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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 13, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS 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.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, for the last 5 months, across the country, people have been waiting with bated breath to see what this big, beautiful bill is that the Republicans have been working on behind closed doors, much of it down in Florida putting it together, particularly America's healthcare sector. It has been clear from the outset that the Medicaid program, the program which provides

more coverage for more Americans than any other program, 72 million Americans, was a target in this budget reconciliation bill.

Over the weekend, the measure had been released and we finally get to see what, in fact, it looks like. The chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, who is a good friend and a good guy, came right out and said that Democrats are going to use this as an opportunity to engage in fear-mongering and misrepresent our bill as an attack on Medicaid.

Madam Speaker, it is not just Democrats and Republicans that have an opinion about what is happening here, it is about the people that the Medicaid cuts are going to impact, particularly our healthcare sector, particularly the hospital sector.

This morning, Politico's headline shows what their reaction has been over the last 48 hours, which is "Hospital groups slam cuts to Medicaid in megabill."

This is a sector that has many trade associations, the biggest one, the American Hospital Association, came right out and said that it will lead to millions of Americans losing access to healthcare and leaving many of our hospitals struggling to maintain services and stay open for their communities.

The Catholic Health Association said, Congress has a moral obligation to consider the harm that this would have for America's most vulnerable communities, cascading effects of lost coverage and cost-shifting will impact nearly every American.

Children's hospitals, who depend on Medicaid, can't cost-shift to older patients on Medicare. They have been blasting this proposal from day one and they have continued it.

Essential hospitals, which are the safety net hospitals for this country, have also said that it is going to lead to closures of hospitals as well as the private-sector hospitals.

The Federation of American Hospitals, Director Chip Kahn, came right out and said that it is imperative that congressional Republicans go back to the drawing board. Too many lives depend on it.

The American Cancer Society, not a Democrat organization, said the results of these Medicaid cuts will be devastating. Lives will be lost and State economies will suffer.

It is not too late for this Congress to finally engage in a bipartisan negotiation about ways that we can address the budget deficit and protect the most vulnerable people in our country, but unfortunately, part of this plan, this, megabill, is a tax cut, and this chart shows who benefits.

This bar here, that is the rich folks in this country, the top 20 percent; everybody else gets peanuts. That is what this cut is aimed at trying to offset, the impact, the fiscal impact, on the deficit that these tax cuts will produce over the next 10 years.

The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget issued their report last night and they conclude that this plan is going to add \$4 trillion to the national debt. That is even with the cuts that were part of the Medicaid plan, which I talked about a little bit more. We have a bill, which is going to cut services, basically put one of our most vulnerable sectors in our economy which we all rely on, our hospitals, at greater financial risk all for the benefit of the small slice of America's population and it is going to add to our national debt, which according to what the committee said is now \$36.2 trillion.

Last month, we paid \$89 billion in interest on that national debt. That is the second biggest expenditure for the Federal Government. It is bigger than the Department of Defense last month in terms of what was paid, and that is what we are faced with.

□ 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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H1951

This is a gut check moment for this country in terms of where are your values? Where are your priorities? Are you going to listen to the caring professionals, the people who are the nurses and the people that take care of us in times of healthcare crisis? Are we going to listen to that top 1 percent who are clamoring to make sure that their tax cuts—the Bezos, the Musks, the Gateses—they don't really need the help. The people who are working their butts off every day in hospital wards making sure that we are all healthy and safe and cared for, they are the ones that need the help.

We need to reject these Medicaid cuts and reject this plan. Let's go back to the drawing board, as Mr. Kahn said from the Federation of American Hospitals, and do it the right way. Let's protect our values and protect our priorities, which all Americans depend on.

DELIVERING ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S AGENDA

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the House Energy and Commerce and the House Ways and Means Committees will hold markups on their respective portions of President Trump's big, beautiful bill this week.

This bill is our chance to lock in the agenda that the American people voted for in November by cutting out waste, fraud, and abuse, supporting small businesses, and supporting the American working class.

This legislation that we have produced in the Energy and Commerce Committee will strengthen Medicaid for low-income children, for pregnant women, for the elderly, and for those with disabilities. For far too long, illegal immigrants and able-bodied Americans, who can return to the workforce, have been draining funds from the citizens who deserve and need Medicaid.

This ends now. The Ways and Means Committee is also delivering on President Trump's agenda by permanently extending the President's 2017 tax cuts. Our small businesses will continue to prosper. Also included in this big, beautiful bill is the removal of taxes on tips. It removes taxes on Social Security. It removes taxes on overtime, finally giving relief to the American middle class.

Additionally, this legislation also removes the tax-exempt status on university endowments like the more than \$50 billion endowment that Harvard controls. The American people voted for an agenda that roots out waste, fraud, and abuse of our programs and gives the middle class the economic boost that they need.

Today, marks the beginning of delivering on President Trump's agenda.

HONORING OUR COURAGEOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week is National Police

Week, where we have an opportunity to honor the courageous law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line each and every day to protect us.

On the House floor this week, we will address the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Reform Act, legislation to allow our active and retired law enforcement officers the ability to conceal carry firearms where it may normally be restricted.

Our law enforcement officers are committed to protecting their communities and their fellow citizens, and they receive rigorous training throughout their careers. By allowing these brave men and women the opportunity to conceal carry where it is normally restricted, these local heroes will have the ability to respond to emergencies whether they are on duty or not.

Last Congress, I proudly supported this legislation on the House floor, and this Congress I look forward to seeing this commonsense legislation pass the House and the Senate so that President Trump can finally sign this into law.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF ROBERT GLENNY OF GETTYSBURG

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of Gettysburg Police Chief Robert Glennly as he makes the next step in his career.

Chief Glennly attended Juniata College before beginning his 35-year career as a law enforcement officer with the last 6 years spent as the chief of police in the Gettysburg Police Department.

Before arriving in Gettysburg, Chief Glennly started his career in the Ferguson Township, Pennsylvania, Police Department, where he spent 26 years on the force.

During his time in Ferguson Township, Chief Glennly held roles that included patrol officer, traffic enforcement, and police sergeant.

Then, after a brief stop in Colorado to serve as the police chief there, Chief Glennly returned to Pennsylvania to proudly serve the people of Gettysburg.

During this time, Chief Glennly worked tirelessly to improve public safety and to build strong relationships within the community. As he moves on to his next position, the chief of police is held in high esteem in Gettysburg.

Madam Speaker, I thank him for his leadership and his ability to serve his community and wish him all the best in his next endeavors.

HONORING JOHN MASSIMILLA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of the president of WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital, John Massimilla.

For 35 years, John has worked in Pennsylvania healthcare, working to ensure that patients throughout the Commonwealth have access to the care that they need.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have had the privilege of visiting John Massimilla and the WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital multiple times, and I am always thankful for his insight and commitment to the community.

John always looks to increase the hospital's ability to implement innovative treatments, truly elevating the level of care at the hospital. Additionally, under John's leadership, the WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital has implemented state-of-the-art security systems.

Throughout his career, he has exemplified what a true healthcare administrator brings to the equation.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate John on his retirement.

HONORING TOM NICHOLS

(Mr. HILL of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Tom Nichols, a longtime radio host and owner of KVRE, a beloved radio station in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas.

Through nearly seven decades on the radio, Tom has done more than inform and entertain. He has a trusted voice, a steady presence, and a true reflection of the character and kindness that define Arkansas at its best.

His show, "Ask Your Neighbor," has been on the air for 45 years. It is a daily reminder of the value of connection, offering a place where neighbors can come together, share what matters, and strengthen the bonds of community.

Therefore, it is with great pride that we recognize Tom Nichols today for his induction in the Arkansas Walk of Fame, an honor that he has earned many times over for his outstanding contributions to our community.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING RAYE MONTAGUE'S LEGACY

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Raye Montague, whose creativity has earned her a place on the 2025 American Innovation \$1 Coin, representing our State of Arkansas.

In 1972, Mrs. Montague made history by creating the first computer-generated rough draft of a naval ship, the USS *Oliver Hazard Perry*. This was a groundbreaking achievement that revolutionized ship design.

Mrs. Montague's work has not only reshaped the U.S. Navy's approach to engineering, but demonstrated the transformative power of technology in the defense of our country.

Ultimately, for Mrs. Montague's efforts, she was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame. In addition, she was awarded the Meritorious Civilian Service Award by the U.S. Navy.

Upon her return to Little Rock, I was pleased to meet Mrs. Montague and hear her inspirational story firsthand. Montague's visionary coin design was chosen by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee. The coin depicts Mrs. Montague and the ship that she crafted with her groundbreaking model.

It is fitting that we celebrate Mrs. Raye Montague's legacy. Years later,

her work continues to inspire creativity in the field of engineering and technology.

COMMENDING DR. CHRISTINA DRALE

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Dr. Christina Drale, the chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for receiving the E. Joseph Savoie Chief Executive Leadership award.

This prestigious honor recognizes presidents and chancellors who demonstrate exceptional leadership in advancing innovation and collaboration within their institutions. Dr. Drale is the first Arkansan in over a decade to receive and earn this recognition.

She became the chancellor 5 years ago after serving as the interim executive vice chancellor and provost at UA Little Rock.

From the beginning, she led with purpose, implementing significant changes to strengthen the university, such as implementing a partnership program with local businesses, offering employees scholarships for tuition, and other education opportunities at the university. Additionally, under her leadership, UA Little Rock has seen historic enrollment growth and improved retention rates.

These are just a few of the examples that highlight her outstanding service, accomplishments, and visionary leadership in higher education in central Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I offer congratulations to Dr. Drale.

THE TRUTH STILL MATTERS

(Mr. THANEDAR of Michigan was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THANEDAR. Madam Speaker, when I was sworn into office, I took an oath to protect the Constitution of this great Nation.

I am an immigrant who came to this country with just \$20 in my pocket. The United States has given me so much. I love America, and I will do anything to protect our Constitution and our democratic values.

President Donald J. Trump has been committing crimes since day one: bribery, corruption, taking power from Congress, creating an unlawful office in DOGE, violating First Amendment rights, ignoring due process, and, finally, refusing to abide by a unanimous Supreme Court ruling.

Just as I stand here in the House of Representatives, Mr. Trump is traveling to the Middle East to accept a gift worth \$400 million from a foreign government. I have spoken with Americans all over the country. They asked me: What will you do as President Trump continues his unconstitutional activities? Well, Madam Speaker, I rise today to hold this President accountable.

The fact of the matter is, the President has committed crime after crime. I am not concerned about whether this is the right time or if there are enough votes from my colleagues across the

aisle. I rise today to do my duty and uphold my oath to protect the Constitution.

The effort is not about partisanship. It is about principles. If we don't draw the line now, we risk losing the rule of law entirely. If we don't act today, we are complicit in letting democracy erode on our watch.

That is why I introduced H. Res. 353 to impeach Donald J. Trump, outlining seven Articles of Impeachment because when a President violates the Constitution, Congress must act.

My seven Articles in H. Res. 353 are as follows:

1. Obstruction of justice and abuse of executive powers. Trump denied due process and defied Federal court orders.

2. Seizing Congress' power of the purse. He froze funds and dismantled agencies without congressional approval.

3. Abuse of trade powers and international aggression. His reckless tariffs hurt American families, and he even threatened military actions against our allies.

4. Violation of First Amendment rights. Trump retaliated against journalists and critics for speaking out.

5. Creation of an unlawful office. He gave Elon Musk unconstitutional control over government agencies and American people's personal data.

6. Bribery and corruption. Trump dismissed criminal cases and accepted foreign payments for personal gain.

7. Tyrannical overreach. His actions reveal a dangerous attempt to consolidate unchecked power.

This is not leadership. This is dictatorship. We have Presidents, not kings. If we allow this to continue, we are telling the American people that the Presidency is above the law and that the Constitution is optional.

When Trump ignored Court rulings, we called it out. When he threatened the peaceful transfer of power, we pushed back. When he tried to dismantle Federal institutions, we said: No more.

Now we are fighting—in the courts, in Congress, and in the court of public opinion—because the truth still matters. I call on my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to do what is right: Impeach Donald J. Trump. Let's keep fighting.

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

HONORING TROOPER CLAY MATTHEW CARNS

(Mr. BOST of Illinois was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Illinois Trooper Clay Matthew Carns, who was tragically killed in the line of duty on December 23, 2024.

Clay Carns was born on October 23, 1989, in Carbondale, Illinois, to Danny

and Patricia Carns. First home schooled, he later graduated from Pinckneyville High School and went on to earn a communications degree from the University of Illinois. He proudly answered the call to public service and joined the Illinois State Police in 2014.

On December 23 of last year, Trooper Carns stopped to remove roadside debris along Interstate 55 when he was struck by a passing motorist and tragically killed.

Throughout his dedicated years of service, Trooper Carns embodied the highest standard of a law enforcement officer. He was awarded a Medal of Honor Department Commendation, a Unit Meritorious Performance award, and many other commendations for his commitment to public safety.

Beyond his service, Trooper Carns had a strong devotion to his family. He was a devoted husband to his loving wife, Meghan, and a proud father to Gray and Ally. Trooper Carns took great delight in fatherhood, describing his family as the light of his life.

He is also survived by his parents; as well as his siblings, Erica, Chad, and Elyssa; and a large and loving extended family.

Madam Speaker, Trooper Clay Matthew Carns embodied the heroism and devotion to others we expect from our finest law enforcement officers. He committed his life to serving and protecting.

While we mourn the loss of a precious life gone far too soon, I know he leaves a legacy that lives on in the hearts of those he loved and who loved him.

Madam Speaker, in addition to honoring Trooper Carns, this week we also honor those police officers who have served around this Nation as they come here to Washington. We say thank you and remember that they served us every day. This week, we also will honor those like State Trooper Carns who fell in the line of duty. Please, Madam Speaker, we must remember those who serve us so well.

HONORING NONNIE ALVIS "WHITEY" SMITH

(Mr. WOMACK of Arkansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. WOMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Nonnie Alvis "Whitey" Smith of Rogers, Arkansas, who passed away on April 25, 2025, at the age of 88.

Anyone with connections to the athletic programs at Rogers High School either knew him personally or fully recognized what he has meant to Mountie athletics. No one I know or have ever known has done more for the program—not a coach, not a player, not anyone.

It all started back in the 1950s when Whitey himself was a Rogers Mountie. Playing tackle on the football team, he was the team's most valuable player in 1955. In that same year, he became the first from Rogers to play in the Arkansas All Star football game.

While his athletic pursuits were quite enough to make him a Rogers Mountie Hall of Famer, his greatest contributions, Madam Speaker, came over the next nearly 70 years as a friend of the program.

First, it was as a volunteer, working with and for the program to make sure every athlete had what they needed to succeed. The passion was intense. The ingredient? Chicken. Yes, chicken.

For 55 years, Whitey's Chicken Cookin' Crew gathered at a pit near the tracks on Locust Street, and over that span raised an estimated \$1.5 million. The aroma emanating from the pit had a unique and mysterious way of slowing traffic to a halt. Passersby knew two things: Five bucks would get you a delicious meal, and those dollars would flow right back into the community. Like Whitey always said: It is for the kids.

Whitey Smith was also a businessman, having owned and operated Ozark Fence Company for over 50 years. The headquarters was a favorite gathering place for those in his circle. The potluck events were a regular happening. It became a who's who of the community who joined in the fun.

I also knew when I drove down Cherry Street and saw his pickup between the tracks and the shop, Whitey was there, likely planning his next benefit.

Madam Speaker, I know that in every community big and small there are individuals who have a special fondness for serving. In Rogers, that guy was Whitey Smith.

Inducted into the Rogers High School Hall of Fame in 1990, he was a staple in the community, and today the football stadium and a scholarship bear his name.

Whitey was well into his public service when I played against Rogers in the 1970s, but after moving to Rogers in 1979 and for 12 years as its mayor, I can attest to the tireless and selfless work of this pillar of the community.

It is my high honor to recognize him here on the floor of the House of Representatives for his contributions to the kids and his personal example.

To Janice, Becky, Tim, and his extended family, our heartfelt sorrow for their loss. May Nonnie Alvis "Whitey" Smith rest in eternal peace. May his legacy of service and compassion always inspire and be remembered.

□ 1230

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 30 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:

Eternal God, Your wisdom has taught us that there is a time for everything, and there is a season for all things.

We celebrate the birth of loved ones and grieve the death of those who matter most to us. We look for opportunity to plant and plan carefully the time to reap. The same is true for our inclination to tear down and our desire to build.

On this day, may we recognize the moments that we are meant to be silent and hold our tongues and then use carefully the time we are given to speak Your truth. May our love be for Your perfect will and our hate employed only by Your righteous right hand.

You, O Lord, have made everything beautiful in its time, and You have set eternity in our hearts, yet no one can fathom Your gracious intent.

Grant us patience as we wrestle with the things we cannot accept. Grant us strength as we dare to change the things that arrive in our time to change and Your eternal wisdom to appreciate the season to which You have called us.

In Your holy name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CRAIG 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.

VICTORY DAY FOR WWII

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful President Donald Trump announced the United States will now mark May 8 as Victory Day for World War II to commemorate the anniversary of the American and Allied triumph over national socialism and fascism.

Aligning with the annual commemorations held by our Allies in Europe, the victory largely was due to American Armed Forces, with nearly a quarter of a million killed, 250,000. Without

the sacrifice of our soldiers, this war would not have been won, according to the White House proclamation.

Victory Day reaffirms American courage today and defeats the insane propaganda of war criminal Putin, where his stooge, Dmitry Medvedev, denounced the truth of President Donald Trump as "pretentious nonsense."

Stooge Medvedev should remember September 17, 1939, when Moscow, allied with Hitler, invaded Poland, killing 60,000 Poles in just 5 weeks, dividing the country in half.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies with fellow dictators at his Red Square military parade instead of agreeing to Trump's request for a cease-fire, saving Ukrainian lives.

HONORING BURNSVILLE FALLEN OFFICERS

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Police Week and recognize the law enforcement officers and first responders who put themselves in harm's way each and every day to keep our community safe, we must remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I rise today to honor three fallen heroes from Minnesota's Second Congressional District who lost their lives in the line of duty last year: Officers Paul Elmstrand and Matthew Ruge and Firefighter/Paramedic Adam Finseth were shot and killed while responding to a domestic violence call in Burnsville.

Their deaths have left a gaping hole in the Burnsville community and especially in our local law enforcement agencies. They will never be forgotten.

However, telling their stories is not enough. As Members of Congress, we must also recommit to making sure our officers have the resources they need to stay safe on the job so that a tragedy like this never happens again.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER "KIT" BOND

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness today that I rise to honor the life and legacy of former U.S. Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond of Missouri.

Leslie and I join the Bond family, the Show Me State, and a grateful Nation in mourning the loss of one of Missouri's favorite sons.

Kit was a true statesman and a mentor to many, including myself. He represented the highest ideal of public service.

Having served for more than 40 years, including as Missouri's youngest-ever Governor and later as United States Senator, Kit's impact can be felt all over Missouri and across America.

Through various roles, Senator Bond prioritized improving care for our Nation's veterans, providing support for a strong and well-equipped U.S. military, and delivering for the residents of his beloved Missouri. We are proud to continue his legacy of service on the Appropriations Committee today.

It brings me hope to know that Kit now rests with his Heavenly Father, and we are eternally grateful for his lifetime of service.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL CARL MILLER

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, a distinguished resident of Indialantic, Florida, Lance Corporal Carl Miller.

While serving in Vietnam, he was critically wounded by a mortar but survived through remarkable courage. For his valor, he received the Purple Heart and was later inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

However, his service did not end on the battlefield. Corporal Miller continues to lead and inspire. He has served as commander of the Space Coast Chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and he actively mentors Brevard County JROTC programs and students, shaping the next generation of proud Americans.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Carl Miller exemplifies the very best of our Nation's values. I am proud to honor his service and his lifelong commitment to his fellow veterans and our home community. I salute my friend, Lance Corporal Carl Miller.

THANKING LYNN MINGES

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

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Lynn Minges as she steps down from her role as president and CEO of the North Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association.

We worked together during my time as speaker of the North Carolina House, and I have seen her fight for the folks who run our restaurants, hotels, and other institutions during some of the industry's biggest challenges like the COVID shutdowns when so many were just trying to stay afloat.

One of her biggest wins with her team was helping pass the brunch bill,

which gave businesses more flexibility and modernized some of our State's regulations. She was also a major advocate for recovery funds to help restaurants and hotels hit hardest by the pandemic. That kind of support made a real difference for people across North Carolina.

She has had a steady hand in the industry for job creators that mean a lot to our State's economy. I wish her well in this next chapter, and I thank her for her years of service.

PROTECTING OUR CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, when I was sworn into office, I took an oath to protect the Constitution of this great Nation.

I am an immigrant who came to this country with just \$20 in my pocket. The United States has given me so much. I love America, and I will do anything to protect our Constitution and our democratic values.

Donald J. Trump has been committing crimes since day one: bribery, corruption, taking power from Congress, creating an unlawful office in DOGE, violating First Amendment rights, ignoring due process, and finally refusing to abide by a unanimous Supreme Court ruling.

Just as I stand here in the House of Representatives, Mr. Trump is traveling to the Middle East to accept a gift worth \$400 million from a foreign government.

I have spoken with Americans all over the country.

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

□ 1415

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 353: Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolution: Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Resolved, That Donald John Trump, President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors, and that the following articles of impeachment be exhibited to the Senate:

Article of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives of the United States of America in the name

of itself and of the people of the United States of America, against Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, in maintenance and support of its impeachment against him for high crimes and misdemeanors.

ARTICLE I: OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE, VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS, AND A BREACH OF THE DUTY TO FAITHFULLY EXECUTE LAWS

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment" and that the President "shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors". Further, Article II of the Constitution states that the President "shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed", the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution states that "The right of the people . . . against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated", and the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution states "No person shall be . . . deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law". In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald John Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that:

Using the power of his high office, Donald John Trump has engaged in this scheme or course of conduct through the following means:

(1) By his orders and directions to subordinates, obstructed the administration of justice and embarked on a scheme to destroy and corrupt the legal system and the powers of the courts under Article III of the Constitution. Specifically, he has done the following:

(A) Directed and permitted his subordinates and attorneys at the Department of Justice to violate their oaths to uphold the Constitution, laws of the United States, and the rules of professional ethics by adducing misleading and willfully false representations to the courts of the United States, and to otherwise abuse their official powers. Specifically, he has—

(i) sought to dismiss, without prejudice and under false pretenses, the bribery and fraud charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams, in an unethical quid pro quo exchange for the Defendant's cooperation with the Administration's political priorities, thus abusing the criminal laws to unconstitutionally commandeer a State officer and unit of government in violation of the sovereignty thereof; and

(ii) terminated and purged career Department of Justice attorneys without reasonable cause and in violation of the law in retaliation for their legitimate investigatory and prosecutorial

work under prior administrations, including in relation to the January 6, 2021, attack on the United States Capitol, and in retaliation for attorneys upholding their ethical and legal obligations including candor and honesty to the courts.

(B) Directed and permitted the evasion and defiance of binding court orders. Specifically, he has—

(i) removed persons from the United States to El Salvador despite an order from the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, for which said Court has found probable cause that the Government committed acts of criminal contempt;

(ii) removed Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia from the United States to El Salvador despite a binding Withholding of Removal order prohibiting the government from removing him to El Salvador;

(iii) defied court orders, upheld by a unanimous ruling of the Supreme Court, to facilitate the release of Mr. Abrego Garcia, and related orders to provide information to the court and opposing counsel, while publicly flaunting their refusal;

(iv) acted in contempt of court for violating a court-sanctioned settlement agreement; and

(v) conducted enforced disappearances of persons without due process and without disclosing their fate and location to their families and legal counsel, in violation of the Constitution and the rulings of the Supreme Court, as well as the foundational principles of due process and the rule of law.

(C) Directed and permitted the deliberate and systematic violation of laws duly enacted by Congress. Specifically, he has—

(i) terminated Inspector Generals, the officers responsible for detecting and preventing waste by auditing and investigating their respective agencies' operations and personnel, in violation of the process stipulated by the Inspector Generals Act of 1974, as subsequently amended;

(ii) terminated a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board, a tribunal created to address widespread public concerns about the Federal civil service; and

(iii) unlawfully transmitted sensitive personal information of private citizens and government employees in violation of, among other Federal laws, the Privacy Act and the Administrative Procedure Act.

In all of this, Donald John Trump has willfully disregarded Federal laws and the Constitution, imperiled a coequal branch of Government, and threatened the integrity of the democratic system. He thereby betrayed his trust as President, abused the powers of the Presidency, acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and has committed the High Crimes and Misdemeanors of obstruction of justice and effecting a wide-ranging scheme to destroy and corrupt the legal system and the powers of the courts under Article III of the Constitution.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he is unfit to govern a Nation by and for the people, has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office.

ARTICLE II: USURPATION OF THE APPROPRIATIONS POWER

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment" and that the President "shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors". Further, Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution states that "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law". In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald John Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that:

Using the powers of his high office, Donald John Trump unlawfully usurped Congress and its power to appropriate funds, thereby nullifying the Appropriations Clause in the Constitution and violating the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. Since taking office, he has signed numerous Executive Orders directing agencies to withhold funds appropriated by Congress. The President does not have the power to override spending laws or impound appropriated funds, a principle affirmed by numerous Supreme Court rulings.

Donald John Trump has withheld funds and terminated en masse Federal employees and numerous Federal agencies and departments, including the following:

(1) Directed the dismantling of the Department of Education.

□ 1430

POINT OF ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend momentarily.

For what purpose does the gentleman from South Carolina seek recognition? Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Michigan was recognized for 1 minute. He has substantially exceeded 1 minute with absurdity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Actually, the gentleman had been recognized for a 1-minute speech. He then was recognized subsequently to give notice under rule IX for a resolution, so the gentleman has the floor for that purpose.

The gentleman from Michigan may continue.

Mr. THANEDAR. As enacted in the Department of Education Organization Act, signed into law by President Jimmy Carter, the Department of Edu-

cation was established by Congress to create reform in the education system throughout the country, distribute Federal aid to students and places of learning, and prohibit discriminatory practices. The President does not have the authority to dismantle the Department of Education, and his signing of Executive Order 14242, which aims to "Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities", violates the law and the Constitution.

