Fischbach	Jackson (TX)
Carter (TX)	Fitzgerald	Jacobs
Casar	Fitzpatrick	James
Case	Fleischmann	Jayapal
Casten	Fletcher	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Flood	Johnson (GA)
Castro (TX)	Fong	Johnson (SD)
Cherfilus-	Foster	Johnson (TX)
McCormick	Foushee	Jordan
Chu	Fox	Joyce (OH)
Ciscomani	Frankel, Lois	Joyce (PA)
Cisneros	Franklin, Scott	Kamlager-Dove
Clark (MA)	Friedman	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Frost	Kean
Cleaver	Fry	Keating
Cline	Fulcher	Kelly (MS)
Clyburn	Garamendi	Kelly (PA)
Clyde	Garbarino	Kennedy (NY)
Cohen	Garcia (CA)	Kennedy (UT)
Cole	Garcia (IL)	Khanna
Collins	Garcia (TX)	Kiggans (VA)
Comer	Gill (TX)	Kiley (CA)
Conaway	Gillen	Kim

Knott	Morrison	Smith (NE)
Krishnamoorthi	Moskowitz	Smith (NJ)
Kustoff	Moulton	Smith (WA)
LaHood	Mrvan	Smucker
LaLota	Murphy	Sorensen
LaMalfa	Nadler	Soto
Landsman	Neal	Stansbury
Langworthy	Neguse	Stanton
Larsen (WA)	Nehls	Staubert
Larson (CT)	Newhouse	Steil
Latimer	Norcross	Steube
Latta	Nunn (IA)	Stevens
Lawler	Obernolte	Strickland
Lee (FL)	Ocasio-Cortez	Stutzman
Lee (NV)	Olshewski	Subramanyam
Lee (PA)	Omar	Suozi
Leger Fernandez	Onder	Swalwell
Letlow	Owens	Sykes
Levin	Pallone	Takano
Liccardo	Palmer	Takano
Lieu	Panetta	Taylor
Lofgren	Pappas	Tenney
Lucas	Perez	Thanedar
Luna	Peters	Thompson (CA)
Luttrell	Pfingster	Thompson (MS)
Lynch	Pingree	Thompson (PA)
Mace	Pocan	Tiffany
Mackenzie	Pou	Timmons
Magaziner	Pressley	Titus
Malliotakis	Quigley	Tlaib
Maloy	Ramirez	Tokuda
Mann	Randall	Tonko
Mannion	Raskin	Torres (CA)
Mast	Reschenthaler	Torres (NY)
Matsui	Riley (NY)	Trahan
McBath	Rivas	Tran
McBride	Rogers (AL)	Turner (OH)
McClain	Rogers (KY)	Turner (TX)
McClain Delaney	Rose	Underwood
McClellan	Ross	Valadao
McClintock	Rouzer	Van Drew
McCormick	Ruiz	Van Dwyne
McDonald Rivet	Rulli	Van Orden
McDowell	Rutherford	Vargas
McGarvey	Ryan	Vasquez
McGovern	Salazar	Veasey
McIver	Salinas	Velázquez
Meeks	Sánchez	Vindman
Menendez	Scalise	Wagner
Messmer	Scanlon	Walberg
Meuser	Schakowsky	Wasserman
Mfume	Schmidt	Schultz
Miller (IL)	Schneider	Waters
Miller (OH)	Scholten	Watson Coleman
Miller (WV)	Schrier	Weber (TX)
Miller-Meeks	Schweikert	Webster (FL)
Mills	Scott (VA)	Westerman
Min	Scott, Austin	Whitesides
Moolenaar	Scott, David	Wied
Moore (AL)	Sessions	Williams (GA)
Moore (NC)	Sewell	Williams (TX)
Moore (UT)	Sherman	Wilson (SC)
Moore (WI)	Shreve	Wittman
Moore (WV)	Simon	Womack
Moran	Simpson	Yakym
Morelle	Smith (MO)	Zinke

NAYS—15

Biggs (AZ)	Crane	Norman
Boebert	Davidson	Ogles
Brecheen	Gosar	Perry
Burlison	Massie	Roy
Cloud	McGuire	Self

NOT VOTING—21

Balderson	Hunt	Pelosi
Brownley	Kelly (IL)	Pettersen
Bynum	Loudermilk	Sherrill
DesJarlais	McCauley	Spart
Gooden	McCollum	Stefanik
Grijalva	Meng	Strong
Houlahan	Mullin	Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1900

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 44.

# SMALL BUSINESS PROCUREMENT AND UTILIZATION REFORM ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 818) to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 25, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 45]

YEAS—384

Adams	Cleaver	Foushee
Aderholt	Cline	Fox
Aguilar	Clyburn	Frankel, Lois
Alford	Clyde	Franklin, Scott
Allen	Cohen	Friedman
Amo	Cole	Frost
Amodei (NV)	Collins	Fry
Ansari	Comer	Garamendi
Arrington	Conaway	Garbarino
Auchincloss	Connolly	Garcia (CA)
Babin	Correa	Garcia (IL)
Bacon	Costa	Garcia (TX)
Baird	Courtney	Gillen
Balderson	Craig	Jimenez
Balint	Crank	Golden (ME)
Barr	Crawford	Goldman (NY)
Barragán	Crenshaw	Goldman (TX)
Barrett	Crockett	Gomez
Baumgartner	Crow	Gonzales, Tony
Bean (FL)	Cuellar	Gonzalez, V.
Beatty	Davids (KS)	Goodlander
Begich	Davidson	Gosar
Bell	Davis (IL)	Gottheimer
Bentz	Davis (NC)	Graves
Bera	Dean (PA)	Gray
Bergman	DeGette	Green (TN)
Beyer	DeLauro	Green, Al (TX)
Bice	DelBene	Greene (GA)
Bilirakis	Deluzio	Griffith
Bishop	DeSaulnier	Guest
Boebert	Dexter	Guthrie
Bonamici	Diaz-Balart	Hageman
Bost	Dingell	Hamadeh (AZ)
Boyle (PA)	Doggett	Harder (CA)
Bresnahan	Donalds	Haridopolos
Brown	Downing	Harshbarger
Brownley	Dunn (FL)	Hayes
Buchanan	Elfreth	Hern (OK)
Budzinski	Ellzey	Higgins (LA)
Bynum	Emmer	Hill (AR)
Calvert	Escobar	Himes
Cammack	Espallat	Hinson
Carbajal	Estes	Horsford
Carey	Evans (CO)	Houchin
Carson	Evans (PA)	Hoyer
Carter (GA)	Ezell	Hoyle (OR)
Carter (LA)	Fallon	Hudson
Carter (TX)	Fedorchak	Huffman
Casar	Feenstra	Huizenga
Case	Fields	Hurd (CO)
Casten	Figures	Issa
Castor (FL)	Finstad	Ivey
Castro (TX)	Fischbach	Jack
Cherfilus-	Fitzgerald	Jackson (IL)
McCormick	Fitzpatrick	Jacobs
Chu	Fleischmann	James
Ciscomani	Fletcher	Jayapal
Cisneros	Flood	Jeffries
Clark (MA)	Fong	Johnson (GA)
Clarke (NY)	Foster	Johnson (SD)

Johnson (TX) Mills  
 Joyce (OH) Min  
 Kamlager-Dove Moolenaar  
 Kaptur Moore (AL)  
 Kean Moore (NC)  
 Keating Moore (UT)  
 Kelly (MS) Moore (WI)  
 Kelly (PA) Moran  
 Kennedy (NY) Morelle  
 Kennedy (UT) Morrison  
 Kiggans (VA) Moskowitz  
 Kiley (CA) Moulton  
 Kim Mrvan  
 Knott Murphy  
 Krishnamoorthi Nadler  
 Kustoff Neal  
 LaHood Neguse  
 LaLota Nehls  
 LaMalfa Newhouse  
 Landsman Norcross  
 Langworthy Nunn (IA)  
 Larsen (WA) Obernolte  
 Larson (CT) Ocasio-Cortez  
 Latimer Olszewski  
 Latta Omar  
 Lawler Owens  
 Lee (FL) Pallone  
 Lee (NV) Palmer  
 Lee (PA) Panetta  
 Leger Fernandez Pappas  
 Letlow Perez  
 Levin Peters  
 Liccardo Pfluger  
 Lieu Pingree  
 Lofgren Pocan  
 Lucas Pou  
 Luna Pressley  
 Luttrell Quigley  
 Lynch Ramirez  
 Mace Randall  
 Mackenzie Raskin  
 Magaziner Reschenthaler  
 Malliotakis Riley (NY)  
 Maloy Rivas  
 Mann Rogers (AL)  
 Mannion Rogers (KY)  
 Mast Rose  
 Matsui Ross  
 McBath Rouzer  
 McBride Ruiz  
 McClain Rulli  
 McClain Delaney Rutherford  
 McClellan Ryan  
 McCormick Salazar  
 McDonald Rivet Salinas  
 McDowell Sánchez  
 McGarvey Scalise  
 McGovern Scanlon  
 McGuire Schakowsky  
 McIver Schmidt  
 Meeks Schneider  
 Menendez Scholten  
 Messmer Schrier  
 Meuser Schweikert  
 Mfume Scott (VA)  
 Miller (IL) Scott, Austin  
 Miller (OH) Scott, David  
 Miller (WV) Sessions  
 Miller-Meeks Sewell

#### NAYS—25

Biggs (AZ) Grothman  
 Biggs (SC) Harrigan  
 Brecheen Harris (MD)  
 Burchett Harris (NC)  
 Burlison Jackson (TX)  
 Cloud Joyce (PA)  
 Crane Massie  
 Fulcher McClintock  
 Gill (TX) Moore (WV)

#### NOT VOTING—23

De La Cruz Kelly (IL) Pettersen  
 DesJarlais Khanna Sherrill  
 Edwards Loudermilk Sherrill  
 Gooden McCaul Stefanik  
 Grijalva McCollum Strong  
 Houlahan Meng Torres (NY)  
 Hunt Mullin Wilson (FL)  
 Jordan Pelosi

#### □ 1908

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Sherman  
 Shreve  
 Simon  
 Simpson  
 Smith (MO)  
 Smith (NE)  
 Smith (NJ)  
 Smith (WA)  
 Smucker  
 Sorensen  
 Soto  
 Stansbury  
 Stanton  
 Stauber  
 Steil  
 Stevens  
 Strickland  
 Stutzman  
 Subramanyam  
 Suozzi  
 Swalwell  
 Sykes  
 Takano  
 Taylor  
 Tenney  
 Thanedar  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Tiffany  
 Timmons  
 Titus  
 Tlaib  
 Tokuda  
 Tonko  
 Torres (CA)  
 Trahan  
 Tran  
 Turner (OH)  
 Turner (TX)  
 Underwood  
 Valadao  
 Van Drew  
 Van Duyn  
 Van Orden  
 Vargas  
 Vasquez  
 Veasey  
 Velázquez  
 Vindman  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters  
 Watson Coleman  
 Weber (TX)  
 Webster (FL)  
 Westerman  
 Whitesides  
 Wied  
 Williams (GA)  
 Williams (TX)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Yakym  
 Zinke

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF CAMERON GIRVIN AND CHRISTOPHER REESE

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, tonight, the Virginia congressional delegation is gathered on the House floor to pay our respects to Virginia Beach Police Department Officers Cameron Girvin and Christopher Reese, who were killed in the line of duty in the early hours of Saturday, February 22.

Tragically, our community lost two of our local heroes when a cowardly criminal gunned down two of Virginia Beach's finest during a routine traffic stop.

Officer Chris Reese was just 30 years old, having served with both the Virginia Beach Police Department and the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office for the last 6 years. He leaves behind a loving wife. He will be remembered for his loyalty to his loved ones and his passion for serving the residents of our city.

Officer Cameron Girvin was just 25 years old and has served with the Virginia Beach Police Department since 2020. He leaves behind his wife and their unborn daughter, Paisley, who is due in the summer. He will be remembered for his contagious smile and love for his family.

These brave young men were taken too soon and leave behind a grief-stricken and forever grateful community.

The city of Virginia Beach, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States of America will forever be grateful to these officers who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our community. Their families will always remain in our prayers.

On behalf of myself, the Virginia congressional delegation, and the United States House of Representatives, I ask that the United States House of Representatives observe a moment of silence in their honor.

#### □ 1915

#### OVER 500 DAYS SINCE HAMAS ATTACKED ISRAEL

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it has been over 500 days since Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists carried out the worst attack on Israel and the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Over 1,200 lives were taken, families were shattered, and 240 people were dragged into captivity. Many are still being held hostage.

Hamas still poses an ongoing threat to Israel's security. Thanks to strong

leadership from President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu, a reasonable ceasefire deal was reached, bringing some hostages home, but the fight to bring the rest back continues.

Israel has the right to defend itself against those who seek its destruction, and we stand with them in that fight. As we mark this grim milestone, we remain dedicated to ensuring Israel has the support it needs to ensure lasting peace in that region.

#### DRACONIAN DOGE CUTS

(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, why is the Trump administration, Mr. Musk, and their secret meat grinder called DOGE hurting working Americans?

Inflation is going up, unemployment is up, the stock market is rickety and went down again today, egg prices are up, and Walmart sales are down.

So far, there is little evidence that DOGE is helping families. Indeed, they are causing more unemployment. They are not keeping us safer, and they are not helping anybody.

A young U.S. Department of Agriculture specialist just moved to Ohio to assist local farmers sell produce locally. That job is gone.

A young farmer with a newborn daughter and a single mother with two children just back from maternity leave were hired to help citizens understand how to save money through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. They are out in the cold too, and so will the American people be.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture expects to be combating the bird flu which is spreading to cows and now even people, but guess what, Mr. Speaker? They don't have the vets to do the job. No. They were fired.

A mom who spent her life working in our national parks and is trying to send her kids to college, does she still have her job? No, she is looking for work. This doesn't seem like a plan that is really helping the American people, and all the statistics show it.

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF STAFF SERGEANT RYAN AUSTIN O'HARA

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Staff Sergeant Ryan Austin O'Hara, who was unfortunately among the three soldiers who passed away in the tragic helicopter accident in Washington, D.C., on January 29.

Sergeant O'Hara was a native of Lilburn, Georgia, who began serving in the Army in July of 2014 when he enlisted at the age of 18. He served a tour in Afghanistan in 2017 and then was deployed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia. Most recently, he was serving at Fort Belvoir in Virginia.

Sergeant O'Hara was frequently recognized for his hard work and sacrifice during his time in the Army. He received accolades including: the Army Commendation Medal of Valor, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with campaign star, and Senior Aviation Badge. He was a four-time recipient of the Army Achievement Medal and three-time recipient of the National Defense Service Medal.

In addition to being remembered for his honorable service to our Nation, Sergeant O'Hara will always be remembered for his dedication, fearlessness, love for his family, and passion for flight and serving others.

Sergeant O'Hara is survived by his parents, his wife, and his 1-year-old son.

I extend my deepest condolences to Sergeant Ryan O'Hara's family and friends and all of those impacted by this tragic accident.

#### DEBBIE, VA EMPLOYEE

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of one of my constituents, Debbie. Up until 1 week ago, Debbie worked at the Cincinnati VA, responsible for finding and hiring doctors with the skills needed to treat very sick veterans.

Debbie loved her job, she was good at her job, and she went to work every day to serve her community and to help our veterans. A week ago, Debbie received an email telling her she no longer had a job. She wasn't fired because veterans were suddenly cured or because her work was no longer needed. Donald Trump and his unelected tech billionaire, Elon Musk, fired Debbie and slashed services at VA facilities nationwide making it harder for millions of veterans to get the services they need.

It is simply wrong. Our veterans deserve better. Debbie and her family deserve better, and we need Republican Members of Congress who control this body to stand up for our veterans and our public servants and stop this madness.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF JULI SPITZER

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the legacy of my friend and a great Wyomingite, Juli Spitzer. Juli never met a stranger, and her life was defined by the love she had for her neighbors and the communities she called home in Sublette and Teton Counties.

From the day Juli moved to Wyoming to attend the University of Wyo-

ming, she embraced the romance of the West. She loved the open range and never tired of participating in the cow-girl life from baking bread to moving cattle. Juli was particularly fond of the natural beauty and wildlife we are blessed with in Wyoming.

Her fondness for the West led Juli to work towards preserving the history and legacy of Wyoming, and Juli and her husband, Hort, were long-time supporters and active members of the Sublette County Historical Society and Jim Bridger League.

Through their shared commitment to telling the history and stories of Wyoming, the Spitzers were influential in the inception and founding of Wyoming's Museum of the Mountain Man, and both Juli and Hort would later serve on the board of directors.

On a personal note, Juli Spitzer was truly one of a kind with a personality as big as all outdoors.

She will be dearly missed by her husband, Hort; her friends; her community; and all who knew her.

We take comfort in knowing that her legacy will be remembered for generations by Wyomingites.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2025 theme, African Americans and Labor.

The economic foundation of north-west Indiana and our Nation is reliant upon the advancement of a strong workforce, and I would like to recognize two dedicated African-American leaders from Indiana's First Congressional District who diligently work to support economic opportunities for everyone.

First, Arvella Greenlaw is a member of the United Steelworkers local 6787 in Portage and serves as the Women of Steel District 7 Coordinator where she consistently organizes community service projects and leads volunteer efforts to support individuals throughout our region.

Secondly, Joree Richards is an IBEW representative and leads efforts through the Indiana Plan, which is a pre-apprenticeship program which provides students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the construction and building trades.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Black History Month and recognizing the invaluable contributions of Arvella Greenlaw, Joree Richards, and countless others who selflessly fight for our labor workforce, safe working conditions, living wages, and economic opportunities for everyone.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE L. CLIFFORD DAVIS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life of Judge L. Clifford Davis who passed away February 15 at 100 years old.

Judge Davis was a remarkable man and had been a judge. He was appointed by Governor Mark White back in the eighties to serve as a criminal justice judge.

However, what he will be known and remembered for is that he was the lawyer back in the 1950s who worked to desegregate the Mansfield Independent School District. Before Judge Davis worked on this case, Black children from Mansfield literally were bused on Trailways buses from Mansfield all the way out in the country into Fort Worth every day just so they could get an education.

Judge Davis worked with Thurgood Marshall and other lawyers to make sure that school systems like Mansfield were integrated. It was ugly. They hung effigies up of Judge Davis in the school, and the principal literally let them stay there for weeks just to make a point that they were standing against integration.

His mentorship to so many young lawyers around Tarrant County and the things that he accomplished in his life to help make Tarrant County, Fort Worth, and Mansfield a better place for all will never be forgotten.

#### PUTIN'S MERCILESS WAR

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, Russia invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine. That is the cold, hard truth of it. Vladimir Putin is the aggressor. I stand here on the floor to say that our President will not rewrite the past.

Putin has mercilessly continued this war for over 3 years now; a war that has led to immeasurable suffering for Ukraine and a shocking death toll of both Ukrainians and Russians. The region is awash in blood because of him.

Now the United States stands with Russia and North Korea against Ukraine and all of our allies in Europe?

It is sick. We are standing with dictators and against our allies. I never thought I would see the day when our President would be a puppet for a dictator.

To my Republican colleagues: Did you ever imagine that you would be in a party that stands on the side of dictators or on the side of a country who has killed journalists, with an authoritarian accused of war crimes, and a man who assassinates his political opponents?

Aren't you embarrassed by what you have become?

It is revolting to watch my colleagues side with Russia because Trump said so.

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

# WHITE PLAINS SOCIAL SECURITY HEARING OFFICE CLOSURE

(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, the new administration, as it indiscriminately cuts services, has announced that it will not keep the Social Security Administration's hearing office in White Plains, New York. Closing this hearing office with no local replacement is unacceptable to the community it serves, and it covers multiple congressional districts.

Seniors and people who are disabled come to this office from Westchester and the other counties of the Hudson Valley to fight for their benefits. With this closure, residents, likely on a fixed income, will have to travel much longer distances: to Albany, to New Haven, or to the south Bronx at greater expense, in some cases 4 hours one way on public transit.

This is a financial and logistical hardship for people already fighting for support. With the Westchester County government, my office and I have identified sites in White Plains close to the current office that are available. This would keep government services in the community where it belongs.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the new administration to reconsider driving constituents away from convenient services and to work with Members from New York State to find a solution before May.

□ 1930

## PROPOSED CUTS TO MEDICAID AND SNAP BENEFITS

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I am genuinely alarmed by the budget that we may be voting on this week.

There is a lot not to like, but every American should be paying attention to the cuts being proposed to Medicaid and SNAP benefits. These cuts will hurt millions of Americans and create irreversible damage to our communities.

Mr. Speaker, it will hurt my community, where tens of thousands of people benefit from these programs, but this is going to impact every community across every district and across Virginia and across the country. Is it because the richest country in the world can't feed hungry kids or can't get people the care they need?

No. It is because this budget takes that money and it gives it to the very richest corporations at the expense of small businesses and working families. The unintended consequences of these cuts will hurt every American, even if they are not on Medicaid or SNAP, and force more middle-class families to live paycheck to paycheck while giving the ultrarich a tax break.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about a bipartisan budget that doesn't hurt Americans and is not a giveaway to companies who don't need it.

## FIVE BULLET POINTS

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, Federal employees found themselves targeted yesterday by yet another reckless scare tactic by Elon Musk. As they were asked for five bullet points to demonstrate what they accomplished last week, a failure to comply would result in their termination by resignation according to a tweet by Elon Musk.

Hours later, Trump officials in the same administration told their staff not to respond. In solidarity, let me say what my five bullets for the week are: I fought to defend the Constitution and the rule of law. I fought back against these reckless assaults on our people. I heard the heartbreaking stories of how they are impacting New Mexico. I met with Tribal leaders, Federal employees, and hundreds of New Mexicans. I headed back here to D.C. to take back the fight because we will not stop this fight.

We will not allow this chaos, this incompetence, and this lawlessness to go unchecked. I want all Americans to hear me: We will fight back.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today to co-anchor this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour along with my distinguished colleague from Oregon (Ms. BYNUM).

For the next 60 minutes, Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people about Black History Month, an issue of great importance not only to the Congressional Black Caucus but to Congress, the constituents we represent, and to all Americans.

It is a privilege to be able to stand here today. Black History Month is not just an opportunity to reflect on our

past, but it is certainly an opportunity to uplift our present and renew the cause to fight for our future.

I begin with a story because Black History Month is often thought of as a time to recognize those historical figures that we all know: the Martin Luther Kings of the world, the John Lewises of the world, Rosa Parks, and others. Black History Month is about more than just those who are known. It is about a lot of those who are not known.

I begin with a story of a few young men in the State of Alabama. Following what history has come to label as the end of the civil rights movement in 1968, in 1969, four young men had been intentionally recruited to break down a color barrier at the University of Alabama's law school.

Eight young men walked through the doors of the University of Alabama School of Law in the fall of 1969. Among them was a young man named John, a young man named Ronald, a young man named Booker T., and a young man named Michael.

This was a time when the civil rights movement had ended, the struggles to realize the progress that America has made throughout the decade-plus of fighting and protesting. It was about leveling those playing fields and equalizing the opportunity and access for people like these young men.

They walked through the doors as the first African Americans to come into the University of Alabama's law school, and they would all ultimately become lawyers: John England, Booker T. Forte, Ronald Jackson, and Michael Figures.

Black history in America is a story of resilience and excellence and an unshakeable pursuit of justice, an unshakeable commitment to making this country, as Martin Luther King would say: "Be true to what you said on paper," for all of us.

From the Halls of Congress to the streets of our communities, Black leaders and educators and entrepreneurs and activists have shaped this Nation. Yet, we know that honoring this history isn't just about reflection. It is about action because that is what we owe people. That is what we owe people.

I come from Alabama, the birthplace of the civil rights movement, a place at a time when this Nation and this world was experiencing injustices that we cannot fathom today; and a place where people, based simply on the color of their skin, could not eat in certain places, work in certain places, be educated in certain places, or live in certain places.

The people of Alabama, particularly Montgomery, Alabama, stood up at a point when many cities and towns and people in those cities and towns across this country had a rightful fear of standing up in that way. Montgomery said: No.

In 1955, when they launched a bus boycott, little did they know that they



were giving rise to the greatest civil movement that the world has ever seen and that the world has ever known, led by a young minister who was a mere 26 years old at the time: Martin Luther King, Jr.

This movement would give rise to what America proudly holds itself out to be today. That is that place of equal opportunity, that place of equal access, and that place of equal justice.

This is a movement that was rooted in people. It was rooted in people who had a faith in a nation that, when we look back at history, we wonder: How could they? How could they? How could people who came from such a history of segregation and degradation, slavery and Jim Crow, how could they remain steadfast in a commitment to a country? How could they have that love for a country that history had shown them did not love them in the same manner?

They held it because they knew that the greatness of America was really about what America could be and what it could be for them. Even if they came here in the bowels of slave ships, even if they slaved as laborers in cotton fields, they knew that America one day could be better for them and could be better for their children and their grandchildren.

That is what Black History Month is about. It is about recognizing the unwavering faith that people, who had every reason not to have such faith, maintained in this Nation and the contributions that they made to making America be true to what it said on paper.

When you have understanding and an appreciation where Black people in this country have come from, literally from the bottom, literally with nothing, literally as second- and third- and fourth-class citizens and noncitizens initially; when it is understood that when this building was built, people who looked like me could only be here for three reasons: To either build it, clean it, or serve food; when it is understood that when this country was formalized in a Constitution people who looked like me were not deemed to be an entire person—barely just more than a half a person—three-fifths of a person is what Black people were counted as, then it is understood why many of us are very sensitive to efforts to attack things like diversity and efforts to attack things like equity and inclusion, because we know that we come from a culture and from a people who had to deal with adversity, inequity, and purposeful exclusion for centuries; when all we wanted was a level playing field; when all we wanted was the same opportunities as others.

We never asked for special treatment. We never wanted to be recognized in any way that others were not recognized, but they held on to that faith for this Nation, and they led us to being a better place.

Coming from that background, several actions of this administration strike a little bit differently. It stings

a little bit more when things happen like the rolling back of an EEOC order that has been in place since 1962 that was meant to make sure that people were not discriminated against.

It means something a little bit different when the administration hits a pause on funding to 1890 land-grant institution scholarships while not hitting a pause on that funding to 1862 land-grant institution scholarships.

It hits a little bit differently when Auburn University, a predominantly White institution, is not impacted, but Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University are impacted. One must ask: What is the difference between an 1862 school, a Texas A&M and Auburn University and LSU, and an 1890 school, an Alabama A&M and a Tuskegee?

When one looks at the facts, it is the fact that the 1890s were historically Black colleges and universities. That stings a little bit differently. It hits a little bit differently when there is an understanding of the history of where people come from, that one of the first actions that had to be taken after the administration came in was going to bat to make sure that the Tuskegee Airmen remained a part of the curriculum in training our Nation's airmen—something so basic, something so nonpartisan, something that we should all be able to agree on—that a group of men who went and put their lives on the line for a world, for a country, that, when they returned home, they were still called the N-word.

They were still forced to sit in the back of the bus. They were still told to take off their uniforms. They were still told that they were not good enough. They still could not send their kids to school in much of this country's public school systems. Yet, because of a diversity, equity, and inclusion ban, we had to go to bat for them.

It wasn't just Democrats. There were Republicans, too, who saw that that was an issue that we should not have. Senator KATIE BRITT from my home State was there with us, as was the Congressional Black Caucus and other Members across this country.

It is the attacks that we see on such things that hits a little bit differently during Black History Month because it is a failure to acknowledge the history. It is a failure to acknowledge a group of people who persevered through the worst of circumstances in this Nation, a group of people who literally emerged from bondage, a group of people who emerged from torture, from rape, from kidnapping, and from family separation.

That is why it means so much to us. That is why it is important that we recognize Black History Month because contributions have been made by dozens of people, hundreds of people, thousands of people, millions of people who were not supposed to be in this country as citizens. Yet, here we are, and here we stand.

Although, when this building was built, there were zero Members who

looked like us, there now stands 62. We know that we have an obligation to stand up and respect that history because Black history is not just for me. It is not just my history.

That young man named Michael Figures who walked into University of Alabama's law school, he would have a son. He would have four sons. One of them is named SHOMARI FIGURES, who stands here today as a Member of Congress because of the fights of him and the fights of those known and unknown before him.

Black history is not only my history. Black history is your history, whether you like it or not. It is our history. Black history is American history. Black history is who we are. That is why we must continue the fight to make sure that we honor the contributions and the sacrifices that so many people have made.

It is to make sure that we do not go back, to make sure that it is clearly understood that our efforts throughout the civil rights movement and since have only been to make sure that we have a level playing field, have only been to make sure that I can't be excluded when I have the exact same qualifications as you.

□ 1945

I stand here today as a proud son of a father and mother who have both made Black history in their own right. I stand before you here today as the proud grandson of men who set the stage.

Most Black people in this country don't come from privilege. I consider myself to be blessed. I think here in Congress, a lot of the time, we see a lot of people born on third base thinking they hit a triple. That is the unfortunate reality of where we find ourselves—people forgetting where they came from, people forgetting what we went through, people forgetting how we got here in the first place, people forgetting the struggle, people forgetting what we overcame, people forgetting what we could not have and why we fight so hard for what we do have and to be able to maintain it in the future.

I don't forget. I won't forget. I cannot forget because every day I walk in here is a reminder of what was sacrificed for me. Every day that I have the privilege of calling myself a United States citizen, a United States Representative, is a reminder for me of what it took for myself and for people like me to be able to stand here.

I know I was born on first base because my grandparents made sacrifices for my father to be able to step up to the plate and swing for the fences, and swing for the fences he did. He broke down color barriers in his own right. He gave his life to public service, and he died one day at a dinner table, but what did not die with him was an appreciation, an understanding, a recognition of where we have been, what we have been through, how we got here,

and what we must do to ensure that future generations enjoy the same opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BYNUM).

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the first, but not the last, Black Member of Congress in Oregon's history to celebrate Black History Month in these hallowed Halls of Congress. Listening to Brother Figures' speech has me a bit choked up. We are the next generation.

It is not lost on me that I am just one generation removed from segregation. My mother graduated from Whittemore High School in Conway, South Carolina, in the class of 1970, a segregated class, and graduated valedictorian without a future. That wasn't that long ago.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a groundbreaker because of what that means not just for my children but for young people all across my State, for them to see that change is possible, and when something big has never been done before, it just might be because they haven't accomplished it yet.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am reminded that I am not in this fight alone. They were always there with me, 3,000 miles away, never leaving me alone. We are a community of leaders, Mr. Speaker, united in our goal to shape a more equitable, prosperous, and just society.

Mr. Speaker, this Black History Month, we recommit ourselves to continuing to make progress together. We are here not just for our children but for our children's children.

Mr. Speaker, happy Black History Month.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman JANELLE BYNUM from the great State of Oregon and Congressman SHOMARI FIGURES from the great State of Alabama for co-anchoring tonight's Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour.

I rise today with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus to commemorate Black History Month and to reflect on the innumerable contributions to our country that Black Americans have made throughout our Nation's history.

During Black History Month, we celebrate the generations of Black Americans whose courage, advocacy, sacrifice, and patriotism have moved our Nation and the world forward. From Reconstruction and the Great Migration to the success of Black Wall Street, the jazz age, the Harlem Renaissance, the civil rights movement, and beyond, there is no time in history that Black people have not contributed to the vitality and success of our country.

As chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am proud that as our caucus

has grown from 13 visionary members in 1971 to a historic 62 members in the year 2025, 4 of whom serve in the United States Senate, we have continued fighting to dismantle barriers, create opportunities, and protect the rights of our communities.

Throughout our Nation's history, the Congressional Black Caucus has been called to confront countless threats to our communities, our educational attainment, our economic prosperity, and our health and well-being. Time and again, we have answered the call and stood in the breach on behalf of Black America and the values that make our country strong.

Under the shadow of the Trump administration, we are being called to yet another unprecedented and consequential time in the history and life of our country that we must address head-on.

With the creation of the 14th Amendment, America took one step toward rectifying its original sin of slavery and protecting the birthright citizenship of all Black Americans. Threats from President Trump to the 14th Amendment have put Black America, once again, in a perilous position. Today, we are facing cruelty and threats to the very fabric of our democracy and existence.

As the Trump administration seeks to continue to take our country back in time, the Congressional Black Caucus stands at the front lines of protecting our communities and calling out these and other thinly veiled attempts to erase centuries of progress for Black America.

This administration's recent actions aimed at taking away critical tools of success and our fundamental freedoms will not go unanswered.

On the shoulders of our Founders, we will continue to push back against efforts to impede our progress, erase our history, and cut off our access to capital and better opportunities in our communities.

This month and every month, we will continue to make clear that the contributions of Black Americans will not and cannot be erased, undermined, or undone.

We will continue to fight for access to the ballot box, fair representation, diversity initiatives, and our fundamental freedoms, which are, sadly, under threat each and every day.

As the conscience of the Congress, we will not sit back and be silent as these attacks on our communities continue. Our history, Black history, is American history, and we are not going back.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am so honored and privileged to be here tonight to speak on the Congressional Black Caucus, with our Special Order hour tonight specific to honoring Black History Month.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join tonight's Special Order hour honoring

Black History Month, my Black history, my people, my community.

As a second vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, it is vitally important to me that we commemorate the stories and triumphs of Black Americans all year long and especially during Black History Month.

I am the daughter of civil rights leaders. My father was the Illinois branch president of the NAACP and served on its executive board for over 25 years. I grew up in the struggle. I grew up in the marches. I grew up in the rallies. I certainly learned how to sing "We Shall Overcome" because it is what I sang with my family all the time, for as long as I can remember.

I draw upon the strength of these experiences, the experiences and strength of my mother and my father during a time which feels not unlike the uncertainty of the 1960s. Though there are those who may feel discouraged that we are fighting the same bigotry and the same hatred, going down the same road that my parents fought against, that Dr. King fought against, that Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer fought against, that our dear friend and beloved colleague John Lewis fought against, I continue to look to the civil rights movement as a reminder that we are not powerless.

Our voices and our role as legislators in this body give us all the tools that we need to speak up, to stand up, and to fight back for Black America and for all of America.

It is what my father did and what my mother did, even during a time when diners charged him more money for a cup of coffee than the White man sitting next to him.

I can remember, as a child living in Chicago, Illinois, going into a local Walgreens. I remember standing there with my family, all of them fair-skinned, with red hair, brown hair, and freckles, and me, the brownest child in the family, being told I couldn't go sit with my family because they didn't believe I was a part of my family.

It is these kinds of experiences that I will fight for the rest of my life to make sure that no child, no individual in this country, ever feels discriminated against. It is what my father did. It is what I did as a grieving mother when my son, Jordan, was killed by a White man who simply didn't like the loud music that he was playing in his car. It is what we must do now as a Presidential administration, emboldened by hatred and vengeance, seeks to weaken and dismantle Federal programs that support our veterans, care for our seniors, and defend our Nation from public health emergencies, just to name a few.

What we must continue to do as we face threats of erasing Black history, American history, we must continue to fight from our classrooms and from our textbooks.

□ 2000

We must stand up. Black America must speak out. We must remember

our responsibility to act—not just to react—in the best interests of all the American people. In the face of attacks on minority communities in a nation where our diversity is truly our strength, it is more important than ever that we celebrate the progress of this Nation—and Black history is part of this Nation—of every step which brings us closer to forming a more perfect Union.

We have been promised that by this Constitution. We have been promised that by this country, and I know that we will continue to fight every step of the way to fulfill that promise.

In my time in Congress, I have been privileged to represent a rich tapestry of this Nation, woven by the many threads which make us uniquely American. I have been proud to represent one of the most diverse congressional districts in America, and I am honored to represent so many talented local leaders who have blazed a trail and accomplished many firsts in their community.

In my current district, eight mayors or county executives are the first Black people to ever serve in those positions. Cobb County Commission Chairwoman Lisa Cupid, College Park Mayor Bianca Motley Broom, Douglasville Mayor Rochelle Robinson, Fairburn Mayor Mario Avery, Fayetteville Mayor Ed Johnson, Mableton Mayor Michael Owens, Palmetto Mayor Teresa Thomas-Smith, and Powder Springs Mayor Al Thurman.

These leaders can be proud of the fact that they were the first, and I take pride in knowing that they will certainly not be the last.

The fact that I was elected the first Black Representative of Georgia's Sixth Congressional District, the first Democrat to hold that seat since 1979, the first person of color to ever hold that seat in 2018 is a testament to the progress in our State and to the work of leaders on the ground and Black America. I am grateful for all those who have paved the path of progress for me and all future leaders to follow in their footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, we face extraordinary and unprecedented challenges in this moment, but this month and always, we will celebrate the strength of America's diversity, the unity of her people, and our unwavering determination to leave behind a brighter tomorrow for future generations, for our children. They deserve that. Because of the celebrations of African Americans that we are talking about during this Special Order hour, I have every confidence that my people will overcome.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of New Jersey (Mrs. McIVER).

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives BYNUM and FIGURES for organizing this Special Order hour.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Black History Month and the profound and vibrant legacy of the many Black Americans who have made our country.

Black history is a living, breathing narrative that enriches our Nation and influences our daily lives. It is a powerful testament to resilience, creativity, and the pursuit of justice.

We think about those who came before us and fought for freedom, trailblazers like Frederick Douglass and Sojourner Truth, whose voices paved the way.

As only the second Black woman ever elected to Congress to represent New Jersey, I stand on the shoulders of giants, including my colleague, mentor, and friend, Representative BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN. We both are here because of the path that leaders like Shirley Chisholm blazed before us.

With the highest ever membership to the Congressional Black Caucus, 62 members strong, we have never been stronger. We represent the dreams of our ancestors, and those dreams are in danger by this administration's hateful policies that hurt Black people nationwide.

Our hard-fought progress is threatened by the racist agenda pushed forward by this administration, but we will not back down. In the words of the late, great John Lewis: "We have been too quiet for too long. There comes a time when you have to say something. You have to make a little noise. You have to move your feet. This is the time."

Together, we must make a little noise and create good trouble to protect the progress we have fought so hard for. Together, we can ensure that the stories and contributions of our community continue to inspire and uplift future generations.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you tonight to honor and to celebrate Black History Month.

Black History Month is not just a celebration, but a reminder of the struggles, achievements, resilience, and contributions of Black Americans throughout our Nation's history.

In New Mexico, it is the opportunity to honor and celebrate that Black history is not only American history, it is New Mexico history, especially as so many Black leaders are blazing the way for future generations: Judge Shammara Henderson, the first Black judge to serve in the New Mexico Court of Appeals; Senator Harold Pope, the first Black State senator to serve in the history of the State of New Mexico; Councilor Nichole Rogers, the first Black woman to serve on Albuquerque's City Council; and Representative Pamela Herndon, who is the first Black State house representative to represent New Mexico State House District 28, which is my State house representative in Albuquerque.

These are just a few of the New Mexico leaders who are making history as we stand on this floor tonight, who are leading the way, whose voices are not only needed but necessary and who

must be at all the tables where decisions are being made.

As we know, these voices are currently being threatened by systemic attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, as thousands of Federal employees have been fired and put on leave, funding for programs has been gutted, schools and public institutions have been threatened, and leaders like General Charles Q. Brown, Jr., who have proudly served this great country with the highest levels of distinction, have found themselves targeted and dismissed.

We must be real about the moment that we face. These policies and cuts are not just policy decisions. They are about undermining the fundamental justice and equity of the United States, about erasing our history and turning back the clock on the progress of countless generations who have struggled and marched and fought to move this country forward.

That is why we must and we will continue to fight back in Congress, in the courts, and in our communities, and to continue that work of bending the arc of the moral universe and this country toward justice because this is the work ahead for all of us and the work we will and must do.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the great State of Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to first say thank you to our co-anchors; only freshmen in this House but certainly seasoned in the life that they have led. I thank Congressman FIGURES and Congresswoman BYNUM, and to our Madam Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE.

Mr. Speaker, tonight you will hear many stories of Black history, which is definitely American history. I rise today because Black sacrifice and excellence has shaped our Nation. We stand on the shoulders of many brave soldiers and Sojourners, but tonight I choose to salute living legends.

I salute the 62 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, four Black Members for the first time serving in our United States Senate, and 58 House Members in this Congress, the largest in our history. As we say in the Baptist church, we have come a mighty long way. From 1971, when 13 Members sat on this House floor, 12 Black men from across this Nation and one brave, courageous, bad sister, Shirley Chisholm. My, have we come a long way.

We come tonight, and we speak truth to power in this most unprecedented time in our Nation's history: a time when we are fighting for civil rights and justice, a time when we are fighting just to ask for an opportunity, for a broader talent base, something we call diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Programs like Medicaid and Medicare, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, FAA, and funding for HBCUs, historically Black colleges and universities, Federal jobs being taken away

from individuals with little or no notice and promise of payment that has only fallen short or to be told that they would get it and found out only to be lies.

Tonight, we will answer what the people are asking for: What are we doing?

Well, I can tell you that the Congressional Black Caucus is standing up for justice.

I can tell you that the Congressional Black Caucus is going back into our communities, and we are holding tele-townhalls.

I can tell you that we are responding to the American people because we know what is at stake. We know that if we will not stand up for them and fight for them that little might not happen. I can tell you that we are communicating. I can tell you that we are legislating. I can tell you that we are standing with the lawyers who are litigating. We are fighting to protect and pursue opportunities that give Black Americans the same advantages that White Americans have enjoyed since our Nation's founding.

Our history is made stronger and more vibrant. Just when Black Americans think that we are equal, we are still fighting for equal rights.

Here we are, from chaos and confusion with this administration, but we are still leading. Former chairs, now ranking members. If I did a roll call, Mr. Speaker, I would tell you that we have people like MAXINE WATERS, BOBBY SCOTT, BENNIE THOMPSON, and GREGORY MEEKS leading some of the most prestigious committees in this Congress.

I would tell you that we have so many people who possess law degrees that it would be like having a roll call of Who's Who to tell you that even in our freshman class—if I started by saying: TURNER, FIELDS, BELL, CONAWAY, FIGURES, SYKES, MCCLELLAN, LEE, CROCKETT, JOHNSON, SEWELL, MEEKS, NEGUSE, JEFFRIES, and BISHOP, who all possess law degrees.

We have some of the best orators in the country. I could say AYANNA PRESSLEY, and I can tell you historians like JIM CLYBURN. I could tell you that we are fighting because we possess those talents in fields because we have suffered along the way.

You have heard the stories of our parents. You have heard the stories of our grandparents. We just don't come tonight for a Special Order to tell you our stories, but we want America to know that we are suffering. We want America to know that we stand with them in this time when we are in trouble.

Just last night, I was on a call with Win With Black Women and Win With Black Men, a call that was prompted several months ago during the election when 44,000 Black women got on a call, and 50-some thousand Black men got on a call. Just as tonight, when a White woman joined us, White women and White dudes got on the call be-

cause we knew that America was in trouble.

□ 2015

Mr. Speaker, last night I am so proud to say, as I close, that we stood up for another sojourner, a sojourner who had been fighting for us as she went on air every night. We also say thank you to Joy Reid for what she has done and to let her know that we, too, are lifting her up.

We are also celebrating those who, too, will give us a voice, whether it is on traditional media, legacy media, social media, or podcasts. We are coming after those who are coming after us, Mr. Speaker. We want America to know that we will not be silent even against this administration. We will not sit down. We will protest. We will resist. We will do all the things that our forefathers did. We will do all the things that those shoulders that we stand on did.

What they did, we will do because this America belongs to us. We fight for justice, dignity, equity, diversity, and inclusion because we, too, are part of America. Black history is American history.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield to another distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) and also Congresswoman BYNUM from the State of Oregon and the chair of the Black Caucus, YVETTE CLARKE of New York, for inviting me to speak this evening.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History Month, I rise to honor an extraordinary American hero that I had the great pleasure to know from my home community in Ohio, Lieutenant Colonel Harold H. Brown. He was a Tuskegee Airman, and this is the bronze statue that was cast in our region as part of our Air Force museum, honoring his astounding life.

He was a warrior for justice on many fronts and an unwavering patriot. He was always happy. His story is one of resilience, excellence, and service, embodying the very best of our Nation's ideals.

From a young age, Harold dreamed of soaring through the skies. I don't know where he got that idea, but just at 19 years old, he turned that dream into reality as a pilot in the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. These were a heroic group of African-American aviators who defied both gravity and systemic racism to serve their country during World War II. As others have referenced tonight, we stand on their shoulders.

Harold flew combat missions with unparalleled skill and valor. He loved to fly, taking on some of the most dangerous missions over war-torn Europe. His service came at great risk. The plane we see there, he liked to fly privately also and would wear a scarf around his neck. He was a great teacher, and he managed community colleges after his service.

During one of his many missions, his plane was shot down in battle, and he was captured as a prisoner of war. Even in captivity, Harold never wavered in his duty to his country.

After the war, he continued to serve, answering the call again during the brutal Korean war. He answered the call. His legacy extended beyond the battlefield. He became an educator, beloved, a mentor and champion for the desegregation of the United States military.

The impact of Harold Brown and his fellow Tuskegee Airmen is immeasurable in this country. The Red Tails, as they were known, flew more than—get ready for this—15,000 sorties between 1943 and 1945, earning a reputation as some of the most skilled pilots in the United States military.

Bomber crews specifically requested their escort, knowing the Tuskegee Airmen would protect them against enemy attacks. They were angels in the sky. They were so brave. They fought not only against the forces of fascism abroad but, again, the deep-seated racism at home, paving the way for the desegregation of the Armed Forces with the leadership from Ohio, setting a precedent for generations to come.

Right in my district of Toledo, the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen lives on. The area around us in northern Ohio—Ohio is known as the State of flight, and 58 of these brave aviators called Ohio home, with several hailing from the great Toledo area and Harold himself from Port Clinton and points east.

Their contributions to our Armed Forces and to our communities remain an indelible part of our history. Institutions such as the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, the National Museum of the Great Lakes, and the Liberty Aviation Museum in Port Clinton, Ohio, where this photo was taken, have preserved their stories, ensuring that future generations will remember their courage and their sacrifice.

These men were not just warriors in the sky. They were pioneers who shattered social and racial barriers, proving their excellence time and again, despite the discrimination they faced. Despite their heroism, their place in history has not always been respected. Just recently, sadly, we witnessed a shameful attempt to erase the legacy of Harold Brown and countless others who fought with him and for this country.

Under the Trump administration, the U.S. Department of Defense, following a sweeping executive order, removed diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, including historical education on renowned figures including the Tuskegee Airmen and the Women Air Force Service Pilots.

A training program that honored these heroes was halted. Their history was nearly erased in the name of a stupid and mean-spirited political agenda that sought to rewrite America's past

to fit a narrow, exclusionary narrative. This was more than an insult to the African-American community. It was an insult to America itself. It was an affront to every soldier, airman, sailor, and Marine who fought not just for our country but for the ideals upon which it stands.