(2) Unlawfully directed the elimination of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). As enacted in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, signed into law by President John F. Kennedy, USAID plays a crucial role in delivering foreign assistance worldwide, including disaster relief, conflict relief, combating global diseases, promoting educational programs, and enhancing food security in developing countries. By dismantling USAID and freezing foreign assistance, he has severed the United States from its humanitarian role as directed by Congress, leaving other countries and potentially our adversaries to fill in the role the United States has abandoned.

(3) Created the so-called "Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)", which has imposed payment holds and rescinded funds after disbursement. Donald John Trump has utilized DOGE to unlawfully block or impound appropriated funds to dozens of Federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. By impounding congressionally appropriated funds, Donald John Trump and DOGE have not only violated the law, but have negatively impacted the American people by cutting jobs, halting critical services, and rescinding grants for programs, in defiance of the express, constitutionally binding will of Congress.

Using the powers of his high office, Donald John Trump has unlawfully withheld congressionally appropriated funds and attempted to dismantle congressionally mandated agencies. By withholding funds and crippling agencies, he has prevented the Federal Government from performing critical duties here and abroad. He has threatened the well-being of United States citizens through the gross misconduct of his office, resulting in dire and life-threatening consequences on the world's most vulnerable populations.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he is unfit to govern a Nation by and for the people, has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office.

ARTICLE III: ABUSE OF TRADE POWERS AND INTERNATIONAL AGGRESSION

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives "shall have

the sole Power of Impeachment” and that the President “shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors”. Further, Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution states, “Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, . . . but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States”. In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald John Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that:

Using the powers of his high office, Donald John Trump abused trade powers by imposing unjustifiable and unreasonable tariffs on foreign nations, causing a sharp decline in the United States economy and the economies of countries around the world, and declaring the false existence of a national security emergency to justify his actions. Donald John Trump’s tariffs contradicted trade agreements established by his Administration and other administrations, including the duly ratified and binding treaty obligations of the United States, thereby breaking international laws and norms, leading to countries around the world to enact damaging tariffs on goods and services originating from the United States. His “Liberation Day” scheme, which imposed 10 percent tariffs on all countries, as well as additional tariffs based on a formula for “reciprocity” widely mocked as nonsensical, led to the most significant drop in the financial markets since the 2020 crash triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, Donald John Trump has threatened foreign nations with invasion, the annexation of territory, and the occupation of sovereign territory through the use of military action. By doing this, he has implicated the United States and himself in violation of constitutionally binding treaty obligations, to include the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949, the General Treaty for Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy of 1928, the Charter of the United Nations of 1945, and the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance of 1947. Donald John Trump threatened the following:

(1) Annexation of the sovereign country of Canada. Donald John Trump has negatively impacted the deep and historic relationship between the United States and Canada by stating numerous times that Canada should become the 51st State, under the threat of both economic coercion and military force.

(2) Unlawful and aggressive military action within Mexico, to include drone

strikes and the use of special operations military personnel, ostensibly against drug cartels, in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country and without any congressional authorization to use military force.

(3) Annexation of Greenland, an autonomous territory in the Kingdom of Denmark. Donald John Trump has continued to use hostile language aimed at taking control of Greenland, stating that the United States will “go as far as we have to go” to obtain control of Greenland. He has refused to rule out military action to gain control of the territory, in violation of international law and despite Denmark’s long-standing alliance and friendly relations with the United States.

(4) Annexation of the Panama Canal, owned and controlled by Panama. During a joint session speech to Congress, Donald John Trump stated that his Administration “will be reclaiming the Panama Canal”. He has refused to rule out military or economic action against the sovereign country.

(5) Annexation of the Gaza Strip, involving the forced resettlement of the Palestinian population to the surrounding countries. Donald John Trump has stated that the United States “will take over the Gaza Strip” and “own it”. His proposal of taking over the Gaza Strip and the expulsion of its population violates international law, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, would be unconstitutional absent the approval of the United States Congress, and is profoundly unserious in light of the grave humanitarian situation and ongoing armed conflict in Gaza.

Using the powers of his high office, Donald John Trump has unlawfully conducted himself, bringing shame and embarrassment to the office of the Presidency and the people of the United States. He has betrayed the trust of the Nation to conduct meaningful diplomatic negotiations as its chief diplomat and failed to maintain peaceful economic and defense relations with foreign countries. He has threatened the security of the United States through gross misconduct of his office, prompting hostilities towards Americans here and abroad, as well as foreign nations warning their citizens against visiting the United States, further harming the Nation’s economy.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he is unfit to govern a Nation by and for the people, has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office.

ARTICLE IV: VIOLATION OF FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives “shall have the sole Power of Impeachment” and that the President “shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and

Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors”. Further, the First Amendment of the Constitution states “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances”. In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald John Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that:

By his orders and directions to subordinate, retaliated against law firms and attorneys who have advised or represented, or been associated with those who advise or represent, litigants who displease him, in violation of the Constitution’s prohibition on retaliation against individuals for engaging in First Amendment-protected conduct, including the right to petition the government for redress of grievances. Specifically, he has, barred attorneys at certain law firms from access to Federal buildings, arbitrarily revoked security clearances without a reasonable basis, threatened to cancel Federal contracts with any entity engaging the targeted attorneys and firms, and demanded pro bono services from law firms in exchange for the discontinuation of the punitive Executive orders.

Additionally, Donald John Trump has engaged in a pattern of unconstitutional, unlawful, and corrupt retaliation against critics and political opponents, a flagrant violation of constitutional rights protected by the First Amendment. He has weaponized the Department of Justice and other agencies to engage in spurious investigations and harassment, with no basis in law, of public figures and his perceived political enemies.

Since taking office, Donald John Trump has directed the Department of Justice to dismiss more than a dozen prosecutors who were involved in investigations against him after he left office in 2021. The Department of Justice has subsequently launched investigations into officials involved in prior probes against Donald John Trump, in some cases against individuals specifically named and accused in flagrantly improper Executive orders.

Furthermore, he has made direct and unambiguous public statements threatening media outlets, current and

former officeholders, and advocacy organizations. He has pursued meritless litigation, leveraged his public office for private gain, and perverted the course of justice and the integrity of the judicial system to extract tens of millions of dollars in putative settlements, effectively acting as a conduit for flagrant bribery and extortion. He has restricted the access of the Associated Press after they refused to use the name “Gulf of America” in their reporting and has defied court orders to cease this unconstitutional action. He has also threatened current and former members of Congress for the exercise of their legislative and oversight functions, an attack on the independence of Congress as a coequal branch of government as established by the Constitution’s Article I Vesting Clause, and by the Constitution’s Speech or Debate Clause, in addition to the First Amendment.

For example, Donald John Trump has repeatedly threatened members of the House Select Committee on the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, which investigated the attack on the Capitol that Donald John Trump instigated. Donald John Trump has sought to intimidate the members and staff of the United States House Select Committee on the January 6th Attack, stating that they “should fully understand that they are subject to investigation at the highest level” and expressing a desire to remove the pardons they received, stating “The ‘Pardons’ that Sleepy Joe Biden gave to the Unselect Committee of Political Thugs, and many others, are hereby declared [void, vacant, and of no further force or effect]”.

Donald John Trump has made it clear that he will not rest until all of his perceived political enemies are eliminated. In a speech addressing his Department of Justice subordinates, Donald John Trump further laid out his fascist vision for the Department of Justice. He has targeted watchdog organizations like the Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, calling them “scum” and independent media outlets like CNN and MSNBC, labelling them as organizations that “literally write 97.6 percent bad about me, are political arms of the Democrat Party. And in my opinion, they are really corrupt and they are illegal. What they do is illegal.”. He has stated that newspapers critical of him are “really no different than a highly paid political operative. And it has to stop. It has to be illegal. It’s influencing judges . . . it just cannot be legal.”.

By these and many other actions, he has sought to outlaw dissent, opposition, and criticism of himself and his Administration. This attack on the constitutional rights to freedom of speech, and of association, and of the right to petition the government for redress of grievances, is wholly incompatible with the rights and liberties of

the People of the United States as a self-governing people under the rule of law.

In purpose and effect, he has attempted to suppress dissent and opposition, casting a chilling effect over the public discourse, and striking at the core freedoms essential to a free society and democratic elections under the Constitution.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he is unfit to govern a Nation by and for the people, has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office.

ARTICLE V: CREATION OF UNLAWFUL OFFICE

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives “shall have the sole Power of Impeachment” and that the President “shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors”. Further, Section 2 of Article II of the Constitution states that the President “shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States . . . but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments”. In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald John Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that:

Using the powers of his high office, Donald John Trump has, through unlawful orders and directives, created an unlawful office, the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (“DOGE”), and assigned an extensive range of unlawful powers, effectively granting this flagrantly unconstitutional creation significant control over the executive branch. Donald John Trump has appointed Mr. Elon Musk as the de facto head of this contrived entity, which was not created or funded by any law, without a formal title or office. These actions have been in direct violation of the Constitution’s requirement that principal officers of the United States must be created by law and their appointees confirmed by the Senate, and that inferior offices must be created by law with their appointment vested as Congress may determine.

Additionally, he has vested these powers in Mr. Musk without complying

with the constitutional requirement that all officers of the United States be commissioned by the President and swear an oath of office to support the Constitution. Mr. Musk has been designated as a special government employee of the White House Office, in violation of statutory authorization and restrictions on such designations. This false claim has also been used to commit violations of the ethics, disclosure, and conflict-of-interest laws applicable to government officers and regular employees.

Contrary to the Government’s claims in court, Mr. Musk has exercised de facto control over DOGE and, through it, control over a wide range of Government departments and agencies. This unmistakable reality has been repeatedly and openly stated by the Trump Administration, including by Donald John Trump’s own address to Congress on March 4, 2025. In this capacity, Mr. Musk and his subordinates have undertaken numerous violations of the Constitution and laws, including by—

(1) impoundment of funds appropriated by Congress;

(2) violations of privacy and security laws with respect to sensitive information systems, personally identifiable information, and classified material; and

(3) termination of government employees under false pretenses and in violation of civil service laws.

These actions have vastly exceeded the terms of the formal executive orders purporting to create DOGE under the direction of a “U.S. DOGE Service Administrator”, an office which remained vacant for several weeks, with the Government’s own attorneys claiming in court that the official head of DOGE was unknown to them. Since that time, a nominal Administrator has been named, despite the repeated avowals from the President and his Administration that Mr. Musk controls and directs DOGE, as confirmed by ample public reporting and Mr. Musk’s own statements.

Donald John Trump has abused the powers of his high office and breached the public trust by establishing the so-called Department of Government Efficiency and unconstitutionally placing Mr. Musk in control of this entity, knowingly provided false testimony to the court regarding the leadership of the said entity, and directing the unlawful entity to implement his agenda, in violation of the Constitution’s objective of establishing Justice and fundamental rules for how the executive branch of the United States is to be structured and how persons may be appointed to public office.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he is unfit to govern a Nation by and for the people, has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office.

ARTICLE VI: BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment" and that the President "shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors". Further, Section 9 of Article I of the Constitution states that "no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any . . . foreign State". In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald John Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that:

Donald John Trump has engaged in a pattern of unlawful corruption for the personal profit of himself and his associates, soliciting and accepting bribes in exchange for official actions, policy influence, and favorable treatment from the Administration. In so doing, he has, beyond a reasonable doubt, profited from public office on a scale unprecedented in American history.

Donald John Trump has engaged in fraudulent con artist schemes through "pump and dump" or "rug pull" tactics for cryptocurrency tokens he has created, and at the same time, enabled a direct conduit for bribes paid to him in exchange for official actions.

Donald John Trump has also leveraged the threat of hostile government action and the corresponding offer of preferential treatment in order to extract large payments in the form of settlements for meritless and vexatious litigation he pursues in his personal capacity, thereby corrupting both the executive branch and the judiciary. To advance this end, Donald John Trump solicited and received \$940,000,000 in pro bono services from prominent law firms to help causes he personally supports.

Donald John Trump has refused to divest himself or take any steps to prevent conflicts of interest in his substantial personal business ventures, creating another conduit for the payment of bribes.

Donald John Trump has permitted and encouraged his subordinates to violate laws regarding ethics, disclosures, and self-dealing, and through these actions, he has enabled and encouraged corruption and graft by his relatives, associates, and political allies.

Donald John Trump has, in these ways and others, solicited payments from foreign governments for corrupt purposes and in flagrant violation of the Constitution's prohibition on foreign emoluments.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that

he is unfit to govern a Nation by and for the people, has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office.

ARTICLE VII: TYRANNY

The Constitution provides that the House of Representatives "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment" and that the President "shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors". Further, the system of checks and balances, as well as the separation of powers, as defined in the Constitution, work to ensure that the Office of the President does not become tyrannical. In his conduct of the office of President of the United States—and in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully to execute the office of President of the United States and, to the best of his ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in violation of his constitutional duty to take care that the laws be faithfully executed—Donald John Trump has abused the powers of the Presidency in a manner offensive to, and subversive of, the Constitution, in that:

He has, by his actions and statements, sought to establish himself as tyrant, dictator, and autocrat over the People of the United States, usurping unto himself the constitutional powers of Congress, the courts, and the States, and powers illegitimate and beyond the scope of lawful government altogether.

He has claimed for himself absolute and arbitrary power, the ability to suspend laws at whim, and utterly disregarded and betrayed his oath to faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

He has denied and violated the right of the People of the United States to freedom of speech, and of assembly, and to petition the government for redress of grievances.

He has denied and violated the right of the People of the United States to due process of law and equal protection under the laws, to fair and impartial independent courts, and to legal counsel.

He has sought to intimidate and coerce, by means including the threat of unlawful prosecutions and by encouraging violence and threats of violence, the Representatives and Senators in Congress.

He has denied and violated the separation of powers and the Constitution's system of checks and balances, arrogating unto himself the legislative and judicial powers, including the power of Congress to levy taxes, appropriate public funds, direct the organization of officers and agencies of the executive branch, and to make laws.

He has sought to intimidate, coerce, and extort the officers of the several States, including those elected by the People thereof, and thereby sought to commandeer the several States, in violation of their sovereignty and the system of federalism established by the Constitution of the United States.

He has sought to abrogate the citizenship clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, by means including the issuance of an executive order that directs executive departments and agencies to withhold citizenship from certain classes of persons who are born within the United States.

He has repeatedly threatened and suggested that he intends to violate the Presidential term limits established by the 22d Amendment to the Constitution, and adopted overtly monarchical aspirations and affectations, including by invoking and endorsing theories that he is above the law or that his personal will constitutes the law.

In all of this, Donald John Trump has willfully disregarded Federal laws and the Constitution, imperiled a coequal branch of Government, and threatened the integrity of the democratic system. He thereby betrayed his trust as President, abused the powers of the Presidency, acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and has committed High Crimes and Misdemeanors in attempting to establish himself as a lawless tyrant to the manifest injury of the people of the United States.

Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, has demonstrated that he is unfit to govern a Nation by and for the people, has acted in a manner grossly incompatible with self-governance and the rule of law, and will remain a threat to the Constitution if allowed to remain in office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Michigan will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

RECOGNIZING STATE COLLEGE
KIWANIS CLUB

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the State College Kiwanis Club for reaching a remarkable milestone, 100 years of service to children and families in our community.

Since 1925, the club has lived out Kiwanis International's mission of improving the world one child and one community at a time.

Children are our future, and too many face challenges they cannot overcome alone. It is our responsibility as a community to step in, and the State College Kiwanis has done just that.

Through initiatives like its annual blueberry sale, the club provides over \$30,000 in scholarships and grants each year. Over the past century, they have raised more than \$1 million to support organizations such as Centre Volunteers in Medicine, the Tides Program, the Jana Marie Foundation, and Centre Safe.

Their impact goes far beyond fundraising. Whether promoting literacy, supporting youth mental health, or investing in dental care, their work ensures our children have the chance to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the State College Kiwanis Club for a century of service and wish them continued success for the next 100 years.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO GOVERNING BOARD OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL CONDUCT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLINE). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 4(d) of House Resolution 5, 119th Congress, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individuals to serve as the Governing Board of the Office of Congressional Conduct:

Nominated by the Speaker after consultation with the minority leader:

Ms. Karen L. Haas, Maryland, Chair

Mr. Leon A. Westmoreland, Georgia

Nominated by the minority leader after consultation with the Speaker:

Mr. William P. Luther, Minnesota, Co-chair

Ms. Lorraine C. Miller, Texas

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 2302, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council:

Mr. SCHNEIDER, Illinois

Ms. FRANKEL, Florida

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 2004(b), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation:

Mr. AMO, Rhode Island

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's ap-

pointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, 22 U.S.C. 7002, as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2026:

Mr. Joshua Hodges, Batavia, Illinois

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.

□ 1515

CALLING UPON LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE RESOURCES AND AID GOLD SHIELD FAMILIES IN THEIR TIME OF NEED

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 364) calling upon local communities to support organizations that provide resources and aid Gold Shield Families in their time of need.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 364

Whereas brave men and women across the United States serve as first responders, courageously risking their lives to protect United States communities;

Whereas the families of these valiant first responders exhibit unparalleled strength, resilience, and sacrifice, supporting their loved ones in their noble service to the Nation;

Whereas the loss of a first responder in the line of duty is a profound tragedy that leaves an enduring impact on their families, necessitating unwavering support;

Whereas Gold Shield Families, families of fallen police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, correction officers, emergency dispatch officers, and emergency service providers who have tragically lost their lives in the line of duty protecting and serving their communities, endure hardships and challenges while upholding the legacy of their fallen heroes; and

Whereas nonprofits throughout the United States provide resources and support Gold Shield Families as an expression of the Nation's enduring gratitude and appreciation for their tremendous contributions and sacrifices: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) local communities throughout the United States support nonprofits that provide resources and aid Gold Shield Families during their time of hardship and grief; and

(2) Gold Shield Families utilize these resources as they process their immeasurable sacrifice.

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

Missouri (Mr. ONDER) and the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. POU) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ONDER. 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 into the RECORD on H. Res. 364.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 364 calls on local communities to support organizations that provide resources and aid to Gold Shield families in their time of need. This is a commonsense resolution that recognizes the families of fallen servants of public safety as revered Gold Shield families.

These Gold Shield families deserve support from their communities in their time of need. This resolution honors the ultimate sacrifice that their loved ones made in the line of duty.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) for his leadership on this resolution.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 364, which calls on local communities to support organizations that provide resources and assistance to the Gold Shield families.

Gold Shield families suffer tremendous, heartbreaking loss when their loved ones—police officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and corrections officers—are killed while serving their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I support H. Res. 364 because Gold Shield families deserve recognition and need assistance. I am speaking of families such as those of Captain Basil Pizzuto of Saddle Brook and Sergeant Robert Miller of Clifton, both from the State of New Jersey.

Yet, I must also highlight that the Department of Justice recently terminated 365 competitive grants totaling \$811 million. This is funding that Congress provided to the Justice Department to help prosecutors, police, and sheriffs' departments protect and enhance public safety.

While the Trump administration and my friends across the aisle call for law and order and public safety, the Department of Justice is terminating funding for congressionally authorized grant programs that keep our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution before us today. I also urge my colleagues to express their opposition to the elimination of congressionally authorized public safety grant programs at the Department of Justice.

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

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRESNAHAN).

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of H. Res. 364, recognizing the Gold Shield families resolution. I thank my colleague, Congressman MEUSER, for his leadership in reintroducing this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution honors the families of fallen first responders, those who paid the ultimate price while protecting and serving our communities.

These families, often referred to as the Gold Shield families, carry an unthinkable burden of loss. It is our duty not just as lawmakers but as fellow citizens to ensure that their sacrifice is never forgotten and see that their families are taken care of after they are gone.

An astounding example of this mission and inspiration for the resolution is right in my congressional district. Camp Freedom in Carbondale, Pennsylvania, provides meaningful outdoor adventures that promote healing for disabled veterans, first responders, and their families, including the families of the fallen.

By passing H. Res. 364, we send a clear message that the sacrifices of these families do not go unnoticed. We acknowledge that behind every fallen officer, firefighter, or EMT is a family—spouse, children, and parents—who bear the weight of that loss every day, yet continue to honor their loved one's legacy through quiet strength and enduring service to their communities.

This resolution sends a clear message: We recognize them. We honor their sacrifice, and we stand with them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H. Res. 364, making it the first step in broader efforts to support Gold Shield families through both our words and our actions.

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

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), the sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER) for his leadership, and I also thank my good friend and colleague Congressman ROB BRESNAHAN for his participation and great work and support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, this is National Police Week, and I rise in support of my legislation, H. Res. 364, the Gold Shield families resolution. Out of all of the priorities that we face in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, none is more fundamental than ensuring public safety and protecting human life. It is the foundation for everything else—our economy, our freedoms, and our way of life—so the people on the front lines of that effort are our first responders.

Police officers, firefighters, EMTs, correctional officers, and dispatchers are the tip of the proverbial spear. They put themselves in danger, often on a regular basis, in order to keep the rest of us safe. They are the thin blue line, the thin gold line, and the thin red line that holds society together. They serve not for accolades but out of duty and honor.

Mr. Speaker, I know this personally. My father was a police officer and a detective, while my grandfather also was a firefighter. He was the captain of his house.

I remember clearly the risks that my father took every day he walked out the door. I remember well what it meant to be a police family, and I know the courage it takes not just for the officer but for the family members who stand behind them.

When the worst happens, when a first responder is lost in the line of duty, it is the family who bears the burden of that sacrifice for the long term. They are the ones picking up the pieces, mourning their loved ones, and carrying their legacy forward.

The term "Gold Shield families" is modeled after the Gold Star families, which honors the families of fallen military servicemembers. Gold Shield families are those whose loved ones wore a different kind of uniform and who served in our communities rather than abroad but whose sacrifice was no less significant.

The resolution simply acknowledges that reality, Mr. Speaker. It affirms that these families who have lost a loved one in the line of duty deserve the respect and support of the communities that they served. Their sacrifices and their struggles will not be forgotten, and our local communities must play their part to support nonprofit organizations that serve Gold Shield families during their time of grief and hardship.

H. Res. 364 encourages Gold Shield families to turn on these trusted groups for connection, care, and healing as they navigate life after loss. This resolution was inspired by one such organization, Camp Freedom in Carbondale, Pennsylvania. Their executive director, my good friend Matt Guedes, is in the Chamber with us tonight. He brought this idea forward, and I thank Matt very, very much for a great idea and for helping us see it through.

Mr. Speaker, Matt is a veteran and a passionate advocate for those who serve. He saw firsthand the need to give proper recognition to the families of fallen first responders, especially those who had once served our country in uniform and continued that service here at home.

Camp Freedom provides outdoor healing experiences for disabled veterans, first responders, and their families. Their mission is rooted in community, connection, and recovery. I thank Matt and all of his team for all that they do to support those who served our country.

To date, Camp Freedom has served more than 12,000 veterans', first responders', and servicemembers' families from across Pennsylvania and the country.

Mr. Speaker, I also recognize Bill Bachenberg, who founded Camp Freedom. His passion and vision have made Camp Freedom what it is today: a special place for many.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is only two pages long, but its message is powerful. It recognizes these families. It thanks them and affirms that their sacrifices are worthy of our continued support.

This resolution has strong bipartisan backing, and I thank all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have joined as cosponsors.

During National Police Week, let me say this to every police officer, firefighter, EMT, dispatcher, and emergency responder: I thank them for their service. They are the thin gold line that separates us from chaos. They are the reason that our Constitution is more than words on paper.

Mr. Speaker, to every Gold Shield family, their loved one's service mattered. The sacrifice of their loved one will not be forgotten, and neither will theirs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 364. Let's pass this resolution and give these families the recognition and community support that they have long deserved.

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the resolution before us today, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, in closing, H. Res. 364 is a commonsense resolution that honors the sacrifices of our brave public servants and helps to ensure the welfare of their families.

I urge support of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ONDER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 364.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 30) expressing support for local law enforcement officers.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 30

Whereas the brave men and women in local law enforcement work tirelessly to protect the communities they serve;

Whereas local law enforcement officers are tasked with upholding the rule of law and ensuring public safety;

Whereas local law enforcement officers selflessly put themselves in harm's way to fight crime, get drugs off the streets, and protect the innocent;

Whereas local law enforcement officers take an oath to never betray the public trust;

Whereas the local law enforcement community protects our streets, acknowledges the rights of all Americans, and keeps citizens safe from harm;

Whereas local law enforcement officers are recognized for their public service to all, knowing they face extremely dangerous situations while carrying out their duties;

Whereas a healthy and collaborative relationship between local law enforcement officers and the communities they serve is essential to creating mutually respectful dialogue; and

Whereas local law enforcement officers and their families deserve respect, appreciation, and support for their sacrifices and commitment to public service: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes and appreciates the dedication and devotion demonstrated by the men and women of local law enforcement who keep the Nation's communities safe;

(2) extends its gratitude to all local law enforcement officers and their families for their sacrifice and service;

(3) honors the memory of those local law enforcement officers who have fallen in the line of duty; and

(4) encourages continued collaboration between local law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve to strengthen public safety and trust.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JORDAN. 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 H. Con. Res. 30.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this week, we celebrate National Police Week. In so doing, we honor those officers who have been killed in the line of duty, as well as those who bravely serve their communities every single day.

More than 60 years ago, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation that designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that day falls as Police Week.

Thousands of law enforcement officers are visiting Washington, D.C., this week to honor their colleagues who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I extend my sincere gratitude to all local law enforcement officers and their families for their sacrifice and their service.

These police officers risk their lives every day to protect our communities, and they do this despite the obstacles and dangers that we all know that they face. Police officers rush into harm's way out of duty and devotion to their sacred oath: "To Protect and Serve."

The families of law enforcement officers also bear the burden of service through missed birthdays, school events, and sports games. This resolution is a small way in which we can show our thanks. I encourage all Members to take time to pray, show their support for, and say thank you to our local law enforcement heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL), who served in law enforcement as a sheriff, for his work in putting this together and sponsoring the resolution. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, this week, we welcome thousands of law enforcement personnel to Washington for National Police Week. We remember officers who lost their lives in service to our communities and our country, and we thank all officers who work to keep us safe while reflecting on how we can invest in law enforcement to better serve our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly support this resolution because we strongly support our local law enforcement officers. Yet, we also strongly support our State, Federal, and Tribal law enforcement officers, as well. Why are these brave officers not part of this resolution? This is a strange development.