The removal of these Department of Defense programs was a deliberate attempt to diminish the contributions of African Americans in the military and to erase the struggles they overcame in their fight for justice and equality.

Let this be a lesson. The power of the America people is stronger than any one administration. When this erasure was exposed, when the outrage of everyday citizens—not just Black, not just Brown, but White—demanded justice, the American people forced a reckoning with the United States Department of Defense and the President of the United States. Public outcry led to the reinstatement of the course honoring the Tuskegee Airmen.

Truth cannot be silenced, and history cannot be rewritten to serve the will of the few. We, the people, hold the power to safeguard our history. The legacy of Harold Brown and his daring, patriotic fellow airmen has been restored, not because those in power willingly chose to do so but because Americans of conscience refused to allow their contributions to ever be forgotten.

This is a testament to the enduring power of truth and justice and a reminder that each American must remain vigilant in protecting both truth and justice. As we honor Harold Brown today—and he never wanted honor. The entire community, most of whom were Caucasian like myself, came out. There was music and joy, and there was happiness in his memory.

We remember his service, but also we remember his fight. Let us carry forward his mission, not just in the skies but in every arena where justice is challenged, where history is threatened, and where the sacrifices of our ancestors and predecessors risk being erased.

We owe it to Harold Brown and his family. We owe it to the Tuskegee Airmen and their families. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations of the American family. Harold Brown and the Tuskegee Airmen of northern Ohio changed the world for the better, and so can we.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, as we bring this Special Order to a close, I again highlight the fact that the celebration of Black history is not a celebration of just a few individuals who did some notable things. Black history is about celebrating the faith that an entire people, an entire culture had and the potential of what this Nation could be: A faith that was unshakable. A faith in their God. A faith in this Nation. A faith that America could be America for them, too.

They held on to this. We still hold to it. Through the darkest days of this country, when Black people could lit-

erally only hold onto the security and four walls of a church, where they could sing hymns like “I Will Trust in the Lord” or “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior” or “Take My Hand, Precious Lord.”

Precious Lord, take my hand  
Lead me on, let me stand  
I am tired, I'm weak, I am worn  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light.  
That is where we come from.

I stand here before you just three generational lines removed from slavery, and I know that sounds crazy. That is how close we are from where we came from. The faith that my great-grandparents had at that same generational line, where we had people born in my family into slavery, to come just three generations, it is that same faith that leads me here. It is that same faith that led my father to break down those color barriers at an institution where just a few years before a Governor stood and declared that segregation today, segregation tomorrow, and segregation forever. It is that same faith that led him to apply to that law school where just a few years before his older brother applied and was told send us a picture. He refused to do so.

We celebrate that faith. We celebrate that resilience, that resolve, that perseverance. That is what Black History Month is about, and that is why we continue to hold on to that faith, because we, too, believe that America is still America for us, too. It is America for all of us.

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

#### SPACE DOMINANCE

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, in fact, the freshmen Members of Congress, to reach far beyond party lines, beyond State borders, and even beyond our planet. It affects every American, shaping our economy, our security, and our future. I am talking about space.

As President Trump said, you can't be number one on Earth if you are number two in space. I am going to yield to our senior Member of the freshman class this year, VINCE FONG.

Congressman FONG represents the 20th District of California. He is on the Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee, as well as the Science Committee, specifically serving on the Space and Aeronautics Committee. He proudly represents the Central Valley of California.

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

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from Florida (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS) for leading this Special Order today about the importance of America leading in aerospace and aviation.

My district in California encompasses a number of military, space, and aerospace facilities, including Naval Air Station Lemoore, Edwards Air Force Base, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, and the Mojave Air and Space Port.

We are known for our innovation and research and continuing to push the boundaries of space exploration and our rich legacy in this industry.

□ 2030

Dating back to almost a century ago, Chuck Yeager became the first person to break the sound barrier in 1947 as a test pilot for what is now Edwards Air Force Base.

During World War II, the Mojave Air & Space Port was used as a training facility for the United States Marine Corps, and the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake was established for research, testing, and evaluation of military weapons.

In the 1950s, NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center was the location where many of the technologies for Project Apollo were tested, including where the lunar landing research vehicle was flown in the 1960s in preparation for the historic American Moon landing.

With a deep, embedded history in the aerospace industry, my region continues to defy odds, make historic discoveries, and innovate for the future.

As we see our foreign adversaries like Russia, China, and Iran increasing their space technology efforts, it is critical that we stay ahead of the curve to ensure we stay at the cutting edge of technologies.

This is one of the reasons why I introduced the Making Advancement in Commercial Hypersonics Act, also known as the MACH Act. This legislation authorizes the establishment of the MACH program at NASA and allows NASA to support scientific experiments through high-speed flights.

In order to stay competitive in hypersonics technology, we must fully utilize public-private partnerships, like I have in my district, to advance this necessary technology. East Kern County is making great strides not only for our community but also for our Nation.

The MACH program builds on successes we have already seen in commercial spaceflight and lays the groundwork for urgent, necessary advancements to keep our competitive edge as a nation.

The MACH legislation was included in the NASA Reauthorization Act of 2024 and passed the House last Congress. I look forward to this reintroduced legislation passing and getting signed into law this Congress so we can continue to innovate and grow in America.

In addition to national defense efforts, the aerospace industry continues to assist with our emergency responses in our Nation.

Earlier this year, we saw wildfires devastate my home State of California. Unfortunately, this is something that we know all too well in my community. Wildfires continue to ravage every part of California. Unfortunately, fire season is now all year long, and we must take advantage of the technologies available to try to fight these terrible tragedies.

The Advanced Capabilities for Emergency Response Operations Act, also known as the ACERO Act, which I introduced earlier this year, authorizes NASA to leverage the use of drones to fight wildfires. This project is especially helpful when there is low visibility, heavy smoke, or unsafe conditions for our firefighters to fly. This piece of legislation is lifesaving not only to help stop these wildfires, which have devastated communities, but also to assist our brave firefighters.

There are not enough thanks to give to our selfless firefighters and first responders in times of natural disaster. We should help them fight these fires by passing legislation to give them additional tools.

The aerospace industry does so much for our country, from assisting in national defense to helping in natural disasters to improving the way we travel. As we continue to innovate and grow, it is crucial to acknowledge the many advancements we continue to make.

Our work is just getting started in space as a Nation, and here in Congress we are committed to seeing strides of advancement to make our Nation dominant in new and advancing technology.

As we look to the future, I see my district continuing to make history in the aerospace industry with its innovation and exploration efforts.

Recently in my district, Boom Supersonic completed the first successful civil supersonic flight at Mojave Air and Space Port, making supersonic flight technology usable for all Americans.

In addition, in December, Stratolaunch made history with its first fully reusable hypersonic flight test of the Talon-A 2 vehicle off the coast of Vandenburg, which took off from the Mojave Air and Space Port, signifying a new era of hypersonic flight technology, where traveling at faster speeds may soon become a reality.

These important advancements for America show that my community will continue to be a national leader in the aerospace industry.

I again commemorate all of the great work being done in my community. The Nation thanks you. We have more advancements ahead being developed in California's aerospace valley. I look forward to a future of growth and innovation with California's 20th Congressional District in the forefront.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, next we have, from the great State of Alaska, the at-large Member from Alaska, Congressman Nick Begich, who is on the Natural Resources Committee, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH).

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an issue of national importance: Our commitment to space exploration and Alaska's vital role in securing America's presence in space.

Space exploration drives innovation, strengthens our economy, and enhances national security. The investments we make today will shape our future strength and prosperity as a Nation.

Alaska, the Last Frontier, is well positioned to play a key role in our Nation's space operations. Alaska's unique geographic position gives it a crucial edge in space surveillance, missile defense, satellite communications, and launch capabilities.

With a high-latitude polar launch capability and vast, remote terrain, my State offers unparalleled advantages for both government and commercial space initiatives. The Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska, or PSCA, on Kodiak Island is at the forefront of these efforts as a premier launch site that plays a critical role in America's space strategy.

Alaska's geostrategic location in the Arctic makes it an indispensable asset in America's national defense and global power projection. As the closest U.S. State to both Russia and China, Alaska provides unparalleled access to the Arctic, a region rapidly growing in economic and military significance.

With shifting ice patterns opening new maritime routes, control over Arctic air and sea lanes is critical to maintaining U.S. strategic interests. Alaska's military installations, missile defense systems, and space infrastructure collectively form a cornerstone of national security, ensuring America's readiness in this increasingly contested region.

The Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska is one of four of the country's few fully operational, federally licensed spaceports capable of delivering payloads to orbit. Managed by the Alaska Aerospace Corporation, its remote location provides a strategic advantage, reducing risks to populated areas and offering access to vital polar and Sun-synchronous orbits. This capability is essential for Earth observation, climate monitoring, missile defense, and reconnaissance missions.

Unlike other launch sites in the lower 48, Alaska's spaceport benefits from minimal air traffic congestion and robust launch windows, enabling greater efficiency and mission success.

This spaceport is designed to be highly adaptable and can accommodate a wide range of launch vehicles, from small satellites to larger payloads. Its infrastructure includes multiple launch pads, a state-of-the-art range control center, and cutting-edge telemetry capabilities. Furthermore, the PSCA is a key contributor to economic development in Alaska, creating jobs, fostering technological advancements, and attracting investment from domestic and international space companies.

The Alaska Aerospace Corporation was established in 1991 by the Alaska Legislature and has been instrumental in advancing the State's role in space operations. As the operator of the PSCA, Alaska Aerospace provides critical infrastructure and space launch capabilities that support both government and commercial launches, reinforcing our Nation's ability to remain at the forefront of space innovation.

Additionally, Clear Space Force Station near Fairbanks is pivotal in space situational awareness and missile defense. This facility is crucial for tracking objects in orbit, ensuring that America maintains a vigilant eye on potential threats and space debris that could endanger critical infrastructure. These efforts are vital to protecting our Nation's interests and maintaining a leading presence in space.

The potential benefits of Alaska's growing space sector align with our Nation's security and technological advancement initiatives. The Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska holds an incredible opportunity for dominance in space. The industry in my State has created many high-paying jobs in engineering, aerospace technology, and infrastructure.

These positions offer competitive salaries and career stability, attracting top talent and fostering a skilled workforce in Alaska. Moreover, the increased investment in space operations has generated economic ripple effects, benefiting local businesses, housing markets, and service industries.

Alaska's role in space operations is poised for even more significant expansion. The State's infrastructure is uniquely positioned to support the next wave of advancements in space travel, including reusable launch vehicles, hypersonic testing, and deep-space exploration.

As commercial companies like SpaceX continue to push the boundaries of what is possible, Alaska stands ready to provide essential launch services that will further our Nation's ambitions beyond Earth's orbit.

Reducing dependence on foreign space infrastructure is a matter of national security and economic sovereignty. For too long, the United States has relied on foreign launch



services and satellite capabilities, leaving critical assets vulnerable to geopolitical uncertainty. Increasing the use of Alaska's space infrastructure will ensure that our national security interests, commercial enterprises, and scientific missions remain independent and protected from foreign influence.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot discuss the future of space without acknowledging the transformative impact of private industry. Companies like SpaceX and other commercial aerospace pioneers have revolutionized space travel by making launches more affordable and frequent. With its strategic location and state-of-the-art infrastructure, Alaska offers an ideal partner for these enterprises. The Pacific Spaceport Complex-Alaska provides the logistical support, safety advantages, and launch capabilities to advance commercial expansion and national security objectives.

As global competition in space intensifies, our ability to support our Nation's space-based assets has never been more crucial. We must continue to invest in these capabilities, expand our launch infrastructure, and ensure that our space assets in Alaska remain at the cutting edge of technology. Whether it is weather forecasting, global communications, or national defense, our reliance on space assets grows every day. The work done in Alaska ensures that America remains a leader in this critical domain.

Mr. Speaker, space is the next great frontier, and America cannot afford to fall behind. We must continue to invest in our space infrastructure, foster private-sector innovation, and recognize Alaska's strategic significance in maintaining international leadership.

Let us, in this 119th Congress, reaffirm our commitment to space exploration, national security, and economic prosperity, ensuring that Alaska and the United States remain the undisputed leaders in this critical domain.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman BEGICH for his thoughtful words.

I next will introduce the Congressman from the Third Congressional District in Utah. Congressman KENNEDY is one of the few legislators in Washington who has both a medical degree and a law degree. He is a former Utah State Senator, he is the proud father of eight, and he will speak tonight on the issue of space and its importance in his district.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from Florida, our new chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, for inviting me to join him tonight. I am excited to join him as a new member on the subcommittee and highlight Utah's exciting role in the future of space exploration.

When we think of iconic American places associated with NASA, Houston and Cape Canaveral come to mind, but

I am here to tell you tonight, Mr. Speaker, that Utah should be added to that list. While Utah has played a pivotal role in the history of NASA since the dawn of the space age in the mid-20th century, we are fast moving into a starring role.

We stand at the crossroads of an exciting new era in space exploration. Utah, known for our pioneering spirit, is poised to play a critical role in shaping the future of space. From producing cutting-edge technology to visionary companies, Utah is helping propel humanity into the next frontier.

Utah is also the proud home of the Dugway Proving Ground in the west desert, which has become a prime landing location for returning space missions.

I want to highlight one of the most pivotal players in Utah's contribution to space exploration, Northrop Grumman, which has more than an 80-year history in the State. The global aerospace and defense leader has become a cornerstone of America's space ambitions.

Northrop Grumman's state-of-the-art facilities in Utah are central to the development of solid rocket boosters for some of the most ambitious missions we have ever embarked upon. These boosters are key to propelling spacecraft, like NASA's Space Launch System, which is set to carry astronauts deeper into space than ever before, including the planned missions to the Moon under the Artemis program and eventually to Mars.

The combined economic footprint of Utah's space-related businesses, along with those in the aerospace, defense, and advanced materials sectors, already account for 20 percent of our annual GDP, and the space segment is among the fastest growing within that combined category, according to Aaron Starks, former chief revenue officer for World Trade Center Utah and now 47G's president and CEO. He said: "I think and firmly believe that Utah's future will be shaped more by this industry than any other."

Northrop Grumman's solid rocket boosters are integral to the success of space programs that will shape the future of exploration. These powerful boosters provide the thrust necessary to lift spacecraft into orbit, and their innovation is a testament to Utah's growing influence in space technology. The company's Utah facilities, including those in Promontory, have been producing these boosters for decades, and they are renowned for their precision, reliability, and power. With the capabilities of these solid rocket boosters, missions that were once the stuff of dreams are becoming a reality.

In January of last year, two of Northrop Grumman's extended, 63-inch-diameter Graphite Epoxy Motors, more commonly known as GEM 63XL solid rocket boosters, helped power the inaugural flight of United Launch Alliance's Vulcan rocket in the first certification mission.

□ 2045

The GEM 63XL boosters are the longest monolithic, single-cast solid rocket boosters ever manufactured and flown. The boosters delivered more than 900,000 pounds of thrust, nearly two-thirds of the vehicle's total thrust at liftoff.

It is not just about technology. It is about what this technology enables. Northrop Grumman's advancements in propulsion have opened up incredible possibilities for deep-space exploration, including human missions to the Moon and Mars, asteroid mining, and future scientific discoveries beyond our current cognitive capabilities.

Each launch of a rocket booster is not just a moment of technological achievement; it is a step closer to answering the big questions about our place in the universe and the potential for future generations to reach the stars.

Utah is developing a future built on innovation and collaboration. The State is becoming a hub for aerospace innovation, with new startups and established companies like Northrop joining the effort to advance technologies that will transform space travel. Whether it is satellite development, propulsion systems, or mission planning, Utah is becoming a vital piece of the puzzle.

Northrop Grumman has sought to form partnerships and tap into expertise in Utah's colleges and universities, and the company has worked with students and faculty at the University of Utah, Weber State University, Utah State University, Brigham Young University, and Bridgerland Technical College in Logan.

Top-tier research institutions Brigham Young University, the University of Utah, and Utah State University are preparing the next generation of engineers, scientists, and innovators who will take the torch from us and continue driving humanity's exploration of space.

With these resources, the State's workforce is uniquely positioned to lead in areas that complement Northrop Grumman's work, creating a synergy that ensures the continued success of space missions.

Utah State University boasts one of the longest histories of connections to space technologies with the establishment of Electro-Dynamics Laboratories in 1959. It would later join forces with the University of Utah's Upper Air Research Laboratory to form the Logan-based Space Dynamics Laboratory in the early 1980s.

Utah universities have also been big contributors to the NASA-sponsored BIG Idea Challenge to power the Artemis program forward. The 2024 BIG Idea team was from Brigham Young University, and they developed an untethered and modular inflatable robot for lunar operations.

In 2023, we had a BIG Idea team from the University of Utah that won first place overall as the Artemis Award

Winner with their development of the “Production of Steel from Lunar Regolith through Carbonyl Iron Refining” project.

As the space industry continues to grow and evolve, Utah is at the heart of it all, leading through ingenuity, collaboration, and unwavering dedication to the future.

Mr. Speaker, I say to my good friend from Florida that his Space Coast district might be where the rockets are launched, but they wouldn’t get off the ground without Utah’s ingenuity.

As we look toward the stars and the limitless possibilities of the cosmos, it is clear that Utah’s contribution to space exploration will be integral. From Northrop Grumman’s groundbreaking solid rocket boosters to the innovation happening across our State, Utah is not only playing a role in the future of space exploration, but it is helping to define it.

The work that is being done here today will shape the course of humanity’s future and space for generations to come. Together, we are laying the foundation for the next great leap in human exploration.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from Florida for this Special Order tonight. I greatly look forward to working with him to make sure NASA is in a position to return to the Moon and take the next step of planting the Stars and Stripes on Mars.

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind words and, more importantly, his efforts in Utah to promote the industry and make sure we have American dominance in space.

As was mentioned, I am proud to be the new chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. It is not only imperative to our district but to the Nation for so many different reasons.

I think the chart behind me is really telling the story about America today. Just a few short years ago, we ceded space dominance to other nations. We actually had to get a ride to space from, of all people, our former adversary, Russia. Here we are today, as you look at this graph, with, last year alone, 155 launches into space, 93 from the Kennedy Space Center in my home district. We are well on our way toward space dominance, and we are not slowing down.

In 2025 alone, 26 additional flights have left our skies and, of course, are orbiting around our world today, providing the telecommunications necessary not only for commercial use but for military use, as well, to make sure that our men and women are protected when GPS is essential.

Tonight, we will have yet another launch into the sky as SpaceX is propelling this movement forward.

As we recognize, space is important for our economy, infrastructure, and national defense. It enables modern life, from powering GPS communications to weather forecasting, artificial

limb technology, solar cells, fire-resistant fabrics, and even medical imaging and biotechnology.

Space is research and development, and space is a return on investment. The latest estimates have a 10-1 return for taxpayers when we lead the world in space and innovative technology.

We have been in this space race before. Everyone can ask their parents, or maybe a few of us in the Congress, to know that 1969 was a life changer for so many people. When you ask those folks alive in 1969 what it was like to see a man on the Moon, Neil Armstrong, making that famous proclamation, it was a game changer. We proved that anything is possible here in America. We moved forward from that with shuttle technology and, more recently, with some of the amazing advancements with SpaceX.

We are in a new space race today, unfortunately, with another communist dictatorship, that being China. The question is: Will we win that space race once again? I am confident we will do so for one simple reason: Our President is confident we can accomplish this.

Remember, our President literally created the Space Force. He is a true believer. Back in 2019, he created the Space Force because he knew that space dominance would allow us to not only improve technologically but make sure that our men and women in the military are protected.

We are confident that Artemis II, which is scheduled to go off in early 2026, will propel us to the Moon once again and beyond. We like to say: From the Lagoon to the Moon and Beyond. That is our slogan back in the Eighth District of Florida, and we are confident that that will be a reality.

It is about leadership. It is about job security. It is about economic security. It is about military security and making sure that we make the next innovations and reach the next frontier. Dominance means not just military, but it also means jobs and a brighter future for so many.

When you talk about jobs in the space industry, it is not a job to so many; it is a career. The dedicated folks at NASA are moving forward with these new technologies. They are working hand-in-hand in public-private partnerships with companies like SpaceX, Blue Origin, Rocket Lab, Boeing, L3Harris, and so many others, along with Northrop Grumman, to make sure that we are dominant in space so that we do not take second place in space and lose that technological dominance, which is so necessary to win this latest cold war.

Just a few years ago, we were playing catch-up. As I mentioned before, we were literally relying on the Russians to get our men and women off to the space station. Now, since 2016, we have moved forward, and as this graph shows behind me, we are once again space-dominant. It is again the great American comeback, and we are moving beyond it today.

In just a few weeks, we will see the SpaceX Dragon making sure that our men and women on the space station are returned back to Earth. More and more companies are developing space technologies so we can have satellites and space infrastructure, keeping ahead of our global competitors.

We cannot be complacent. Just because we lead today does not mean it is permanent. We must defend ourselves against China and Russia, which are not standing still. They are major competitors, and they are making important investments in trying to militarize space, despite the treaty from 1967. We must innovate. We must invest. We must push forward to keep our strong position today.

Sadly, China especially does not play by the rules. Just a few years ago, they literally on purpose created a collision that has led to so much space debris around our Earth today. We must use our technology for missile detection, surveillance and reconnaissance, and global communications to stay ahead of this communist dictatorship.

Fortunately, the U.S. Space Force, which, as I mentioned, was established in 2019, maintains our dominance and ensures that we are going to develop hypersonic defense, space-based missile interceptors, and AI-driven surveillance to keep us ahead of those adversaries. We cannot afford to fall behind because the price of inaction is just too high.

The economy of space has also grown dramatically over the last few years. In 2022 alone, it added \$132 billion to the U.S. GDP. It is projected that, by 2040, it will be over \$1 trillion, creating 350,000 private-sector jobs across multiple fields, including launch technicians, software developers, engineers, researchers, construction, and manufacturing everything from satellites to heat shields.

Space is not only a source of innovation but also a pillar of the American economy, fueling growth in both high-tech and blue-collar industries, as I mentioned.

Small businesses are also benefiting from this emergence. Just a few weeks ago, I had the honor of visiting a small company called Eta Space. It is a company in my district that employs 20 people, but they are having a massive impact on the changing space world. They developed a satellite that will experiment with cryogenic fuels in orbit, a key technology for orbit refueling. This innovation will pave the way for long-distance space travel, making missions to Mars and beyond more viable and more cost effective.

I might mention, as a member of the Financial Services Committee, which our Speaker is today, as well, this is an example of community banks. It was a community bank that allowed Eta Space to get the financing they needed to put this project together and lead the technological development we need to go to Mars in the future. Despite their small size, they are launching

their satellite this year, a testament to the power of American ingenuity.

These public-private partnerships are key. It is not just a government program. Companies like SpaceX, Rocket Lab, and Blue Origin have dramatically reduced launch costs and are saving taxpayers billions. These firms work alongside NASA and the Department of Defense, proving that the private industry of America can be a powerful force in advancing the United States' space leadership. Their success creates jobs, strengthens our national security, and keeps America at the forefront of the global space race.

Commercial space is the free market revolution. If you haven't already done so, read the recent book by Isaacson about Elon Musk. He basically looked at NASA, saw some of the challenges they faced after the Apollo program, the cancellation of our shuttle program, and even the challenges we face in the ARIES program, which was canceled, the Constellation program, which was canceled, and the X-33 program, and he said we can do it better at a better cost and win the space race. Commercial space is the future as they work in partnership with NASA.

□ 2100

Before SpaceX, launch costs were prohibitively high with a single mission costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Falcon 9 rocket, with its reusable booster system, has slashed costs by a factor of 10. This cost reduction has made space more accessible, spurring new industries, as I mentioned before, like satellite internet, space-based manufacturing, and even orbital tourism.

There are more players and more innovation. The Blue Origin New Glenn rocket launched recently; Rocket Lab's Electron rocket, future markets—space manufacturing, asteroid mining, and orbital energy production are all emerging technologies.

When these companies compete and innovate, they drive down costs for everyone and, more importantly, will have on-Earth benefits.

One of the issues that people have asked me about is this issue of rural broadband. For those who don't know, this is a program that has been allocated over \$40 billion so that everyone, not just a select few in higher urban areas, can enjoy high-speed internet access. This program, which is allocated over \$40 billion, is one which takes time, because as everyone knows who is in business, you need to get the permits. It takes a while to get the rights-of-way purchased, and it takes a while to lay that cable for high-speed internet access.

With the new Starlink system which SpaceX is launching up now, this can be not only at lower cost but, more importantly, can get to market faster so that every American can enjoy the access to high-speed internet. It will save us billions so that we can not only pay

down the debt but also afford the tax cuts which Americans deserve.

In conclusion, we are in the golden age of American spaceflight. We are witnessing a true renaissance of space exploration where the future is literally being built today.

I don't know what is next. There are stories about mining asteroids for rare-earth metals to support global industries; large commercial space stations that can replace the ISS and host research; permanent human habitation on the Moon laying the foundation for deeper space travel; and the human exploration and the settlement of Mars, an achievement that will truly define this century.

These are not science fiction novels. These are active projects by American companies, American scientists, and American engineers bringing in the golden age of American spaceflight.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the urgency of action is now. America's leadership in space is hard-earned, but it is not guaranteed. Our economy, our technological future, and our national security all depend on continued space investment.

Congress must act to ensure that the United States remains the leader in the final frontier. This is our moment. If we invest in space today, then we will be stronger, safer, and more prosperous for generations to come.

As I conclude, as the President said well: You can't be number one on Earth if you are not number one in space.

Mr. Speaker, I especially thank Congressman FONG, Congressman BEGICH, and Congressman KENNEDY for joining me tonight.

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

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

### RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
Washington, DC, February 24, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House rule XI, the Committee on Ways and Means adopted its rules for the 119th Congress on January 14, 2025, and I submit them now for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

JASON SMITH,  
Chairman.

### A. GENERAL

#### RULE 1. APPLICATION OF HOUSE RULES

The rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Ways and Means and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, is a non-debatable motion of high privilege in the Committee.

Each subcommittee of the Committee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee

and to its rules so far as applicable. Written rules adopted by the Committee, not inconsistent with the Rules of the House, shall be binding on each subcommittee of the Committee.

The provisions of rule XI of the Rules of the House are incorporated by reference as the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

#### RULE 2. MEETING DATE AND QUORUMS

The regular meeting day of the Committee on Ways and Means shall be each Wednesday while the House is in session. However, the Committee shall not meet on the regularly scheduled meeting day if there is no business to be considered.

A majority of the Committee constitutes a quorum for business; provided however, that two Members shall constitute a quorum at any regularly scheduled hearing called for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence. In establishing a quorum for purposes of a public hearing, every effort shall be made to secure the presence of at least one Member each from the majority and the minority.

The Chair of the Committee may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet pursuant to the call of the Chair.

#### RULE 3. COMMITTEE BUDGET

For each Congress, the Chair, in consultation with the Majority Members of the Committee, shall prepare a preliminary budget. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee. After consultation with the Minority Members, the Chair shall include an amount budgeted by Minority Members for staff under their direction and supervision.

#### RULE 4. PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE DOCUMENTS

Any Committee or Subcommittee print, document, or similar material prepared for public distribution shall either be approved by the Committee or Subcommittee prior to distribution and opportunity afforded for the inclusion of supplemental, minority or additional views, or such document shall prominently display near the top of its cover the following: "Majority [or Minority] Staff Report," as appropriate.

The requirements of this rule shall apply only to the publication of policy-oriented, analytical documents, and not to the publication of public hearings, legislative documents, documents which are administrative in nature or reports which are required to be submitted to the Committee under public law. The appropriate characterization of a document subject to this rule shall be determined after consultation with the Minority.

#### RULE 5. OFFICIAL TRAVEL

Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolution as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern official travel of Committee Members and Committee staff. Official travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the full Committee for any Member or any Committee staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chair. Official travel may be authorized by the Chair for any Member and any Committee staff member in connection with the attendance at hearings conducted by the Committee, its Subcommittees, or any other Committee or Subcommittee of the Congress on matters relevant to the general jurisdiction of the Committee, and meetings, conferences, facility inspections,

and investigations which involve activities or subject matter relevant to the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

- (1) The purpose of the official travel;
- (2) The dates during which the official travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the official travel is being made;
- (3) The location of the event for which the official travel is to be made; and
- (4) The names of the Members and Committee staff seeking authorization.

In the case of official travel of Members and staff of a Subcommittee to hearings, meetings, conferences, facility inspections and investigations involving activities or subject matter under the jurisdiction of such Subcommittee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Subcommittee Chair and the full Committee Chair. Such prior authorization shall be given by the full Committee Chair only upon the representation by the applicable Subcommittee Chair in writing setting forth those items enumerated above.

Within 60 days of the conclusion of any official travel authorized under this rule, there shall be submitted to the full Committee Chair a written report covering the information gained as a result of the hearing, meeting, conference, facility inspection or investigation attended pursuant to such official travel.

#### RULE 6. AVAILABILITY OF COMMITTEE RECORDS AND PUBLICATIONS

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of Rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any Member of the Committee. The Committee shall, to the maximum extent feasible, make its publications available in electronic form.

#### RULE 7. COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee members, other members of the House and the public. The ranking minority member may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to Committee members, other members of the House, and the public.

#### B. SUBCOMMITTEES

##### RULE 8. SUBCOMMITTEE RATIOS AND JURISDICTION

All matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means involving revenue measures, except those revenue measures referred to Subcommittees under paragraphs a, b, c, d, e or f shall be considered by the full Committee and not in Subcommittee. There shall be six standing Subcommittees as follows: a Subcommittee on Trade; a Subcommittee on Oversight; a Subcommittee on Health; a Subcommittee on Social Security; a Subcommittee on Work and Welfare; and a Subcommittee on Tax. The ratio of Republicans to Democrats on any Subcommittee of the Committee shall be consistent with the ratio of Republicans to Democrats on the full Committee.

(a) The Subcommittee on Trade shall consist of 21 Members, 12 of whom shall be Republicans and 9 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Trade shall include bills and matters re-

ferred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to customs and customs administration including tariff and import fee structure, classification, valuation of and special rules applying to imports, and special tariff provisions and procedures which relate to customs operation affecting exports and imports; import trade matters, including import impact, industry relief from injurious imports, adjustment assistance and programs to encourage competitive responses to imports, unfair import practices including antidumping and countervailing duty provisions, and import policy which relates to dependence on foreign sources of supply; commodity agreements and reciprocal trade agreements involving multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations and implementation of agreements involving tariff and non-tariff trade barriers to and distortions of international trade; international rules, organizations and institutional aspects of international trade agreements; budget authorizations for the customs revenue functions of the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. International Trade Commission, and the U.S. Trade Representative; and special trade-related problems involving market access, competitive conditions of specific industries, export policy and promotion, access to materials in short supply, bilateral trade relations including trade with developing countries, operations of multinational corporations, and trade with non-market economies.

(b) The Subcommittee on Oversight shall consist of 13 Members, 8 of whom shall be Republicans and 5 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Oversight shall include all matters within the scope of the full Committee's jurisdiction. Said oversight jurisdiction shall not be exclusive but shall be concurrent with that of the other Subcommittees. With respect to matters involving the Internal Revenue Code and other revenue issues, said concurrent jurisdiction shall be shared with the full Committee. Before undertaking any investigation or hearing, the Chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight shall confer with the Chair of the full Committee and the Chair of any other Subcommittee having jurisdiction.

(c) The Subcommittee on Health shall consist of 19 Members, 11 of whom shall be Republicans and 8 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Health shall include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to programs providing payments (from any source) for health care, health delivery systems, or health research. More specifically, the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Health shall include bills and matters that relate to the health care programs of the Social Security Act (including titles V, XI (Part B), XVIII, and XIX thereof) and, concurrent with the full Committee, tax credit and deduction provisions of the Internal Revenue Code dealing with health insurance premiums and health care costs.

(d) The Subcommittee on Social Security shall consist of 13 Members, 8 of whom shall be Republicans and 5 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Social Security shall include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to the Federal Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance System, the Railroad Retirement System, and employment taxes and trust fund operations relating to those systems. More specifically, the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Social Security shall include bills and matters involving title II of the Social Security Act and Chapter 22 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Railroad Retirement Tax Act), as well

as provisions in title VII and title XI of the Act relating to procedure and administration involving the Old Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance System.

(e) The Subcommittee on Work and Welfare shall consist of 13 Members, 8 of whom shall be Republicans and 5 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare shall include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to the public assistance provisions of the Social Security Act, including temporary assistance for needy families, child care, child and family services, child support, foster care, adoption, supplemental security income, social services, home visiting, and eligibility of welfare recipients for food stamps. More specifically, the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare shall include bills and matters relating to titles I, IV, VI, X, XIV, XVI, XVII, XX and related provisions of titles V, VII and XI of the Social Security Act.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare shall also include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to the Federal-State system of unemployment compensation, and the financing thereof, including the programs for extended and emergency benefits. More specifically, the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Work and Welfare shall also include all bills and matters pertaining to the programs of unemployment compensation under titles III, IX and XII of the Social Security Act, Chapters 23 and 23A of the Internal Revenue Code, and the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970, and provisions relating thereto.

(f) The Subcommittee on Tax shall consist of 19 Members, 11 of whom shall be Republicans and 8 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Tax shall consist of those revenue measures that, from time to time, shall be referred to it specifically by the Chair of the full Committee.

#### RULE 9. COMMITTEE PANELS

Subject to clause 5(b)(2)(C) of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Chair may designate a select panel of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on matters of special national interest. Any such panel shall be subject to all Committee rules herein and shall not have legislative jurisdiction.

Any select panel designated under this rule shall continue in existence for six months after the date of the designation and may be reauthorized in the discretion of the Chair for subsequent six month terms.

#### RULE 10. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

The Chair of the full Committee and the Ranking Minority Member may sit as ex-officio Members of all Subcommittees. They may be counted for purposes of assisting in the establishment of a quorum for a Subcommittee. However, their absence shall not count against the establishment of a quorum by the regular Members of the Subcommittee. Ex-officio Members shall neither vote in the Subcommittee nor be taken into consideration for the purposes of determining the ratio of the Subcommittee.

#### RULE 11. SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Insofar as practicable, meetings of the full Committee and its Subcommittees shall not conflict. Subcommittee Chairmen shall set meeting dates after consultation with the Chair of the full Committee and other Subcommittee Chairmen with a view towards avoiding, wherever possible, simultaneous scheduling of full Committee and Subcommittee meetings or hearings.

#### RULE 12. REFERENCE OF LEGISLATION AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Except for bills or measures retained by the Chair of the full Committee for full Committee consideration, every bill or other measure referred to the Committee shall be referred by the Chair of the full Committee to the appropriate Subcommittee in a timely manner.

No measure reported by a Subcommittee shall be considered by the full Committee unless it has been presented to all Members of the full Committee at least two legislative days prior to the full Committee's meeting, together with a comparison with present law, a section-by-section analysis of the proposed change, a section-by-section justification, and a draft statement of the budget effects of the measure that is consistent with the requirements for reported measures under clause 3(d)(1) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### RULE 13. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES

Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the Chair of the full Committee shall recommend to the Speaker as conferees the names of those Committee Members as the Chair may designate. In making recommendations of Minority Members as conferees, the Chair shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

### C. HEARINGS

#### RULE 14. WITNESSES

In order to assure the most productive use of the limited time available to question hearing witnesses, a witness who is scheduled to appear before the full Committee or a Subcommittee shall file with the Clerk of the Committee at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance a written statement of their proposed testimony. In addition, all witnesses shall comply with formatting requirements as specified by the Committee and the Rules of the House. Failure to comply with the 48-hour rule may result in a witness being denied the opportunity to testify in person. Failure to comply with the formatting requirements may result in a witness' statement being rejected for inclusion in the published hearing record. In addition to the requirements of clause 2(g)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House regarding information required of public witnesses, a witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a summary of their position and shall provide sufficient copies of their written statement to the Clerk for distribution to Members, staff and news media.

A witness appearing at a public hearing, or submitting a statement for the record of a public hearing, or submitting written comments in response to a published request for comments by the Committee must include in their statement or submission, a list of all clients, persons or organizations on whose behalf the witness appears.

#### RULE 15. QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES

Committee Members may question witnesses only when recognized by the Chair for that purpose. All Members shall be limited to five minutes on the initial round of questioning. In questioning witnesses under the five minute rule, the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member shall be recognized first. In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chair may take into consideration Member attendance at the start of a hearing, and give priority to those in attendance at the start of a hearing. The Chair may take into consideration the ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members and the number of Majority and Minority Members present and shall apportion the recogni-

tion for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage Members of the Majority.

#### RULE 16. SUBPOENA POWER

The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chair of the full Committee, as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### RULE 17. DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

The Regulations for the Use of Deposition Authority as issued by the Committee on Rules pursuant to H. Res. 5 titled—Adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, and for other purposes—are incorporated by reference and shall be considered the rules of the Committee.

#### RULE 18. RECORDS OF HEARINGS

An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of all testimony taken at a public hearing.

The staff shall transmit to a witness the transcript of his or her testimony for correction and immediate return to the Committee offices. Only changes in the interest of clarity, accuracy and corrections in transcribing errors will be permitted. Changes that substantially alter the actual testimony will not be permitted. Members shall have the opportunity to correct their own remarks before publication. The Chair of the full Committee may order the printing of a hearing without the corrections of a witness or Member if he or she determines that a reasonable time has been afforded to make corrections and that further delay would impede the consideration of the legislation or other measure that is the subject of the hearing.

#### RULE 19. BROADCASTING OF HEARINGS

The provisions of clause 4(f) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives are specifically made a part of these rules by reference. In addition, the following policy shall apply to media coverage of any meeting of the full Committee or a Subcommittee:

(1) An appropriate area of the Committee's hearing room will be designated for members of the media and their equipment.

(2) No interviews will be allowed in the Committee room while the Committee is in session. Individual interviews must take place before the gavel falls for the convening of a meeting or after the gavel falls for adjournment.

(3) Day-to-day notification of the next day's electronic coverage shall be provided by the media to the Chair of the full Committee through an appropriate designee.

(4) Still photography during a Committee meeting will not be permitted to disrupt the proceedings or block the vision of Committee Members or witnesses.

(5) Further conditions may be specified by the Chair.

### D. MARKUPS

#### RULE 20. PREVIOUS QUESTION

The Chair shall not recognize a Member for the purpose of moving the previous question unless the Member has first advised the Chair and the Committee that this is the purpose for which recognition is being sought.

#### RULE 21. POSTPONEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

The Chair may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment.

The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time. In exercising postponement authority the Chair shall take reasonable steps to notify Members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

#### RULE 22. MOTION TO GO TO CONFERENCE

The Chair is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of Representatives whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

#### RULE 23. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS OF MARKUPS AND OTHER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

An official stenographic transcript shall be kept accurately reflecting all markups and other official meetings of the full Committee and the Subcommittees, whether they be open or closed to the public. This official transcript, marked as "uncorrected," shall be available for inspection by the public (except for meetings closed pursuant to clause 2(g)(1) of rule XI of the Rules of the House), by Members of the House, or by Members of the Committee together with their staffs, during normal business hours in the full Committee or Subcommittee office under such controls as the Chair of the full Committee deems necessary.

The Chair may provide a Member of the Committee with electronic access to an unofficial transcript of an open markup or other open official meeting of the full Committee or a Subcommittee upon written request by the Member to the Chair, but the Member shall not cause such electronic unofficial transcript to be published or otherwise made publicly available.

If (1) in executing technical and conforming changes, the Office of the House Legislative Counsel or (2) in the preparation of a Committee report, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation determines (in consultation with appropriate majority and minority committee staff) that it is necessary to review the official transcript of a markup, such transcript may be released upon the signature and to the custody of an appropriate committee staff person. Such transcript shall be returned immediately after its review in the drafting session.

The official transcript of a markup or Committee meeting other than a public hearing shall not be published or distributed to the public in any way except by a majority vote of the Committee. Before any public release of the uncorrected transcript, Members must be given a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks. In instances in which a stenographic transcript is kept of a conference committee proceeding, all of the requirements of this rule shall likewise be observed.

### E. STAFF

#### RULE 24. SUPERVISION OF COMMITTEE STAFF

The staff of the Committee shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair of the full Committee except as provided in clause 9 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives concerning Committee expenses and staff.

Pursuant to clause 6(d) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chair of the full Committee, from the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to primary and additional expense resolutions, shall ensure that each Subcommittee receives sufficient staff to carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the Committee, and that the minority party is fairly treated in the appointment of such staff.

# PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND  
TECHNOLOGY,

Washington, DC, February 24, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule XI, clause 2(a)(2) of the Rules of the United States House of Representatives, I submit the rules of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for the 119th Congress for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The rules were adopted by the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology by voice vote with a quorum present on February 5, 2025.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.,  
*Chairman.*

## RULE I. GENERAL

### (a) Application of Rules.

(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives ("House Rules") are the rules of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and its Subcommittees with the specific additions thereto contained in these rules.

(2) Except where the term "Subcommittee" is specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee and its Subcommittees as well as to the respective Chairs and Ranking Minority Members.

(b) Other Procedures. The Chair of the Committee, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out these rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

(c) Use of Hearing Rooms. In consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chair of the Committee shall establish guidelines for the use of Committee hearing rooms.

## RULE II. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) Regular Meetings. The regular meeting day of the Committee for the conduct of its business shall be on the first Wednesday of each month, if the House is in session. If the House is not in session on that day, then the Committee shall meet on the next Wednesday of such month on which the House is in session, or at another practicable time as determined by the Chair.

(1) A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair, there is no need for the meeting.

(2) The Chair may call and convene, when the Chair considers it necessary and in accordance with the notice requirements contained in these rules, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business.

### (b) Bills and Subjects to be Considered.

(1) The Chair shall announce the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which Members have notice thereof, unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by majority vote with a quorum present for the transaction of business, determines there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner, in which case the Chair

shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(2) At least 48 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day), the Chair shall cause the text of such legislation to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(3) To the maximum extent practicable, amendments to a measure or matter shall be submitted in writing or electronically to the designee of both the Chair and Ranking Minority Member at least 24 hours prior to the consideration of the measure or matter, and the Chair may oppose any amendment not so submitted.

### (c) Open Meetings.

Meetings for the transaction of business and hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with the House Rules.

### (d) Quorums.

(1) *Majority Quorum.* A majority of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for:

(A). The reporting of a bill, resolution or other measure (See clause 2(h)(1) of House Rule XI);

(B). The closing of a meeting or hearing to the public pursuant to clause 2(g), 2(k)(5), and 2(k)(7) of House Rule XI; and

(C). As where required by a Rule of the House.

(2) *Quorum for Taking Testimony.* Two Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(3) *Working Quorum.* One-third of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, other than as noted in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection.

(e) Absence of the Chair. If the Chair is not present at any meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee, the Vice Chair on the Committee who is present shall preside at the meeting, unless another Member of the Committee is designated by the Chair.

### (f) Postponement of Proceedings.

(1) Pursuant to clause 2(h)(4) of House Rule XI, the Chair may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed vote at any time after reasonable notice.

(2) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

### (g) Time for Statements and Debate.

(1) Insofar as is practicable, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall limit the total time of opening statements by Members at a Committee meeting to no more than ten minutes, the time to be divided equally between the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, except in the case of joint Subcommittee hearings, in which case the total time of opening statements by Members at such joint hearing shall be no more than twenty minutes, the time to be divided equally between the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members. When requested, ex officio Members of any Subcommittee shall also be recognized at a Subcommittee hearing for five minutes each to present an opening statement.

(2) The time any one Member may address the Committee on any bill, amendment, motion, or other matter under consideration by the Committee will be limited to five minutes, and then only when the Member has been recognized by the Chair. This time limit may be waived by the Chair pursuant to unanimous consent.

(h) Requests for Recorded Vote. A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of three or more Members or, in the apparent absence of a quorum, by any one Member.

(i) Electronic Voting. The chair may conduct any record vote by electronic device in accordance with clause 2(n) of House Rule XI.

(j) Transcripts. Transcripts of markups shall be recorded and may be published in the same manner as hearings before the Committee and shall be included as part of the legislative report, unless waived by the Chair of the Committee.

(k) Motion to Go to Conference. Without further action of the Committee, the Chair is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

## RULE III. HEARINGS

### (a) Notice of Hearings.

(1) The Chair shall publicly announce the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(2) The Chair shall publicly announce a list of witnesses to testify at a hearing as soon as a complete list of witnesses, including those to be called by the minority, is compiled. When practicable, the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member will seek to have a complete list of witnesses compiled at or as soon as practicable after the time that the hearing is publicly announced.

### (b) Witnesses.

(1) Insofar as is practicable, no later than 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file, in printed copy and in electronic form, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and a curriculum vitae.

(2) Each witness shall limit his or her presentation to a five minute summary, however additional time may be granted by the Chair when appropriate.

(3) The Chair, or any Member of the Committee designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to witnesses before the Committee.

(4) Whenever any hearing is conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter, the Minority Members of the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of them and before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to the measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

(5) In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include:

### (A). A curriculum vitae;

(B). A disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts, grants, or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the past 36 months by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing; and

(C). A disclosure of whether the witness is a fiduciary (including, but not limited to, a director, officer, advisor, or resident agent) of any organization or entity that has an interest in the subject matter of the hearing.

Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security



of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form 24 hours before the witness appears to the extent practicable, but not later than one day after the witness appears.

(c) Questioning of Witnesses.

(1) The right to interrogate a witness before the Committee shall alternate between Majority and Minority Members of the Committee. Each Member shall be limited to five minutes in the interrogation of witnesses. No Member may be recognized for a second period of interrogation until each Member present, who wishes to be recognized, has been recognized at least once.

(2) Notwithstanding clause 1, upon a motion the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may:

(A). Designate a specified number of Members of the Committee from each party to question a witness for a period of time equally divided between the majority party and the minority party, not to exceed one hour in the aggregate; or

(B). Designate staff from each party to question a witness for a period of time equally divided between the majority party and the minority party, not to exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(3) Members of the Committee have 10 calendar days from the date of a hearing to submit additional questions in writing for the record to be answered by witnesses who have appeared before the Committee. The letters of transmittal and any responses thereto shall be included in the hearing record.

(d) Claims of Privilege. Claims of common-law privileges made by witnesses in hearings, or by interviewees or deponents in investigations or inquiries, are applicable only at the discretion of the Chair, subject to appeal to the Committee.

(e) Publication of Transcripts. The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee, when it is decided they will be printed, shall be published in substantially verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. Individuals, including Members, whose comments are to be published as part of a Committee document shall be given the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the transcription in advance of publication. Any requests by those Members, staff, or witnesses to correct any errors other than errors in the transcript, or disputed errors in transcription, shall be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted. Prior to approval by the Chair of hearings conducted jointly with another Congressional Committee, a memorandum of understanding shall be prepared which incorporates an agreement for the publication of the transcript.