In the last Congress, the 118th Congress, we passed H. Con. Res. 40 to honor local law enforcement. We also passed H. Res. 363 in 2023 to recognize the police lives lost that year and the importance of funding and supporting all law enforcement, Federal, State, county, and local. These were followed by H. Con. Res. 106 and H. Res. 1213 in 2024, which did the same.

□ 1530

This year the majority has chosen to have us solely recognizing local law enforcement. Why is that? What explains this strange omission of the Federal police officers who serve us?

With President Trump back in office, the majority apparently now sees fit to honor only local officers and not the Federal law enforcement officers who fought so valiantly to protect every Member of this body and the Senate, our staffs, and our democracy on January 6, 2021. Apparently, their commitment to backing the blue is so weak that they now won't even mention Federal officers because they have to maintain the pretense that Capitol officers did something wrong by defending us against the violent rampage of the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers, the Three Percenters, and other extremist marauders who stormed the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate.

Is that right or will the majority please prepare a resolution honoring Federal law enforcement, as well that we can bring to the floor?

This is one troubling sign among many of an ideological abandonment of our Federal law enforcement officers and there are more than 137,000 of them, not just the Capitol Police.

Speaker JOHNSON still refuses to hang a simple plaque honoring those officers as is required by Federal law. The bill mandating the creation and placement of the plaque, H.R. 2471, was signed into law on March 15, 2022, and the plaque was supposed to have been erected within 1 year of that, March 15, 2023.

The plaque is finished, it is ready to be placed, and it looks like this. It reads: "On behalf of a grateful Congress, this plaque honors the extraordinary individuals who bravely protected and defended this symbol of democracy on January 6th, 2021. Their heroism will never be forgotten."

Well, it seems it is already being forgotten by the GOP majority or at least they want us to forget it. Are my friends so captive to conspiracy theories and revisionist fantasies about January 6 that they will not do the bare minimum to honor the police officers who fought tooth and nail to protect every person in this room who was there, including Members on my side of the aisle and Members on the other side of the aisle?

The people we are failing to honor by not hanging this plaque include at least 140 police officers who were beaten with poles, bats, American flags, Trump flags, Confederate battle flags, and their own shields. These are people who lost fingertips. They suffered concussions, broken jaws, and broken ribs. They had heart attacks and strokes. They sustained multiple other violent injuries and suffer from them, many of them, to this day, in one of the worst days of injuries for law enforcement officers in the United States in this century.

This affront is now adding further symbolic insult to the grievous injury that began at the beginning of this administration. President Trump granted full pardons to more than 1,500 insurrectionists and rioters and commuted the sentence of the rightwing extremists who spearheaded the attack on this Chamber and on the police officers who defended us.

More than 600 of those defendants whose pardons are full, complete, and unconditional were charged with assaulting or obstructing law enforcement officers. Now President Trump, backed by his own Justice Department, thinks that the violent insurrectionists should be compensated, not the police officers, but rather the people who perpetrated this assault on America.

President Trump said: A lot of the people in the government really like that group of people. He is creating a compensation fund not for the officers

and their families who fought and suffered and several died to save our country but for the domestic terrorists, as leaders of the Republican Party described them at the time, who tried to destroy it.

That is the decision, to cast his lot with the Proud Boys and other extremists that he incited on that day.

Many of the officers who served on January 6 feel betrayed by the officials whose lives they saved that day. Take former U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Aquilino Gonell who was nearly crushed to death on January 6.

Sergeant Gonell is an Army veteran from the Iraq war and was upholding his oath to defend and protect the seat of our Nation's government. He said he saw violence on that day here at the Capitol far worse than anything he experienced fighting for America abroad.

Despite the fact that he and many other officers nearly lost their lives and now face lifelong injuries that have forced him out of the line of police work, they still cannot get approved for Public Safety Officers' Benefits, which provide disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

As Sergeant Gonell recently told my staff, Trump is treating the rioters like they were the ones defending the Capitol. He noted that at every turn when Republicans could honor the bravery of law enforcement officers that day, they have instead chosen to do nothing.

Of course, if my colleagues across the aisle want to focus on local law enforcement, then I might ask why we are simply honoring them with this concurrent resolution and not taking more meaningful action, like restoring millions of dollars in Federal grants that help support them that were recently terminated by the Department of Justice at the direction of DOGE and Elon Musk.

Those grants supported programs like the rural violent crime reduction initiative, which delivered financial assistance directly to dozens of rural law enforcement agencies across America and allowed agencies to upgrade technology and equipment, hire and deploy personnel, support victim services and crime prevention programming, and fill in other gaps in policing for small, rural, underfunded police agencies.

We should be grateful for all of our officers, Federal, State, county, and local, who help keep us safe while people are in their communities and while Members of Congress come to Washington, D.C. We should be grateful for all of them.

Let's join together to uplift all law enforcement officers whether they are local or State, Tribal, or Federal, and let's support them symbolically with our words but more importantly with our actions. Let's restore all of the funding, the hundreds of millions of dollars that have been cut or that face cuts by this new administration.

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

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, let's be clear: Republicans honor local law enforcement, Democrats defund them. Five years ago this summer, they spent the whole summer doing that. That is all you would hear from Democrats, got to defund the local police. We have been consistent. We have condemned violence every single time it happened whether it was January 6 or the summer of 2020. They haven't.

The summer of 2020, I still remember the guy standing in front of the burning building on CNN saying, this is a mostly peaceful protest. They spent the whole summer trying to defund the police, so don't give us the lecture.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL), the fine gentleman who served in local law enforcement, who was a sheriff, and who knows what it is like to go out there and protect his community, for sponsoring this resolution.

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan resolution honoring the brave men and women who serve in local law enforcement.

These officers work tirelessly to protect and serve, putting their lives on the line every day to uphold the rule of law.

As a former sheriff, a son of a police officer, and a 42-year career police officer, I have walked in their shoes. I know the toll it takes on them. I know the long hours, sleepless nights, and time spent away from family. I know this stuff.

I know what it means to respond to a tragedy, to console a grieving victim's family after a horrendous crime has happened to them involving tragic accidents. I have seen things most Americans will thankfully never have to experience.

When others run away from danger, law enforcement and first responders run toward it. They fight crime, protect the innocent, and too often, make the ultimate sacrifice.

During my time in Congress, Mississippi has lost too many heroes: In June 2023, Madison Police Officer Randy Tyler was shot and killed while responding to a hostage situation. In January 2024, George County Sheriff's Deputy Jeremy Malone was shot and killed during a traffic stop on a rural highway. In August 2024, Summit Police Patrolman Troy Floyd was shot and killed during a regular, routine traffic checkpoint. Earlier this year, Hinds County Sheriff's Deputy Martin Shields, Jr., was shot and killed after responding to a domestic violence dispute.

These officers represent the best of our State and our Nation. Fallen heroes like these officers are being honored this week during National Police Week as thousands of law enforcement officers come to the Nation's Capital together here in Washington. That is why there is no better time for us to pass this resolution and make it clear that we stand for law enforcement.

My resolution expresses our gratitude to local law enforcement and their families for their service and sacrifice. It calls for stronger partnerships between officers and the communities they protect, and it honors the memories of those who never came home.

We have seen targeted, ambush-style attacks on law enforcement officers. We have seen departments struggle to recruit and retain talented officers because they were vilified for deciding to serve their communities.

Mr. Speaker, this is the time for Congress to take the lead. It is time to make clear that we stand with the men and women of local law enforcement who protect each and every one of our communities with honor and courage.

I am proud that this resolution passed last Congress with overwhelming support. This police week, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this resolution to send a clear message that Congress backs the thin blue line.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to hear the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee denounce the assault, the violent assault, on Congress, the Capitol, our police officers on January 6, 2021. I wonder if he would work with me to help enforce the law that was signed on March 15, 2022 by President Biden for a plaque to be placed in honor of the police officers who served us so valiantly and so bravely and saved our lives on that day.

It was supposed to have been up by March 15, 2023, and the Speaker simply has remained noncommittal and indifferent. The plaque is actually completed. It is ready to be put up. We can show it again. It is not as big as this poster, but it is the smallest token of recognition and honor that we should be able to extend to the Capitol officers, many of whom are still with us on the force, for their sacrifice and the sacrifice that their families made based on their work that day defending us.

I wonder if the chairman of the Judiciary Committee would follow through on his very impressive statement that we all denounce the violence of any kind against officers, including the more than 140 Capitol officers who were wounded, injured, hospitalized, some of them permanently disfigured and maimed on that day as well as officers around the country.

Now, on the point about defunding the police. Look who is defunding the police: Elon Musk, Donald Trump, and their silent partners in Congress are defunding the police. They just terminated \$500 million worth of grants, lost funding from the Department of Justice providing Federal support for local violence reduction by community police, community policing and prosecution, victim services, juvenile justice, child protection, substance abuse and mental health treatment, corrections and reentry, justice systems enhancements, research and evaluation, and

other State, county, and local level public police and safety functions.

I brought this to the attention of the Judiciary Committee because, again, this was an operation by DOGE. We have got a Federal District Court opinion from northern California saying that DOGE basically has no legal status because it wasn't created by Congress. It might be a completely renegade operation in an attempt to create a fourth branch of government.

In any event, those of us who voted for the money, and that is people on both sides of the aisle, voted for the money to be distributed by the Department of Justice to local grantees didn't even know about this. I shared with the chairman and with all the members of the committee, the one name of the DOGE employee, an unelected bureaucrat, a juvenile bureaucrat from Silicon Valley who worked his way up through Tesla and so on, and they ended up in DOGE, cut hundreds of millions of dollars to local police. They defunded the police.

□ 1545

DOGE defunded the police. Donald Trump defunded the police. I introduced an amendment to try to restore every single grant that they cut off in severing that Federal investment in local police.

My colleagues uttered not a word, not a word in opposition to my amendment, but they all voted against it simply because they are walking the line with Elon Musk right off the edge of the Constitution because there is no constitutional grounding for anything that guy is doing.

They walked the line behind Elon Musk and Donald Trump, and they just defunded hundreds of millions of dollars from community law enforcement and public safety, so don't give me that lecture about defunding the police, which our side has never supported, but their side has just colluded in right now in terms of what the Department of Justice did.

That doesn't even get into their attempt to dismantle completely the ATF, shut down critical functions in the Department of Justice that protect us from foreign involvement in our elections, to take down the kleptocracy task force and so on. I don't want any lectures coming in our direction, either.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, you can try to rewrite history, but it just doesn't work. Let me just read off the Democratic-run cities that did defund the police.

Here is the game the Democrats want. All during the summer of 2020, they were saying: Defund the police. Democratic-run cities all over the country were doing so.

Now they say: Oh, but because crime went up when we defunded the police, we want Federal taxpayers to send us

money to make up for the cuts we did there and spent the money elsewhere. That was the game.

If you don't believe me, here is the list:

Austin, Texas, \$150 million cut;
Boston, Massachusetts, \$12 million cut;

Burlington, Vermont, \$1.1 million;
Denver, Colorado, \$55 million;
Eureka, California, \$1.2 million;
Hartford, Connecticut, \$2 million;
Kansas City, Kansas, \$42 million;
Los Angeles, \$150 million;
Madison, Wisconsin, \$2 million cut;
Minneapolis, \$8 million;
New York City, \$1 billion cut that summer;

Norman, Oklahoma, \$865,000;
Oklahoma City, \$5.5 million;
Philadelphia, \$33 million;
Portland, Oregon, \$16 million;
Salt Lake City, \$5.3 million;
San Francisco, \$120 million;
Seattle, Washington, \$69 million;

Washington, D.C., \$15 million—we know about the crime that has happened in this city; and of course, in the ranking member's home State of Maryland, Baltimore cut their police department \$22 million. Now they are saying: Oh, make sure the Federal money keeps coming.

Look, I am not against some of these grant programs. We will look at all those. However, don't say you didn't defund the police. You did. Everyone knows you did, and you all talked about it, and you cheered it on. For the bad guys who harmed the police that summer when you were encouraging cities to cut the police, you were raising money to bail them out. Your Presidential candidate was raising money to bail them out. You can have all the revisionist history you want. The facts are the facts.

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

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I will start just by asking my friend from Ohio whether he is referring to me when he uses the word "you" or if he is referring more generally to some other people because I would categorically deny having done any of those things.

Mr. JORDAN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RASKIN. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN. I was referring to that party that you belong to, not you personally.

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

Well, the gentleman refers exclusively—and I think he is aware of this because he is an extremely clever debater—to things that different local governments did or did not do. I don't know what Denver, Colorado, or Burlington, Vermont, did. I know what the United States Congress does, and we never defunded the police, and we never tried to defund the police.

On the other hand, my good friend, I believe, participated in—and if he didn't, I am happy to stand corrected,

but I know a bunch of his colleagues said they wanted to defund the FBI, just like those who want to defund the ATF and shut it down right now, so that is a reality.

In any event, why don't we talk about what Congress can actually do? The President's new budget proposes to cut—so this is something that my colleague and I could agree on—\$1 billion across 40 Department of Justice grant programs which support local police departments to reduce violent crime, hate crime, and crime against women.

Would my colleague work with me to oppose that suggestion in the President's budget? They want to cut \$646 million from FEMA for violence and terrorism prevention. Why do they want to do that? I have no idea.

They want to cut \$545 million from the FBI, cutting its workforce by more than 2,000 personnel. That sounds like defunding law enforcement to me.

I know they don't seem to be as fond of Federal law enforcement as they are of local law enforcement, but do they really want to cut more than half a billion dollars from the FBI to be fighting criminals and terrorists? For the life of me, I don't understand how they can do that while they swear fealty to law enforcement. It just makes no sense.

They want to cut \$491 million from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, making our cyber and physical infrastructure far more vulnerable to attack by foreign bad actors like Vladimir Putin and President Xi and Kim Jong-un. I know there are some people in high levels of office who are fond of those people, who write valentines to Kim Jong-Un, but the rest of us would like to be protected from them. We shouldn't be dismantling the cybersecurity infrastructure of America.

They want to cut \$212 million from the DEA. Can you imagine? If a Democratic President had proposed any of this, they would be screaming, their hair would be on fire, but Donald Trump proposed it, and they just mumble along like it is no big deal.

What about all of these efforts to defund Federal law enforcement, like the DOJ, FEMA, FBI? Will our colleagues work with us to restore that money?

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I have not said I was for defunding the ATF or the FBI. What I have said, what the American people have said clearly is they don't want these agencies weaponized against the very people they are supposed to serve. We all know about that. Think about this, though, when you think about the FBI's budget, it is like \$12 billion. More than half of that budget, more than half of the personnel at the FBI are focused on intelligence and counterintelligence.

I think most Americans probably think the FBI should spend most of its

resources on going after traditional crime, organized crime, bad guys, gang activity. I think that is probably where they think it should be, but, no, they are spending half their budget, half their personnel on surveillance of Americans. I think that is a little different.

How about the ATF? We all know the example of the ATF raiding Bryan Malinowski's home. Bryan Malinowski was the highest paid official in the Little Rock, Arkansas, municipal government. He ran the Bill and Hillary Clinton airport. He was a gun hobbyist. The ATF thinks he has done something wrong. Instead of just going and visiting him, coming to see him, picking him up at his work, taking him back to his house to execute the warrant, the search warrant, no, they had to kick in his door, predawn raid, 10 cars pull up. The first thing you see on the doorbell cam is them putting tape on the camera. Mr. Speaker, 53 seconds later, Bryan Malinowski has been shot in the head and subsequently dies.

I am for these agencies actually serving the taxpayers, not being engaged in things like that. We respect the police and want it done right. At the local level, God bless them. I have not been for defunding them. We are for honoring local police, like this good sheriff, this Member of Congress, and what they do day in and day out. That is what this resolution was about.

The other side, they want to come here and start talking about all kinds of things I didn't intend to. You heard my opening statement. You heard the gentleman's opening statement. However, the other side wants to go start attacking things.

Okay, fine. We are just setting the record straight. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Yes, the record is becoming increasingly clear here. My colleagues don't want to do anything about the dismantling of hundreds of millions of dollars of funds that we appropriated at the Department of Justice that have been mysteriously deleted by a DOGE employee from local law enforcement. These are grants that go to local police departments and victim assistance agencies all over the country. They got rid of that.

Then the President comes forward with a budget that will cut more than \$1.5 billion, maybe \$2 billion from local law enforcement to go after violent crime, hate crime, to defend the victims of rape and sexual assault, and my colleague changes the subject once again to talk about weaponization.

We have never seen weaponization of the government like what we have seen under Donald Trump and his Department of Justice. The first thing they did was they got rid of a dozen experienced veteran criminal prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's office and the Department of Justice simply because they had worked to prosecute January 6 insurrectionists and rioters.

Yes, let me repeat that. They fired prosecutors for doing nothing more than their jobs to prosecute the criminals who beat the daylights out of our police officers, and they sacked all of those prosecutors. They were some of the most experienced veteran prosecutors that we have in the U.S. Attorney's office. Then he named to be the acting U.S. Attorney Ed Martin. He was just forced to withdraw that nomination because he was standing by a Neo-Nazi Holocaust revisionist who said that Hitler's problem was that he didn't finish the job. He also said that those who are born with disabilities should be killed at birth. Ed Martin called him a great man and a great leader.

He withdrew the nomination, but still he put Ed Martin in the Department of Justice in a position that is not subject to Senate confirmation. They have weaponized the Department of Justice. They have weaponized the Department of State. They are going after anybody they describe as a political enemy. Ed Martin was writing letters to Members of Congress when he didn't like what they had to say.

We have never seen weaponization of the government like what is taking place right now. They took the U.S. Pardon Attorney Liz Oyer, and they sacked her because she refused to take the position that Mel Gibson should get his guns back. That wasn't part of her job, but they tried to conscript her to it. The pardon attorney refused to do it because she said that was not her job and there were too many questions about domestic violence episodes.

If you want to have a separate hearing on weaponization of the government under Donald Trump, let's do it. In the meantime, let's support local law enforcement and let's support Federal law enforcement. Let's have another resolution praising all law enforcement for what they do, and let's get that plaque up.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I would emphasize what a fine resolution we have here sponsored by the gentleman from Mississippi, and we do. We all do appreciate the work of our law enforcement men and women who put that uniform on every day, risk their lives to protect our families, our communities, all the things that we care about.

We hope this resolution is a unanimous vote. We hope both sides support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ONDER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 30.

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. EZELL. 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.

BENEFITS THAT ENDURE FOR LIFETIMES OF SERVICE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1682) to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for lifetime National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes for family members of members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives while serving their country.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1682

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 "Benefits that Endure for Lifetimes Of Service Act" or "BELO'S Act".

SEC. 2. LIFETIME PASSES.

Section 805(b)(2) of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6804(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D) Any individual who is a survivor entitled to—

"(i) a death gratuity under section 1475 of title 10, United States Code; or

"(ii) dependency and indemnity compensation under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 1682, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1600

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1682, the Benefits that Endure for Lifetimes Of Service Act, or BELO'S Act.

This bill, led by Representatives Evans and Panetta, expands access to free lifetime passes to our national parks and public lands to Gold Star next of kin and families of veterans who pass away due to a service-related illness or injury.

Across our great Nation, military families play a vital role in safeguarding our freedoms. They provide unwavering support to the courageous

military servicemembers who risk their lives defending America. When these troops make the ultimate sacrifice for our country, the emotional impact on their families is devastating.

While nothing can replace a lost loved one, outdoor recreation has a proven track record of providing at least some measure of relief in times of profound tragedy.

In 2021, Congress permanently codified free lifetime passes to our national parks and public lands for Gold Star families in the Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks Act, a bill I proudly cosponsored and helped champion through the Natural Resources Committee.

Unfortunately, the eligibility for these passes did not include families whose relatives were killed in incidents such as hazardous training accidents or due to a service-related illness.

H.R. 1682, however, would expand access to free lifetime America the Beautiful passes to Gold Star and next of kin family members and family members of fallen veterans. This legislation is a meaningful way to support families whose loved ones were lost in selfless service to our Nation.

I commend Representative EVANS for spearheading this noble effort. As a former captain in the Army National Guard, Representative EVANS understands the sacrifices of our servicemembers and their families. In fact, the namesake of this legislation honors a former soldier of Representative EVANS, Marc Belo, who dedicated over half of his life to serving our country in the Marine Corps, the District of Columbia Army National Guard, and the Colorado Army National Guard. Marc was one of the first responders to the Pentagon on 9/11.

Just months after his swearing in, Representative EVANS is already delivering for the people of his district and military families across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my strong support for his bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1682, a crucial measure that would guarantee free access to our national treasures for all Gold Star families.

To honor the sacrifice and service of their loved ones, Congress has provided Gold Star families with a free America the Beautiful pass that covers entrance fees and standard day-use fees for national parks and other Federal recreation sites.

However, eligibility for this program is limited and leaves some families out because of a technicality. This bill would fix that oversight by broadening access to include families of servicemembers who died during inactive or Active-Duty training, as well as travel to and from training or duty stations.

These families have already made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and they deserve for us to fix this techni-

cality. I thank Representative EVANS for bringing this forward and everyone who worked on this in a bipartisan way to make this happen.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. EVANS), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this bill, H.R. 1682, the Benefits that Endure for Lifetimes Of Service Act, or BELO'S Act, named after Marc Belo, a fellow veteran, aviation legend, and friend with whom I had the great honor of serving.

This bill would honor our Nation's fallen heroes and their loved ones by expanding free access to national parks to the families of veterans who pass away from a service-related illness or accident.

As a former Army Black Hawk helicopter pilot, I had the blessing of serving with countless men and women across the Active-Duty, Reserve, and National Guard components of our Armed Forces. During that time, I took on many roles, from supporting wildfire fighting efforts to deploying as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Mr. Speaker, any soldier or veteran will tell you that service to the Nation takes many forms, but that also means sacrifice does, too.

When I learned that, under existing law, only the families of soldiers who died in Active-Duty combat operations were eligible for free lifetime national parks passes, I immediately thought of my friend and fellow veteran, First Sergeant Marc Belo.

I served alongside Sergeant Belo for a decade in the Colorado Army National Guard. Belo was already a senior sergeant and crew chief when I was a young lieutenant. He took me under his wing from day one. Whether it was a domestic operation, including fighting fires and conducting search and rescues, or whether it was deployment overseas to the Middle East as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, Marc and I were in it together.

He was the heart and soul of our company, Alpha Company "Wolfpack," and the 2-135th General Support Aviation Battalion "Blackjacks." An amateur photographer and a true patriot who was a 9/11 first responder and who gave his life to his Nation for more than 30 years, the passage of this bill could not come at a more timely, if tragic, moment.

Unfortunately, 1 year ago this week, Marc passed away from cancer related to his military service. His family, friends, and all who served with him were devastated.

Mr. Speaker, a friend you served with being taken far too soon by a service-related illness or injury is a story that, unfortunately, sounds all too familiar to veterans all across our country. The circumstances of their deaths can

never minimize the magnitude of their sacrifice.

That is why I am so proud to sponsor the bipartisan BELO'S Act, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA). This ensures that the families of servicemembers who die in circumstances not related to combat, like training accidents or service-connected illness, are still honored with free lifetime passes to enjoy America's beautiful national parks.

While this will benefit military families from coast to coast, it will especially make a difference for the military families in my district, who are blessed to live so close to some of the most beautiful public lands and national parks in the country. It is truly the least that we can do to thank these veterans' families for serving right alongside their loved ones.

Veterans and military families often find solace, peace, and healing in the great outdoors. Whether it is coping with PTSD, undergoing physical training, or coming to terms with the loss of a loved one, national parks play a vital role in their health and well-being.

It is my sincere hope that this bill can play a small role in helping military families, like the Belos, find peace in their loss and honor their loved ones who are taken from them too soon.

This week marks 1 year since Marc left us, but his legacy lives on and is now helping other veterans to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring American heroes like Marc Belo and their families by passing this important bill.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank Representatives EVANS and PANETTA for their efforts to introduce this meaningful legislation.

This bill would reduce the financial burden on our military families who want to visit our national parks and expand their access to the healing powers of outdoor recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1682.

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.

FLATSIDES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1612) to designate the

Flatside-Bethune Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1612

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 “Flatside Wilderness Additions Act”.

SEC. 2. ADDITIONS TO FLATSIDE WILDERNESS.

Section 3(d) of Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-508; 98 Stat. 2349) is amended by inserting “and certain land in the Ouachita National Forest, which comprise approximately 2,212 acres, generally depicted as” Land Proposed for Wilderness Designation “on the map titled” Flatside Wilderness, Proposed Addition Designation “, dated November 12, 2024” after “1984”.

SEC. 3. FIRE, INSECTS, AND DISEASES.

Nothing in this Act or the amendment made by section 2 shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture under section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), in accordance with existing laws (including regulations).

SEC. 4. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS ADDITION.

The wilderness designated by section 3(d) of Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-508; 98 Stat. 2349), shall be known as the “Flatside-Bethune Wilderness”. Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to such portion of the Flatside Wilderness shall be deemed to be a reference to the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 1612, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Representative HILL’s legislation, H.R. 1612, which would add four parcels totaling 2,215 acres of Ouachita National Forest lands to the Flatside Wilderness Area in his district.

The Ouachita National Forest is the oldest and largest national forest in the Southern United States, spanning nearly 1.8 million acres across Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Managed by the U.S. Forest Service, it is a true multiple-use forest, supporting timber harvesting, wildlife conservation, and a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities, such as hiking, hunting, camping, and fishing.

Arkansans take great pride in this forest, which draws more than 670,000 visitors each year. Currently, only 3.6

percent of the Ouachita National Forest, including the existing Flatside Wilderness Area, is designated as wilderness.

The Flatside Wilderness was expanded by 640 acres during the 115th Congress. The Forest Service also studied the potential designation of the parcels included in today’s legislation.

This bill has strong local support and has been endorsed by Arkansas Governor Sarah Sanders; the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism; and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Representative HILL for his efforts on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1612, the Flatside Wilderness Additions Act, introduced by my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

This bill would expand the boundaries of the Flatside Wilderness Area in the Ouachita National Forest by approximately 2,212 acres and redesignate the area as the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness.

Representative Bethune represented Arkansas here in the House of Representatives, and he was a strong champion for conservation. He sponsored the first bill to designate the Flatside Wilderness back in 1984, so the redesignation included in this bill is a fitting tribute.

Wilderness areas hold immense importance for a variety of reasons. They support and provide essential ecosystem services, including clean air, water, carbon sequestration, and critical wildlife habitat.