(f) Items for the Record. Committee Members have 10 calendar days from the date of a hearing to submit brief and pertinent statements or materials in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

RULE IV. REPORTS

(a) Bills and resolutions approved by the Committee shall be reported by the Chair pursuant to clauses 2-4 of House Rule XIII.

(b) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the Members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days).

(c) Every investigative or oversight report shall be approved by a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present. If at the time of approval of such

a report a Member of the Committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views that Member shall be entitled to file such views.

(d) Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the Committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by House Rules.

RULE V. BROADCASTING

(a) Whenever a meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of House Rule XI.

(b) To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and visual coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public. Operation and use of any Committee internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with clauses 4 (b) and (f) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

RULE VI. SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Committee Jurisdiction. The Full Committee shall retain jurisdiction over such matters as determined by the Chair.

(b) Subcommittees and Jurisdiction. There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, with jurisdictions as follows:

(1) Subcommittee on Energy. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to energy research, development, and demonstration projects therefor; commercial application of energy technology; Department of Energy research, development, and demonstration programs; Department of Energy laboratories; Department of Energy science activities; Department of Energy cybersecurity activities; Department of Energy international research, development, and demonstration projects; energy supply activities; nuclear, solar, and renewable energy, and other advanced energy technologies; uranium supply and enrichment, and Department of Energy waste management; Department of Energy environmental management research, development, and demonstration; fossil energy research and development; clean coal technology; energy conservation research and development, including building performance, alternate fuels, distributed power systems, and industrial process improvements; pipeline research, development, and demonstration projects; energy standards; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(2) Subcommittee on Environment. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to environmental research; Environmental Protection Agency research and development; environmental standards; climate change research and development; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including all activities related to weather, weather services, climate, the atmosphere, marine fisheries, and oceanic research; risk assessment activities; scientific issues related to environmental policy, including climate change; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(3) Subcommittee on Research and Technology. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to science policy and science education; the Office of Science and Technology Policy; all scientific research, and scientific and engineering resources (including human resources); all matters relating to science,

technology, engineering and mathematics education; intergovernmental mechanisms for research, development, and demonstration and cross-cutting programs; international scientific cooperation; National Science Foundation; university research policy, including infrastructure and overhead; university research partnerships, including those with industry; science scholarships; computing, communications, networking, and information technology; research and development relating to health, biomedical, and nutritional programs; research, development, and demonstration relating to nanoscience, nanoengineering, and nanotechnology; research, development, and demonstration relating to semiconductors, semiconductor manufacturing, and microelectronics; quantum information science; agricultural, geological, biological and life sciences research; materials research, development, demonstration, and policy; all matters relating to competitiveness, technology, standards, and innovation; standardization of weights and measures, including technical standards, standardization, and conformity assessment; measurement, including the metric system of measurement; cybersecurity standards; the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce; the National Institute of Standards and Technology; the National Technical Information Service; competitiveness, including small business competitiveness; tax, antitrust, regulatory and other legal and governmental policies related to technological development and commercialization; technology transfer, including civilian use of defense technologies; patent and intellectual property policy; international technology trade; research, development, and demonstration activities of the Department of Transportation; surface and water transportation research, development, and demonstration programs; earthquake programs and fire research programs, including those related to wildfire proliferation research and prevention; biotechnology policy; research, development, demonstration, and standards-related activities of the Department of Homeland Security; Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer; voting technologies and standards; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(4) Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to astronautical and aeronautical research and development; national space policy, including access to space; sub-orbital access and applications; National Aeronautics and Space Administration and its contractor and government-operated labs; space commercialization, including commercial space activities relating to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce; exploration and use of outer space; international space cooperation; the National Space Council; space applications, space communications and related matters; Earth remote sensing policy; civil aviation including unmanned aerial systems, research, development, and demonstration; research, development, and demonstration programs of the Federal Aviation Administration; space law; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(5) Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight. Shall have general and special investigative authority on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(c) Composition of Subcommittees.

(1) The Chair shall assign Members to the Subcommittees. Minority party assignments shall be made only with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member. The Chair

shall determine the ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members of each Subcommittee; provided that the ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members on each Subcommittee (excluding any ex officio Member) shall be no less favorable to the Majority party than the ratio for the Committee.

(2) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be ex officio Members of each Subcommittee and shall have the right to vote and be counted as part of the quorum and ratios on all matters before the Subcommittee.

(d) Referral to Subcommittees. The Chair shall expeditiously refer all legislation and other matters referred to the Committee to the Subcommittee or Subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction, unless the Chair deems consideration is to be by the Committee. Subcommittee Chairs may make requests for referral of specific matters to their Subcommittee if they believe Subcommittee jurisdictions so warrants.

(e) Subcommittee Procedures and Reports. (1) Subcommittee Chairs shall set meeting dates with the concurrence of the Chair and after consultation with the other Subcommittee Chairs with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Subcommittee meetings or hearings wherever possible. No Subcommittee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the Committee without authorization from the Chair.

(2) Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony or evidence, mark up legislation, and report to the Committee on all matters referred to it. For matters within its jurisdiction, each Subcommittee is authorized to conduct legislative, investigative, forecasting, and general oversight hearings; to conduct inquiries into the future; and to undertake budget impact studies.

(3) Each Subcommittee shall provide the Committee with copies of such records of votes taken in the Subcommittee and such other records with respect to the Subcommittee as the Chair of the Committee deems necessary to ensure compliance with the House Rules.

(4) After ordering a measure or matter reported, a Subcommittee shall issue a report in such form as the Chair shall specify. To the maximum extent practicable, reports and recommendations of a Subcommittee shall not be considered by the Committee until after the intervention of 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) from the time the report is submitted and made available to the Committee. Printed hearings thereon shall be made available, if feasible, to the Committee, except that this Rule may be waived at the discretion of the Chair after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(5) Any Member of the Committee may have the privilege of sitting with any Subcommittee during its hearings or deliberations and may participate in such hearings or deliberations, but no Member who is not a Member of the Subcommittee shall vote on any matter before such Subcommittee, except as provided in Rule VI(c)(2).

#### RULE VII. VICE CHAIRS

(a) The Chair of the Committee shall designate a Member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee and shall designate a Majority Member of each Subcommittee to serve as Vice Chair of the Subcommittee. Vice Chairs of the Committee and each Subcommittee serve at the pleasure of the Chair, who may at any time terminate his designation of a Member as Vice Chair and designate a different Member

of the majority party to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee or relevant Subcommittee.

(b) The Chair may assign duties, privileges, and responsibilities to the Vice Chairs of the Committee or the various Subcommittees.

#### RULE VIII. OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

(a) The Committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within its jurisdiction, including all laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development in accordance with House Rule X.

(b) Not later than March 1st of the first session of the 119th Congress, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall adopt and submit the Committees oversight and authorization plan to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on House Administration in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(d) of House Rule X.

(c) Any investigation undertaken in the name of the Committee shall be approved by the Chair. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to infringe on a Subcommittee's authority to conduct general oversight of matters within its jurisdiction, short of undertaking an investigation.

#### RULE IX. SUBPOENAS

The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chair as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of House Rule XI. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member prior to issuing any subpoena under such authority. To the extent practicable, the Chair shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member at least 24 hours in advance of a subpoena being issued under such authority.

#### RULE X. DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

The Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Member, may authorize a member or counsel of the Committee to conduct depositions pursuant to subsection 3(t) of House Resolution 5, 119th Congress, and subject to any regulations issued pursuant thereto.

#### RULE XI. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with House Rule VII.

(b) The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to clauses 3(b)(3) or 4(b) of House Rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

#### RULE XII. OFFICIAL COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committees legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

#### RULE XIII. COMMITTEE BUDGET

From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in the 119th Congress, the Chair shall designate one-third of the budget, after adjustment for the salaries of the shared administrative functions for the Clerk, Printer and Financial Administrator, under the direction of

the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of minority staff, travel expenses of minority staff and Members, and all other minority office expenses.

#### RULE XIV. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed, in the same manner and method as prescribed for the adoption of committee rules in clause 2 of House Rule XI, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such Member at least 3 days before the time of the meeting at which the vote on the change occurs. Any such change in the rules of the Committee shall be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD within 30 calendar days after their approval.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 25, 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-453. A letter from the Associate Director, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final guidance — Preoperational Testing of Redundant On-Site Electric Power Systems to Verify Proper Load Group Assignments (1.41, Revision 0) received February 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-454. A letter from the Chief, Foreign Investment Review Section, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Preventing Access to U.S. Sensitive Personal Data and Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern or Covered Persons [Docket No.: NSD 104] (RIN: 1124-AA01) received January 10, 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-455. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: RSAT cast 24-10632, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-456. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Architect of the Capitol, transmitting the semiannual report of disbursements for the operations of the Architect of the Capitol for the period of July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1868a(a); Public Law 113-76, div. I, title I, Sec. 1301(a); (128 Stat. 428) (H. Doc. No. 119—20); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

### 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. EZELL (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 1514. A bill to establish the Mississippi River Basin Fishery Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COMER (for himself and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 1515. A bill to increase access to agency guidance documents; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 1516. A bill to require the Secretary of State to report an assessment of the Conflict and Stabilization Operations Bureau, including whether the Bureau should be maintained, explanations of its function, and cost analysis of the Bureau; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 1517. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add physical therapists to the list of providers allowed to utilize locum tenens arrangements under Medicare; 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. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 1518. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to preventing end-stage kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAMMACK:

H.R. 1519. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish the Office of Public Safety Communications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CAMMACK (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ISSA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 1520. A bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of mental or physical disability in cases of organ transplants; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 1521. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision and dental plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. BACON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. KIM, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. AMO, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CASAR, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 1522. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that civilian service in a temporary position after December 31, 1988, may be creditable service under the Federal Employees Retirement System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CROW, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 1523. A bill to provide for the inclusion of virtual diabetes prevention program suppliers in the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Expanded Model, 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. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 1524. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require silent alarms in elementary schools and secondary schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma (for himself, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. BOST, Mr. GUEST, Mr. SELF, Mr. DOWNING, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. ROSE, Mr. HARRIGAN, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 1525. A bill to prohibit the use or declaration of a public health emergency with respect to abortion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 1526. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to provide injunctive relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JAMES:

H.R. 1527. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to educational assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. FINSTAD):

H.R. 1528. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to standardize work requirements for able-bodied adults enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 1529. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MENG, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. PALLONE, and Ms. GILLEN):

H.R. 1530. A bill to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to clarify and supplement the funding sources for United States victims of state-sponsored terrorism to ensure consistent and meaningful distributions from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas):

H.R. 1531. A bill to direct certain financial regulators to exclude representatives of the People's Republic of China from certain banking organizations upon notice of certain threats or danger, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 1532. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish a process for externally led, science-focused drug development meetings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 1533. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish an Overpayment Czar, strengthen oversight and accountability for improper payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. MILLER of Ohio (for himself and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 1534. A bill to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. MIN (for himself, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. CROCKETT):

H.R. 1535. A bill to repeal President Donald Trump's January 20, 2025, Executive Order titled "Establishing and Implementing the President's 'Department of Government Efficiency'", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MOYLAN (for himself and Ms. KING-HINDS):

H.R. 1536. A bill to allow certain foreign air carriers to stop in Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands in the course of transportation of passengers or cargo in either direction between a place in the United States and a place outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1537. A bill to permit individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Ms. CROCKETT):

H.R. 1538. A bill to amend the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to establish a pilot grant program to award grants to facilitate home delivery of commodities under the commodity supplemental food program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 1539. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to expand the types of devices for which required labeling may be made available solely by electronic means, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. RYAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. OGLES, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 1540. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to forced organ harvesting within the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RULLI:

H.R. 1541. A bill to provide that a project for the collocation of a personal wireless service facility is not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. SCHOLTEN (for herself and Mr. BARRETT):

H.R. 1542. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to make appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations Act expires before the enactment of a new appropriations Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 1543. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit discrimination in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1544. A bill to direct the head of the Department of Government Efficiency to submit a report to Congress on the personnel of the Department and present information to Congress on the activities carried out by the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 1545. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report to Congress on actions taken by the Department of Government Efficiency; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 1546. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the bicentennial of the Erie Canal; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 1547. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to notify the Commissioner of Social Security when there is a change to the citizenship status, status under the immigration laws, or work authorization status of an individual to whom a social security account number has been issued, and to require that an individual be a citizen or national of the United States to receive benefits under the Social Security Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and

Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. BOST, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FINSTAD, Mrs. HINSON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. RULLI, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. VEASEY):

H.R. 1548. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 1549. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct a study and report on the exposure of the United States to the financial sector of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H. Con. Res. 15. Concurrent resolution calling an Article V Convention for proposing a Fiscal Responsibility Amendment to the United States Constitution and stipulating ratification by a vote of We the People, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AMODEI of Nevada (for himself, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. ROSS, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. COSTA):

H. Res. 152. A resolution reaffirming the deep and steadfast United States-Canada partnership and the ties that bind the two countries in support of economic and national security; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ESTES (for himself, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MANN, Mr. SCHMIDT, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VINDMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. HOYER, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. JACK, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. RULLI, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. GUEST, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BACON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. BICE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr.

BURCHETT, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. BABIN, Mr. AMO, and Mr. LAWLER):

H. Res. 153. A resolution expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of the crash of American Eagle Flight 5342 and PAT 25, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 154. A resolution commemorating the heroic sacrifices of the people of Ukraine 3 years after Russian President Vladimir Putin's illegal and unprovoked war against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and recognizing the terrible cost of Russia's committing crimes against Humanity aggression; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. KEATING, Mr. HOYER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Mr. CROW):

H. Res. 155. A resolution reaffirming the United States unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity as Russia's illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine hits its third year; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H. Res. 156. A resolution honoring the 25th anniversary of the partnership between Guam and the Republic of the Philippines under the State Partnership Program; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OGLES:

H. Res. 157. A resolution impeaching John Deacon Bates, a judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for high crimes and misdemeanors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. BACON):

H. Res. 158. A resolution recognizing three years of Ukraine defending its sovereign territory against the Russian Federation's second unprovoked assault and full-scale invasion; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Mr.

THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POSTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MENG, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SHERRILL,

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FROST, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CARSON, Ms. McDONALD RIVET, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. STANTON, Mr. MANNION, Mr. FIGURES, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H. Res. 159. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of February 24 through February 28, 2025, as “Public Schools Week”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SCANLON (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CROW, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ROSS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MCIVER, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H. Res. 160. A resolution recognizing January 2025 as “National Mentoring Month”; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

#### 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. EZEELL:

H.R. 1514.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. COMER:

H.R. 1515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution, in that the legislation “is necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the . . . Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 1516.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

“Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause “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 in the Government of the United States or any Department or Officer thereof”

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 1517.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 1518.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mrs. CAMMACK:

H.R. 1519.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. CAMMACK:

H.R. 1520.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 1521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1522.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 1523.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 1524.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8

By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma:

H.R. 1525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 1526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution

By Mr. JAMES:

H.R. 1527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 1528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 1530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LUCAS:

H.R. 1531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 1532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MEUSER:

H.R. 1533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 1534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MIN:

H.R. 1535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 1536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 1538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE:

H.R. 1539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 1540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RULLI:

H.R. 1541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:

H.R. 1542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 1543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM:

H.R. 1544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. SUBRAMANYAM:

H.R. 1545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 1546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 1547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 1548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sec. 8

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas:

H.R. 1549.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 22: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 32: Mr. MACKENZIE.  
H.R. 36: Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H.R. 38: Mr. HURD of Colorado.  
H.R. 247: Ms. LEE of Nevada.  
H.R. 250: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 252: Mr. GIMENEZ.  
H.R. 284: Mr. RULLI and Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 313: Mr. ESTES.  
H.R. 332: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
H.R. 377: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 397: Ms. GILLEN.  
H.R. 425: Mr. CAREY, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, and Mr. FEENSTRA.  
H.R. 433: Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 439: Ms. ESCOBAR.  
H.R. 451: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. KUSTOFF.  
H.R. 465: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. FINSTAD.  
H.R. 478: Mr. SHREVE and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 484: Mrs. RAMIREZ and Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 491: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 516: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. MANN.  
H.R. 569: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 573: Mr. FULCHER.  
H.R. 574: Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H.R. 612: Ms. MORRISON.  
H.R. 637: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 649: Ms. KAPTUR.  
H.R. 654: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H.R. 687: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.  
H.R. 717: Mr. VASQUEZ.  
H.R. 740: Mr. CRENSHAW.  
H.R. 754: Ms. GOODLANDER.  
H.R. 759: Mr. BISHOP, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. LANDSMAN.  
H.R. 768: Mr. SORENSEN and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.  
H.R. 777: Ms. FRIEDMAN.  
H.R. 788: Ms. GOODLANDER.  
H.R. 801: Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MCGARVEY.  
H.R. 804: Ms. GOODLANDER.  
H.R. 805: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 818: Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 825: Ms. GOODLANDER.  
H.R. 828: Ms. GOODLANDER.  
H.R. 830: Mr. RUIZ.  
H.R. 831: Mr. CISCOMANI.  
H.R. 833: Ms. MACE and Mr. SMUCKER.  
H.R. 842: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. BARRAGAN.

H.R. 862: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 879: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. STANTON, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. BOST, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. MORRISON.  
H.R. 897: Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 898: Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 902: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.  
H.R. 908: Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 909: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. STEIL.  
H.R. 921: Mr. KUSTOFF.  
H.R. 925: Mr. RULLI.  
H.R. 945: Mr. LYNCH, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 977: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 979: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. BALINT, Ms. GILLEN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. HUNT, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 987: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. MANN, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.  
H.R. 989: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, and Ms. ADAMS.  
H.R. 1000: Mr. PFLUGER.  
H.R. 1004: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SORENSEN, and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 1007: Mr. MCGUIRE.  
H.R. 1027: Mr. VINDMAN.  
H.R. 1029: Mr. RULLI.  
H.R. 1032: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS.  
H.R. 1035: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
H.R. 1041: Mr. OWENS.  
H.R. 1048: Mr. BEAN of Florida.  
H.R. 1065: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York.  
H.R. 1071: Mr. HUNT.  
H.R. 1079: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1094: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 1111: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
H.R. 1121: Mr. WITTMAN.  
H.R. 1137: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 1151: Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 1158: Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 1175: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 1176: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1178: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 1181: Mr. MOLENAAR, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
H.R. 1182: Mr. WIED.  
H.R. 1183: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
H.R. 1195: Mr. TAYLOR.  
H.R. 1200: Mr. BABIN.  
H.R. 1207: Mr. RULLI, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 1212: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
H.R. 1223: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Ms. MCBRIDE.  
H.R. 1227: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 1229: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 1237: Mr. TAYLOR.  
H.R. 1243: Mr. PALMER and Mr. RULLI.  
H.R. 1252: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 1253: Mr. ONDER.  
H.R. 1262: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. MILLER of

West Virginia, Mr. CLINE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. RULLI, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. KEATING, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 1266: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 1268: Mrs. HINSON and Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 1277: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1284: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.

H.R. 1291: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 1296: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 1304: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 1314: Ms. KELLY of Illinois and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1321: Ms. BALINT, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 1327: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 1342: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1346: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 1359: Mr. BELL.

H.R. 1361: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 1364: Mr. CRENSHAW and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 1369: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. IVEY, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1377: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 1378: Mr. BARR and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 1379: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 1382: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 1394: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 1417: Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 1418: Mr. COLE and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 1422: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. TENNEY, and Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 1432: Mr. DAVIDSON and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 1452: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 1458: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1462: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 1463: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 1475: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 1481: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 1485: Mr. GILL of Texas.

H.R. 1486: Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 1498: Mr. OWENS and Mr. RULLI.

H.R. 1505: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 1510: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1512: Mr. LAWLER.

H.J. Res. 20: Mr. MESSMER.

H.J. Res. 25: Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.J. Res. 35: Mr. SCHMIDT and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.

H.J. Res. 38: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.J. Res. 42: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. SCHMIDT, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H.J. Res. 57: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. GIMENEZ and Ms. LETLOW.

H. Res. 70: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. AMO.

H. Res. 110: Mr. LAWLER.

H. Res. 119: Ms. TOKUDA.

H. Res. 133: Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Ms. MALOY.

H. Res. 145: Ms. BOEBERT.

H. Res. 148: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. GIMENEZ.

H. Res. 149: Ms. CLARKE of New York.





United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

No. 36

## 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.

Eternal God, inspire us today to give You our best. Help us to focus on serving You and bringing honor to Your Name.

Lord, guide our lawmakers in their challenging work. Open their minds and hearts to be ready to do Your bidding. Use them as instruments of Your purposes, shining Your light through them to dispel the shadows in our Nation and world. Help them to live to please You, demonstrating conclusively with actions that they follow You. Give them the wisdom to encourage and help each other in the important work of guarding our freedom.

We pray in Your magnificent Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). 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 and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### ESTONIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today is Estonian Independence Day.

On this day in 1918, the Estonians declared their independence from the Russian Empire. They had to fight a war against both Germans and the Army of Soviet Russia to secure their independence in a treaty in 1920. In that treaty, Russia renounced any claim to Estonian territory and recognized the independence and sovereignty of Estonia forever. Forever lasted only 20 years because the Soviet Union illegally occupied Estonia as well as Latvia and Lithuania for the next 50 years. Ten percent of the population of the Baltic countries was deported or sent to labor camps.

The United States always saw the occupation of the Baltics as illegitimate and recognized their sovereignty throughout the entire Cold War. In the depths of the Cold War, it was hard to imagine that the Baltics would ever, ever regain their independence. Today, to the contrary, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are vibrant, prosperous, and free. Of course, that irritates Putin, the KGB dictator of Russia.

#### UKRAINE

Today, Mr. President, is also the 3-year anniversary of Russia's brutal, all-out invasion of Ukraine. Three years ago, Russian tanks were rolling toward Kyiv, and we all thought a total takeover of Ukraine by Russia was inevitable. As we know, instead, Ukrain-

ians, fighting for their homeland, stopped, then pushed back the Russians, taking back 50 percent of the territory the Russians initially occupied.

Today, Russia continues to gradually capture Ukrainian territory by force. With the help of North Korean soldiers, the Russian military is making small territorial gains but at an incredible cost in Russian lives and equipment. According to defense calculations, at the rate Russia is advancing in Ukraine today, it would take 83 years to reach Kyiv.

Three years ago, we thought Ukraine didn't stand a chance against the mighty Russian military. Everyone assumed Russia would conquer all of Ukraine and do it very quickly. Three years in, the Russian military can't even conquer the territories in the east of Ukraine that Putin claims to have already annexed. In the areas that Russia has occupied, churches have been closed and evangelicals persecuted for their faith. Civilians have been tortured, killed, and tossed into mass graves. Children have been kidnapped—at least 20,000—and are being brainwashed to forget who they are and to adopt a Russian identity, where they now live.

The Ukrainian people want peace desperately, and I hope it comes soon. The Ukrainian people want this peace because that is best for them as it is for the entire globe. But just like their Baltic friends before them, Ukrainians will never concede their sovereignty, and they will never give up on their countrymen who are currently under brutal occupation.

The question is, What will make KGB Putin give up his imperial dreams of reestablishing the Soviet Empire?

As we think about how we end this war in Ukraine, there is a lot going on right now. I don't think we want to forget that Putin has said very definitely, over the last 20 years in speeches, he wants to reestablish the Soviet Empire.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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I think this citizen of the United States, this Senator, ought to consider that sometimes we get driven by ideological waves in that we tend to think we have got all the answers. We can remember that there were a lot of conservative Republicans during the 1930s who thought Hitler was on the right track to bring peace to the world. Then we had a lot of liberals at that time, even through World War II, who thought that Joseph Stalin's murderous regime was the answer to all of our questions and all of the problems that this world had.

Now we have people who think Russia is somehow a good nation. They have institutionalized corruption in that country. They have murdered their political opponents. They imprison citizens for giving mild criticism to the country. They hold American citizens hostage—and hundreds of thousands of their people have been killed in this useless war.

Conservatives imagine that Russia doesn't exist today as I just described, so they are willing to sit down with people who have no political liberties, no political opposition. And it seems to me this is something that this Senator would not do.

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. Mr. 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.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, early Friday morning, the Senate passed a budget resolution to lay the groundwork for border, energy, and national security legislation. We considered a lot of amendments from my Democratic colleagues, not one of which, interestingly enough, was centered on border security and very few of which addressed either national security or energy security. But that was, I have to say, not terribly surprising. After all, the Democratic leader seemed to think, to the very end, that this budget resolution had something to do with tax cuts for billionaires, even though it has absolutely and exactly nothing to do with tax cuts of any kind. I am not sure if he was honestly confused or merely felt that he could achieve something messaging-wise by pretending this bill had something to do with billionaires.

But for the record, let me review what this bill was about. As everyone here knows, whether they want to acknowledge it or not, the chaos that President Biden allowed to rage at our southern border left a gaping hole in our national security. That is a hole that President Trump and Republicans are determined to close. And since day one of his administration, President

Trump has been fulfilling his campaign promise to crack down on illegal immigration and secure our border.

In addition to surging support to the southern border, his administration has been focused on arresting and deporting criminal aliens—from rapists and murderers to child sex predators and dangerous gang members—and they have made a lot of progress already.

But as the President's border czar made clear to Republican Senators 2 weeks ago, these efforts cannot continue without additional funding from Congress. So Republicans are moving forward on legislation to fund continued efforts to deport criminal aliens as well as provide other necessary resources to secure our border, discourage illegal immigration, and restore respect for the rule of law. That was what Friday's budget resolution was about.

And it is too bad that my Democratic colleagues aren't interested in joining us on border security legislation, but I will tell you, with or without Democrats, Republicans are moving full speed ahead. We owe the American people a secure border, and we intend to give it to them.

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. SCHUMER. Mr. 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.

VLADIMIR PUTIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 3 years ago, Vladimir Putin brought war and destruction to the free people of Ukraine. Three years ago, a powerful, hungry autocrat broke the peace in Europe, violated the sovereignty of an independent democracy, and rolled tanks and weapons and troops across the Ukrainian borders without provocation or justification.

Vladimir Putin has sealed his place in history as an enemy to democracy, to freedom, and to peace. He has killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians. His rockets have destroyed homes and churches and schools and hospitals—deliberately, in many cases.

A year ago, I was there. I saw the destruction. I saw parking lots being turned into mass graves. I spoke with soldiers near the border trying to defend their homes. And I felt the deep resolve of the Ukrainian people. I felt the value of America's leadership and the international struggle to push back against Putin's evil aggression.

Today, we remember Bucha, we remember the atrocities in Mariupol, and we remember everywhere where Putin's horrors have touched. We honor the lives lost at the hands of Russia's war of aggression, and we will

not let Vladimir Putin and his thugs off the hook.

For 3 years, the United States has been clear on where we stand. We have stood on the side of democracy, the inviolability of borders, and the freedom of nations—and against Vladimir Putin.

We passed in this Chamber robust, bipartisan security assistance. The United States united the leaders of the West, and for years we succeeded in turning Putin into a pariah.

But today, on this third anniversary of Putin's war, Donald Trump is turning his back on the values that America stands for of democracy, of security, and of liberty. Instead of standing up to Putin, Donald Trump is siding with him and against our own allies. Instead of condemning Putin's lies, Donald Trump is parroting Russian misinformation and propaganda, in defiance of all evidence, without regard to any facts, and with utter contempt for the truth.

Today, President Trump met with President Macron. President Macron is advising Donald Trump not to show weakness—not to show weakness—to Putin at this pivotal moment. Donald Trump should heed President Macron's warning, or else Putin is going to eat his lunch, and America is going to suffer in the long term.

American support of a pro-Western democracy under attack is not charity. It is about our own long-term security. For Donald Trump to show weakness to Putin is to endanger America's security tomorrow.

If history tells us one thing about autocrats, it is that their hunger is never satiated. It is never enough. They will keep going one way or another until they are halted.

What are Poland and Latvia and Lithuania and Estonia supposed to think about Putin's belligerence next door to them? What is NATO supposed to make of Donald Trump's eagerness to deal with autocrats instead of our own allies?

If Donald Trump sells out democracy in Europe today, what will Donald Trump sell out tomorrow? Democracy in America? Our national security, which he is already starting to do?

The way Donald Trump is engaging with Vladimir Putin right now is not going to make America any safer in the long run. This all goes back to a pattern we have seen from Donald Trump from the very beginning. He has always admired autocrats, strongmen, and bullies; always shown contempt for the rule of law, for truth, for accountability, for facts—because his ultimate goal is to skew things in favor of the wealthy and corrupt few at the expense of everybody else.

Just like his push for taxes, just like his empowering DOGE, Donald Trump's modus operandi is to trample on safeguards and basic accountability—values central to any free democracy—in order to allow corrupt billionaires, the wealthy few, and cronies to fill in the void.

This is exactly the world Vladimir Putin wants, and little by little, Donald Trump is helping him make it happen.

## BUDGET

Mr. President, on the Republican budget, last week, Senate Republicans passed their budget resolution, clearing the way to massive tax giveaways for Donald Trump's billionaire buddies. From the moment Donald Trump was sworn in, everything Republicans have done can be boiled down to this: Billionaires win; American families lose. That is the Republican agenda in a nutshell.

This week, it is House Republican's turn. Today, I want to say this about the Republican plan in the House: It doesn't matter which path Republicans ultimately go with—one bill, two bills, 50 bills. At the end of the day, Republicans are very clear: They want to cut taxes for billionaires and have the American people pay the cost.

Republicans want to perhaps push the biggest cuts to Medicaid ever so billionaires can have another tax break. That is morally corrupt and politically bankrupt.

With a government shutdown just a few weeks away, what are Republicans doing? They are spending precious time trying to cater to the wishes of the absolutely richest people in America, instead of working to avoid a disastrous halt of services that help tens of millions of middle-class American families. Their priorities are utterly skewed and upside down.

If House Republicans proceed this week, the backlash, "upsetness," and anger House Republicans saw in their townhalls last week is only going to get far more thunderous.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL HARRY STEWART, JR.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, earlier this month, the United States of America lost a legend: Harry Stewart, Jr., one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen, died at the age of 100.

Lieutenant Colonel Stewart's legacy is one of excellence. He grew up watching planes come in and out of LaGuardia Airport, dreaming of one day flying himself.

At just 18 years old, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart joined a new initiative launched in Alabama; a first of its kind training program for Black pilots established after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

He flew 43 missions from late 1944 to the spring of 1945 with the 332nd Fighter Group; earning the Distinguished

Flying Cross after downing three German planes in a dogfight just before the Allied victory in Europe.

Lieutenant Colonel Stewart didn't recognize the gravity of what he was doing at the time, he said in an interview just last year. He just wanted to serve his country, and serve his country he did.

But let's stop for a moment and think about what that means. Lieutenant Colonel Stewart and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen signed up to fight for a country that did not allow them the same rights as White citizens. They put their lives on the line to fight for a country that treated them as second class.

They could not live, work, eat, or drink alongside White countrymen or women. It was a world where people who looked like them could be met with violent attacks just because of the color of their skin. Consider what that means—that Lieutenant Colonel Stewart and the Tuskegee Airmen dealt with all kinds of discrimination, and yet still decided to risk everything to serve this Nation.

They faced almost inconceivable injustices, but they also believed in the promise of America, even though that promise wasn't being met. They fought for that promise against the Nazis in Europe and in doing so, blazed a trail for countless others to follow.

After the war, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart and three of his fellow Tuskegee Airmen won the U.S. Air Force's inaugural TOPGUN competition, an accomplishment that wasn't acknowledged, though, until decades later.

Unfortunately, that was a common theme for Lieutenant Colonel Stewart after the war. After aspiring to become an airline pilot his whole life and even after serving heroically and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross, he was prevented from flying commercial jets because of his race.

Instead, he earned a mechanical engineering degree from New York University and remained in the Air Force Reserve. He taught the next generations of pilots until being recalled for duty during the Korean war. It wasn't until 2007 that the Tuskegee Airmen received the Congressional Gold Medal for their valor.

The legacies of Harry Stewart, Jr., and the rest of the pilots who made history, should be recognized as central to America's story.

In his first term, President Trump promoted Airman Charles McGee to brigadier general and pinned his stars in the Oval Office.

In his second term, Secretary Hegseth has reaffirmed that the Trump administration will continue to honor these heroes, and the Tuskegee Airmen will remain role models not only for the next generation of American servicemembers but for all Americans.

Lt. Col. Harry Stewart, Jr., and the pilots he flew with represent the best of America. Their courage and selfless-

ness in the face of adversity both at home and at war are inspirational.

And their legacies—those of greatness and unquestionable merit—deserve to be celebrated amongst the rest of our country's heroes, not just during Black History Month but all throughout the year.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Democratic whip.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the submission of S. Res. 91 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, if cloture is invoked on the Driscoll nomination, the Senate vote immediately on the motion to invoke cloture on the Greer nomination; further, if cloture is invoked on the Greer nomination, all time be expired on the Driscoll and Greer nominations and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, no earlier than Tuesday, February 25, with respect to the Driscoll nomination and Wednesday, February 26, with respect to the Greer nomination; finally, if the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

## WAIVING OF QUORUM CALLS

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Driscoll and Greer nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote commence at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 21, Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Tommy

Tuberville, Jim Justice, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Ted Budd, Mike Lee.

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 Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 66, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 88 Ex.]

#### YEAS—66

Banks	Gallego	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Bennet	Hagerty	Mullin
Blackburn	Hassan	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Heinrich	Peters
Britt	Hickenlooper	Reed
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Justice	Schmitt
Cortez Masto	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cruz	Lankford	Sheehy
Curtis	Lee	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Durbin	Marshall	Tillis
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville
Fetterman	McCormick	Warner
Fischer	Moody	Wicker

#### NAYS—28

Alsobrooks	King	Schiff
Baldwin	Lujan	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Slotkin
Booker	Merkley	Smith
Cantwell	Murphy	Van Hollen
Coons	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hirono	Sanders	
Kim	Schatz	

#### NOT VOTING—6

Cramer	Kaine	Whitehouse
Graham	Warnock	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The yeas are 66, the nays are 28.

The motion was agreed to.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative 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. 22, Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

John Thune, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Tommy Tuberville, Mike Rounds, Jim Justice, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, James Lankford, Ted Budd, Mike Lee.

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 Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 55, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 89 Ex.]

#### YEAS—55

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Bennet	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Whitehouse
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fetterman	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

#### NAYS—42

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kelly	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kim	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	King	Schiff
Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Markey	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Smith
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Gallego	Ossoff	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Peters	Welch
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Kaine	Young
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 55, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### U.S. SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, Senate Standing Rule XXVI requires each committee to adopt rules to govern the procedure of the committee and to publish those rules in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than March 1 of the first year of each Congress. On February 20, 2025, a majority of the members of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations adopted subcommittee rules of procedure.

Consistent with Standing Rule XXVI, today I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the rules of procedure of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SENATE PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AS ADOPTED

(February 20, 2025)

1. No public hearing connected with an investigation may be held without the approval of either the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member or a Majority of the Members of the Subcommittee. In all cases, notification to all Subcommittee Members of the intent to hold hearings must be given at least 7 days in advance to the date of the hearing. The Ranking Minority Member should be kept fully apprised of preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings. Preliminary inquiries may be initiated by the Subcommittee Majority staff upon the approval of the Chair and notice of such approval to the Ranking Minority Member, Minority Staff Director, or the Minority Chief Counsel. Preliminary inquiries may be undertaken by the Minority staff upon the approval of the Ranking Minority Member and notice of such approval to the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel. Investigations may be undertaken upon the approval of the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member

with notice of such approval to all Members of the Subcommittee.

No public hearing shall be held if the Minority Members of the Subcommittee unanimously object, unless the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs (the "Committee") approves of such public hearing by a majority vote.

Senate Rules will govern all closed sessions convened by the Subcommittee (Rule XXVI, Sec. 5(b), Standing Rules of the Senate).

2. Subpoenas for witnesses, as well as documents and records, may be authorized and issued by the Chair, or any other Member of the Subcommittee designated by the Chair, with notice to the Ranking Minority Member. A written notice of intent to issue a subpoena shall be provided to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, or staff officers designated by them, by the Chair or a staff officer designated by the Chair, immediately upon such authorization, and no subpoena shall be issued for at least 48 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays, from delivery to the appropriate offices, unless the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee waive the 48 hour waiting period or unless the Chair certifies in writing to the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee that, in the Chair's opinion, it is necessary to issue a subpoena immediately.

3. The Chair shall have the authority to call meetings of the Subcommittee. This authority may be delegated by the Chair to any other Member of the Subcommittee when necessary.

4. If at least three Members of the Subcommittee desire the Chair to call a special meeting, they may file, in the office of the Subcommittee, a written request therefor, addressed to the Chair. Immediately thereafter, the clerk of the Subcommittee shall notify the Chair of such request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of such request, the Chair fails to call the requested special meeting, which is to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of such request, a majority of the Subcommittee Members may file in the office of the Subcommittee their written notice that a special Subcommittee meeting will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the Subcommittee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of such notice, the Subcommittee clerk shall notify all Subcommittee Members that such special meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour. If the Chair is not present at any regular, additional or special meeting, the Ranking Majority Member present shall preside.

5. For public or executive sessions, one Member of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony in any given case or subject matter.

One-third of the Members of the Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Subcommittee business other than the administering of oaths and the taking of testimony, provided that at least one member of the minority is present.

6. All witnesses at public or executive hearings who testify to matters of fact shall be sworn.

7. If, during public or executive sessions, a witness, witness counsel, or any spectator conducts themselves in such a manner as to prevent, impede, disrupt, obstruct, or interfere with the orderly administration of such hearing, the Chair or presiding Member of the Subcommittee present during such hearing may request the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, a representative of the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, or any law enforcement official to eject said person from the hearing room.

8. Counsel retained by any witness and accompanying such witness shall be permitted to be present during the testimony of such witness at any public or executive hearing and to advise such witness while the witness is testifying of the witness's legal rights; provided, however, that in the case of any witness who is an officer or employee of the government, or of a corporation or association, the Chair may rule that representation by counsel from the government, corporation, or association, or by counsel representing another witness, creates a conflict of interest, and that the witness may only be represented during interrogation by Subcommittee staff or during testimony before the Subcommittee by personal counsel not from the government, corporation, or association, or by personal counsel not representing another witness. This rule shall not be construed to excuse a witness from testifying in the event witness counsel is ejected for conduct preventing, impeding, disrupting, obstructing, or interfering with the orderly administration of the hearings; nor shall this rule be construed as authorizing counsel to coach the witness or answer for the witness. The failure of any witness to secure counsel shall not excuse such witness from complying with a subpoena or deposition notice.

#### 9. Depositions

9.1 Notice. Notices for the taking of depositions in an investigation authorized by the Subcommittee shall be authorized and issued by the Chair. The Chair of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee shall be kept fully apprised of the authorization for the taking of depositions. Such notices shall specify a time and place of examination, and the name of the Subcommittee Member or Members or staff officer or officers who will take the deposition. The deposition shall be in private. The Subcommittee shall not initiate procedures leading to criminal or civil enforcement proceedings for a witness's failure to appear unless the deposition notice was accompanied by a Subcommittee subpoena.

9.2 Counsel. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise them of their legal rights, subject to the provisions of Rule 8.

9.3 Procedure. Witnesses shall be examined upon oath administered by an individual authorized by local law to administer oaths. Questions shall be propounded orally by Subcommittee Members or staff. Objections by the witness as to the form of questions shall be noted for the record. If a witness objects to a question and refuses to testify on the basis of relevance or privilege, the Subcommittee Members or staff may proceed with the deposition, or may, at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling by telephone or otherwise on the objection from the Chair or such Subcommittee Member as designated by the Chair. If the Chair or designated Member overrules the objection, these Members may refer the matter to the Subcommittee or may order and direct the witness to answer the question, but the Subcommittee shall not initiate procedures leading to civil or criminal enforcement unless the witness refuses to testify after being ordered and directed to answer by the Chair or designated Member.

9.4 Filing. The Subcommittee staff shall see that the testimony is transcribed or electronically recorded. If it is transcribed, the witness shall be furnished with a copy for review pursuant to the provisions of Rule 12. The individual administering the oath shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn in the individual's presence, the transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall then be filed with the

Subcommittee clerk. Subcommittee staff may stipulate with the witness to changes in this procedure; deviations from this procedure which do not substantially impair the reliability of the record shall not relieve the witness from the obligation to testify truthfully.

10. Any witness desiring to read a prepared or written statement in executive or public hearings shall file a copy of such statement with the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel 48 hours in advance of the hearings at which the statement is to be presented unless the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement. The Subcommittee shall determine whether such statement may be read or placed in the record of the hearing.

11. A witness may request, on grounds of distraction, harassment, personal safety, or physical discomfort, that during testimony, television, motion picture, and other cameras and lights, shall not be directed at the witness. Such requests shall be ruled on by the Subcommittee Members present at the hearing.

12. An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of the testimony of all witnesses in executive and public hearings. The record of a witness's own testimony, whether in public or executive session, shall be made available for inspection by the witness or witness counsel under Subcommittee supervision; a copy of any testimony given in public session or that part of the testimony given by the witness in executive session and subsequently quoted or made part of the record in a public session shall be made available to any witness at the witness's expense if requested.

13. Interrogation of witnesses at Subcommittee hearings shall be conducted on behalf of the Subcommittee by Subcommittee Members and authorized Subcommittee staff personnel only.

14. Any person who is the subject of an investigation in public hearings may submit to the Chair questions in writing for the cross-examination of other witnesses called by the Subcommittee. With the consent of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee present and voting, these questions, or paraphrased versions of them, shall be put to the witness by the Chair, by a Member of the Subcommittee, or by counsel of the Subcommittee.

15. Any person whose name is mentioned or who is specifically identified, and who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or comment made by a Subcommittee Member or counsel, tends to defame the person or otherwise adversely affect the person's reputation, may (a) request to appear personally before the Subcommittee to testify, or, in the alternative, (b) file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony or other evidence or comment complained of. Such request and such statement shall be submitted to the Subcommittee for its consideration and action.

If a person requests to appear personally before the Subcommittee pursuant to alternative (a) referred to herein, said request shall be considered untimely if it is not received by the Chair, Staff Director, or Chief Counsel in writing on or before thirty (30) days subsequent to the day on which said person's name was mentioned or otherwise specifically identified during a public hearing held before the Subcommittee, unless the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member waive this requirement.

If a person requests to file a sworn statement pursuant to alternative (b) referred to herein, the Subcommittee may condition the filing of said sworn statement upon said person agreeing to appear personally before the

Subcommittee and to testify concerning the matters contained in the person's sworn statement, as well as any other matters related to the subject of the investigation before the Subcommittee.

16. All testimony taken in executive session shall be kept secret and will not be released for public information without the approval of a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee.

17. No Subcommittee report shall be released to the public unless approved by a majority of the Subcommittee and after no less than 10 days' notice and opportunity for comment by the Members of the Subcommittee unless the need for such notice and opportunity to comment has been waived in writing by a majority of the Minority Members of the Subcommittee.

18. The Ranking Minority Member may select for appointment to the Subcommittee staff a Chief Counsel for the Minority and such other professional staff and clerical assistants as the Ranking Minority Member deems advisable. The total compensation allocated to such Minority staff shall be not less than one-third the total amount allocated for all Subcommittee staff salaries during any given year. The Minority staff shall work under the direction and supervision of the Ranking Minority Member. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Chief Counsel shall be kept fully informed as to preliminary inquiries, investigations, and hearings, and shall have access to all material in the files of the Subcommittee.

19. When it is determined by the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, or by a majority of the Subcommittee, that there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of law may have occurred, the Chair and Ranking Minority Member by letter, or the Subcommittee by resolution, are authorized to report such violation to the proper State, local and/or Federal authorities. Such letter or report may recite the basis for the determination of reasonable cause. This rule is not authority for release of documents or testimony.

#### REMEMBERING BEVERLY BYRON

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and service of the late Congresswoman Beverly Byron. For over a decade, Congresswoman Byron served western Maryland. She fought to advance the interests of her constituents and was a strong advocate for our national security. Congresswoman Byron has left a lasting legacy for the people of Maryland and our Nation.

When Congresswoman Byron was elected in 1978, she was one of only 16 women elected to the House of Representatives that year. She became a trailblazer, especially for women in the national security arena. A strong supporter of a robust national defense, she became the first woman to chair a subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee.

Congresswoman Byron also advanced opportunities for women serving in our armed forces. She sponsored legislation to reorganize the military child care system, open combat roles, and fight against gender-based restrictions. Through the 1991 Byron amendment to the Defense Authorization Act, women gained the right to fly combat missions in the Marines, Navy, Air Force, and the Army.

After serving in Congress, Congresswoman Byron continued to work to protect our Nation. She served on the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Commission and continued to offer her guidance on women in the armed forces.

Throughout her distinguished career, Congresswoman Byron has been a role model for many. When I sought public office and served in the House and Senate, I always valued her unvarnished advice. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation and gratitude to the late Congresswoman Beverly Byron and her family for all she has done for the people of Maryland and our Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO FRITZ WETHERBEE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Fritz Wetherbee, a New Hampshire icon who is retiring after six remarkable decades of bringing our State's rich history to life.

For generations of Granite Staters, Fritz has been the trusted voice and friendly face of New Hampshire history. He has recorded more than 5,000 segments of "*Fritz Wetherbee's New Hampshire*" for WMUR's "*New Hampshire Chronicle*," traveling to every corner of the State to uncover and share the fascinating historical accounts that make the Granite State unique. His iconic voice and witty personality have made our State's history accessible and entertaining for audiences of all ages. Just hearing his voice on a Chronicle segment—especially after a long week away from New Hampshire—is its own unique and comforting "welcome home."

A native of New Hampshire, Fritz returned home after serving in the U.S. Army and built a career in media, including various roles for local radio stations, reporting for the Monadnock Ledger, joining New Hampshire Public Television for educational programming, and eventually launching his namesake segment in 2001 on WMUR. He also shared his expertise with the next generation by teaching journalism at Keene State University. His work has garnered both critical acclaim and academic recognition, including five Emmy Awards and honorary degrees from the University of New Hampshire and Rivier College. Fritz's career exemplifies a genuine commitment to preserving and sharing our State's heritage, setting the standard for excellence in New Hampshire journalism.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Fritz Wetherbee for his decades of service to New Hampshire and to wish him well in his well-deserved retirement. His work has not only educated and entertained us but also strengthened the bonds that tie our communities together through shared history and traditions.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas, Mr. ESTES of Kansas, Mr. SMUCKER of Pennsylvania, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS of New York, Mrs. SPARTZ of Indiana, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Mr. MIN of California.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources" and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

John Kennedy, Rand Paul, David McCormick, Mike Crapo, James E. Risch, Steve Daines, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Lindsey Graham, Joni Ernst, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Pete Ricketts, Deb Fischer, John Thune, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Katie Boyd Britt, James Lankford, Tom Cotton, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Roger Marshall, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ashley Moody, Jon Husted, Ron Johnson, Eric Schmitt, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 11. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources".