Protecting the wilderness is not just about preserving pristine environments. It is also about safeguarding our national heritage and ensuring a healthy planet for future generations.

I thank Representative HILL for his work on expanding the wilderness area in his State. I and many of my Democratic colleagues also have bills we would like to advance to provide conservation protections for special areas in our congressional districts. This bill demonstrates that we can and should work in a bipartisan manner to protect and conserve public lands.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), my colleague and the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. WESTERMAN, and my colleagues in the House who serve on the Natural Resources Committee for working with me on the Flatside Wilderness Additions Act over the past 5 years.

I stand in strong support of H.R. 1612, which I think is a model for how to go

about considering recreation conservation lands in our national forests.

The Ouachita Mountains and the surrounding forest sit in the southwest corner of Arkansas. It is the oldest and largest national forest in our southern region. It has origins in my district of central Arkansas and stretches some 220 miles west into eastern Oklahoma through my good friend, Mr. WESTERMAN’s district.

It encompasses nearly 10,000 acres of rugged terrain, and the most treasured views in the Ouachita region are in Flatside Wilderness. For those visitors that Congressman WESTERMAN referenced, the area also includes the challenging and very popular Ouachita National Recreation Trail, which bisects Flatside Wilderness.

Back in 1984, under the leadership of former Arkansas Senator Dale Bumpers and my predecessor, Congressman Ed Bethune, the Arkansas Wilderness Act was passed and signed into law by President Reagan. This legislation designated Flatside as one of the first Arkansas wilderness areas to be added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. At the time of its passage, the Flatside area was intended to be larger than what was ultimately designated.

□ 1615

In 1984, the Forest Service and its Flatside advocates were not able to craft a strategy where all the studied and preferred acres of the forest could be included. As such, Mr. Speaker, when I joined Congress in 2015, I set out to complete that original designed 1984 plan for Flatside.

In 2019, with the help of Arkansas Senator JOHN BOOZMAN and Chairman WESTERMAN, we were able to add 640 acres to Flatside, which was signed into law by President Trump.

That same year, Senator BOOZMAN and I collaborated on an appropriation measure that directed the Forest Service to complete a study on which the surrounding lands that were eligible to be added to Flatside would be carefully studied.

Mr. Speaker, it is the results of that 2019 legislatively directed study that was published in 2021 that are the basis for the law proposal before us today.

With the help of my colleagues, this bill will finish the work started some four decades ago in which I have been personally dedicated since joining this House.

With this final addition, the Flatside Wilderness area can continue to serve central Arkansas as a place of economic, recreational, and historic importance.

First, as Chairman WESTERMAN noted, this is not creating a new wilderness area but simply designating additional land. It has wide support, as noted by my friend, including our local county and city officials in the county where it is located: Governor Sarah Sanders, Arkansas Parks & Tourism, the leadership of our Game and Fish Commission, and many other local

leaders and outdoor recreation groups in our State.

Rest assured also, Mr. Speaker, the current forest management plan for Flatside already includes prescribed burns, fire suppression techniques, and reiterates the authority of management to protect the area from fire, insects, and disease.

So, I thank my friend, Mr. WESTERMAN, for working with me on this. I think it should be supported by all the Members in the House. It is a model, as we have talked about before, for how we bring local officials, outdoor recreation, conservationists, and forest land management people together to advance something that is sought by our local leadership in the State.

So I thank Mr. WESTERMAN, Speaker JOHNSON, Leader SCALISE, and Representative EMMER, as well as all the members of the House Natural Resources Committee for working with me on this proposal.

As I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that for four decades this has been an important place in my life. It reminds me of John Muir's famous poem: Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

Mr. Speaker, I hope future generations of Arkansans and a lot of Texas visitors will enjoy those glad tidings from Flatside.

I include in the RECORD an article titled: "Opposites Attract: How a Conservative Texan Helped a Liberal Arkansan Enact the Sweeping Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984."

OPPOSITES ATTRACT: HOW A CONSERVATIVE TEXAN HELPED A LIBERAL ARKANSAN ENACT THE SWEEPING ARKANSAS WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

(By J. French Hill, April 25, 2009)

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN ARKANSAS UNIVERSITY MAGNOLIA, ARKANSAS

Twenty-Five years ago in 1984, a dedicated group of conservationists constructed an exceptional coalition, known as the Arkansas Conservation Coalition (ACC). They were successful in their quest to set aside 91,000 extraordinary acres of national forest as "forever wild" wilderness. Their success to which I pay tribute today came on the twentieth anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964. In 1964, Congress authorized guiding principles that would carefully select areas within existing federal lands and define them as wilderness—areas would be off limits in perpetuity to roads, timber harvesting, mining and oil/gas exploration and other commercial activities—and, more importantly in today's culture, all motorized vehicles: no ATV's or 4-wheelers. But, man himself is welcomed as a visitor to camp, hike, climb, hunt and fish, canoe, swim and kayak.

While there have been U.S. forest reserves dating to President Harrison in the 1890's, it was President Teddy Roosevelt that established the National Forest Service in 1905 and dedicated over 150 million acres for future generations. Included among these extraordinary resources were both the Arkansas National Forest in 1907 (later renamed

the Ouachita National Forest by President Coolidge in 1924) and the Ozark National Forest in 1908.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter requested that the Forest Service undertake a review of all potential wilderness areas across the country and make recommendations to Congress. Their effort was referred to as the Second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, or RARE II. The Forest Service was required to assess each potential area for wilderness designation as to presence of rare plant or animals; historic, recreational or sites of solitude; man's existing impact in the area; and, the potential impact on economic development or nearby private land ownership and use.

The ACC also sent out teams to assess sites in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests. Their detailed report offered up eleven areas with approximately 138,195 acres for consideration. The Forest Service plan ultimately proposed only 45,701 acres and recommended that seven areas deserved "further planning" while fourteen others deserved "non-wilderness" uses. In April of 1979 President Carter endorsed the Forest Service recommendations.

Politicians that supported the forest products industry, including U.S. Representative Beryl Anthony (D-AR) from the Fourth District of Arkansas, expressed support for the Forest Service proposal. He offered legislation to enact its recommendations and to appropriate funds for roads and timber leasing in the disputed areas. He stated that the forest industry would "support wilderness," but only "responsible wilderness." Of further concern to wilderness proponents, a "twenty year window" had been left open in the 1964 Act to facilitate mineral leases or claims; and, as a result, applications were pouring into federal land offers before the window would shut in 1983.

To gain time, the ACC in 1983 persuaded Senator David Pryor (D-AR) and U.S. Representative from First District, Bill Alexander (D-AR) to request the Forest Service to delay any development in the potential areas. ACC members, Bill Coleman, Don Hamilton, and Tom McClure toured the state with an informative slide presentation supporting the larger ACC proposed list of areas. In February 1982, Arkansas Governor Frank White (R-AR), an avid hiker and canoeist, issued a Proclamation in favor of the ACC Plan and urged action by Congress.

Governor White's favorable view of wilderness was echoed by another strong conservative voice in the country. Then Newsweek columnist, George F. Will, in an August 16, 1982, column passionately argued for wilderness in firm opposition to President Reagan's Interior Secretary James Watt's position of no further wilderness set aside.

In fact, the Reagan Administration supported the Carter Forest Service position on RARE II recommendations. The only firm Arkansas delegation position was Beryl Anthony's limited approach. Therefore, ACC members needed a break in order to have a shot at a bill before "twenty year" leasing window closed or some other action derailed their attempt for more wilderness areas in Arkansas.

The ACC firmly believed that their break would come when Arkansas' senior senator, and distinguished member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Dale Bumpers (D-AR), would introduce a bill—as he had promised 18 months previously in 1981. But, again, the public support for the ACC approach came not from a Democrat, but from a Republican, Second District U.S. Representative Ed Bethune of Searcy. In April of 1983, Bethune, toured the areas and announced that he would introduce legislation to designate Flatside in Perry and Sa-

line Counties as wilderness. Flatside (about 10,885 acres) was the only ACC designated area in the Second District. He also told reporters that he would like to see all eleven areas recommended by the ACC included in a final bill.

Bethune's action prompted the Arkansas delegation's only other Republican, U.S. Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt (R-AR) of Harrison to take a position. He announced that he was opposed to Bethune's and Anthony's efforts recalling that he had told his constituents a "number of years ago that we probably had enough wilderness areas". However, by the end of 1983, Hammerschmidt and Alexander had sided with Anthony and co-sponsored his Forest Service-backed bill. Arkansas wilderness legislation was now deadlocked in the House and Senators Bumpers and Pryor had yet to take any action.

The Arkansas Democrat reported that Anthony and Bethune were applying pressure on Bumpers and Pryor and that Bumpers and Pryor were waiting on a compromise in the House. But, in the "air war" Bethune was gaining ground. He obtained endorsements from pro-business groups such as The Little Rock Chamber, Mack McLarty, then Chair and the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission.

Then, a miracle of legislative courage happened. On the last day of the 1983 session, Senators Bumpers and Pryor introduced a wilderness bill, S. 2125, almost a duplicate of Bethune's. They indicated that they would hold public hearings in Arkansas despite the fact that two House subcommittees had already held extensive hearings in May 1983. Regardless of the two year delay, proponents now had a House bill and a Senate companion. The delay also resulted in trying to legislate during the upcoming presidential election year. Indeed, it was an uncertain environment for wilderness.

On Wednesday, February 15, 1984, on the campus of UALR, Bumpers and Bethune sat side-by-side, allied and ready to hear 130 scheduled witnesses—the most Senator Bumpers remarked he had seen in his nine years in the Senate. Senator Pryor would have joined them, but was attending the funeral of his Mother. These hearings would be followed by a second set of hearings in Washington in April 1984.

So, let's pick up the "back story" as to the role of a conservative Texas Republican in this wilderness saga. On February 7, 1984, the week before Little Rock hearings, I sent a note to my boss, Senator John Tower (R-TX) about the Bumpers and Pryor bill, S. 2125. At the time, I worked for Senator Tower on the staff of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs.

Having grown up in Arkansas and spent many boyhood hours in the Ozark and Ouachita National Forests, I had closely followed the House logjam and was eager to help my life-long friend, Don Hamilton, and the coalition spark unusual support in the Senate.

In order to persuade Senator Tower to co-sponsor wilderness legislation outside his home state, I need a solid fact case. With help from Joe David Rice of the Arkansas Department of Tourism, we discovered the fact that Texans were the number one source of tourists in Arkansas.

The Senator was amused, but nonetheless agreed to co-sponsor S. 2125. He announced his intent on February 20, 1984 in a statement inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. He described typical visitor to Arkansas as a "43 year old Texan traveling with his family." He concluded his endorsement with this critical caveat: "... while I am in support of Texans enjoying their beautiful wilderness, I will never concede which state has better football teams."

Reaction to Tower's co-sponsorship was swift. First, it was rare, if at all, for any out of state senator to co-sponsor another state's bill. And, it was more shocking to some that John Tower, conservative Republican, powerful chairman of Senate Armed Services, would endorse an environmental bill: Tower with a "zero rating from the pro-conservation voters" supported Bumpers with 77% rating from the same group. An aide to Bumpers declared his reaction as "delighted . . . (but) it sure is strange."

The Arkansas Gazette described the endorsement in an editorial dated March 6, 1984, with the opening line: "Amazing yes, but true." The Gazette opinion argued that Tower's co-sponsorship of S. 2125 "evidences more support for conservation in Arkansas than Anthony, Alexander and Hammer-schmidt." The Pine Bluff Commercial Appeal in an editorial called "Tower of Strength" demonstrated powerful support for the State's tourism resources by saying, "Let's not skimp when it comes to saving something so valuable—and so invaluable."

On March 8, 1984, Senator Bumpers wrote Don Hamilton enclosing a copy of Senator Tower's statement of support saying, "I'm sure you had something to do with his decision." Tower followed up his co-sponsorship by submitting a statement for the record at the Bumpers hearings in Washington on April 6, 1984. In his statement, Tower quoted from conservationist and Republican President Theodore Roosevelt. I had recently been at Theodore Roosevelt's home, Sagamore Hill on Long Island, seen the quote and recommended to Senator Tower for inclusion:

The civilized people of today look back with horror at their medieval ancestors who wantonly destroyed great works of art, or sat slothfully by while they were being destroyed. We have passed that stage. We treasure pictures and sculptures. But we are, as a whole, still in that low stale of civilization where we do not understand that it is also vandalism wantonly to destroy or to permit the destruction of what is beautiful in nature, whether it be a cliff, a forest, or a species mammal or bird.

It should be noted that in May 1984, Senator Tower also co-sponsored with Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX) a bill to block clear cutting and development in 34,300 acres of East Texas. Politically, Tower was up for reelection in 1984 and he desired to broaden his legislative record beyond his internationally recognized expertise in military and foreign relations matters. Thus, the Arkansas wilderness bill and the Texas anti-clear cut measure both fit neatly in his legislative diversity plan. In a 1986 law school paper, distinguished Little Rock attorney, Scott Trotter, postulated that Tower was recruited as a co-sponsor "in anticipation of opposition from several oil companies."

And, while several oil companies in fact opposed the legislation, there was no such grand plan as considered by Mr. Trotter. The lead component in this legislative pact was simply the bond of friendship and belief in the cause. In the end, opposition from last minute concerns related to paper, oil and gas and air quality issues were all turned away and the U.S. Senate passed S. 2125 on August 9, 1984. Following House passage, President Reagan signed the bill into law on October 19, 1984 (PL 98-508).

I'll conclude with this photo taken on May 7, 1984, of Senator Tower sitting in his office in the Russell Senate Office Building reviewing Bill Coleman and Susan Morrison's beautifully illustrated volume, *Arkansas Wilderness*. I dedicate these remarks to the memory of my friend and mentor, John Tower. He was killed tragically in a plane crash with his daughter Marian in April, 1991. He was 65

and she was 35. Our country has had few public servants possessing his patriotism, intellect and commitment to the Constitution. And, it was just like him to disagree vigorously with Senator Bumpers on arms control, but link arm-in-arm and work for the common good of their constituents and preserve spaces of solitude for generations to come.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would like to, once again, thank my colleague from Arkansas, especially Representative HILL, for his tireless efforts on this piece of legislation and for the diligence in the process that he labored through to get to this point today. I appreciate him bringing forth this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1612.

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.

CONVEYANCE FOR AQUIFER RECHARGE PURPOSES

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 331) to amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 331

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

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE FOR AQUIFER RECHARGE PURPOSES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subsection (c)(3) of the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act (43 U.S.C. 390g-9) is amended—

(1) by striking "The holder" and inserting the following:

"(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The holder";

(2) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking "may transport water for aquifer recharge purposes without requiring additional authorization from the Secretary where the use does not expand or modify the operation" and inserting "may, acting for the holder or on behalf of a State, political subdivision of a State, Indian Tribe, or public entity and subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), use the existing right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization for the purpose of aquifer recharge and the transport and use of water rights for aquifer recharge without requiring additional authorization from the Secretary, which use shall not be considered an expansion, modification, or substantial deviation"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) *NOTICE REQUIRED.*—

"(i) *IN GENERAL.*—Not less than 30 days before using an existing right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization for the purpose of

aquifer recharge under subparagraph (A), the holder of the right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization shall submit to the Bureau of Land Management notice of the intended use, in accordance with clause (ii).

"(ii) *REQUIREMENTS.*—A notice submitted under clause (i) shall—

"(I) identify the State, political subdivision of the State, Indian Tribe, or public entity intending to use the existing right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization for the purpose of aquifer recharge;

"(II) identify the existing right-of-way, easement, permit, other authorization, or recognized authorized use for ditches and canals constructed on public land before or on October 21, 1976, under the authority of sections 2339 and 2340 of the Revised Statutes (43 U.S.C. 661) intended to be used;

"(III) provide details on the intended use and scope of use for the purpose of aquifer recharge of the existing right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization; and

"(IV) provide a copy of the agreement between the State, political subdivision of the State, Indian Tribe, or public entity and the holder of the right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization to use the existing right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization for the purpose of aquifer recharge."

(b) *EFFECT.*—Subsection (c)(4) of the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act (43 U.S.C. 390g-9) is amended—

(1) by striking "Act creates" and inserting "section—

"(A) creates";

(2) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end of the following:

"(B) waives the obligation of the holder of a right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization described in paragraph (3)(A) to comply with all applicable—

"(i) Federal laws; and

"(ii) policies of the Bureau; or

"(C) provides authority to construct, modify, or expand any existing infrastructure covered under subsection (c)(3)."

(c) *TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.*—The Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act (43 U.S.C. 390g-9) is amended in each of subsections (a) and (c)(5) by striking "Act" each place it appears and inserting "section".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 331, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 331, sponsored by Congressman FULCHER. In 2020, Congress passed the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act. The intent of that law was simple. It allowed existing irrigation canals to be used for conveying aquifer recharge water without requiring additional authorization from the Federal Government.

Unfortunately, the implementation of this law has been bogged down by bureaucratic red tape. Despite the plain wording of the law, the Bureau of Land Management has asserted that the law does not apply to third parties, only to the right-of-way holders of record.

As such, H.R. 331 amends the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to further clarify that an existing right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization can be used to recharge aquifers on behalf of State, Tribal, and local governments, without getting additional authorization or paying additional rents.

The aquifer recharge and storage are already complicated matters that depend on a variety of natural characteristics, including soil type and underlying geology, which influence water retention and the ability to recover stored water. There is no need for the Federal Government to add further complexity to this important work.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 331 would amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to allow third parties to utilize an existing right-of-way, easement, permit, or other authorization for aquifer recharge without further authorization from the Secretary of the Interior.

Underground aquifers play a key role in sustaining water supplies for groundwater-dependent irrigation, municipal water use, and ecosystems. This is especially important in areas experiencing drought and constrained surface supplies.

This bill will support aquifer recharge projects, in turn, strengthening water security.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, out West, the development of an aquifer recharge program generally includes using existing irrigation canals and ditches to seep and percolate water into the aquifer. Much of this infrastructure crosses land owned by the Bureau of Land Management, requiring additional authorization for aquifer recharge activities, even when conducted on behalf of public entities. Cutting red tape for such activities is simply common sense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 331, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNITY RECLAMATION PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 167) to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 167

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 "Community Reclamation Partnerships Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. REFERENCE.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is expressed in terms of an amendment to a provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.).

SEC. 3. STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR CERTAIN REMEDIATION.

Section 405 (30 U.S.C. 1235) is amended by inserting after subsection (l) the following:

"(m) STATE MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING FOR REMEDIATION OF MINE DRAINAGE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A State with a State program approved under subsection (d) may enter into a memorandum of understanding with relevant Federal or State agencies (or both) to remediate mine drainage on abandoned mine land and water impacted by abandoned mines within the State. The memorandum may be updated as necessary and resubmitted for approval under this subsection.

"(2) MEMORANDA REQUIREMENTS.—Such memorandum shall establish a strategy satisfactory to the State and Federal agencies that are parties to the memorandum, to address water pollution resulting from mine drainage at sites eligible for reclamation and mine drainage abatement expenditures under section 404, including specific procedures for—

"(A) ensuring that activities carried out to address mine drainage will result in improved water quality;

"(B) monitoring, sampling, and the reporting of collected information as necessary to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A);

"(C) operation and maintenance of treatment systems as necessary to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A); and

"(D) other purposes, as considered necessary by the State or Federal agencies, to achieve the condition required under subparagraph (A).

"(3) PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Before submitting a memorandum to the Secretary and the Administrator for approval, a State shall—

"(i) invite interested members of the public to comment on the memorandum; and

"(ii) hold at least one public meeting concerning the memorandum in a location or locations reasonably accessible to persons who may be affected by implementation of the memorandum.

"(B) NOTICE OF MEETING.—The State shall publish notice of each meeting not less than

15 days before the date of the meeting, in local newspapers of general circulation, on the Internet, and by any other means considered necessary or desirable by the Secretary and the Administrator.

"(C) RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT.—The memorandum shall include responses to substantive concerns raised by the public in comments and during public meetings if received within 30 days of such meetings and opportunity to comment.

"(4) SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL.—The State shall submit the memorandum to the Secretary and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for approval. The Secretary and the Administrator shall approve or disapprove the memorandum within 120 days after the date of its submission if the Secretary and Administrator find that the memorandum will facilitate additional activities under the State Reclamation Plan under subsection (e) that improve water quality.

"(5) TREATMENT AS PART OF STATE PLAN.—A memorandum of a State that is approved by the Secretary and the Administrator under this subsection shall be considered part of the approved abandoned mine reclamation plan of the State.

"(n) COMMUNITY RECLAIMER PARTNERSHIPS.—

"(1) PROJECT APPROVAL.—Within 120 days after receiving such a submission, the Secretary shall approve a Community Reclaimer project to remediate abandoned mine lands if the Secretary finds that—

"(A) the proposed project will be conducted by a Community Reclaimer as defined in this subsection or approved subcontractors of the Community Reclaimer;

"(B) for any proposed project that remediates mine drainage, the proposed project is consistent with an approved State memorandum of understanding under subsection (m);

"(C) the proposed project will be conducted on a site or sites inventoried under section 403(c);

"(D) the proposed project meets all submission criteria under paragraph (2);

"(E) the relevant State has entered into an agreement with the Community Reclaimer under which the State shall assume all responsibility with respect to the project for any costs or damages resulting from any action or inaction on the part of the Community Reclaimer in carrying out the project, except for costs or damages resulting from gross negligence or intentional misconduct by the Community Reclaimer, on behalf of—

"(i) the Community Reclaimer; and

"(ii) the owner of the proposed project site, if such Community Reclaimer or owner, respectively, did not participate in any way in the creation of site conditions at the proposed project site or activities that caused any lands or waters to become eligible for reclamation or drainage abatement expenditures under section 404;

"(F) the State has the necessary legal authority to conduct the project and will obtain all legally required authorizations, permits, licenses, and other approvals to ensure completion of the project;

"(G) the State has sufficient financial resources to ensure completion of the project, including any necessary operation and maintenance costs (including costs associated with emergency actions covered by a contingency plan under paragraph (2)(K)); and

"(H) the proposed project is not in a category of projects that would require a permit under title V.

"(2) PROJECT SUBMISSION.—The State shall submit a request for approval to the Secretary that shall include—

“(A) a description of the proposed project, including any engineering plans that must bear the seal of a professional engineer;

“(B) a description of the proposed project site or sites, including, if relevant, the nature and extent of pollution resulting from mine drainage;

“(C) identification of the past and current owners and operators of the proposed project site;

“(D) the agreement or contract between the relevant State and the Community Reclaimer to carry out the project;

“(E) a determination that the project will facilitate the activities of the State reclamation plan under subsection (e);

“(F) sufficient information to determine whether the Community Reclaimer has the technical capability and expertise to successfully conduct the proposed project;

“(G) a cost estimate for the project and evidence that the Community Reclaimer has sufficient financial resources to ensure the successful completion of the proposed project (including any operation or maintenance costs);

“(H) a schedule for completion of the project;

“(I) an agreement between the Community Reclaimer and the current owner of the site governing access to the site;

“(J) sufficient information to ensure that the Community Reclaimer meets the definition under paragraph (3);

“(K) a contingency plan designed to be used in response to unplanned adverse events that includes emergency actions, response, and notifications;

“(L) detailed plans for any proposed recycling or reprocessing of historic mine residue to be conducted by the Community Reclaimer (including a description of how all proposed recycling or reprocessing activities contribute to the remediation of the abandoned mine site); and

“(M) a requirement that the State provide notice to adjacent and downstream landowners and the public and hold a public meeting near the proposed project site before the project is initiated.

“(3) REPROCESSING OF MATERIALS.—A Community Reclaimer may reprocess materials recovered during the implementation of a remediation plan only if—

“(A) the applicable land management agency has signed a decision document approving reprocessing as part of the approved abandoned mine reclamation plan of the State;

“(B) the proceeds from the sale or use of the materials are used—

“(i) to defray the costs of the remediation; and

“(ii) to reimburse the Administrator or the head of a Federal land management agency for the purpose of carrying out this Act; and

“(C) the materials only include historic mine residue.

“(4) COMMUNITY RECLAIMER DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘Community Reclaimer’ means any person who—

“(A) seeks to voluntarily assist a State with a reclamation project under this section, which may include companies that currently hold reclamation liability elsewhere from the proposed site or active mine sites that require a performance bond;

“(B) did not participate in any way in the creation of site conditions at the proposed project site or activities that caused any lands or waters at the proposed project site to become eligible for reclamation or drainage abatement expenditures under section 404; and

“(C) is not subject to outstanding violations listed pursuant to section 510(c).”

SEC. 4. CLARIFYING STATE LIABILITY FOR MINE DRAINAGE PROJECTS.

Section 413(d) (30 U.S.C. 1242(d)) is amended by inserting “unless such control or treatment will be conducted in accordance with a State memorandum of understanding approved under section 405(m) of this Act” after “under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act”.

SEC. 5. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 405(f) (30 U.S.C. 1235(f)) is amended—

(1) by striking the “and” after the semicolon in paragraph (6);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (7) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following:

“(8) a list of projects proposed under subsection (n).”

SEC. 6. SUNSET PROVISION.

This Act shall be in effect until September 30, 2032.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 167, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Representative LAHOOD's bill, H.R. 167, the Community Reclamation Partnerships Act of 2025.

This bill would revise the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program by allowing third-party organizations to clean up coal mines that were abandoned before modern environmental regulations. These organizations would be granted protection from liability so they can assist in the cleanup of acid mine drainage without fear of frivolous lawsuits.

While Good Samaritan remediation laws have been successful in States like Pennsylvania, there is currently no similar Federal framework for third-party protections. As a result, would-be reclaimers are often deterred from cleanup projects due to fear of assuming liability for conditions caused by prior operations.

H.R. 167, however, would recognize nongovernmental organizations as community reclaimers, and States would assume responsibility for all community reclaimer cleanup projects, just as they currently do for approved AML contractors. This bill also establishes approved practices for these reclamation projects and a process for agreements between States and Federal agencies on mine drainage remediation.

Many third-party organizations support this legislation, as they need this

liability protection in order to operate efficiently and effectively.

The Community Reclamation Partnerships Act passed the House in the 115th Congress and has moved through committee for the last three Congresses. It is time we passed this commonsense, bipartisan piece of legislation that will help reclaim abandoned mine lands and clean up our local estuaries.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 167, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleague, Representative LAHOOD's bill, the Community Reclamation Partnerships Act.