#### 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-421. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Bacillus Thuringiensis Cry1B.34 Protein; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL-12514-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-422. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Bacillus Thuringiensis Strain EX 297512 in Pesticide Formulations; Exemption from the



Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL-12526-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-423. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification entitled "Support for United States Nationals Unlawfully or Wrongfully Detained Abroad and Their Family Members" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Foreign Relations.

EC-424. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 12957 with respect to Iran; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-425. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 3.78 Rev 0, 'Acceptable ASME Section XI Inservice Inspection Code Cases for 10 CFR Part 72'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-426. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.238 Rev 0, 'Criteria for The Production of Safety-Related (Class 1E) Power Systems and Equipment for Production and Utilization Facilities'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-427. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.32 Rev 4, 'Criteria for Power Systems for Nuclear Power Plants'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-428. A communication from the Associate Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withdrawal of Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.41, 'Preoperational Testing of Redundant On-Site Electric Power Systems To Verify Proper Load Group Assignments Change Revision Number to "W"'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-429. A communication from the Acting Division Chief, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Pillar Coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*) From Threatened to Endangered" (RIN0648-XR126) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 24, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-430. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Utah: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions and Incorporation by Reference; Withdrawal of Direct Final Rule" (FRL No. 12226-03-R8) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-431. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "West Virginia Underground Injection Control Program; Class VI Primacy" (FRL No. 12000-02-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-432. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in accounting periods and in methods of accounting" (Rev. Proc. 2025-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-433. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice: Temporary Relief Under Section 1.1012-1(j)(3)(ii)" (Notice 2025-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 19, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-434. 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 for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to the United Kingdom in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-096); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-435. 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 the Netherlands and the United Kingdom in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-086); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-436. 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 various countries in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-083); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-437. 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 agreement amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Singapore in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-074); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-438. 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 Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-062); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-439. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an action entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Advanced Clean Cars II; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 11010-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-440. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an action entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine and Nonroad Engine Pollution Control Standards; the 'Omnibus' Low NOX Regulations; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 9902-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-441. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of an action entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 9900-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 20, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 90. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## 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. PETERS (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 683. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand eligibility for incentives under the Medicare health professional shortage area bonus program to practitioners furnishing mental health and substance use disorder services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 684. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the period of time for making S corporation elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 685. A bill to ensure State and local law enforcement officers are permitted to cooperate with Federal officials to protect our communities from violent criminals and suspected terrorists who are illegally present in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 686. A bill to amend the Housing Act of 1949 to permit certain grants to be used for accessory dwelling units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 687. A bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding inmates who give birth in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 688. A bill to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at its sources globally; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 689. A bill to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 690. A bill to combat the fentanyl crisis; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BANKS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MORENO)):

S. 691. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to improve the administration of anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO:

S. 692. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the clean fuel production credit to provide a special rate for sustainable vessel fuel; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 693. A bill to improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 694. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a phase-in for plasma-derived products under the manufacturer discount program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 695. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the exclusion for gain from qualified small business stock; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 696. A bill to provide temporary Ukrainian guest status for eligible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 697. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for air traffic control training improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 698. A bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and

with the advice and consent of the Senate; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. THUNE, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 699. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to address liability for payment of charges or costs associated with the provision of purchased/referred care services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. RISCH:

S. Res. 90. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 91. A resolution acknowledging the third anniversary of Russia's further invasion of Ukraine and expressing support for the people of Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. Res. 92. A resolution designating February 16, 2025, as "National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day"; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 121

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 121, a bill to extend the statute of limitations for violations relating to pandemic-era programs to be 10 years.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 167, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 199

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S.

269, a bill to improve coordination between Federal and State agencies and the Do Not Pay working system.

S. 300

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 300, a bill to improve accountability in the disaster loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) 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. 409

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for current year inclusion of net CFC tested income, and for other purposes.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 421

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 421, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish country of origin labeling requirements for beef, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) 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. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 543, a bill to prohibit certain discrimination against athletes on the basis of sex by State athletic associations, intercollegiate athletic associations, and covered institutions of higher education, and for other purposes.

S. 545

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to prohibit certain uses of xylazine, and for other purposes.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 592

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that plain writing statements regarding the solicitation of subcontractors be included in certain subcontracting plans, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify Reid Vapor Pressure requirements and to provide for the return of certain retired credits, and for other purposes.

S. 645

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States national who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 656

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 656, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit consumer reporting agencies from furnishing consumer reports containing adverse items

of information about a consumer that resulted from that consumer being unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or held hostage abroad.

S. 659

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 659, a bill to establish a grant program within the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to award grants to States that require the recording of all child welfare interviews with children and adults, and for other purposes.

S. 680

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to prohibit funding for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change until China is no longer defined as a developing country.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources".

S. RES. 81

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 81, a resolution calling on the United Kingdom, France, and Germany (E3) to initiate the snapback of sanctions on Iran under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015).

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. 689. A bill to approve the settlement of the water rights claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to reintroduce the Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025. This legislation would finalize this multidecade effort by the Tule River Tribe to provide clean drinking water to their people and uphold the Federal Government's trust and treaty responsibilities.

The Tule River people are descendants of the Yokuts Indians, a large group of Native Americans who occupied what is now known as the San Joaquin Valley in California for thousands of years prior to contact with settlers.

In 1856, the Federal Government established their reservation in Tulare County, with the specific goal of providing the Tribe with arable farmland

and the water resources necessary to establish self-sufficiency. However, their land was fraudulently stolen from them, and in 1873, President Grant issued an Executive order to create a new reservation for the Tribe. This land—which is the Tribe's current reservation—is comprised of mostly mountainous lands that do not provide sufficient irrigation opportunities or water storage facilities. Today, the Tule River Tribe struggles to provide clean drinking water to their people, and Tule Tribal citizens suffer from a low standard of living as a result.

Since 1971, the Tribe has worked to establish its federally reserved water rights to create the viable homeland they were promised and to ensure that their citizens have enough water to meet their current and future water needs. For decades, the Tribe has worked with the Departments of the Interior and Justice as well as downstream water users to advance a settlement agreement, thereby avoiding costly litigation for both the Tribe and the U.S. Government.

I am proud to introduce this legislation to quantify the Tribe's water right of 5,828 acre-feet per year of surface water and fund \$568 million towards the construction of a water storage project. My legislation would also codify what is known as the 2007 Agreement with downstream water users, who support this legislation. Finally, the legislation would transfer approximately 9,000 acres of Federal land currently in the Sequoia National Monument to allow the Tribe to protect the watershed headwaters and 800 acres of grazing land to the north and south of the reservation boundary.

It is long past time for the Federal Government to live up to its trust and treaty responsibilities to the Tule River Tribe. We must codify this water settlement and settle the Tule River Tribe's claims against the United States. Access to clean drinking water now and in the future is essential to the continued strength of Tribal nations and to ensuring the sustainability and viability of future generations.

Water is a sacred and necessary resource for Tribal nations and for all people. As California and the West continue to experience a historic megadrought, enactment of our legislation would provide water security to Tule River citizens now and into the future.

I thank Senator SCHIFF for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate. I would also like to thank the Tule River Tribe for their decades of hard work to finalize this settlement and the downstream water users, including the Tule River Association and the South Tule Independent Ditch Company, for working with the Tribe to settle this issue and avoid litigation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact the Tule River Tribe Reserved Water Rights Settlement Act of 2025 as quickly as possible.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, AND MR. WELCH):

S. 696. A bill to provide temporary Ukrainian guest status for eligible aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. 696

*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 “Protecting Our Guests During Hostilities in Ukraine Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any term used in this Act that is used in the immigration laws shall have the meaning given such term in the immigration laws.

(2) ELIGIBLE ALIEN.—The term “eligible alien” means an alien who was paroled under the Uniting for Ukraine parole process announced on April 21, 2022.

(3) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigration laws” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a)(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(17)).

#### SEC. 3. TEMPORARY UKRAINIAN GUEST STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an eligible alien shall be considered to be admitted to the United States in Ukrainian guest status as of the date on which the eligible alien was first paroled into the United States.

(b) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—An alien in Ukrainian guest status under this section is authorized to be employed in the United States incident to and for the duration of such status.

(c) EXPIRATION.—Ukrainian guest status under this section shall expire on the date that is 120 days after the date on which the Secretary of State determines that—

(1) hostilities in Ukraine have ceased; and

(2) conditions in Ukraine allow for the safe and reasonable return of civilians to Ukraine.

(d) REVOCATION.—The Ukrainian guest status of an alien may be revoked if the Secretary of Homeland Security determines that the alien is described in section 241(b)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1231(b)(3)(B)).

### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 90—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. RISCH submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Foreign Relations which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 90

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the

Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2025, through February 28, 2027, in its discretion, to—

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

#### SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2025.—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025, under this resolution shall not exceed \$6,068,289, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026, under this resolution shall not exceed \$10,402,781, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2027.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027, under this resolution shall not exceed \$4,334,492, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed \$250,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed \$30,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

#### SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(2) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;

(B) the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(C) the payment of stationery supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery;

(D) payments to the Postmaster of the Senate;

(E) the payment of metered charges on copying equipment provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper;

(F) the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services; or

(G) the payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2025, through September 30, 2025;

(2) for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2026, through February 28, 2027.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 91—ACKNOWLEDGING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIA'S FURTHER INVASION OF UKRAINE AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 91

Whereas, on February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale, unprovoked, and illegal invasion of Ukraine, which followed Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its illegal occupation of parts of the Donbas region in 2014;

Whereas the international community recognizes the sovereignty and full territorial integrity of Ukraine within the 1991 borders; and

Whereas the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the people of Ukraine have demonstrated a determined resistance that has prevented Russia from taking control of their country: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses continued solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condolences for the loss of tens of thousands of Ukrainian people to Russian aggression;

(2) rejects Russia's attempts to militarily seize sovereign territory in Ukraine and elsewhere in Europe;

(3) reaffirms the support of the United States for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;

(4) commends NATO, the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, and the international community for their continued efforts to support Ukraine's defense and the protection of human rights on its territory;

(5) supports Ukraine's aspirations to integrate into Euro-Atlantic structures;

(6) recognizes Ukraine's efforts to strengthen its democracy during wartime;

(7) encourages the transatlantic community to continue to denounce Russia's illegal and unprovoked war in Ukraine and counter Russian aggression; and

(8) emphasizes that Ukraine must be a participant in discussions with the Russian Federation about Ukraine's future.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was nearly 40 years ago President Ronald Reagan went to the Brandenburg Gate, the Berlin Wall, and he said to the Soviets, “Tear down this wall.” Ronald

Reagan understood all too well what the Soviet regime was all about: It was a regime that had seized Eastern Europe and condemned millions of individuals to live under a cruel and repressive communist dictatorship.

My mother's family originally came from Lithuania, once an independent country, then a republic of the Soviet Union, now an independent democratic country again. That country meant a lot, and still does, to my family. I certainly recall the stories of my grandparents leaving the Russian domination and coming to America.

Until recently, Americans across the political spectrum, including Republican Presidents and Members of Congress, saw Russian tyranny for what it was—until now.

Today, we see President Trump doing the bidding of Russian autocrat Vladimir Putin. That is right: The President of the United States of America is using talking points that sound like they were whispered in his ear by the Kremlin, all while denigrating and bullying our true allies in the region.

If you don't believe me, listen to these quotes and try to guess whether Vladimir Putin or Donald Trump said them.

First, outrageously claiming Ukraine started the war with Russia:

It's they who have started the war.

Or:

You've been there for three years. You should have ended it. You should have never started it.

How about attacking the legitimacy of heroic wartime Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelenskyy, who was democratically elected in a free and fair election—something that has never taken place in Russia.

The legitimacy of the incumbent head of state of Ukraine is over.

Or calling him “a dictator without elections.”

In each of these stunning examples, one was spoken by Putin, the other by Trump. It is impossible to guess which is which, but you would be hard-pressed to figure it out because they are both using the same Kremlin propaganda.

It gets worse, with Donald Trump having negotiated away in public the key concessions to Russia to end the war, including appeasement of Ukraine's sovereign borders or possible future NATO membership.

Trump, with not even a phone call, gave those away without even negotiating and certainly didn't involve the Ukrainians, who have lost 46,000 brave Ukrainians who have died because of Putin's invasion.

Today, in a stunning, shameful move, the United States voted with Russia, North Korea, Belarus, and a handful of other dictatorships at the United Nations against a resolution condemning Russian aggression in Ukraine.

I want to repeat that because it is so historic and so mind-boggling. There was a resolution before the United Na-

tions condemning Russia on the third anniversary of their invasion of Ukraine, and the United States' representative voted against it, joined in that effort by Russia, itself, North Korea, Belarus, and a handful of other dictatorships.

What in the world is going on here? Former Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis said of this tragic and unbelievable state of affairs that it sounded like there was a hand-out prepared by the Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov from which the Trump administration was reading.

He warned if Trump continues to back Russia:

Threats to Ukrainian security will grow immensely. Putin will get braver. Meaning, there will be more war, more invasion, more death in Moldova, the Baltics, Georgia, maybe even Poland.

President Trump's affinity for autocrats like Putin and selling out or bullying our allies isn't going to make America stronger or our world safer. Nor will his petulant and bumbling weekend gutting of our top military officers—a troubling act that raises serious questions about politicizing our proud, professional fighting force in America.

Let me be clear: We cannot let President Trump rewrite history or upend proven alliances with decades of bipartisan support. Because of the NATO alliance, we have avoided a third world war for more than 75 years. That is a fact.

Ultimately, only the Ukrainian people can decide Ukraine's future. For the United States to be party to any other scheme or conspiracy is just unacceptable.

Doing the bidding of foreign dictators and playing politics with our own military only undermine America's ability to be safe.

Today is the third-year anniversary of Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine. I am glad to join Senators SHAHEEN, TILLIS, WICKER, and others in leading a simple resolution that expresses continued solidarity with the people of Ukraine and condolences for the loss of thousands of lives to Russian aggression. I would think that every Senator of both political parties would sign on, but fortunately we do have a few, and it is bipartisan.

The resolution goes on to reject Russia's attempts to militarily seize sovereign Ukraine territory. It reaffirms U.S. support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. That used to be so obvious and so easy, no one would enter a resolution into the RECORD, but because of the new statements by President Trump and Vice President VANCE, it is necessary to state unequivocally that Ukraine must be at the table for negotiations over its future.

Think of that—46,000 people in Ukraine died to stop Putin's advance and invasion of Ukraine—46,000—and there was a suggestion that the negotiations for peace in the country would

take place without Ukraine seated at the table. How can that be possible?

This resolution is straightforward. It expresses what would have—before this current administration—been seen as a cut-and-dried statement of American values when standing up to bullies and tyrants like Vladimir Putin, a known war criminal.

I am also introducing a bill to grant Ukrainians who fled the war and are already legally present in the United States with temporary guest status. Oh, I know, it is immigration. It is an explosive issue. How in the world could we consider it? Let me tell you what happened in the city of Chicago.

The Governor of Texas sent 50,000 migrants in buses—800 buses—to the city of Chicago to dump these migrants into a situation where there was no place for them to stay, no provision for their food. It was an emergency situation. We did the humane thing. We did our best to take care of them and the children—50,000 from Texas. It was a controversial issue, and there were some who said “Don't spend a penny on them; spend it just on American citizens” and others who said “We have an obligation that goes beyond simple citizenship. It is a human obligation, a moral obligation,” and we did it.

At the same time that took place, there were 50,000 Ukrainians coming into the city of Chicago as well—different circumstances. They had to have a host family that would stand by them as they settled down in the city of Chicago, and they had to find jobs.

Do you know how much controversy there was about those 50,000 Ukrainians? None. They were assimilated into the economy and have become an important part of the city and our State, and I am proud that they are there.

So now what happens to them? The uncertainty of the continuing war in Ukraine, the embracing of Putin by President Trump—what is going to happen? With this United Nations resolution today, where we were just asked to acknowledge the war of 3 years and to stand by the Ukrainians, the United States voted no. The United States voted with Russia, with North Korea, and with Belarus.

We have to do something to help these Ukrainians who are here, who escaped the invasion of Putin and found peace and security in our country.

When the war started, across the country, Republicans opened their arms and hearts and communities to these desperate Ukrainians, even actively petitioning President Biden to protect them from deportation. So far, not a single Republican has cosponsored my bill. It is a new day in Washington. But I urge them to join this simple act of American compassion. Standing up to dictators and speaking out for victims of war should never be a partisan issue.

I want to end with a photo.

The year was 2014 when the late Senator John McCain and I led a bipartisan delegation to Ukraine that included current colleagues from Rhode

Island, Wyoming, and North Dakota. At the time, Russia had begun its attempts to seize Crimea and capture additional territory in the eastern part of Ukraine. Ukrainians had just bravely stood up for their own democracy, many paying with their lives in Maidan Square—an aspiration for freedom and democracy that frightened Putin and confirmed my belief in the strength of the human spirit.

You see here in this photo we are laying flowers on the makeshift shrines to those Ukrainians who were killed in the earliest days of their heroic effort to save their nation.

We should show no less courage here today on a bipartisan basis in making sure Ukraine's sovereignty and future are secure and not giving in, in appeasement to Putin—a move that could cost us dearly in the future.

It is personal to me. I mentioned to you earlier that my mother was born in the Baltic nation of Lithuania. It has been my good fortune to visit it during Soviet times and see the terrible impact of communism on the freedom of those people and to be standing by their side when they fought to have the day when they could have their own democracy and their own elections.

They survived. They prospered. They are great nations—Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia—and I know that their future is at stake by this decision by President Trump.

You cannot embrace Vladimir Putin and ignore the obvious. He is a thug. He has sent his invading troops in and killed 46,000 Ukrainians. Well, they say he has lost 800,000 of his own. Well, I am sorry that happened in a way, but he asked for it. He invaded Ukraine—don't make any mistake. It didn't happen the other way around. The Ukrainians didn't invade themselves. What kind of nonsense was that being spoken by the President?

We have to stand by the people of Ukraine and for the people of the Baltics, Moldova, and other states, like Poland, that are vulnerable to attack by Vladimir Putin. This is not a political charade. It is not a political game. It is the life-and-death reality of this dangerous world we live in.

Once again, the United States should be leading in democratic values and certainly not embracing the war criminal Vladimir Putin.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 92—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 16, 2025, AS “NATIONAL ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY”

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 92

Whereas Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, Tlingit, was a member of the Lukaax.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of Kaaxgal.aat (referred to in this preamble as “Elizabeth”) who fought

for social equality, civil liberties, and respect for Alaska Native and Native American communities;

Whereas Elizabeth, who was born in 1911 in Petersburg, Alaska, experienced discrimination as a Tlingit woman, and dedicated her life to creating a better future for Alaska Natives;

Whereas more than 6,000 patriotic Alaska Natives protected the United States alongside non-Native Servicemen and women during World War II, despite suffering from unjust discrimination;

Whereas, in 1941, Elizabeth and her husband, Roy Peratrovich, moved to Juneau, the capital city of Alaska, to campaign tirelessly for the passage of the anti-discrimination legislation of Ernest Gruening, the Governor of Alaska, which would later result in the passage of the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945;

Whereas, in campaigning for the passage of anti-discrimination legislation, Elizabeth persevered for several years traveling across the Alaska Territory enabling, rallying, and uniting Alaska Natives to fight for recognition that they are created equal to others and equally endowed with “unalienable Rights”;

Whereas Elizabeth was a powerful orator who envisioned unity and then spoke it into existence through community advocacy and the support of the Alaska Native Brotherhood and the Alaska Native Sisterhood;

Whereas Elizabeth testified strongly before the Alaska Territorial legislature vote on the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945, passionately asking the legislature, “Have you eliminated larceny or murder by passing a law against it? No law will eliminate crimes but, at least you as legislators, can assert to the world that you recognize the evil of the present situation and speak your intent to help us overcome discrimination.”;

Whereas the Alaska Territorial Legislature passed the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 on February 16, 1945, which was the first anti-discrimination law enacted in the history of the United States;

Whereas Elizabeth dedicated the rest of her life to creating a better Alaska for future generations;

Whereas Elizabeth tragically died of cancer in 1958, but her legacy has not been forgotten;

Whereas, beginning in 1988, the State of Alaska has recognized February 16 as Elizabeth Peratrovich Day; and

Whereas, in 2020, the United States Mint released the Elizabeth Peratrovich \$1 coin to commemorate the significant impact that Elizabeth had on advancing equality under the law in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 16, 2025, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”;

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day by remembering the work of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich and other civil rights leaders; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States and Members of Congress to commemorate the life and civil rights advocacy of Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich by continuing the important work of ensuring equality for Alaska Natives and Native Americans.

#### NATIONAL ELIZABETH PERATROVICH DAY

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 92, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 92) designating February 16, 2025, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MORENO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 92) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25; 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, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 21, Daniel Driscoll, to be the Secretary of the Army; further, that at 11:15 a.m., the Senate execute the order of February 24 with respect to the Driscoll nomination and that following disposition of the Driscoll nomination, the Senate resume legislative session and the majority leader be recognized; finally, if a motion to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11, is made, that following the vote on that motion, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings, and that if the motion is agreed to, all time during recess count equally between proponents and opponents.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORENO. For the information of all Senators, Senators should expect a vote to proceed to Calendar No. 15, S.J. Res. 11, Senator KENNEDY's CRA, at approximately 12 noon tomorrow.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.



## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association (M.E.B.A.) on its 150th anniversary. M.E.B.A. has been the steadfast voice of the men and women who power our Nation's maritime industry, supporting American commerce through their skill, dedication, and solidarity for one and a half centuries. On this milestone, we pay tribute to the generations of maritime professionals who have propelled our Nation's trade in both peace and war.

Founded in 1875 in Cleveland, Ohio, M.E.B.A. arose from the dangerous working conditions faced by mariners at the time. Ship-owners valued profit over safety, leaving workers vulnerable to hazardous conditions. A small but determined group of engineers, led by Garrett Douw, came together to form a union dedicated to creating a safer, more secure, and equitable maritime industry. Their vision laid the foundation for a labor movement that has fought tirelessly for fair wages, job security, and improved safety measures.

M.E.B.A.'s legacy extends far beyond its early struggles. Over the years, its members have answered the call during every major conflict and disaster. From World War II to our engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan, from providing humanitarian aid to ferrying people to safety after September 11th, their resilience and professionalism in times of crisis are a testament to the values that define the American mariner.

Today, M.E.B.A. continues to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions for its members while strengthening the American Merchant Marine. Their contributions are vital to our economy and national security, and their dedication to public service remains as strong as ever.

On behalf of California's 8th Congressional District, congratulations to M.E.B.A. on this remarkable 150-year anniversary. May their strength, service, and solidarity continue to guide them for many years to come.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
KATHY MAHAN

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Mahan for her dedicated service to the people of the Central Valley and to congratulate her on appointment as the Central California Regional Director with U.S. Senator ADAM B. SCHIFF.

Kathy earned her bachelor's degree in Government-Journalism from California State University, Sacramento, in 1994. In July of 2000, she started her career in Journalism working at the Fresno Bee. She served in many roles, which included Digital Editor, Audience Editor, Feature's Editor, Metro Editor, and Assistant Metro Editor. She went on to complete her master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Fresno Pacific University in 2012. For over 17 years, she dedicated her life to a career in Journalism at the Fresno Bee, leaving an undeniable mark on the company and community.