This legislation would amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act to allow States to partner with third-party groups like environmental and wildlife protection organizations, to clean up abandoned coal mine sites. Qualifying projects would be exempt from certain legal liabilities that have stood in the way of cleanup.

Right now, there are many thousands of abandoned coal mine sites across the country, many located in Appalachia, from before the industry was federally regulated. These sites will sit for years, with rivers and streams running over them, polluting waterways in perpetuity, unless taxpayers shoulder the cost of cleanup.

With limited government funds and personnel to clean up these mines, many sites are left polluted for decades. To make matters worse, even if a Good Samaritan group wants to volunteer to help clean up the pollution themselves, current law requires them to take on full liability for the site under the Clean Water Act.

That means raising funds to cover all the bonding and liability costs. Even if the groups manage to do that, it is nearly impossible to get a permit for this work because of the high standards in the Clean Water Act.

This bill would address these issues by empowering communities to help clean up polluted sites.

This isn't a get out of jail free card for polluting companies. This is a tool that gives communities more agency to care for the places they live, work, and play.

On both sides of the aisle, we agree that Good Samaritans shouldn't face these barriers to completing honest and necessary work. However, this bill is only part of the solution to the abandoned coal mine problem. There is more to do to hold the industry accountable, but this is a good bipartisan step to cleaner water for our communities.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, this bill will ease the process for reclaiming abandoned mine land

and improving environmental quality in communities across the country. This legislation will also allow reclamation organizations to clean up abandoned mine land without fear of becoming trapped in a litigation doom loop.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAHOOD for bringing H.R. 167 to the floor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 167.

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.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF A CERTAIN RECORD OF DECISION ON THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN FUND

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1001) to provide for a memorandum of understanding to address the impacts of a certain record of decision on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1001

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

SECTION 1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ADDRESS POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF A CERTAIN RECORD OF DECISION ON THE UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, and the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration, in consultation with the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group, shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to explore and address the impact that the record of decision entitled the “Supplement to the 2016 Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Record of Decision” and dated July 2024 (referred to in this section as the “record of decision”) has on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund (referred to in this section as the “Fund”).

(b) REQUIRED PLAN.—The memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (a) shall, using information derived from existing hydropower contracts, include the establishment of a plan to—

(1) address the effects that the record of decision may have on Fund obligations including routine operations, maintenance, and replacement of critical infrastructure;

(2) address the impact that the record of decision has on hydropower production at Glen Canyon Dam, including costs to replace hydropower resources and grid reliability; and

(3) identify impacts that the record of decision has had on species listed as a threatened

species or an endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1533).

(c) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—Nothing in this Act shall preempt rights or obligations under subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Administrative Procedure Act”).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1001, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1630

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1001 sponsored by Congresswoman HAGEMAN. This bill requires the Bureau of Reclamation and the Western Area Power Administration, or WAPA, to enter into a memorandum of understanding aimed at addressing the impacts that bypass flows at Glen Canyon Dam have had on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund.

These flows are an attempt to manage an invasive smallmouth bass population that imperils the federally listed humpback chub below the dam. While well-intentioned, this action comes at a steep cost.

In 2024, the bypass flows produced \$20 million in lost hydropower generation, which instead had to be replaced with power purchased on the open market.

WAPA makes these purchases using the Basin Fund, which is funded by hydropower revenues, not appropriations. In other words, utility customers end up footing the very expensive bill to address the impacts of predatory smallmouth bass.

The loss in revenues not only means higher electricity prices but also negative impacts on the Colorado River system, as the Basin Fund is the primary source of funding for operations and maintenance of the system's critical infrastructure.

I want to be clear: H.R. 1001 does not prevent bypass flows. It does, however, require the agencies to fully cooperate to minimize the impacts of these flows on the grid and its customers. It also requires coordination with hydropower customers and other stakeholders, including the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Work Group.

I support this legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1001 would direct the Department of Energy and the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies to evaluate the potential impacts of the 2024 supplement to the 2016 Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Record of Decision on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund.

The Colorado River is an essential water resource, supplying water for municipal and agricultural uses, energy production, and fish and wildlife habitat. However, persistent drought, over-allocation of water resources, and the escalating impacts of climate change have placed unprecedented strain on the basin.

The record of decision was an important step in addressing species' needs below the Glen Canyon Dam, and preliminary data showed promising results in protecting native fish species.

As drought conditions worsen and water demand continues to increase, it is more critical than ever to ensure water management appropriately balances agricultural, municipal, industrial, and environmental needs.

This legislation will direct Bureau of Reclamation and the Western Area Power Administration to analyze how the record of decision may impact the fund's resources, hydropower generation at the Glen Canyon Dam, and endangered species.

I hope to work with my colleagues across the aisle on advancing meaningful legislation to safeguard environmental and cultural resources while addressing the long-term challenges of drought and climate change.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 1001, which requires the Bureau of Reclamation and the Western Area Power Administration, or WAPA, to enter into a memorandum of understanding to address the impacts that bypass flows at Glen Canyon Dam have had on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund.

It is worth taking a moment to highlight why we are here today. Under the Biden administration, the Bureau of Reclamation wanted to rush to implement bypass flows to prevent smallmouth bass and other warm water invasive nonnative fish from becoming established below the Glen Canyon Dam outlet works.

This action, however, comes at significant costs as it would mean foregoing hydropower generation for the majority of these releases.

The Bureau of Reclamation initiated its record of decision, or ROD, over Glen Canyon Dam's long-term experimental management plan supplemental EIS this past summer. It was signed on July 5, 2024, with implementation beginning just 3 days later on July 8. Pretty doggone quick.

The ROD calls for higher flows at the dam to combat the presence of predatory smallmouth bass which threaten the federally protected humpback chub. These higher flows bypass hydropower generators in order to cool the river temperature below the dam in an attempt to disrupt smallmouth bass downstream.

While this ROD was well-intentioned, it comes at a very serious cost to communities and power customers. Due to the bypass requirements, the lost hydropower generation must be replaced with power purchased on the open market.

WAPA makes these purchases from the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund which is funded by power revenues or, in other words, by the customers. WAPA's preliminary estimate of energy replacement is about \$20 million more than it would have been without the bypass requirements. Going forward, it projects the impact on customers to be even significantly more.

The American people are fed up with these heavyhanded decisions by the Federal Government that makes it increasingly difficult to get by in this country, particularly if you are trying to raise a family. Water is the interior West's most important resource.

For over 60 years, Glen Canyon Dam has been producing hydroelectric power, providing reliable, flexible, low-cost, emission-free baseload energy across the entire region. That is why this bill is important.

My bill requires the Bureau of Reclamation to acknowledge the effect of the decision through a memorandum of understanding that measures the economic, environmental, and reliability impacts of the action. I am grateful that this important legislation is being considered today.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, H.R. 1001 would bring WAPA, the Bureau of Reclamation, and local stakeholders together to produce an action plan to address the effects of the bypass flows on the Basin Fund, as well as the impacts of diminished hydropower generation at Glen Canyon Dam on grid reliability.

The plan will also require the Federal agencies to identify the impacts of these actions on any species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

I again thank Representative HAGEMAN for tackling these important issues.

I urge my colleagues to support this 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1001.

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.

EXPEDITED APPEALS REVIEW ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 677) to establish a process to expedite the review of appeals of certain decisions by the Department of the Interior, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 677

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 "Expedited Appeals Review Act" or the "EARA".

SEC. 2. EXPEDITED REVIEWS.

(a) *REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED REVIEW.*—A party that files an appeal of a Department of the Interior decision described under section 4.1(b)(2) of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), with the Board of Land Appeals may submit to the Board of Land Appeals written notice of such party's intent to seek expedited review of the appeal. If a party submits such written notice, the Board of Land Appeals shall issue a final decision on the appeal by not later than the date that is 6 months after the date on which such written notice is received, except such deadline may not be earlier than the date that is 18 months after the date on which the appeal was initially filed with the Board of Land Appeals.

(b) *NO FINAL DECISION.*—If the Board of Land Appeals does not issue a final decision on an appeal by the deadline described in subsection (a)—

(1) *the Department of the Interior decision is deemed to be a final agency action for purposes of section 704 of title 5, United States Code; and*

(2) *notwithstanding section 706 of title 5, United States Code, judicial review of such decision shall be de novo.*

(c) *APPLICABILITY.*—This section shall apply to any appeal described in subsection (a) that—

(1) *is pending before the Board of Land Appeals as of the date of enactment of this Act; or*

(2) *is filed with the Board of Land Appeals after the date of enactment of this Act.*

(d) *CONFLICT.*—In the event of a conflict between the deadline described in subsection (a) and a deadline under section 115(h) of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1724(h)) or section 525(b) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1275(b)), the deadline described in subsection (a) shall control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 677, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 677, the Expedited Appeals Review Act, introduced by Representative HAGEMAN. This bill addresses critical flaws currently plaguing the review process of the Interior Board of Land Appeals, or IBLA.

The IBLA functions as an appellate review body within the Department of the Interior. It is tasked with resolving the many disputes that arise in connection with the public lands and natural resources under the Department's jurisdiction.

With over 600 appeals pending before the IBLA, however, many cases go undecided and are simply left to expire. This effectively results in automatic denials even though no substantive decisions have been rendered.

Thankfully, H.R. 677 offers a needed off-ramp for appellants that the IBLA has left in limbo. Starting 1 year after filing the appeal, an appellant may submit a request that requires the IBLA to decide the case within 6 months.

If the IBLA fails to meet the new deadline, the case automatically becomes eligible for de novo judicial review outside of the Department. This solution will reduce the existing backlog while ensuring stakeholders receive their day in court.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 677, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative HAGEMAN for drawing attention to the issues with the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

The IBLA resolves disputes related to public lands and natural resources under the Department of the Interior. However, the IBLA can take too long to decide these cases, leaving people waiting for years for a decision.

For example, at the end of fiscal year 2023, the IBLA had cases on their docket from fiscal year 2017. The Expedited Appeals Review Act would attempt to address this problem by creating an optional process for appellants to get expedited review from the IBLA.

Under this bill, if the IBLA does not make a decision by the expedited review deadline, the appellant can take the case directly to district court. The court would start the case de novo, compiling the facts of the case without deference to the original agency's decisionmaking.

While I agree with Representative HAGEMAN that the IBLA timelines are a problem, I do have some concerns that the proposed solution doesn't get to the root of the problem. The underlying cause behind the IBLA's delays is a lack of capacity and resources.

The Board has stated it does not have the resources needed to resolve every appeal filed every fiscal year. Instead

of setting more deadlines that we know the IBLA can't meet, we should be appropriately staffing our agencies and review boards across the Federal Government.

Additionally, I am concerned this bill will create a fast-tracked review procedure that advantages wealthier appellants. Taking the case to district court is time- and resource-intensive, so only the wealthiest appellants are likely to use the expedited review process.

By making the IBLA focus its limited resources on expedited appeals, anyone without the money to take their case to district court may have to wait even longer.

I hope my Republican colleagues will work with us on providing the IBLA with the resources that would address the underlying problem here while also having an expedited review process.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of my bill, H.R. 677, the Expedited Appeals Review Act, or EARA. This bill addresses the backlog of appeals before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, or IBLA.

The IBLA is an appellant review board within the Department of the Interior, and it is tasked with resolving disputes involving public lands and natural resources under the Department's jurisdiction. This includes appeals involving the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Office of Natural Resources Revenue, and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.

It considers appeals dealing with grazing, mining, energy development, wildfire management, timber harvesting, trespass, and more.

The IBLA's stated mission is: "to provide an impartial forum within the Department of the Interior for the fair resolution of disputes involving public lands and natural resources under the Department's jurisdiction."

There are, however, longstanding inefficiencies in the appeals process. When combined with the high volume of cases, it has resulted in a backlog of over 650 pending appeals dating all the way back to 2014.

The IBLA receives on average 290 appeals per fiscal year. Of those cases that are not resolved on jurisdictional or procedural grounds, only 2 percent are decided in favor of the appellant and against the agency.

As instituted, the IBLA is not only falling short of its stated mission for impartiality, but creating further burdens through its extensive backlog.

The EARA creates an alternative path for expedited review, allowing stakeholders to request an accelerated decision of their appeals within 6 months of such a request. Failure to

meet this deadline then makes the decision immediately eligible for de novo judicial review outside of the Department.

This bill will alleviate the backlog in the IBLA, put the appealing entities on a level playing field with the Department and promote efficiency.

I am proud that this bill passed out of committee by unanimous consent, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1645

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will provide a more efficient and predictable form of recourse for those facing extended delays with their IBLA appeals.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) for her work on this important subject. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 677, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 677, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S TURNING POINT ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1550) to redesignate Saratoga National Historical Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1550

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 "Strengthening America's Turning Point Act".

SEC. 2. SARATOGA NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—Saratoga National Historical Park shall hereafter be known and designated as "Saratoga National Battlefield Park".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to Saratoga National Historical Park shall be deemed to be a reference to Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1550, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative STEFANIK's bill, H.R. 1550, which will redesignate the Saratoga National Historical Park located in her district as the Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

Saratoga County, New York, is the fastest growing county in New York State and features a robust economy and world-class tourist destinations for families and history buffs alike. However, this prosperous community in upstate New York would not exist if not for a series of legendary events that took place nearly 250 years ago.

In September 1777, General Horatio Gates led Continental Army troops against the British empire in present-day Saratoga County. In the ensuing Battles of Saratoga, American colonists forged a turning point in the Revolutionary War by routing the British invasion force.

Today, this 3,400-acre site is considered a unit of the National Park System. There, visitors can explore trails and experience the historic battlefield, which includes landmarks, fortifications, and other important structures.

Representative STEFANIK's legislation would redesignate this hallowed site as the Saratoga National Battlefield Park, thereby recognizing its significance as a historic battlefield and highlighting the sacrifices made by the soldiers who fought there.

While this area was originally named Saratoga Battlefield Park by the State of New York, the battlefield nomenclature was dropped in 1938 when the area became part of the National Park System. With the battles' upcoming 250th anniversary, however, residents of Saratoga County and New York State have called for renaming the park to clarify its place in the heroic struggle for American independence.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative STEFANIK for her leadership on this issue. She is a longstanding advocate for honoring America's history and protecting hallowed battlefields. Her leadership was crucial in ensuring the passage of the bipartisan American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act, which was signed into law earlier this year.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1550 redesignates Saratoga National Historical Park as the Saratoga National Battlefield Park.

The site in Stillwater, New York, marks the location of a critical pair of battles known as the turning point of the American Revolutionary War.

American forces defeated the British in the Battle of Saratoga in October 1777, which the National Park Service notes renewed the patriots' hope for independence and helped secure foreign recognition and support for the American Revolution.

This truly was a turning point that helped invigorate the fight for our independence.

As a testament to the importance of this monument, Congress has on permanent display in the Capitol rotunda, just steps away from here and to the left of the monument of three great suffragists, a famous oil painting by John Trumbull of the surrender of the British General Burgoyne at Saratoga.

The State of New York began efforts to preserve the battlefield in 1927, establishing a park known as the Saratoga Battlefield Park. However, the site's name changed to the Saratoga National Historical Park when Congress designated it as part of the National Park System in 1938.

Today's bill would restore the use of the term "battlefield" in the park's name to reflect the site's significance in the American Revolution. This is a fitting tribute as we prepare for next year's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for yielding me time.

I rise today in support of my legislation, the Strengthening America's Turning Point Act.

I am always proud to share with my colleagues in Congress and with the American people that upstate New York and the North Country are known as the cradle of the American Revolution, home to numerous battlefields and historic sites that were critical in shaping our Nation's founding and history.

As we approach the U.S. semiquincentennial and the 250th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, there is no better time to recognize the pivotal role this site played in our Nation's war for independence.

The Battles of Saratoga were the most significant turning points and one of the most decisive American battles of the Revolution. British General Burgoyne tried to seize control of the strategically important Hudson River Valley, but his campaign ended in defeat at the Battles of Saratoga, where he surrendered to General Horatio Gates.

The American victory against British forces at the Battles of Saratoga marked a changing of the tide in the Revolutionary War, hence, the turning point, securing foreign support from France and bolstering domestic support for the American patriots and their righteous cause.

This bipartisan legislation would rename Saratoga National Historical Park to Saratoga National Battlefield Park to more accurately reflect the historical significance of the site and emphasize the crucial military engagement that took place there.

The historic site was originally actually named Saratoga Battlefield Park, but when it became a national park in 1938, the word "battlefield" was left out of the name.

Unanimously supported by the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors, this significant fix will help increase public understanding of the deep significance the site holds in our military history and honor the site where so many gave their last full measure of devotion.

Mr. Speaker, I express my gratitude to my great friend and classmate, Chairman BRUCE WESTERMAN, for his partnership in ensuring our battlefields and historic sites in upstate New York and across America are preserved and protected for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill, the Strengthening America's Turning Point Act.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill by Representative STEFANIK acknowledges a significant site for its pivotal role in American history as we approach our Nation's 250th anniversary.

I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1550.

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.

APACHE COUNTY AND NAVAJO COUNTY CONVEYANCE ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1829) to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain lands within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1829

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 "Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND WITHIN THE APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS TO NAVAJO COUNTY, ARIZONA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Navajo County, Arizona.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Pinedale Cemetery Expansion" and dated May 23, 2022.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Subject to this section, if the County submits to the Secretary a written request for conveyance of the property described in subsection (c)(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (c)(1).

(c) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The property referred to in subsection (b) is—

(A) the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as "Exist. Cemetery" on the map, consisting of approximately 2.5 acres of National Forest System land located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona; and

(B) the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as "Proposed Expansion" on the map, consisting of approximately 2.5 acres of National Forest System land located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona.

(2) MAP.—

(A) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct minor errors in the map.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(3) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (b) shall—

(1) be subject to valid existing rights;

(2) be made without consideration;

(3) be made by quitclaim deed;

(4) not be subject to section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)); and

(5) be subject to any other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (b), the County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

(1) a survey, if necessary, under subsection (c)(3); and

(2) any environmental analysis and resource surveys required by Federal law.

(f) REQUIRED USE AS CEMETERY.—The property conveyed to the County under subsection (b) shall be used by the County as a cemetery.

(g) REVERSION.—If the property conveyed under subsection (b) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirement of subsection (f), all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert to the United States.

SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN LAND WITHIN THE APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FORESTS TO APACHE COUNTY, ARIZONA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Apache County, Arizona.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Exhibit, Alpine Cemetery Town-site" and dated October, 2019.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(b) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—Subject to this section, if the County submits to the Secretary a written request for conveyance of the property described in subsection (c)(1) not later than 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall convey to the County all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (c)(1).

(c) PROPERTY DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The property referred to in subsection (b) is—

(A) the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as the “Existing Alpine Cemetery” on the map, consisting of approximately 2.56 acres of National Forest System land located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona; and

(B) the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as the “Proposed Townsite Tract” on the map, consisting of approximately 8.06 acres of National Forest System land located in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in Arizona.

(2) MAP.—

(A) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct minor errors in the map.

(B) AVAILABILITY.—A copy of the map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(3) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (b) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (b) shall—

(1) be subject to valid existing rights;

(2) be made without consideration;

(3) be made by quitclaim deed;

(4) not be subject to section 120(h) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h)); and

(5) be subject to any other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (b), the County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—

(1) a survey, if necessary, under subsection (c)(3); and

(2) any environmental analysis and resource surveys required by Federal law.

(f) REQUIRED USE AS CEMETERY.—The property conveyed to the County under subsection (b) shall be used by the County as a cemetery.

(g) REVERSION.—If the property conveyed under subsection (b) is used in a manner that is inconsistent with the requirement of subsection (f), all right, title, and interest in and to the property shall revert to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 1829, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support Congressman CRANE's bill, the Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2025. This legislation would transfer small parcels of Federal land to Apache and Navajo Counties to expand existing cemeteries.

Located in eastern Arizona, the communities in Pinedale and Alpine are surrounded by the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Given the large Federal footprint, both communities have struggled to expand their respective cemeteries, which are currently located on U.S. Forest Service land and operated under a special use permit. If the cemeteries are not expanded, families will be forced to travel long distances to distant cemeteries to visit their deceased relatives.

To address this need, Pinedale and Alpine have worked with their respective counties to identify additional land to expand their cemeteries.

This bill provides a straightforward, commonsense solution by transferring U.S. Forest Service land adjacent to the cemeteries to the respective counties.

While this is a straightforward bill, I think many of us can attest to the invaluable role a burial place can play in the grieving process. Burial sites are sacred, eternal resting places that provide closure for the families of the deceased. Families should not be forced to travel long distances to lay their loved ones to rest due to the red tape of Federal land ownership.

As chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, I fought to elevate the voices of rural communities and highlight their unique challenges. This bill addresses one of those unique challenges.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CRANE for his work on this legislation. I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1829, the Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2025, a commonsense bill that will help rural Arizona communities meet an essential public service need.

This legislation would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey small parcels of land within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest to Apache County and Navajo County for the expansion of existing cemeteries.

These cemeteries are running out of space. Without this bill, local families face serious barriers in accessing burial services close to home.

This bill would ensure the land remains dedicated to cemetery use. It also protects Federal interests through a reversion clause and places the costs of surveys and environmental review on the counties.

This is a respectful, efficient solution that reflects both local priorities and responsible Federal land management.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of my bill, the Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2025.

This legislation would transfer Federal land currently under the purview of the U.S. Forest Service to Navajo and Apache Counties.

For more than a decade, the communities of Pinedale and Alpine have struggled to find appropriate cemetery space to meet the needs of family members wishing to enter and pay respects to their loved ones.

My bill would expand the land adjacent to the Alpine Community Cemetery, preventing the need for members of the community to be laid to rest in a distant cemetery.

These communities have storied histories dating back to the pioneers, and they deserve to lay their loved ones to rest in a place that means so much to them.

My primary objective as a public official is to remain principled and effective for the district that I represent, ensuring that rural communities are not forgotten by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Chairman WESTERMAN, Navajo County Supervisor Seymore, and Apache County Supervisor Nelson, and also my colleagues on the other side for their support and their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this sensible solution.

□ 1700

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1829 will ensure that two rural communities in eastern Arizona have the space to lay their beloved community members to rest. I thank Congressman CRANE for spearheading this critical issue on behalf of his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McDOWELL). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1829.

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.

SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA TREATY ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 531) to amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 531

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2025”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Amendment of South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. Prohibited acts.
- Sec. 5. Exceptions.
- Sec. 6. Criminal offenses.
- Sec. 7. Civil penalties.
- Sec. 8. Licenses.
- Sec. 9. Enforcement.
- Sec. 10. Findings by Secretary.
- Sec. 11. Reporting requirements; disclosure of information.
- Sec. 12. Closed Area stowage requirements.
- Sec. 13. Observers.
- Sec. 14. Technical assistance.
- Sec. 15. Arbitration.
- Sec. 16. Disposition of fees, penalties, forfeitures, and other moneys.
- Sec. 17. Additional agreements.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SOUTH PACIFIC TUNA ACT OF 1988.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973 et seq.).

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

(a) **APPLICABLE NATIONAL LAW.**—Section 2(4) (16 U.S.C. 973(4)) is amended by striking “described in paragraph 1(a) of Annex I of” and inserting “noticed and in effect in accordance with”.

(b) **CLOSED AREA.**—Section 2(5) (16 U.S.C. 973(5)) is amended by striking “of the closed areas identified in Schedule 2 of Annex I of” and inserting “area within the jurisdiction of a Pacific Island Party that is closed to vessels pursuant to a national law of that Pacific Island Party and is noticed and in effect in accordance with”.

(c) **FISHING.**—Section 2(6) (16 U.S.C. 973(6)) is amended—

- (1) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “for any purpose” after “harvesting of fish”; and
- (2) by amending subparagraph (F) to read as follows:

“(F) use of any other vessel, vehicle, aircraft, or hovercraft, for any activity described in this paragraph except for emergencies involving the health or safety of the crew or the safety of a vessel.”

(d) **FISHING VESSEL.**—Section 2(7) (16 U.S.C. 973(7)) is amended by striking “commercial fishing” and inserting “commercial purse seine fishing for tuna”.

(e) **LICENSING AREA.**—Section 2(8) (16 U.S.C. 973(8)) is amended by striking “in the Treaty Area” and all that follows and inserting “under the jurisdiction of a Pacific Island Party, except for internal waters, territorial seas, archipelagic waters, and any Closed Area.”

(f) **LIMITED AREA; PARTY; TREATY AREA.**—Section 2 (16 U.S.C. 973) is amended—

- (1) by striking paragraphs (10), (13), and (18);
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (11) and (12) as paragraphs (10) and (11), respectively;
- (3) by redesignating paragraph (14) as paragraph (12); and
- (4) by redesignating paragraphs (15) through (17) as paragraphs (14) through (16), respectively.

(g) **REGIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—Section 2 (16 U.S.C. 973) is amended by inserting after paragraph (12), as so redesignated, the following:

“(13) The term ‘regional terms and conditions’ means any of the terms or conditions attached by the Administrator to the license issued by the Administrator, as notified by the Secretary.”

SEC. 4. PROHIBITED ACTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5(a) (16 U.S.C. 973(a)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “Except as provided in section 6 of this Act, it” at the beginning and inserting “It”;
- (2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4);
- (3) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (13) as paragraphs (3) through (11), respectively;
- (4) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by inserting “, except in accordance with an agreement pursuant to the Treaty” after “Closed Area”;
- (5) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated, by striking “or” at the end;
- (6) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
- (7) by adding at the end the following:

“(12) to violate any of the regional terms and conditions; or

“(13) to violate any limit on authorized fishing effort or catch.”

(b) **IN THE LICENSING AREA.**—Section 5(b) (16 U.S.C. 973(b)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “Except as provided in section 6 of this Act, it” and inserting “It”;
- (2) by striking paragraph (5); and
- (3) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively.

SEC. 5. EXCEPTIONS.

Section 6 (16 U.S.C. 973d) is repealed.

SEC. 6. CRIMINAL OFFENSES.

Section 7(a) (16 U.S.C. 973e(a)) is amended by striking “section 5(a) (8), (10), (11), or (12)” and inserting “paragraphs (6), (8), (9), or (10) of section 5(a)”.

SEC. 7. CIVIL PENALTIES.

(a) **DETERMINATION OF LIABILITY; AMOUNT; PARTICIPATION BY SECRETARY OF STATE IN ASSESSMENT PROCEEDING.**—Section 8(a) (16 U.S.C. 973(f)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “Code” after “liable to the United States”; and
- (2) by striking “Except for those acts prohibited by section 5(a) (4), (5), (7), (8), (10), (11), and (12), and section 5(b) (1), (2), (3), and (7) of this Act, the” and inserting “The”.

(b) **WAIVER OF REFERRAL TO ATTORNEY GENERAL.**—Section 8(g) (16 U.S.C. 973(g)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “section 5(a)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), or (13)” and inserting “paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (11), (12), or (13) of section 5(a)”;
- (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “, all Limited Areas closed to fishing,” after “outside of the Licensing Area”.

SEC. 8. LICENSES.

(a) **FORWARDING AND TRANSMITTAL OF VESSEL LICENSE APPLICATION.**—Section 9(b) (16 U.S.C. 973g(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) In accordance with subsection (e), and except as provided in subsection (f), the Secretary shall forward a vessel license application to the Administrator whenever such application is in accordance with application procedures established by the Secretary.”

(b) **FEES AND SCHEDULES.**—Section 9(c) (16 U.S.C. 973g(c)) is amended to read as follows: “(c) Fees required under the Treaty shall be paid in accordance with the Treaty and any procedures established by the Secretary.”

(c) **MINIMUM FEES REQUIRED TO BE RECEIVED IN INITIAL YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR FORWARDING AND TRANSMITTAL OF LICENSE APPLICATIONS.**—Section 9 (16 U.S.C. 973g) is amended—

- (1) by striking subsection (f);
- (2) by redesignating subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;
- (3) by amending subsection (f), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

“(f) The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may determine that a license application should not be forwarded to the Administrator if—

- “(1) the application is not in accordance with the Treaty or the procedures established by the Secretary; or
- “(2) the owner or charterer—

“(A) is the subject of proceedings under the bankruptcy laws of the United States, unless reasonable financial assurances have been provided to the Secretary;

“(B) has not established to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the fishing vessel is fully insured against all risks and liabilities normally provided in maritime liability insurance; or

“(C) has not paid any penalty which has become final, assessed by the Secretary in accordance with this Act.”; and

- (4) in subsection (g), as so redesignated—
- (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) chapter 12113 of title 46, United States Code;”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “of 1972” after “Marine Mammal Protection Act”;

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “of 1972” after “Marine Mammal Protection Act”; and

(D) in the matter that follows paragraph (3), by striking “any vessel documented” and all that follows and inserting the following: “any vessel documented under the laws of the United States as of the date of enactment of the Fisheries Act of 1995 for which a license has been issued under subsection (a) may fish for tuna in the Licensing Area, and on the high seas and in waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States west of 146° west longitude and east of 129.5° east longitude in accordance with international law, subject to the provisions of the Treaty, this Act, and other applicable law, provided that no such vessel intentionally deploys a purse seine net to encircle any dolphin or other marine mammal in the course of fishing.”

SEC. 9. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) **NOTICE REQUIREMENTS TO PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY CONCERNING INSTITUTION AND OUTCOME OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**—Section 10(c)(1) (16 U.S.C. 973h(c)(1)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “paragraph 8 of Article 4 of”; and
- (2) by striking “Article 10 of”.

(b) **SEARCHES AND SEIZURES BY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS; LIMITATIONS ON POWER.**—Section 10(d)(1)(A) (16 U.S.C. 973h(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

- (1) in clause (ii), by striking “or” at the end; and
- (2) in clause (iii), by adding “or” at the end.

SEC. 10. FINDINGS BY SECRETARY.

(a) **ORDER TO LEAVE WATERS UPON FAILURE TO SUBMIT TO JURISDICTION OF PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY; PROCEDURE APPLICABLE.**—Section 11(a) (16 U.S.C. 973i(a)) is amended—

- (1) by striking “, all Limited Areas,”;
- (2) in paragraph (1)—
- (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “paragraph 2 of Article 3 of”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “with-in the Treaty Area” and inserting “under the jurisdiction”; and

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “section 5 (a)(4), (a)(5), (b)(2), or (b)(3)” and inserting “paragraph (3) of section 5(a) or paragraph (2) or (3) of section 5(b)”;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(7)” and inserting “(6)”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(7)” and inserting “(5)”.

(b) ORDER OF VESSEL TO LEAVE WATERS WHERE PACIFIC ISLAND PARTY INVESTIGATING ALLEGED TREATY INFRINGEMENT.—Section 11(b) (16 U.S.C. 973i(b)) is amended by striking “paragraph 7 of Article 5 of”.

SEC. 11. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

Section 12 (16 U.S.C. 973j) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 12. REPORTING.

“(a) PROHIBITED DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary shall keep confidential and may not disclose the following information (and such information shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code):

“(1) Information provided to the Secretary by the Administrator that the Administrator has designated confidential.

“(2) Information collected by observers.

“(3) Information submitted to the Secretary by any person in compliance with the requirements of this Act.

“(b) PERMITTED DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The Secretary may disclose information described in subsection (a)—

“(1) if disclosure is ordered by a court;

“(2) if the information is used by a Federal employee—

“(A) for enforcement; or

“(B) in support of the homeland and national security missions of the Coast Guard as defined in section 888 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468);

“(3) if the information is used by a Federal employee or an employee of the Fishery Management Council for Treaty administration or fishery management and monitoring;

“(4) to the Administrator, in accordance with the requirements of the Treaty and this Act;

“(5) to the secretariat or equivalent of an international fisheries management organization of which the United States is a member, in accordance with the requirements or decisions of such organization, and insofar as possible, in accordance with an agreement that prevents public disclosure of the identity of any person that submits such information;

“(6) if the Secretary has obtained written authorization from the person providing such information, and disclosure does not violate other requirements of this Act; or

“(7) in an aggregate or summary form that does not directly or indirectly disclose the identity of any person that submits such information.

“(c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to adversely affect the authority of Congress, including a Committee or Member thereof, to obtain any record or information.

“(2) NO NEGATIVE IMPLICATION.—The absence of a provision similar to paragraph (1) in any other provision of law shall not be construed to limit the ability of Congress, including a Committee or Member thereof, to obtain any record or information.”.

SEC. 12. CLOSED AREA STOWAGE REQUIREMENTS.

Section 13 (16 U.S.C. 973k) is amended by striking “. In particular, the boom shall be

lowered” and all that follows and inserting “and in accordance with any requirements established by the Secretary.”.

SEC. 13. OBSERVERS.

Section 14 (16 U.S.C. 973l) is repealed.

SEC. 14. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 15 (16 U.S.C. 973m) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 15. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

“The Secretary and the Secretary of State may provide assistance to a Pacific Island Party to benefit such Pacific Island Party from the development of fisheries resources and the operation of fishing vessels that are licensed pursuant to the Treaty, including—

“(1) technical assistance;

“(2) training and capacity building opportunities;

“(3) facilitation of the implementation of private sector activities or partnerships; and

“(4) other activities as determined appropriate by the Secretary and the Secretary of State.”.

SEC. 15. ARBITRATION.

Section 16 (16 U.S.C. 973n) is amended—

(1) by striking “Article 6 of” after “arbitral tribunal under”; and

(2) by striking “paragraph 3 of that Article”, and inserting “the Treaty, shall determine the location of the arbitration”.

SEC. 16. DISPOSITION OF FEES, PENALTIES, FORFEITURES, AND OTHER MONEYS.

Section 17 (16 U.S.C. 973o) is amended by striking “Article 4 of”.

SEC. 17. ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS.

Section 18 (16 U.S.C. 973p) is amended by striking “Within 30 days after” and all that follows and inserting “The Secretary may establish procedures for review of any agreements for additional fishing access entered into pursuant to the Treaty.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 531, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2025, introduced by my friend, Congresswoman RADEWAGEN from American Samoa.

This legislation, which was adopted by voice vote in the House in the 118th Congress, codifies updates to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty that were first agreed to in 2016 and later adopted by the United States Senate in 2022.

The United States first entered into this treaty with 16 Pacific Island nations under President Ronald Reagan. It gives the United States access to some of the most fertile fishing waters that are found anywhere in the world.

This strengthens the United States' tuna fleet, which has experienced a

rapid decline in recent decades, while also bolstering the United States' presence in the South Pacific.

The 2016 amendments improved the treaty's execution and clarified specific provisions. However, these important updates have not been codified, which has caused regulatory uncertainty.

Mr. Speaker, adopting this legislation will bring about the next chapter of the United States' engagement in the South Pacific. I thank Mrs. RADEWAGEN for her leadership on this important issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 531, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2025, will help sustain American tuna fisheries and the conservation of marine resources in the South Pacific.

This legislation would implement the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, a multilateral treaty between the United States Government and the Pacific Island states.

This treaty authorizes the small U.S. purse seine vessel fleet to fish in specific and exclusive economic zones in the Pacific Island countries that are part of the treaty. These parties include Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and many more island nations. The exclusive economic zones of these nations are very close together and not far from American Samoa. There is little international water between them.

Purse seine fishing often uses fish aggregating devices, or FADs, which are large, circular nets that drift independently through the water for hundreds of miles until they catch fish. They have sonar and GPS, so the fishing boat knows where they are and when the net is full.

The nature of this fishing method, combined with the proximity of these countries, means that FADs can be released in international waters but float through other countries' EEZs while catching fish along the way. Without access to these EEZs, the U.S. purse seine fleet cannot retrieve the fish that they catch.

The South Pacific Tuna Treaty provides the U.S. fleet with access to these lucrative tuna fishing grounds and facilitates cooperation on various issues. It has been vital for almost three decades, fostering a mutually beneficial, strategic, and economic relationship between the United States and the Pacific Island countries.

The treaty was entered into force in 1988, was extended in 1993, and then again in 2002. Most recently, the parties began renegotiating the treaty and its annexes in 2009 and reached agreement in 2016.

The bill today proposes adjustments to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 1988 to implement the amended treaty, mainly providing more flexibility for U.S. vessels and the Pacific Island countries to negotiate access levels

while ensuring a stable operating environment.

This legislation will enable the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to implement annual access and fee agreements and new operational requirements efficiently, provided we still have enough staff to operate NOAA efficiently.

It will allow the United States and its vessels operating under the treaty to better utilize these benefits. This bill will benefit U.S. fisheries and help maintain a strong U.S. presence in the South Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act.

I represent the beautiful islands of American Samoa in the South Pacific. This bill implements into statute the most recent changes to the South Pacific Tuna Treaty that was negotiated between NOAA and other signatory countries to the treaty.

These changes are important to support the American fishing fleet in the South Pacific, of which many boats call American Samoa home. These changes improve the operational conditions and flexibility for the fleet, which is America's last true distant-water fishing fleet.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the bill's cosponsor, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), for his support of this legislation.

"Live long and prosper." "Soifua ma ia manuia."

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 17, American Samoa celebrated 125 years as a territory of the United States. As we observe this historic milestone, enacting this legislation will ensure that the United States will continue its strong presence in the Pacific region.

When President Reagan first signed the legislation that established this treaty in the 1980s, he spoke of the bonds of friendship and affection that unite our people. This bill will ensure that these important partnerships will continue for years and decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman RADEWAGEN once again for her tireless work on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support its swift passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Congresswoman RADEWAGEN's South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act. I am an original cosponsor of this bill because we urgently need this

update to U.S. law that will strengthen our national tuna fleet, restore regulatory clarity and reinforce America's presence and partnerships across the Pacific.

The South Pacific Tuna Treaty, first signed in 1987, has long been the cornerstone of U.S. access to the tuna-rich waters of sixteen Pacific Island nations. This access supports the operations of American purse-seine vessels, ensuring that our fleet can remain competitive in a region that is both economically and strategically vital.

The amendments enacted in 2016 provided much-needed updates, including clearer access terms and more flexible mechanisms for engagement with Pacific Island countries. But nearly a decade later, these improvements are still not reflected in U.S. law.

This legal disconnect has left the American fleet, including vessels operating out of Hawaii, in a state of regulatory limbo. Operators are forced to navigate conflicting rules between what the treaty allows and what our domestic regulations enforce. It's a situation that adds unnecessary risk, uncertainty and cost to an industry that is already facing tight margins and fierce international competition.

This uncertainty has serious consequences, particularly for Hawaii. My home state is not just a waypoint for the U.S. South Pacific fleet, it is a central base of operations, home to many of the crews, companies and services that keep the industry running. The fishing industry supports good-paying jobs across the Hawaiian Islands and ensures our communities have access to healthy, locally sourced seafood.

The impact is equally critical in American Samoa, where the tuna industry forms the backbone of the territory's private sector and plays an essential role in supporting families and sustaining the local economy.

Passing the South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act today will eliminate this longstanding regulatory conflict, bring our domestic laws into alignment with the amended treaty and restore stability to a sector that is vital to the economic wellbeing of Hawaii and American Samoa. It provides the clarity our fleet needs to operate effectively and the consistency our Pacific partners expect from the United States.

The significance of this legislation extends well beyond economic benefits. The treaty itself embodies a broader commitment, one rooted in decades of cooperation, mutual respect and shared responsibility for the stewardship of ocean resources. By fully implementing the amended treaty, we not only support our fishermen and industry partners but also reaffirm the United States as a trusted ally to Pacific Island nations, help strengthen regional stability and reinforce our leadership in a part of the world where long-term relationships are built on trust, continuity and cultural understanding.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation—for the fu-

ture of American fisheries, for the strength of our partnerships across the Pacific and for the communities in Hawaii and American Samoa that depend on this industry.

Mahalo.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 531, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REDESIGNATION OF PATERSON GREAT FALLS NHP FACILITIES

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 249) to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 249

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

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION OF PATERSON GREAT FALLS NHP FACILITIES.

(a) GREAT FALLS SCENIC OVERLOOK TRAIL BRIDGE.—Great Falls Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park shall hereafter be known and designated as "Bill Pascrell, Jr. Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge".

(b) OVERLOOK PARK.—Overlook Park at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park shall hereafter be known and designated as "Bill Pascrell, Jr. Overlook Park".

(c) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to—

(1) Great Falls Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge shall be deemed to be a reference to Bill Pascrell, Jr. Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge; and

(2) Overlook Park shall be deemed to be a reference to Bill Pascrell, Jr. Overlook Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 249, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 249, introduced by Representative PALLONE, which would redesignate

certain amenities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of the late Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

Specifically, this bipartisan bill would rename two sites within the historical park as the Bill Pascrell, Jr. Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge and the Bill Pascrell, Jr. Overlook Park.

Paterson, New Jersey, was home to Congressman Pascrell, a former Member of this body and, before that, a high school teacher and college professor.

Congressman Pascrell was instrumental in the designation of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in 2009. Known for his plainspoken demeanor and deep commitment to his constituents, Congressman Pascrell served our Nation in the U.S. Army and in this body for nearly three decades, until his passing last August.

Overlook Park is a 2.5-acre area providing panoramic views of the falls and the gateway to the larger historical park.

The Great Falls Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge is one of two year-round pedestrian bridges connecting visitors to the falls. It serves approximately 300,000 visitors annually and links the park's visitors center to the falls' viewing platform.

Mr. Speaker, this straightforward and bipartisan legislation has the full support of the entire New Jersey delegation. I commend Representative PALLONE for his work on this legislation. I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 249, a bill that would ensure that the name of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., will forever be etched into the landscape of the city that he so passionately served.

This legislation would rename two beloved landmarks within Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, the Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge and Overlook Park, as the Bill Pascrell, Jr. Scenic Overlook Trail Bridge and the Bill Pascrell, Jr. Overlook Park.

These places offer sweeping views of the Great Falls, a symbol of American ingenuity, labor, and power.

There could be no more fitting a tribute to a man whose career reflected those same qualities. For decades, Bill Pascrell fought for the people of Paterson and the State of New Jersey. Anyone who visited Paterson, as I have on many occasions, knew that he lived, ate, and breathed Paterson. That man loved Paterson and was Paterson.

Mr. Speaker, it is also fitting that, on the week that we honor police officers, who put their lives on the line to protect and serve us, this is the time that we will pass this bill honoring Bill Pascrell. He never backed down from standing up for working people and for first responders. From the halls of city hall to Congress, he was a tireless advocate for working families, veterans, public health, and local infrastructure. Yet, what defined him was his

unshakable belief in the potential of his hometown, a city that helped build America and the city that he never stopped believing in.

By renaming these park features in his honor, we are not just commemorating his public service. We are linking his legacy to a history of American industry, immigration, and a resilience that Great Falls represents.

Bill Pascrell deserves this legacy. He was a legacy. He had a great sense of humor, and when he walked in, everyone knew he was in the room. We miss him dearly here, and his name belongs in this place not only in the official record, but in the very landscape of the community that he loved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to help ensure that this legacy stands as strong and enduring as the Great Falls themselves, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. POU).

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 249, a bill to redesignate parts of the Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of the late Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

I thank my friend and fellow New Jerseyan, Congressman FRANK PALLONE, for leading this effort. I am a proud original cosponsor of this important measure to honor the legacy of one of Paterson's greatest sons, Congressman Pascrell.

Congressman Pascrell was my dear friend and a mentor to me. He was known throughout our State for his closely held convictions. He spoke up and spoke out for what he believed in, and he never ever backed down from a fight.

Many years ago, Bill had a vision for the Great Falls. He knew that, with adequate Federal resources and funding, the Great Falls could be an anchor for Paterson's rebirth and revitalization.

Once he arrived in Washington, he rolled up his sleeves and got to work.

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Bill fought relentlessly to secure the designation of the Great Falls as a National Historic Park in 2009. When it was signed into law by President Obama, it was a proud day for our city and our entire State.

This designation unlocked a flood of new rehabilitation and expansion projects that have transformed the Great Falls into a hub for tourism and recreation.

This includes the expansion of the park's boundaries to encompass the historic Hinchliffe Stadium. The Great Falls is the crown jewel of our great city. After Niagara Falls, by volume, it

is the largest set of waterfalls east of the Mississippi River. Hundreds of thousands of tourists come from all over the world to be inspired by the beauty of its roaring water.

Additionally, our Great Falls are unique as both a historical and national landmark. Alexander Hamilton used the power of the falls to help start the industrial revolution right in the heart of Paterson, New Jersey.

Overlook Park is the center of our national park. This part of the district is where you get the classic view of our famous falls. The pedestrian bridge is another favorite part of the park, a place where you can get a topside view of the falls and can physically feel its majesty, along with the mists from the mighty Passaic River.

Mr. Speaker, with the passage of this measure into law to rename these two locations, Bill Pascrell's tireless advocacy will be rightfully remembered by generations of Patersonians. As a proud Patersonian, let me just say, I urge all my colleagues to support the passage of this measure.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward, bipartisan bill that renames beloved sites for the late Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. I urge its adoption and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 249.

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. WESTERMAN. 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.

APEX AREA TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 618) to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the City of North Las Vegas and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 618

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 "Apex Area Technical Corrections Act".

SEC. 2. APEX PROJECT, NEVADA LAND TRANSFER AND AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1989.

The Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 (Public Law 101-67; 103 Stat. 168) is amended—

(1) in section 2(b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (8); and

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

“(6) The term ‘Apex Industrial Park Owners Association’ has the meaning given such term by the charter document for the entity entitled ‘Apex Industrial Park Owners Association’, formed on April 9, 2001, and any successor documents to such charter document, on file with the Nevada Secretary of State.

“(7) The term ‘City of North Las Vegas’ means North Las Vegas, Nevada.”;

(2) in section 3(b)—

(A) by striking “Clark County for the connection” and inserting “Clark County, the City of North Las Vegas, and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, individually or jointly as appropriate, for the connection”;

(B) by striking “Kerr-McGee Site” and inserting “Kerr-McGee Site and other lands conveyed in accordance with this Act”;

(C) by inserting “(or any successor maps created by the Secretary)” after “May 1989”;

(3) in section 4(c), by striking “Pursuant” and all that follows through “Clark County” and inserting “During such time as the requirements of section 6 are met, and pursuant to applicable law, the Secretary shall grant Clark County, the City of North Las Vegas, and the Apex Industrial Owners Association”;

(4) in section 4(e)(1), by striking the last sentence and inserting “The withdrawal made by this subsection shall continue in perpetuity for all lands transferred in accordance with this subsection.”;

(5) in section 4(e), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) In the case of the sale of mineral materials resulting from grading, land balancing, or other activities on the surface of a parcel within the Apex Site for which the United States retains and interest in the minerals—

“(A) it shall be considered impracticable to obtain competition for purposes of section 3602.31(a)(2) of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Apex Area Technical Corrections Act); and

“(B) such sale shall be exempt from the quantity and term limitations imposed on non-competitive sales under subpart 3602 of such title (as in effect on the date of the enactment of the Apex Area Technical Corrections Act.”;

(6) in section 6, by adding at the end the following:

“(d) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS.—Each transfer by the United States of additional lands or interests in lands within the Apex Site or rights-of-way issued pursuant to this Act shall be conditioned upon compliance with applicable Federal land laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 618, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative HORSFORD's bill, H.R. 618, the Apex Area Technical Corrections Act.

H.R. 618 is a bipartisan bill supported by the entire Nevada delegation that would streamline permitting in the Apex Industrial Park in North Las Vegas to encourage new business development and economic growth.

Specifically, the legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to grant utility and transportation rights-of-way to the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, the city of North Las Vegas, and Clark County for electric, power, water, natural gas, telephone, railroad, or highway facilities.

Congress created the Apex Industrial Park in 1989 by authorizing the sale of roughly 21,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to Clark County, Nevada, to establish a new area to attract businesses and create jobs.

While the original law directed BLM to issue utility and transportation rights-of-way for Apex, businesses seeking to start construction or expand operations currently face a complicated permitting process. The delayed installation of utilities has stalled the growth of existing businesses in the Apex area. Additionally, the prolonged permitting process deters new investment and hinders economic development in North Las Vegas.

Removing bureaucratic delays by the Federal Government is necessary for the growth and prosperity of North Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative HORSFORD and the entire Nevada delegation for their work on this issue. I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 618, the Apex Area Technical Corrections Act, a forward-looking bill by my colleague Representative HORSFORD that will strengthen economic opportunity and improve land management in southern Nevada.

This bill would update the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to provide the city of North Las Vegas and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association with improved access and management authority in the Apex Industrial Park.

The Apex Industrial Park is a critical driver of job creation, logistics, and advanced manufacturing in southern Nevada and the critical update provided by this bill would open the door to more efficient growth, infrastructure investment, and regional coordination.

This bill reflects how modern public-private partnerships should work, by empowering local governments and stakeholders to align Federal resources with local needs.

The bill would maintain full compliance with Federal environmental standards, including NEPA and FLPMA, ensuring that responsible growth and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

Finally, the bill would simplify mineral sales during land grading, cutting delays when competition is not feasible while protecting Federal interests and upholding transparency.

This is exactly how Congress should tap into the potential of utilizing Federal lands and resources to support local communities. There has been a transparent process with multiple hearings and significant stakeholder engagement.

This is the way the legislative process should work, and I thank Representative HORSFORD and Representative LEE for leading the effort, along with the support of Representative TITUS. I know their constituents back home in Nevada appreciate all the hard work and effort that has gone into this bill.

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

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 618. I thank Ms. HOYLE, the floor manager for the committee as well as the chairman, for the courtesy.

In 1989, Congress enacted the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act, directing the sale of 21,000 acres of Federal land to Clark County for the establishment of the Apex Industrial Area.

This law permits only the Bureau of Land Management and Clark County to issue utility and transportation rights-of-way.

Originally, Clark County had this authorization in order to make the permitting process shorter. In recent years, however, the city of North Las Vegas and the Apex Industrial Owners Association primarily manage the site, not Clark County.

The result is that this law has had the opposite effect and leads to a longer permitting process for businesses that need to construct sewer, gas, and power, as well as broadband infrastructure.

Amending the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act to include the city of North Las Vegas and the Apex Area Industrial Owners Association as permittees would allow the original congressional intent of expediting the permitting process to be fulfilled.

H.R. 618 is an extremely simple fix to a complex problem that plagues Apex and causes major slowdowns at the Southern Nevada Bureau of Land Management and stifles economic growth in the county.

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranking Member JARED HUFFMAN as well as Representative HOYLE and the rest of the Natural Resources Committee for allowing this measure to pass through committee and to come to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members support this legislation on economic development, expediting the permitting process, and ensuring that the lands in our community are decided by the residents who use them.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation would support economic growth, create jobs, and attract new businesses to North Las Vegas by streamlining permitting and cutting Federal red tape. I commend Representative HORSFORD on this bill, and I urge its adoption.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 618, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REVERSIONARY INTEREST CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 952) to convey the reversionary interest of the United States in certain land in Sacramento, California.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 952

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 "Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act".

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF UNITED STATES INTEREST IN CERTAIN LAND.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term "covered land" means the approximately 8.43 acres of land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management in Sacramento, California, as generally depicted as "Proposed Easements to be Released" on the map titled "Lands Proposed for Release from Any and All Reversionary Interests of the United States, including interests under the Act of July 1, 1862 (12 Stat. 489)", dated November 7, 2022.

(2) BUYER.—(A) The term "buyer" means the owner of record of any of the parcels included in the covered land at the time of the requested conveyance.

(B) Buyer may only request and purchase the covered land's reversionary interest for the parcels of which the owner is the owner of record at the time of request.

(3) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—The term "reversionary interest" means all rever-

sionary interests of the United States in the covered land.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than two years after the Secretary receives a request from the buyer, the Secretary shall offer to the buyer the applicable reversionary interest subject to the requirements in subsection (c), and shall convey the lands to buyer upon payment of the appraised value.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Any conveyance under this section—

(1) shall be subject to valid existing rights; and

(2) shall be for not less than fair market value.

(d) PAYMENT OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair market value of the applicable reversionary interest—

(1) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(2) based on an appraisal that is conducted in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) COSTS.—In addition to the fair market value determined under subsection (d), the buyer shall pay all costs related to the applicable conveyance of the reversionary interest, including all surveys, appraisals, and other administrative costs.

(f) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—The proceeds from the sale of the applicable reversionary interest shall be—

(1) deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account established by section 206(a) of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2305(a)); and

(2) used in accordance with that Act.