In October of 2017, Kathy assumed the role of District Director for my 16th Congressional District, serving the residents of the Central Valley. She played a pivotal role in shaping the office's outreach and operations. In this position, she was responsible for managing all district-level activities, including coordinating communication efforts, overseeing constituents' services, and leading a team dedicated to addressing the needs of the local community.

After serving as District Director for two years, Kathy became Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Jim Costa's office in January of 2019. As Deputy Chief of Staff, she served as an adviser as we transitioned to my new district, CA-21. Kathy's insight was invaluable in helping to shape priorities and positions on issues affecting Central California. Kathy's strong leadership and commitment to public service made her an indispensable figure in the office, and her dedication to the community left a lasting impact on everyone she worked with.

Kathy demonstrated the qualities of a strong leader, always making it a priority to ensure the success and development of all congressional staffers under her guidance. With her husband, Kevin Mahan, by her side, she continues to uplift the ones around her and put the community above her needs.

I invite everyone to join me in celebrating the remarkable career of my former District Director and Deputy Chief of Staff, Kathy Mahan. Her dedication and strong work ethic exemplify the true spirit of public service. Seven years ago, Kathy began her career serving the Valley and she continues her commitment to public service in the U.S. Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my esteemed colleagues to join me in honoring the career of Kathy Mahan. May her work ethic, vast knowledge and unwavering dedication continue to inspire us all in our mission to serve the people of the Central Valley. Kathy's character and passion stand as a beacon of inspiration for many.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT SENIOR OFFICER CARLOS PERALEZ

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Euless Police Department Senior Officer Carlos Perez for his service to our community and country. He proudly served our country in the United States Army for six years, with three years of active duty and three years in the reserves, before joining the Euless Police Department in April 1997.

Officer Perez has exemplified excellence and leadership throughout his career in law enforcement. He has served in various divisions, including patrol and criminal investigations, held key roles as a crime scene technician, bicycle unit officer, and crisis negotiator for the Euless SWAT team, and served on the North East Tarrant County Area SWAT Team. His dedication to public service extends beyond tactical operations—Officer Perez became a School Resource Officer to build strong relationships between the police and youth in our community. As a neighborhood police officer with the community services division, he works to foster trust in our community through the Euless Police Inspiring Champions (EPIC) program where he and fellow officers visit local elementary schools, joining physical education classes to build connections with students and staff.

Officer Perez earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Columbia College and holds a Master Peace Officer certification. He has received numerous commendations and accolades, including the prestigious David Hofer Servant Leadership Award and the City Employee of the Month in September 2004 and January 2021. In his free time, Officer Perez continues to embrace the values of community and family that have defined his career and life, including spending time with his family, enjoying the outdoors, and raising cattle.

As Officer Perez begins his well-deserved retirement, I thank him for his devoted service to protecting our North Texas community and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Votes No. 28, No. 29, No. 30, No. 31, No. 32, No. 33, No. 34, and No. 35 on February 4, 2025, February 5, 2025, February 6, 2025, and February 7, 2025 due to the passing of my father. Had I been present, my votes would have been:

• 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.

Yea on Roll Call No. 28; Yea on Roll Call No. 29; Nay on Roll Call No. 30; Nay on Roll Call No. 31; Yea on Roll Call No. 32; Nay on Roll Call No. 33; Yea on Roll Call No. 34; and Nay on Roll Call No. 35.

CONGRATULATING JEFFREY BUTLER ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate East Donegal Township Manager Jeffrey Butler on his retirement.

For over four decades, Mr. Butler has dedicated himself to our communities, both in the private sector and in the public sector. After graduating from Millersville University, Mr. Butler worked as Manheim Township's Director of Zoning and Planning, Director of Planning at Dave Miller/Associates, and Assistant Township Manager in East Donegal Township. In 2009, he was promoted to Township Manager, where he has served East Donegal since.

During his tenure as Township Manager, Mr. Butler helped with the Donegal Region's Comprehensive Plan, which coveted the three municipalities within Donegal School District. Mr. Butler has also done much to assist with parks and recreation as well as housing in the township.

As he transitions into a well-earned retirement, the community thanks and honors Jeffrey Butler for his dedication to public service.

HONORING INRESPONSE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inRESPONSE Mental Health Support Team of the Santa Rosa Police Department. I have named the team as the California 4th District's Public Safety Hero of the Year for Sonoma County in recognition of their extraordinary selflessness, dedication, and service to our community.

Established in January 2022 in response to community calls for a mental health-first approach to crisis intervention, inRESPONSE offers a compassionate alternative to traditional emergency response. The team consists of a licensed mental health clinician, a paramedic, a homeless engagement specialist, and wrap-around service providers, all trained in de-escalation, social work interventions, and both physical and mental health evaluations.

The inRESPONSE team operates under a collaborative model, working alongside nonprofits, county-licensed mental health clinicians, and public safety officials to ensure that each call is handled with an individualized, needs-based approach. Recognizing that mental health challenges vary widely, the team provides bilingual and bi-cultural support, addressing issues such as food insecurity, substance abuse, housing instability, and long-term mental health treatment.

Though inRESPONSE works closely with the Santa Rosa Police Department, they re-

main unarmed in the field, allowing for a response centered on care rather than enforcement. This approach not only alleviates strain on law enforcement and emergency medical services but also reduces the potential for use-of-force incidents while increasing access to essential mental health care. In 2023 alone, inRESPONSE successfully diverted 4,976 calls from traditional police and emergency responders.

In 2024, inRESPONSE expanded to a 24/7 operational schedule, responding to 4,977 calls for service and nearly 1,000 additional calls for resources and support. The team diverted 4,301 calls from police response and 1,772 from fire and EMS, ensuring that those in crisis received the specialized care they needed while preserving vital emergency resources for other community needs.

Mr. Speaker, the inRESPONSE Mental Health Support Team has profoundly improved crisis intervention services in Santa Rosa, creating a safer, more supportive community. Their dedication to serving individuals in their most vulnerable moments exemplifies the spirit of public service. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize and honor them today.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE DEPARTMENT SENIOR CORPORAL WILLIAM "BILL" NORWOOD

**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Euless Police Department Senior Corporal William "Bill" Norwood in recognition of his more than three decades of service to our North Texas community and country.

Corporal Norwood's career in public service began in the United States Marine Corps, where he served honorably for six years and achieved the rank of Sergeant. He provided security at American embassies in Ankara, Turkey, and Mexico City, Mexico, and completed a special assignment in West Africa with the U.S. Department of State. Corporal Norwood's military background laid the foundation for a lifetime of leadership and service, and he has used those lessons to make a lasting impact on his colleagues and citizens across North Texas.

In June 1991, Norwood joined the Euless Police Department and quickly rose through the ranks, achieving Corporal in July 1995 and Senior Corporal in January 2015. Throughout his career, he took on roles in the bicycle patrol, criminal investigations, the narcotics task force, and as a field training officer. Corporal Norwood also served with distinction on the Northeast Tarrant County Area SWAT Team (NETCAST) as a sniper and an entry team operator. In his current role, he works as a first-line supervisor in the criminal investigation division, where his leadership and expertise continue to inspire those around him.

Corporal Norwood pursued extensive training, specializing in Identity Kit System of Facial Identification, Raid Planning & High-Risk Warrant Preparation, the Texas Narcotic Control Program, and Basic Instruction. He holds a Master Peace Officer certification and is a TCOLE-certified firearms instructor, showcasing his commitment to professional devel-

opment and public safety. Norwood has been recognized on multiple occasions, including a commendation by the U.S. Marshals Service Office in 1991 for assisting in the apprehension of a federal fugitive, recognition as Employee of the Month in July 1995 and April 2013, and achieving the Distinguished Service of the Year (Sworn) Award in 2012. As a proud member of the Euless Police Department Honor Guard, Bill has always represented his department with dignity and pride.

Beyond his professional achievements, Corporal Norwood is a devoted family man who enjoys spending time with loved ones and is an avid outdoorsman. As he begins his well-deserved retirement, I thank him for his decades of service to our community and country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SUPERIOR COURT JURY DUTY FOR SENIORS OPT OUT ACT OF 2025

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 24, 2025*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Superior Court Jury Duty for Seniors Opt Out Act of 2025, which would allow individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service in D.C.'s local trial court, the Superior Court.

Most federal courts allow individuals 70 years of age or older to opt out of jury service, including the federal district court for D.C. A majority of states have similar provisions for their courts.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, the D.C. Council does not have authority to amend title 11 of the D.C. Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts). This bill would amend title 11.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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 25, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## FEBRUARY 26

10 a.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act implementation and case studies. SD-406

Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multi VSOs: Minority Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A, National Association of County Veterans Services Officers, Military Officers Association of America, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Wounded Warrior Project. 390-CHOB

10:15 a.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-226

10:30 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. SH-216

11 a.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine interdicting illicit drug trafficking, focusing on a view from the front lines. SR-253

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Subcommittee on Digital Assets  
To hold hearings to examine bipartisan legislative frameworks for digital assets. SD-538

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine managing risk for the long-term in the 7(a) loan program, focusing on hearing from lenders. SR-428A

Select Committee on Intelligence  
Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters; to be immediately followed by a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219

3:30 p.m.  
Special Committee on Aging  
To hold hearings to examine combating the opioid epidemic. SD-106

## FEBRUARY 27

9 a.m.  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget. SD-342

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 nominations of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Abigail Slater, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice. SH-216

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy. SD-G50

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor, and other pending calendar business. SD-562

10 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee,

to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and routine lists in the Coast Guard. SR-253

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor. SD-562

10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety  
To hold hearings to examine cargo theft, focusing on the threat to consumers and the U.S. supply chain. SR-253

11:45 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces  
To receive a closed briefing on global nuclear and missile threats. SVC-217

## MARCH 4

10 a.m.  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and multi VSOs: Paralyzed Veterans of America, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Student Veterans of America, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. SD-G50

## MARCH 5

10 a.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator, and Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-406

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1305–S1316*

**Measures Introduced:** Seventeen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 683–699, and S. Res. 90–92. **Pages S1311–12**

**Measures Reported:**

S. Res. 90, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations. **Page S1311**

**Measures Passed:**

**National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 92, designating February 16, 2025, as “National Elizabeth Peratrovich Day”. **Page S1316**

**Driscoll Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army. **Pages S1305–08**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 66 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. EX. 88), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1307–08**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, all time be expired on the nominations of Daniel Driscoll, and Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader in consultation with the Democratic Leader, no earlier than Tuesday, February 25, 2025, with respect to the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, and Wednesday, February 26, 2025, with respect to the nomination of Jamieson Greer. **Page S1307**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, February 25, 2025; that at 11:15 a.m., Senate execute the order of Monday, February 24, 2025 with respect to the nomination of Daniel Driscoll; that following disposition of the nomination, Senate resume Legislative Session and the Majority Leader be recognized; and that if a motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 11, providing for congressional

disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to “Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources”, is made, and that motion is agreed to, all time during recess count equally between proponents and opponents. **Page S1316**

**Greer Nomination:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jamieson Greer, of Maryland, to be United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador. **Page S1308**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 55 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 89), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1308**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S1310**

**Measures Discharged:** **Page S1310**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S1310–11**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S1312–13**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S1313–16**

**Additional Statements:** **Page S1310**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—89) **Page S1308**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1316.)

### Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 119th Congress:

*Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation:* Senators Moran (Chair), Thune, Budd, Schmitt, Sheehy, Capito, Duckworth, Rosen, Hickenlooper, Fetterman, and Kim.

*Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Media:* Senators Fischer (Chair), Thune, Wicker, Moran, Sullivan, Blackburn, Young, Budd, Schmitt, Curtis, Moreno, Sheehy, Capito, Lummis, Luján, Klobuchar, Schatz, Markey, Peters, Baldwin, Duckworth, Rosen, Hickenlooper, Fetterman, Kim, and Blunt Rochester.

*Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data Privacy:* Senators Blackburn (Chair), Thune, Fischer, Moran, Young, Curtis, Capito, Lummis, Hickenlooper, Klobuchar, Schatz, Markey, Baldwin, Luján, and Blunt Rochester.

*Subcommittee on Coast Guard, Maritime, and Fisheries:* Senators Sullivan (Chair), Wicker, Curtis, Moreno,

Sheehy, Blunt Rochester, Schatz, Peters, and Baldwin.

*Subcommittee on Science, Manufacturing, and Competitiveness:* Senators Budd (Chair), Blackburn, Young, Schmitt, Moreno, Lummis, Baldwin, Peters, Rosen, Hickenlooper, and Blunt Rochester.

*Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety:* Senators Young (Chair), Thune, Wicker, Fischer, Sullivan, Schmitt, Moreno, Capito, Peters, Klobuchar, Schatz, Markey, Duckworth, Luján, and Kim.

*Senators Cruz and Cantwell are ex officio members of each subcommittee.*

## House of Representatives

### Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 36 public bills, H.R. 1514–1549; and 10 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 15; and H. Res. 152–160 were introduced. **Pages H766–69**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H770**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Begich to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H733**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:31 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H736**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H737**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:20 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H748**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Assisting Small Businesses Not Fraudsters Act:** H.R. 825, to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 405 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 43; **Pages H737–39, H748**

**Small Business Advocacy Improvements Act of 2025:** H.R. 832, to clarify the primary functions and duties of the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 396 yeas to 15 nays, Roll No. 44;

**Pages H739–40, H749**

**Small Business Procurement and Utilization Reform Act of 2025:** H.R. 818, to amend the Small

Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 384 yeas to 25 nays, Roll No. 45; **Pages H740–42, H749–50**

**Investing in Main Street Act of 2025:** H.R. 754, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that may be invested in small business investment companies; and

**Pages H743–45**

**Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans Act:** H.R. 828, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task force, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals. **Pages H746–48**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

**DOE and SBA Research Act:** H.R. 788, to provide for Department of Energy and Small Business Administration joint research and development activities; and **Pages H742–43**

**Rural Small Business Resilience Act:** H.R. 804, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas.

**Pages H745–46**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H748, H749, and H749–50.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

## *Committee Meetings*

### **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; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL RELATING TO ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL RELATING TO WASTE EMISSIONS CHARGE**

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H. Con. Res. 14, 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; H.J. Res. 20, 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”; and H.J. Res. 35, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–4, a rule providing for consideration of H.J. Res. 20, 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”, H.J. Res. 35, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions”, and H. Con. Res. 14, 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. The rule provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 20, 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”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that

the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 35, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Waste Emissions Charge for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems: Procedures for Facilitating Compliance, Including Netting and Exemptions”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution. The rule provides that the joint resolution shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the joint resolution. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 14, 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, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution. The rule provides three hours of debate with two hours confined to the congressional budget equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees and one hour on the subject of economic goals and policies equally divided and controlled by Representative Schweikert of Arizona and Representative Beyer of Virginia or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment printed in the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the concurrent resolution, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule permits the chair of the Committee on the Budget to offer amendments in the House pursuant to section 305(a)(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to achieve mathematical consistency. Finally, the rule provides that the concurrent resolution shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question of its adoption. Testimony was heard from Chairman Arrington, Chairman Guthrie, and Representatives Boyle of Pennsylvania, Tonko, Scott of Virginia, and Kaptur.



## FROM RESET TO ROLLOUT: CAN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEM PROGRAM FINALLY DELIVER?

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "From Reset to Rollout: Can the VA EHRM Program Finally Deliver?". Testimony was heard from Neil Evans, M.D., Acting Program Executive Director, Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office, Department of Veterans Affairs; David Case, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; Carol Harris, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity Issues, Government Accountability Office; and a public witness.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations, 4 p.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on Rules and Administration:* business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee, an original resolution entitled, "Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution", and adoption of committee rules of procedure for the 119th Congress, 2 p.m., S-219, Capitol.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans and multi VSOs: AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Blinded Veterans Association, Veterans Education Success, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., and Reserve Organization of America, 10 a.m., 390-CHOB.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

### House

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 1", 9:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "The State of the Civil Works Program", 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 1", 1:30 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled "Member Day", 3 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Full Committee, markup on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, hearing entitled "Examining Policies to Counter China", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, hearing entitled "Missed Milestones: Evaluating The Last Four Years in the EAP Region and Unseized Opportunities Under President Trump", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on House Administration,* Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee's Oversight and Authorization Plan, 12 p.m., 1309 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled "Entering the Golden Age: Ending the Weaponization of the Justice Department", 2 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, hearing entitled "'Subject to the Jurisdiction Thereof: Birthright Citizenship and the Fourteenth Amendment", 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled "Entering the Golden Age: Ending the Weaponization of the Justice Department", 2 p.m., 2237 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Full Blast: Contrasting Momentum in the Space Mining Economy to the Terrestrial Mining Regulatory Morass", 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled "Federal Indian Trust Asset Management: Progress Made But Improvement Needed", 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform,* Subcommittee on Military and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled "Emerging Global Threats: Putting America's National Security First", 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan, 12:45 p.m., HVC-210.

Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Government Accountability Office's 2025 High Risk List", 1 p.m., HVC-210.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled “Promoting and Improving Safety and Efficient Pipeline Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 472, the “Restore VA Accountability Act of 2025”; H.R. 1041, the “Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act”; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system; H.R. 740, the “Veterans’ ACCESS Act of 2025”; and legislation on the Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act of 2025, 2 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Subcommittee on Trade, hearing entitled “Hearing on American Trade Enforcement Priorities”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

### Joint Meeting

*Joint Hearing*: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans and multi VSOs: AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Blinded Veterans Association, Veterans Education Success, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., and Reserve Organization of America, 10 a.m., 390-CHOB.

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## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 25 through February 28, 2025

### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army, post-cloture, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 11:15 a.m. Following which, Senate will vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 11, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to “Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources”, at approximately 12 noon.

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 Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*: February 26, to hold hearings to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on farmer and rancher views on the agricultural economy, 10:30 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Armed Services*: February 25, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

February 25, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, to receive a closed briefing on Department of Defense cyber operations, 4 p.m., SVC-217.

February 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

February 27, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to receive a closed briefing on global nuclear and missile threats, 11:45 a.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs*: February 26, Subcommittee on Digital Assets, to hold hearings to examine bipartisan legislative frameworks for digital assets, 2:30 p.m., SD-538.

February 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation*: February 25, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael Kratsios, of South Carolina, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, 10 a.m., SR-253.

February 26, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine interdicting illicit drug trafficking, focusing on a view from the front lines, 11 a.m., SR-253.

February 27, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nomination of Steven Bradbury, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation, and routine lists in the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SR-253.

February 27, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety, to hold hearings to examine cargo theft, focusing on the threat to consumers and the U.S. supply chain, 10:30 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works*: February 26, to hold hearings to examine Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act implementation and case studies, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*: February 27, business meeting to consider the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor, and other pending calendar business, 9:30 a.m., SD-562.

February 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Keith Sonderling, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*: February 25, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

February 27, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and James

Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 9 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* February 26, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

February 27, 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 nominations of Todd Blanche, of Florida, to be Deputy Attorney General, and Abigail Slater, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Rules and Administration:* February 25, business meeting to consider an original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee, an original resolution entitled, "Omnibus Committee Funding Resolution", and adoption of committee rules of procedure for the 119th Congress, 2 p.m., S-219, Capitol.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* February 26, to hold hearings to examine managing risk for the long-term in the 7(a) loan program, focusing on hearing from lenders, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* February 25, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans and multi VSOs: AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Blinded Veterans Association, Veterans Education Success, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., and Reserve Organization of America, 10 a.m., 390-CHOB.

February 26, Full Committee, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multi VSOs: Minority Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A, National Association of County Veterans Services Officers, Military Officers Association of America, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Wounded Warrior Project, 10 a.m., 390-CHOB.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* February 25, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

February 26, Full Committee, 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.

*Special Committee on Aging:* February 26, to hold hearings to examine combating the opioid epidemic, 3:30 p.m., SD-106.

### House Committees

*Committee on Appropriations,* February 26, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 2", 9:30 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Federal Investments in Elementary Education", 10:30 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian

and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 2", 1:30 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, oversight hearing on the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 2 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "American Indian and Alaska Native Public Witness Hearing Day 3", 9 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services,* February 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Strengthening America's Defense Industrial Base, Workforce, and Production Lines to Deter War", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled "The Role of Special Operations in Great Power Competition", 1:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* February 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Unleashing America's Workforce and Strengthening Our Economy", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* February 26, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "An Examination of How Reining in PBMs Will Drive Competition and Lower Costs for Patients", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Examining the Biden Administration's Energy and Environment Spending Push", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* February 26, Subcommittee on Capital Markets, hearing entitled "The Future of American Capital: Strengthening Public and Private Markets by Increasing Investor Access and Facilitating Capital Formation", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* February 26, Full Committee, markup on the Committee's Oversight Plan; H.R. 1000, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for education and training programs and resources of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; H. Res. 113, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives certain documents relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities related to the security of Department information and data and the recruitment and retention of its workforce; and H. Res. 114, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit to the House of Representatives certain documents relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities related to domestic preparedness and collective response to terrorism and the Department's cybersecurity activities, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* February 26, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 875, the "Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act"; H.R. 176, the "No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act"; H.R. 1071, the "No Censors on our Shores Act"; and the Committee's Authorization and Oversight Plan, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 27, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled "Protecting

Victims of Human Trafficking and Online Exploitation”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, February 26, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing entitled “Evaluating the Implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, February 26, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “Leading the Charge: Opportunities to Strengthen America’s Energy Reliability”, 9:30 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

February 26, Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency, hearing entitled “America Last: How Foreign Aid Undermined U.S. Interests Around the World”, 11 a.m., 210 Capitol.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, February 26, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “Step by Step: The Artemis Program and NASA’s Path To Human Exploration of the Moon, Mars, and Beyond”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, February 26, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Fostering American Innovation: Insights into SBIR and STTR Programs”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, February 26, Full Committee, markup on the Committee’s Authorization and Oversight Plan; H.R. 1182, the “Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety and Oversight Improvements Act of 2025”; H. Con. Res. 9, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; H.R. 501, the “Promoting Resilient Buildings Act of 2025”; H.R. 744, the “Disaster Management

Costs Modernization Act”; and H.R. 1382, to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to San Francisco Bay restoration, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, February 26, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1491, the “Disaster Related Extension of Deadlines Act”; H.R. 517, the “Filing Relief for Natural Disasters Act”; H.J. Res. 25, disapproving the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service related to “Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

### Joint Meeting

*Joint Hearing*: February 25, Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of Disabled American Veterans and multi VSOs: AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Blinded Veterans Association, Veterans Education Success, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., and Reserve Organization of America, 10 a.m., 390–CHOB.

February 26, Full Committee, to hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of The American Legion and multi VSOs: Minority Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A, National Association of County Veterans Services Officers, Military Officers Association of America, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, D’Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families, and Wounded Warrior Project, 10 a.m., 390–CHOB.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 25

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Tuesday, February 25

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army, post-cloture, with a vote on confirmation of the nomination at approximately 11:15 a.m. Following which, Senate will vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 11, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management relating to “Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources”, at approximately 12 noon.

*(Following the vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 11, Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Measures considered under suspension of the Rules.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

Costa, Jim, Calif., E153  
Garamendi, John, Calif., E153  
Jayapal, Pramila, Wash., E153  
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia,  
E154  
Smucker, Lloyd, Pa., E154  
Thompson, Mike, Calif., E154  
Van Duyne, Beth, Tex., E153, E154



# Congressional Record

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