SEC. 3. STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall—

(1) diminish the right-of-way associated with the covered land in section 2 to a width of less than 50 feet on each side of the center of the main track or tracks established and maintained by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company on the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) validate or confirm any right or title to, or interest in the land referred to in section 2 arising out of adverse possession, prescription, or abandonment, and not confirmed by conveyance made by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company before the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 952, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Representative MATSUI's bill, the

Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act. This legislation previously passed the House by voice vote last December.

This bill resolves the stubborn property law issue afflicting a small parcel of land in California. The current owners of an eight-acre property in Sacramento recently discovered a reversionary interest on their land, which a railroad company originally conveyed. The reversionary interest, which dates back to the days of the transcontinental railroad in the 19th century, requires the land to revert to ownership by the United States since it is no longer used for railroad purposes. Because of this outdated encumbrance, the owners of this property are limited in their ability to develop or sell the land.

The Bureau of Land Management, which would inherit the property through the reversion, does not want to manage the land in question. Since the agency can't extinguish the reversionary interests unilaterally, the BLM has encouraged Congress to address the issue through legislation.

H.R. 952 would resolve this conflict by requiring the Bureau of Land Management to convey the reversionary interest to the private landowners for fair market value. This bill will free up the land for economic development and prevent further Federal interference. It is a good governance bill that supports the local community, encourages economic development, and reduces the burden on the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MATSUI for this effort on behalf of her constituents. I support this bill and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act, introduced by my colleague from California, Representative MATSUI.

This legislation would authorize the conveyance of certain reversionary interests in approximately 8.43 acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Sacramento.

Development at this site is currently hindered by reversionary interest that dates back to the 19th century. The original conveyance of this land from the Federal Government stipulated that it must be used for specific stated purposes or ownership would revert back to the United States.

Lands with reversionary interests like these have what is called a clouded title, which limits allowable uses and development. In this case, the reversionary interests originate from the initial conveyance that provided public land for railroad purposes in the 19th century.

Making matters worse, the land changed hands over the years eventually without the knowledge of this requirement.

This bill would finally clear up the landownership by resolving the Federal Government's ownership claims in

these parcels. Under the sale authorized by this bill, the current landowners would be given an opportunity to purchase the reversionary interests from the Federal Government so the landowners may pursue development or future conveyances of the land.

The bill will allow the city of Sacramento and Sacramento State University to move forward with the development of an innovative and dynamic research park.

□ 1730

This bill includes standard conveyance language, including the requirement to sell the reversionary interests at fair market value. The conveyance is supported by the Department of the Interior.

This transparent and targeted land conveyance would be a win-win for the Federal Government and the community in Sacramento.

I thank Representative MATSUI for her leadership. She has been working on this bill for several years. I know her constituents appreciate the hard work and perseverance.

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

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

This is straightforward legislation that will help private property owners develop their land without interference from the Federal Government. I support this bill and note that it unanimously passed the House last Congress.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 952.

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.

FIRE SAFE ELECTRICAL CORRIDORS ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2492) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to permit removal of trees around electrical lines on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands, respectively, without conducting a timber sale, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2492

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 "Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS WITH ELECTRICAL UTILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In any special use permit or easement on covered Federal lands pro-

vided to an electrical utility, the Secretary concerned may provide permission to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines without requiring a separate timber sale, if that cutting and removal is consistent with—

(1) any applicable land and resource management plan; and

(2) other applicable environmental laws (including regulations).

(b) USE OF PROCEEDS.—A special use permit or easement that includes permission for cutting and removal described in subsection (a) shall include a requirement that, if the applicable electrical utility sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall provide to the Secretary concerned any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in subsection (b) shall require the sale of any material removed under a permit or easement that includes permission for cutting and removal described in subsection (a).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED FEDERAL LANDS.—The term "covered Federal lands" means—

(A) National Forest System lands; and

(B) lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) with respect to National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(B) with respect to lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 2492, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2492, the Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025, led by Representatives CARBAJAL and VALADAO.

This legislation would allow the U.S. Forest Service to permit utility companies to fully remove hazard trees and other vegetation near power lines without requiring a separate timber sale. The legislation also includes provisions ensuring a fair return to the Federal Government when the timber is sold.

Currently, utility companies are allowed to fell hazard trees in their rights-of-way but are not permitted to remove them without going through the timber sale process. This unnecessary bureaucratic step leaves timber piled up in the rights-of-way for long

periods, creating a significant wildfire risk, especially near communities in the wildland-urban interface.

Hazard trees near power lines have proven to be a serious fire threat. In fact, the largest single wildfire in California history, the Dixie fire, ignited when a tree fell onto electrical lines. As we enter into what is predicted to be another devastating fire year, it is more imperative than ever that we take every step to manage our forests and reduce wildfire risk.

In January, the world watched as communities in southern California were virtually leveled by catastrophic wildfires. In the wake of that tragedy, the House came together to pass the Fix Our Forests Act on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis. The legislation we are considering today was included as part of the Fix Our Forests Act. Today is another opportunity for Congress to meet the moment and pass commonsense forest management policy.

I commend Representatives CARBAJAL and VALADAO for their bipartisan collaboration on this legislation and on the Fix Our Forests Act. I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,

Washington, DC, April 28, 2025.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 2492, the "Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025." Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2492 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,

Washington, DC, April 28, 2025.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 2492, the "Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025."

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 2492 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2492, the Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

This bill would authorize the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to permit electrical utilities to remove trees and vegetation near power lines on National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands without the need for a timber sale.

This bill addresses a critical public safety issue, preventing wildfires caused by overgrown vegetation near electrical infrastructure, particularly in high-risk areas of the West.

Current requirements for timber sales can delay essential maintenance and fire prevention efforts. This legislation would streamline that process while maintaining environmental safeguards under existing land management plans and Federal law.

Importantly, the bill would ensure taxpayer fairness. If utilities sell any of the removed material, they must return the net proceeds to the Federal Government. Altogether, this bill provides a commonsense, bipartisan solution to reduce wildfire risk, improve grid safety, and enhance coordination between Federal land managers and utility providers.

The bill respects environmental protections, avoids unnecessary bureaucracy, and promotes responsible land stewardship. I thank Representative CARBAJAL for his hard work on this bill. It will support community safety in his district and throughout the country.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close and reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I extend my thanks to Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member HUFFMAN for their support in advancing my bipartisan legislation, Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act, which I introduced with Representatives VALADAO, COSTA, and FITZPATRICK.

My Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act is a commonsense solution to help us reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. It simply allows the United

States Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to approve the removal of hazardous trees or vegetation near power lines on Federal land without the need for a timber sale.

Unfortunately, catastrophic wildfires continue to ravage the Western United States, and we need commonsense solutions that balance sustainable forest management practices with reducing wildfire risks. My legislation strives to find that solution and that balance.

Currently, the United States Forest Service allows utility companies to cut down trees and branches in existing utility corridors. However, the dead vegetation cannot be removed from Federal land without a timber sale. This has created unnecessary red tape and led to the buildup of dry fuels around utility lines.

We cannot continue with the status quo. Inaction can be deadly. I know because we have seen it. The 2017 Thomas fire, which created the conditions for the deadly Montecito debris flow that killed 23 people in my district. The 2018 Camp fire and the 2021 Dixie fire were all started by electrical equipment. These fires were some of the largest and most destructive fires in California's history.

If we can take action to help save lives and protect property, we should. While there is more work ahead of us to continue to reduce the risk of wildfires, this is an important step. I am glad to be able to work with my colleagues across the aisle to get this done.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, passing H.R. 2492 would be an essential step toward reducing the urgent threat that wildfire poses to communities nationwide. Once again, I thank Representatives CARBAJAL and VALADAO for their leadership on this vital issue.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2492.

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.

SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK REDESIGNATION AND BOUNDARY STUDY ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 2215) to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site as the "Salem Maritime National Historical Park", and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2215

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 "Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act".

SEC. 2. SALEM MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The Salem Maritime National Historic Site shall hereafter be known and designated as the "Salem Maritime National Historical Park".

(b) REFERENCES IN LAW.—Any reference to the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the Salem Maritime National Historical Park.

SEC. 3. BOUNDARY STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a boundary study to evaluate the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System, as part of the Salem Maritime National Historical Park (as redesignated by section 2(a)), sites and resources in the study area associated with the study area's—

- (1) maritime history;
- (2) coastal defenses; and
- (3) military history, including National Guard and militia activity.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to conduct the study required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report containing—

- (1) the results of the study; and
- (2) any findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Secretary.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) STUDY AREA.—The term "study area" means Salem, Massachusetts, and its vicinity, and includes the Salem Armory Visitor Center building and adjacent Salem Armory Park.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 2215, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative MOULTON's bill, the Salem

Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act. This legislation would redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the Salem Maritime National Historical Park.

Known for its rich history dating back to the colonial era, this area was the first historic site to be included in the National Park System in 1938. Today, the historical park includes 12 historic structures, a downtown visitors center, and a replica of a famous sailing ship, the Friendship of Salem. The site attracts over 800,000 visitors annually and showcases over 600 years of New England's maritime history.

Since most historical sites focus on a singular historical feature, designating Salem Maritime as a national historic park would align with the naming conventions of other National Park System units around the country. Community leaders in the area also hope the redesignation will lead to more visitors by highlighting the various attractions.

In addition to the redesignation, this legislation also requires the National Park Service to conduct a boundary study of related sites to assess their feasibility for future inclusion in the historical park.

I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON).

This bill would redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts, as the Salem Maritime National Historical Park, and it would require a study into including additional sites and resources.

The Salem Maritime National Historic Site preserves more than 600 years of our history, documenting the development of international maritime trade and the journey to American economic independence following the Revolutionary War.

Due to the importance of preserving the maritime history of New England, Congress chose to designate a piece of the Salem waterfront as the country's first national historic site in 1938. The site has since grown to nine acres of land, 12 historic structures, and a visitors center hosting an average of over 300,000 visitors per year.

The bill before us today would redesignate the site to more accurately reflect the scope, scale, and significance of the resources managed there by the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important update to an important historical resource, and I thank Representative MOULTON for his leadership on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation, especially my good friend and workout buddy from Arkansas.

I urge support for my bill, H.R. 2215, the Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act. Salem Maritime was established in 1938 as the Nation's first national historic site. It has spent the ensuing 87 years preserving and interpreting over 600 years of American history. This redesignation is overdue.

National historic sites tend to contain a single historical feature and focus on one theme or period of time, but the Salem Maritime National Historic Site contains a dozen historical structures across nine acres. These sites preserve and share diverse histories, ranging from early American maritime trade to slavery and emancipation to the creation of the National Guard.

In many ways, Salem's history is our Nation's history. Take, for example, the Salem Gunpowder Raid of 1775, which was the first armed resistance to the Royal authority, laying the groundwork for the Battles of Lexington and Concord and, later, the American Revolution.

□ 1745

Mr. Speaker, this is history that our children and our communities should learn. The Salem Maritime National Historic Park does that critical work.

This redesignation will also help to bring more visitors to Salem, including to the city's many small businesses, promoting year-round stability in a city that receives a third of its tourism revenue in 1 month.

As America's 250th anniversary approaches, we should expand Salem Maritime's capacity to share our region's rich history with visitors from across Massachusetts and the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 2215.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this bill will more appropriately reflect the varied and unique history of the timeless landmarks in Salem, Massachusetts.

I thank my friend and acknowledge Representative MOULTON for his work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and acknowledge Representative MOULTON for his work on this bill, and I urge its adoption. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2215.

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. WESTERMAN. 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.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001, 22 U.S.C. 7002, as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2026:

Mr. Christopher Slevin, Washington, D.C.

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 46 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. HILL of Arkansas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 30; and
H.R. 249.

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

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to

the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 30) expressing support for local law enforcement officers, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 1, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 123]

YEAS—411

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

Malliotakis	Onder	Stansbury
Maloy	Owens	Stanton
Mann	Pallone	Staubert
Mannion	Palmer	Stefanik
Massie	Panetta	Steil
Mast	Pappas	Steube
Matsui	Patronis	Stevens
McBath	Pelosi	Strong
McBride	Perez	Stutzman
McCaul	Perry	Subramanyam
McClain	Peters	Suozi
McClain Delaney	Pfuger	Swalwell
McClellan	Pingree	Sykes
McClintock	Pou	Takano
McCollum	Pressley	Taylor
McCormick	Quigley	Tenney
McDonald Rivet	Ramirez	Thandear
McDowell	Randall	Thompson (CA)
McGarvey	Raskin	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Reschenthaler	Thompson (PA)
McGuire	Riley (NY)	Tiffany
McIver	Rivas	Timmons
Meeks	Rogers (AL)	Titus
Menendez	Rogers (KY)	Tokuda
Meng	Rose	Tonko
Messmer	Ross	Torres (CA)
Meuser	Rouzer	Torres (NY)
Mfume	Roy	Trahan
Miller (IL)	Ruiz	Tran
Miller (OH)	Rulli	Turner (OH)
Miller (WV)	Rutherford	Underwood
Miller-Meeks	Ryan	Valadao
Mills	Salazar	Van Drew
Min	Salinas	Van Dwyne
Moolenaar	Sánchez	Van Orden
Moore (AL)	Scanlon	Vargas
Moore (NC)	Schakowsky	Vasquez
Moore (UT)	Schmidt	Veasey
Moore (WI)	Schneider	Velázquez
Moore (WV)	Scholten	Vindman
Moran	Schrier	Wagner
Morelle	Schweikert	Walberg
Morrison	Scott (VA)	Wasserman
Moskowitz	Scott, Austin	Schultz
Moulton	Scott, David	Waters
Mrvan	Self	Watson Coleman
Mullin	Sessions	Weber (TX)
Murphy	Sewell	Webster (FL)
Nadler	Sherman	Westerman
Neal	Shreve	Whitesides
Neguse	Simon	Wied
Nehls	Simpson	Williams (GA)
Newhouse	Smith (MO)	Williams (TX)
Norman	Smith (NE)	Wilson (FL)
Nunn (IA)	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (SC)
Oberholte	Smith (WA)	Wittman
Ocasio-Cortez	Smucker	Womack
Ogles	Sorensen	Yakym
Olszewski	Soto	Zinke
Omar	Spartz	

NAYS—1

Tlaib

NOT VOTING—21

Aderholt	Gill (TX)	Larsen (WA)
Beatty	Gottheimer	Norcross
Connolly	Harris (MD)	Pettersen
Costa	Higgins (LA)	Pocan
DeSaulnier	Hunt	Scalise
Evans (PA)	Jayapal	Sherrill
Garamendi	Khanna	Strickland

□ 1853

Mrs. FOUSHEE changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote today, as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 123, H. Con. Res. 30.

REDESIGNATION OF PATERSON GREAT FALLS NHP FACILITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD). 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. 249) to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) 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 362, nays 50, answered “present” 2, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 124]

YEAS—362

Adams	Crow	Green, Al (TX)
Aguilar	Cuellar	Griffith
Alford	Davids (KS)	Grothman
Allen	Davis (IL)	Guthrie
Amo	Davis (NC)	Hamadeh (AZ)
Amodei (NV)	De La Cruz	Harder (CA)
Ansari	Dean (PA)	Haridopolos
Arrington	DeGette	Harrigan
Auchincloss	DeLauro	Harris (NC)
Babin	DelBene	Hayes
Bacon	Deluzio	Hern (OK)
Balderson	DeSaulnier	Hill (AR)
Balint	DesJarlais	Himes
Barr	Dexter	Hinson
Barragán	Diaz-Balart	Horsford
Barrett	Dingell	Houlahan
Baumgartner	Doggett	Hoyer
Begich	Donalds	Hoyle (OR)
Bell	Downing	Hudson
Bentz	Dunn (FL)	Huffman
Bera	Edwards	Huizenga
Bergman	Elfreth	Hurd (CO)
Beyer	Ellzey	Issa
Bice	Emmer	Ivey
Billirakis	Escobar	Jack
Bishop	Españolat	Jackson (IL)
Bonamici	Estes	Jacobs
Bost	Evans (CO)	James
Boyle (PA)	Evans (PA)	Jeffries
Bresnahan	Ezell	Johnson (GA)
Brown	Fallon	Johnson (LA)
Brownley	Fedorchak	Johnson (SD)
Budzinski	Feenstra	Johnson (TX)
Burchett	Fields	Jordan
Bynum	Figures	Joyce (OH)
Calvert	Fine	Kamlager-Dove
Cammack	Finstad	Kaptur
Carbajal	Fischbach	Kean
Carey	Fitzgerald	Keating
Carson	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (IL)
Carter (LA)	Fleischmann	Kelly (MS)
Carter (TX)	Fletcher	Kelly (PA)
Casar	Flood	Kennedy (NY)
Case	Fong	Kiggans (VA)
Casten	Foster	Kiley (CA)
Castor (FL)	Foushee	Kim
Castro (TX)	Fox	Knott
Cherfilus-	Frankel, Lois	Krishnamoorthi
McCormick	Franklin, Scott	Kustoff
Chu	Friedman	LaHood
Ciscomani	Frost	LaLota
Cisneros	Garbarino	LaMalfa
Clark (MA)	Garcia (CA)	Landsman
Clarke (NY)	Garcia (IL)	Langworthy
Cleaver	Garcia (TX)	Larson (CT)
Clyburn	Gillen	Latimer
Cohen	Gimenez	Latta
Cole	Golden (ME)	Lawler
Comer	Goldman (NY)	Lee (NV)
Conaway	Gomez	Lee (PA)
Correa	Gonzales, Tony	Leger Fernandez
Courtney	Gonzalez, V.	Letlow
Craig	Gooden	Levin
Crawford	Goodlander	Liccardo
Crenshaw	Graves	Lieu
Crockett	Gray	Lofgren

Lucas	Olszewski	Stansbury
Luna	Omar	Stanton
Luttrell	Onder	Stauber
Lynch	Owens	Stefanik
Mace	Pallone	Steil
Mackenzie	Panetta	Stevens
Magaziner	Pappas	Strickland
Malliotakis	Pelosi	Strong
Maloy	Perez	Subramanyam
Mann	Peters	Suozi
Mannion	Pfleger	Swalwell
Mast	Pingree	Sykes
Matsui	Pou	Takano
McBath	Pressley	Taylor
McBride	Quigley	Tenney
McCaul	Ramirez	Thanedar
McClain	Randall	Thompson (CA)
McClain Delaney	Raskin	Thompson (MS)
McClellan	Reschenthaler	Thompson (PA)
McClintock	Riley (NY)	Timmons
McCollum	Rivas	Titus
McDonald Rivet	Rogers (AL)	Tlaib
McDowell	Rogers (KY)	Tokuda
McGarvey	Ross	Tonko
McGovern	Rouzer	Torres (CA)
McIver	Ruiz	Torres (NY)
Meeks	Rulli	Trahan
Menendez	Rutherford	Tran
Meng	Salazar	Turner (OH)
Messmer	Salinas	Underwood
Meuser	Sánchez	Valadao
Mfume	Scanlon	Van Drew
Miller (OH)	Schakowsky	Van Orden
Miller (WV)	Schmidt	Vargas
Miller-Meeks	Schneider	Vasquez
Min	Scholten	Veasey
Moolenaar	Schrier	Vindman
Moore (AL)	Schweikert	Wagner
Moore (NC)	Scott (VA)	Walberg
Moore (UT)	Scott, Austin	Wasserman
Moore (WI)	Scott, David	Schultz
Morelle	Sessions	Waters
Morrison	Sewell	Watson Coleman
Moskowitz	Sherman	Weber (TX)
Moulton	Shreve	Westerman
Mrvan	Simon	Whitesides
Mullin	Simpson	Wied
Murphy	Smith (MO)	Williams (GA)
Nadler	Smith (NE)	Williams (TX)
Neal	Smith (NJ)	Wilson (FL)
Neguse	Smith (WA)	Wilson (SC)
Nehls	Smucker	Wittman
Newhouse	Sorensen	Womack
Nunn (IA)	Soto	Yakym
Overholte	Spartz	
Ocasio-Cortez		

NAYS—50

Baird	Goldman (TX)	Mills
Bean (FL)	Gosar	Moore (WV)
Biggs (AZ)	Green (TN)	Moran
Biggs (SC)	Greene (GA)	Norman
Boebert	Hagaman	Ogles
Brecheen	Harris (MD)	Palmer
Burlison	Harshbarger	Patronis
Carter (GA)	Houchin	Perry
Cline	Jackson (TX)	Rose
Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Self
Clyde	Kennedy (UT)	Steube
Collins	Lee (FL)	Stutzman
Crane	Loudermilk	Tiffany
Crank	Massie	Van Dwyne
Davidson	McCormick	Webster (FL)
Fry	McGuire	Zinke
Fulcher	Miller (IL)	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—2

Guest	Roy
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NOT VOTING—19

Aderholt	Gottheimer	Pettersen
Beatty	Higgins (LA)	Pocan
Buchanan	Hunt	Scalise
Connolly	Jayapal	Sherrill
Costa	Khanna	Velázquez
Garamendi	Larsen (WA)	
Gill (TX)	Norcross	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1901

Messrs. CLINE and CARTER of Georgia changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

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.

RECOGNIZING HEATHER DAVENPORT

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

Mr. MACKENZIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heather Davenport, USOA Ms. Pennsylvania, and founder of We Are Strong LLC, a nonprofit committed to breaking the cycle of domestic abuse and offering hope to those affected.

Since earning her title in November, she has volunteered at food banks, supported pediatric cancer families, honored veterans, and raised awareness about domestic violence throughout the State. She has used her role as USOA Ms. Pennsylvania to represent our community with compassion and purpose.

Heather, a proud resident of the Greater Lehigh Valley and a mother of five, has used her platform to give a voice to those who are often overlooked and to strengthen the support systems for individuals facing abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate her and thank her for the incredible work that she is doing. Her nonprofit, We Are Strong, is a traveling domestic violence clinic that provides essential resources such as housing, clothing, and emotional support to individuals in need throughout the State.

This work is urgently needed. In Pennsylvania alone, more than 100 victims lost their lives to domestic violence last year, and nationally, one in four women experience severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.

I appreciate the work that Heather has done and want to continue to extend heartfelt gratitude for all of her work.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SALVATION ARMY WEEK

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Salvation Army Week and to honor an organization that has been a pillar of support and hope in communities all across this country.

Since its founding in 1865, the Salvation Army has provided food, shelter, and hope to millions, responding to disasters, helping individuals overcome addiction, and supported families in times of crisis. The Salvation Army is a beacon of hope across this Nation.

H.R. 404 recognizes and celebrates National Salvation Army Week and

also commends the Red Kettle Campaign and honors the countless volunteers, donors, and officers who make the Salvation Army's mission possible.

I have seen their impact firsthand in eastern North Carolina, where they bring disaster relief, dignity, and compassion to those who need it most.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt thanks and commit to continuing our support. I thank the Salvation Army for lifting our communities daily and doing the most good.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ANN POPPELL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ann Poppell, who passed away peacefully on May 3.

Ms. Poppell was a trailblazer in many ways, having served as the clerk of Superior Court of McIntosh County for many years, a successful Realtor, and a full-time mother to three boys.

She was a beloved member of the community, exemplifying kindness, resilience, and generosity, leaving an enduring impact on everyone who knew her.

She had many hobbies, including cooking, painting, traveling, and gardening, but nothing came before God and family.

Ms. Poppell's legacy of compassion and selflessness inspired those around her to lead with purpose and integrity.

She will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her. As we remember Ms. Poppell, let us celebrate her profound impact on her community and the example that she leaves behind.

NEW YORK POST EDITORIAL ON QATARI JET

(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, yesterday, the New York Post Editorial Board wrote about President Trump's plans to accept a free gift from Qatar of a \$400 million Boeing 747-8 jet.

The New York Post said: "What is President Trump thinking? He's bragging of winning a \$400 million 'gift,' a 'palace in the sky' . . . from Qatar that, in effect, he'll eventually own personally."

"Sorry, this 'gift' is from far free; Qatar will surely expect something in return."

"And the optics are beyond awful, especially as Congress mulls hundreds of billions in Medicaid cuts."

The New York Post continues: "That not only looks bad; it creates all kinds of conflicts of interest and runs smack into the Constitution's Emoluments Clause, which prohibits foreign gifts."

The Post Editorial closes: “. . . but given all the foreign investments and conflicts of interests—and now a \$400 million plane—they seem designed to benefit the President more than anything.”

This from the New York Post editorial board. I couldn't have said it better myself.

PROTECTING MEDICAID BENEFITS IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, the moment of reckoning for California Governor Gavin Newsom has arrived. While I have been fighting to protect Medicaid benefits for Californians, the Governor's irresponsible actions are now threatening deep cuts for Medicaid in California.

Mr. Speaker, Newsom has made California the only State that offers Medicaid to everyone in the State illegally. It has already cost us \$9.5 billion just this year in State funds, and now it also threatens to cost us even more in Federal funds.

Governor Newsom faces a very clear choice: He can continue a policy that no other State has and cost us hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicaid benefits that could have gone to legal California residents over the next decade, or he can act now to reverse this irresponsible policy.

Mr. Speaker, I am strongly urging the Governor and the legislature to do the latter immediately.

IT ALL STARTED WITH A SERIES OF LIES

(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, I am a history teacher so I know that we have to do everything we can to document what is happening right now because we are at a very dangerous moment, and it requires courage from every single one of us.

Here is the truth of it: This national nightmare started with a series of lies, the first one being that Barack Obama was not born in this country. Then the second one, the ridiculous, easily disproved claim was that the 2017 inauguration broke records that no one had ever seen before. Then there was the lie about the weather map and the Sharpie, and then so many other lies building up to that one big lie that you all have heard about the 2020 election. It was an obvious lie, and yet he lost over and over and over in court and continued to lie. There was no evidence, but it didn't matter.

Why didn't it matter? It didn't matter because it wasn't about the evidence. It was actually a test.

It was a test to signal your willingness to be loyal. If you promise to

spread our lies, you can be on the team. It was a qualification for being able to work on that team. Slowly, like the rot in the foundation of an old farmhouse, it continues to let the decay set in.

□ 1915

HONORING VINCENT C. MCMAHON

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Vincent C. McMahon, a proud son of New City, a veteran of the United States Army, and a decorated lieutenant of the FDNY.

Vincent lived a life of service to his country, his city, and his community. He was a member of the elite 75th Ranger Regiment, a 25-year firefighter with the FDNY, and a first responder at Ground Zero after the attacks on September 11. Vinny never turned away from a call to serve. He gave everything, including his health, for the safety and well-being of others.

Beyond the uniform, Vincent was a brother, a husband, a neighbor, and a friend. He was a fixture at the Pearl River Elks, The American Legion, and the Knights of Columbus, and he never stopped giving back.

To his wife, Haley, and his entire family, on behalf of a grateful community and Nation, thank you for sharing Vinny with all of us. We will never forget his sacrifice, and we will carry forward his example of courage and commitment.

May he rest in peace.

SUPPORT SAFER COMMUNITIES

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

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the President is out here in these streets cutting funding for programs that support a lot of things Americans care about: Survivors of sexual assault, programs that offer mental health care for police officers and keep hotlines to victims of crime open, programs that assist law enforcement in rural communities, provide guidance on finding safe housing, and offer care and counseling for children facing abuse.

Mr. Speaker, local organizations have been sounding the alarm of what these cuts would mean for our communities, and today I am joining them. In some situations, these services are make or break, and we just can't let our communities and our neighbors down.

Mr. Speaker, this week is Police Week, and if the President is truly supportive of safer communities, he should quit cutting funding for programs that work to keep them that way.

DELIVERING SUPPORT TO RURAL COMMUNITIES

(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, there is a fund called the Secure Rural Schools. It was enacted by Congress decades ago to replace the timber receipts we used to have when we had a strong forest industry, especially in the West. It has been run out by a lot of environmental policies that turned out to be erroneous, see the spotted owl.

In Congress, we have had to put forward this Secure Rural Schools funding in order to backfill what local counties, local school districts used to have from timber receipts.

The good news is that this piece is in the House Agriculture reconciliation bill, so it is good news for these rural counties that have been waiting for a long time, since it has already expired back in March. It is a lifeline for many areas in rural America where the Federal Government controls so much land.

In some States, it is somewhere between 40 and 80 percent of the land that counties can't collect property taxes on when the timber harvest isn't happening anymore like it used to. For some reason, the United States is the number one importer of wood and wood products. Instead, we burn millions of acres every year in the West. SRS was created as a promise. If Washington is going to tie up these lands, it needs to help fund the basic services these counties still have to provide.

FEDERAL WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS

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

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, recently I was privileged to join members of the United Steelworkers Local 1010 in Hammond, Indiana, to commemorate Workers Memorial Day.

During the proceedings, I shared how when the steel and manufacturing industries of northwest Indiana were beginning more than a century ago, the workers labored in long hours and extremely dangerous conditions and were regretfully considered expendable.

Today, through the power of collective bargaining, our workforce has the ability to negotiate with management and enact workplace protections that say we value labor and we value safety.

As a Federal legislator, I am committed to building on the progress and am very concerned about proposals to cut back the ability of the Department of Labor to implement Federal workplace protections. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I will make every effort to ensure that OSHA and the National Labor Relations Board have the resources and direction they need to ensure that all

workers make it back home to their families and loved ones at the end of the day.

REMEMBERING OFFICER GARRETT SWASEY

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life and service of Police Officer Garrett Swasey to the Colorado Springs community.

On November 27, 2015, Officer Swasey, a member of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Police Department, responded to a call of an active shooter at the Planned Parenthood office. Officer Swasey, who was one of the first officers on the scene, boldly and courageously engaged the shooter and was fatally shot.

Officer Swasey had been a police officer for 6 years and was a copastor for Hope Chapel in Colorado Springs. Officer Swasey left behind his wife, Rachel, and his children, Elijah and Faith.

Officer Garrett Swasey represented the best in all of us and faithfully and heroically served the Pikes Peak region until his final moments. On behalf of Colorado's Fifth Congressional District, I thank Officer Swasey and his family for their service to our community and our Nation.

PEACE TALKS WITH UKRAINE

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the recent news on Ukraine: Zelenskyy is set to meet Putin. Putin must immediately agree to a 30-day cease-fire. To force that, the United States and President Trump must increase the pressure on Putin.

This is not a regional fight. Ukraine's sovereignty is a U.S. national security issue. It is also a humanitarian crisis. As of 2023, the U.S. State Department had documented the abduction of approximately 20,000 Ukrainian children. That number has only increased. The program that was keeping track of those children has recently been cut.

These Russian abductions represent a deliberate effort to eliminate Ukrainian national identity, destroy family ties, and are a specific element of a genocide crime under international criminal law. The Russians claim, further, that 700,000 children have been seized. None of this can stand.

As someone who has traveled over a dozen times to Ukraine in order to investigate war crimes, I know how important it is that we make a stand now, not later. We must uphold our American values by seeking peace in the region and demanding the immediate return of Ukraine's missing children.

We will see this week whether Mr. Putin shows up for peace talks with Ukraine in Türkiye or remains an international pariah and coward.

LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today in a committee hearing, in which there were probably very few people in the room, the Republican majority voted to expand the low-income housing tax credit.

First of all, the low-income housing tax credit doesn't really benefit a lot of low-income people, but in any event, the way it works, we give 70 percent of the cost of a developer's project to him in tax credits. That seems a strange way to solve the housing crisis in this country for a Democrat. It is even stranger for a Republican.

In any event, I think people should look at this. We are spending \$13.5 billion every year on this credit and, like I said, you can get it on all sorts of think tanks. The primary beneficiary is the developer. Probably the number two beneficiary is the biggest banks in the country. It is something that ought to be reviewed.

TROUBLING SITUATION IN NEWARK

(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, many across our Nation are outraged at the \$400 million luxury airplane, the palace in the sky, that President Trump just accepted from the Nation of Qatar. That is against the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution. He took the bribe in plain sight.

Meanwhile, our Nation is very short on air controllers who are trained. Look at Newark, New Jersey. They have had radar failures and repeated flight delays due to serious staffing shortages. This is true across our country, but what did the Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Duffy, say? He said: What you see in Newark is going to happen in other places across the country. My reply: Excuses aren't an answer.

Going forward, what do we need to do? As of May 1, we are 3,000 air controllers short in this country. The workforce is aging. They are stretched thin and understaffed, exacerbated by DOGE buyouts and firings. The FAA just simply doesn't have the people, and it is going to get worse as people travel this summer.

While Newark grabs headlines, the pain is felt across America. Mr. Speaker, let President Trump sell the plane, \$400 million, and put that money into training more air controllers for their safety and for the safety of this Nation.

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

CELEBRATING MARILYNN WEBER

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

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Marilynn Weber, a remarkable leader whose impact on Kaiser Permanente Northwest and our community cannot be overstated.

Marilynn served Kaiser Permanente Northwest for 35 years, including 8 years as the Northwest Permanente chief financial officer. She expertly guided the company through challenging and innovative times. She is a mentor, adviser, and friend to me and many others.

I saw firsthand her unwavering commitment to the mission to deliver the best care possible to Kaiser members across Oregon and southwest Washington. Marilynn connected finances to people, ensuring that decisions supported healthcare.

Her ability to turn complex financial concepts into mission-driven outcomes has empowered countless care teams, but what truly set Marilynn apart and still does is her heart, her deep belief that healthcare is about service, compassion, and equity.

I thank Marilynn for her leadership, service, and integrity to the people of Oregon. I congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

BRING BACK FULL SALT DEDUCTIBILITY

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

Ms. GILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to demand that Congress restore the full State and local tax deduction which would cut taxes for Nassau County residents.

On Long Island, we pay some of the highest taxes in the country, and we send far more to Washington than we get back.

For the past 8 years, this cap has hiked tax bills for hardworking families in my district and those in other high-tax States, even as the cost of living continues to rise. These families deserve real relief. It is what the President promised when he came to my district and said he would get SALT back.

Well, it is time to deliver, Mr. President.

At this very moment, the majority is advancing a reconciliation bill that fails to meaningfully lower our taxes for Long Island when we are already facing a cost of living crisis. Mr. Speaker, that is totally unacceptable.

There is bipartisan agreement among my New York colleagues that the majority's offer is a slap in the face to

New Yorkers. We need to hold the line and push for a full repeal that will bring tax bills down and give Long Islanders much-needed tax relief.

I came to Congress to cut taxes and make life more affordable for my residents. I will continue to explore every possible avenue to do just that.

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RECOGNIZING AANHPI MONTH

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

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the month of May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Virginia is home to a dynamic and growing AANHPI community, a community that across the country and in Virginia contributes in every field, including business, education, science, technology, and, of course, government.

Many leaders in our community emigrated from Asian countries in pursuit of the American Dream, like my family. Their stories and success are a testament to the founding ideals of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy AANHPI Month to everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the month of May as National Cancer Research Month.

Every day, 5,000 Americans will be diagnosed with cancer. More than 1,600 will die from it every day.

Now more than ever, we must support our dedicated scientists and doctors across the country who work to treat and care for patients.

I urge everyone to support robust funding for medical research for cancer so we can find a cure and stop the cuts to cancer research.

Mr. Speaker, I wish a happy National Cancer Research Month to everyone.

RECOGNIZING SUE ABDERHOLDEN

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

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sue Abderholden for her transformational leadership and advocacy for accessible mental health services in Minnesota.

During her 24 years of service as the executive director for the National Alliance on Mental Health Illness Minnesota, she helped pass over two dozen landmark laws that reshaped education, healthcare, housing, and criminal justice to better serve people living with mental illness.

Sue championed legislation to require mental health training for teachers and expanded crisis and early intervention services. Thanks to Sue's unwavering commitment to expanding culturally responsive, person-centered

mental health care, our communities are safer and healthier.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for her years of service, and I hope she has a wonderful retirement.

CLEANING UP GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out and condemn Donald Trump's astounding corruption.

Just last week, he signaled that he would change the name of the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Gulf. Today, he arrived in the Middle East, where he is expected to accept a luxury 747 worth \$400 million from Qatar to replace Air Force One.

From attempting to rename the Persian Gulf to accepting luxury airplanes as unprecedented personal gifts, Donald Trump would rather waste time on ridiculous political stunts designed to curry favor with foreign governments and line his own pockets than address the issues affecting the American people.

Mr. Speaker, as the first Iranian-American Democrat elected to Congress, I can tell you that the Persian community in the United States and across the world is outraged at the attempt to change the historically significant name.

That is why, today, I am proud to introduce the Persian Gulf Act to prohibit any Federal funds from being used to rename the body of water and prevent government documents from referring to the Persian Gulf by anything except that name.

As Donald Trump acts only for himself, I will continue fighting against his corruption and the American people.

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

RESTORE FUNDING FOR LIFESAVING FOOD AID

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the eighth time to call on the Trump administration to restore funding for lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

Edesia Nutrition in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, produces more than 88 million pounds of Plumpy'Nut, a peanut paste that has served millions of malnourished children around the world per year. At least they did until Donald Trump stopped that funding.

Despite Congress passing this funding that would continue this food aid, and the promises from the administration that the program will continue, Edesia recently received a notice that read: We will not be moving forward at this time.

This is despite the urgent, lifesaving need for relief around the world. While Edesia's work has been interrupted and will continue to feel the consequences of this interruption, it is not too late to restore this funding.

Congress has already appropriated this funding in a bipartisan manner. The money has been appropriated.

The Trump administration just needs to do what it said it was going to do and restore the flow of funds for this lifesaving food aid. The lives of children around the world depend on it.

NICE GRAFT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, President Trump was offered this \$400 million airplane. He said he thought it was a "nice gesture."

A nice gesture is when somebody passes the salt and pepper. That is a nice gesture.

A nice gesture is when somebody says, "Good morning. Have a nice day." That is a nice gesture.

A nice gesture is when a gentleman pulls a chair out for a lady to sit down. That is a nice gesture.

To take a \$400 million airplane from Qatar as the plane of the United States of America's President is cheap, demeaning, and harmful to our country that has always flown high as the finest nation on this Earth. It is also graft and corruption.

Mr. Speaker, the emperor wears no clothes.

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

BIG, BACKSTABBING BILL

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. 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 the great State of Ohio, Representative SHONTEL BROWN, who hopefully will be joining us.

Along with some of our other colleagues, she is in her committee hearing, trying to figure out if Republicans

will stand up with the American people and vote down so many of the disastrous proposals that are being brought up in these various committees as it relates to the reconciliation bill.

Mr. Speaker, for the next 60 minutes, members of the CBC have an opportunity to speak directly to the American people and directly to you on the Republicans' disastrous reconciliation package. This is an issue of great importance, of utmost importance, and of perilous importance, not just to the Congressional Black Caucus but to everyone.

Hopefully, Republican Members, not just Democratic Members of Congress, will stand up with and for the American people and vote down some of this nonsense that is going to be coming before all of us in our committees. At the very least, let's not be silent. That is why the Congressional Black Caucus is here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee just released text. This is the one big, beautiful bill. This is the 386-page manifesto that killed trees and trees.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you that there are only two words in that phrase that are accurate. This is a bill, and it is big, but it is not beautiful. It is a backstabbing bill because all the items in the 386 pages of this bill are about how this administration is going to backstab the American people. It is not going to feel good.

Unlike the O'Jays song "Backstabbers," this doesn't have a good melody.

This is about cutting Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, and benefits for veterans. This is about killing young people, seniors, and those who are disabled. This is about cutting important critical services for the American people to give tax credits to billionaires. There are a lot of B's in this statement. None of them are very good.

Let me be very clear: Republicans have barely made any attempts to support working families. Instead, they have written an economic love letter to people like Elon Musk. This is a 386-page love letter to Elon Musk.

Republicans can run from the truth all they want—they have been silent—but the truth is in the eyes of this administration: Americans don't need healthcare, but this administration somehow needs a \$400 million plane gifted to them from the Saudi Government. Americans don't need SNAP assistance, but this administration and all of his billionaire buddies need millions in tax writeoffs.

Mr. Speaker, how are my constituents supposed to live? How are your constituents supposed to live? How are any of our constituents supposed to pull themselves up by those ridiculous bootstraps that people like to talk about?

This administration and the House majority are actually not just taking away their boots but taking away the leather, the rubber, the soles, and the

labor that would be used to even make these boots. We are going to be spending the next hour talking about all of that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. IVEY), my very good friend.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus to address and speak to these issues because they are so timely.

There are new developments that come every day that keep us guessing as to what the Trump administration is going to do from one moment to the next. I am going to talk about this plane from Qatar toward the end.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today about my deep concern about the appropriations and budget processes as established by the Constitution because they are broken. I rise out of deep concern for our institution, our responsibilities, and for the American people who elected us to make decisions.

The continuing resolutions that we have been passing are temporary stopgaps, but they have become the norm. It is not just a failure of a process. It is a failure of President Trump's leadership and House Republican leadership.

Trump's economic failures include trying to make his tax cuts permanent, the DOGE cuts, and the irresponsibility of the tariff packages. Thank goodness, I think he backed away a few days ago with respect to cutting a deal with China, but that is only for 90 days.

The challenge of the erratic and illegal behavior he has been exhibiting is that it really puts companies in a very difficult spot. Companies have to make decisions not just moment to moment, as apparently President Trump does, but over months and sometimes years, especially if they are going to make major decisions about something like investing to build a new plant. That can cost millions or even billions of dollars.

When he does things like puts up 130-something percent in tariffs against one of the main trading partners of the United States, like China, it creates a major problem for companies that trade with China and that get their materials or send their finished products to China.

Many of them are small American businesses. We have seen and heard from many of those over the past couple of days. I have been listening to some who are toy manufacturers. They talk about what has happened to their companies on the radio. They are concerned about what might happen for them during the Christmas holidays, a key time of year for their businesses.

The Trump administration didn't pay any attention to that. In fact, he just moved forward with the tariffs that he put in place. He did so not just against China, not just against our adversaries, but against allies like Canada, Mexico,

France, Germany, and other countries. It has been devastating to the American economy and businesses across the country.

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He ran for election telling the American people that he was going to make their economic lives better and that he was going to help them financially be better off than they were under the Biden administration. However, it is clear in the first 6 months that what he has been doing is he is not putting money in their pockets, he is taking it out.

I think it is critical for us to make sure we understand fully what is going on here with respect to the packages that they are trying to move. He is trying to do this mainly through executive order. He has been unable to move major pieces of legislation through the House, and House leadership hasn't pressed him to do it, even though we are supposed to be doing these things through the appropriations process.

As a matter of fact, the Constitution gave us the obligation to move these bills through the appropriations process, but the Republican leadership in the House has failed to do that.

The failure to pass these appropriations bills has led to things like Federal workers are being forced out of their positions. Some of them are concerned about whether their paychecks are going to come. Small businesses, we just mentioned a moment ago, especially those who are relying on government contracts, are having trouble making payroll. In some of those instances, they have already done the work that they are supposed to get paid for.

However, the Trump administration has done two things. One is it has withdrawn contracts, but it has also, even though they performed the work, refused to make the payments and forced some of these companies to shut down and fire some of their employees even though they already did the work.

We are also going to have challenges I think, too, with respect to communities who have been hit by major disasters. Unfortunately, I just saw while we were waiting to start this process a few minutes ago, we had three major natural disasters today across the country, but FEMA is under attack, and the funding is being cut.

With respect to reconciliation, as we just talked about a moment ago, the \$881 billion in cuts to Medicaid are a shocking development. We know what that could mean for communities across the country is that hospitals have to shut down, medical treatment facilities might have to be closed, and people who perform medical services like doctors and nurses might not be available.

Certainly, in urban areas and suburban areas like mine, there is going to be a major impact from that, and in red States and rural districts as well.

I just heard a report on the radio last week. It was talking about a district in

a rural area where I think they said that 70 percent of their funding comes through Medicaid in one way or another. If these cuts are made then that hospital is going to have to close and if that hospital closes then it creates, essentially, a medical desert going 200 miles each way. So the next time you have a serious car accident in that area, Mr. Speaker, they are going to have a tough time getting people the care that they need for any kind of medical emergency, say perhaps from a complication in a birth scenario or basic day-to-day medical services, they are going to have to drive hundreds of miles, in some instances, just to go see a doctor.

With respect to the impoundment issue, I want to raise that too because the Trump administration has started making the argument that even though money has been appropriated, they don't have to spend it. The reason they are trying to do that is because they want to take control away from Congress. They want to take control of the power of the purse that was given to Congress through the Constitution. They want to do that so they can marginalize Congress and make the spending decisions that they want to make.

We saw that with the \$1.6 trillion, the Trump administration decided how to spend that because we didn't pass a regular appropriations set of bills. We had to do it through the continuing resolution. It left them discretion that I don't think they should have. I have to say I am concerned about the way he has used that discretion in some of these processes.

They have made budget cuts, for example, to VOCA. That stands for the Victims of Crime Act. They are cutting grants to help people who are victims of crime.

Why would he take a step like that? The Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, is to help women who are surviving sexual assault and domestic violence.

Why would he cut a program like that?

They cut USAID programs. One of our colleagues referenced earlier about how that has had a positive impact on the starvation issues, the USAID efforts. However, they are cutting programs that will lead to, I saw one estimate, 1.6 million people who will die over the next year based on these cuts that he is making right now to foreign aid.

We stopped funding AmeriCorps, which means less teachers in areas that are in desperate need of teaching assistants. We have a lot of schools out there who are short on full-time teachers. They are certainly short on full-time certified teachers. Cuts to AmeriCorps just exacerbate the problem.

Cutting rental subsidies means that low-income families will have trouble keeping a roof over their heads. The Trump administration is going to

make it even harder for them to do that.

Why would we take that step?

How is that consistent with the promise he made to help American people who needed help the most?

He is making cuts to mental health services. We have got kids who are struggling in school. They are bullied sometimes. We have some scenarios where we have serious violent attacks in the schools. It might be a mass shooting from a gun situation. It might be something less serious than that. We have got kids who need assistance with their mental health challenges across the country, and making cuts to those sorts of programs only makes it harder for these kids to survive and get through the school process.

There are cuts to NIH. Now, I know he had, frankly, a vendetta, essentially, against Dr. Fauci, and he is taking that out on many of the health institutions, like the NIH. However, at the end of the day, it is clear that the NIH has been and continues to be, hopefully, at least if it can survive these cuts, one of the premier institutions that do medical research that makes a difference here in the United States and around the world.

He is cutting medical research on cancer. I am a cancer survivor. It is important to folks like me, and there are a lot of folks who are cancer survivors. The only reason we are still here is because of the medical advances that were made at places like NIH based on research that was done using government funding. That is how these things happen.

Alzheimer's is another one. My father died from Alzheimer's. It is one of the most horrific diseases you can possibly imagine. Mr. Speaker, you would never even wish it on your worst enemy. It is hard to even explain how tragic it is to watch a human being slide from being the full person that they were into something ravaged by Alzheimer's. They cut funding for clinical trials for Alzheimer's at NIH. The thing about clinical trials that you need to remember, Mr. Speaker, it is not like an off switch. You don't just flick it on and off and it comes right back. If you shut down a clinical trial, Mr. Speaker, you might have to start that all the way from scratch. In some instances, the research and the projects that have been going forward under that have taken years. So he is setting that back years and months.

Why? Why would he do that?

He is making cuts to grants to help people who want to go into the science fields. The United States, certainly in the last 50 years and the postwar era, has been the premier nation with respect to science and technology and innovation.

That is how we got Apple, that is how we got Microsoft, and that is why we have quantum computing. All of these fantastic innovations and giant steps forward came from the United States, in part because of the research that

was funded in part by the Federal Government. The people who developed many of those advances got their training and got their college and Ph.D.s paid for using funding that helped them get through school. They wouldn't have been able to pay for it otherwise. Yet the Trump administration is making cuts not just to those programs but also to the grants and funding that help those people get through.

To add insult to injury, he makes personal attacks on research institutions like Harvard, which has been the source of some of the best, the brightest, and most talented who have taken leadership in these fields. He is making threats to undermine those institutions and those universities just out of personal venom.

It makes absolutely no sense. It is damaging to the United States, and it undermines our leadership in science and technology in the world. He says it is America first, but sometimes it feels like China first. Sometimes it feels as if he is actually trying to help the Communist Chinese Party leadership surge ahead of the United States in its leadership role in science and technology.

Then there are \$40 million in cuts for election security. I know he still says that he won the 2020 election. Okay, fine. However, one of the things we can all agree on for sure is that we know the Russians and the Chinese and, in some instances, Iran and terrorist organizations around the world are making efforts to influence our elections with misinformation, disinformation, and the like.

Why would we ever make our elections more vulnerable to those kinds of attacks by cutting the funding that helps defend against it?

I will stop with this regarding the plane. When I first saw that on the news, I thought it was a joke. I thought it was a clip from Saturday Night Live or something. I never imagined that the Trump administration or the Trump family would even consider taking a \$400-million plane from a country like Qatar, which is not exactly an adversary country but certainly it is not an ally country. It is a foreign country. The reason the Emoluments Clause was put in place in the Constitution was to make sure that Presidents of the United States of America, whether it is number one or number 47, are not tempted or tested with these kinds of, essentially, bribes to try and get them to lean and issue support for their countries in making decisions. We want to make sure we have people like the President of the United States not tested by the money and not tempted by the money but always making the decisions for the best possible reasons and the best interests of the United States.

However, here we have a \$400-million plane, and apparently, he will eventually own it personally.

Now, Mr. Speaker, tell me why that is beneficial for the country. It creates

conflicts of interest and then some, because we have all of these issues with Qatar, including the negotiations with the Gaza conflict.

How is this going to be beneficial to the United States to create these levels of conflict?

Even if he can rise above them, the appearance of the conflicts is ridiculous, it is astonishing, and it is unacceptable. The National Review, not exactly a liberal rag and not exactly a liberal bastion, has said that the swamp is under new ownership.

So much for the commitments that he made to the American people when he first ran and when he ran again to so-called clean up the swamp.

Here we are. It violates the Constitution. I think on its face he should know better, and I am sure that everybody in the Congress knows that sometimes he needs guardrails. He always needs guardrails. This is the moment we have to make sure we stand up and put the guardrails in place.

To my colleagues here in Congress: Let's get back to work. Let's stand up and address this issue. As far as the conflicts of interest with the plane, let's make it clear that we unanimously oppose him taking the plane, certainly on behalf of the United States, and certainly in his personal capacity.

We unanimously want to move forward with a budget that is fair and reasonable and helps the American people, not one that takes \$881 billion out of their pockets, out of the pockets of kids, out of the pockets of seniors, out of the pockets of the disabled, and the people who need it the most.

We have to make sure that when the budget process is done, we are protecting the people who need it the most. Right now it looks like we are taking from the most vulnerable to give to the most wealthy, like Elon Musk and his allies. We have got to reverse that process.

I want to commend the gentlewoman for pulling this together, my colleagues with the Congressional Black Caucus, my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus, and, hopefully, my colleagues in the Republican caucus who will stand up and say: We can't do this. We cannot cross these lines. The plane is over the line. The \$881 billion in cuts to Medicaid is over the line. The no more appropriations bills, that is over the line. Let's get back to work. Let's engage in clear and proper oversight, and let's address these problems and do the work that helps the American people.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from the great State of Maryland (Mr. IVEY) for keeping it real and really underscoring the challenges that are in front of us as Americans and for really articulating why courage, backbone, and just basic common sense are so needed right now in these perilous times.

Why are these times perilous?

These times are perilous because in Congress we are in the process of de-

bating and trying to pass this reconciliation bill.

People might be saying: Well, what is it?

It isn't actually a budget. In each of the committees, discussions are had about where to spend and where to cut. This House majority has been given marching orders, and the marching orders are to cut as much as possible and to cut until the American people bleed. The only folks who will be able to afford Band-Aids to prevent them from bleeding to death will be the richest of the rich.

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Everyone else, you will have to fend for yourself. In each of these committees in which we sit, on which we sit, we are debating cuts that will hurt this economy, that will hurt constituents, that will hurt American businesses, that will hurt our standing in the world.

This is not a red or blue discussion. This is not even a Black Caucus or other caucus discussion. This is about what is at risk, who is at danger, who is being put at risk by this administration and, quite frankly, by the silence coming from this House majority.

Tonight and later on this week, Ag, Energy and Commerce, and the Ways and Means Committees are meeting, and they have been meeting earlier today, and they are also continuing to meet right now.

The challenge is meeting this late in the evening allows them to do dirty business, allows them to vote on bills and amendments that will hurt the American people without the benefit of having the news being able to report on it before people go to bed. It is almost like these dirty deeds will be happening at night when no one can see or hear what is going on.

Maybe we are spending our time talking about this \$400 million bribe that was just given to this administration when we should be talking about all of the cuts that are going to be coming from these committees.

With reconciliation, Republicans want all the cuts, but they do not want the political consequences. That is why we are here tonight talking about what those consequences will be, talking about what is in these reconciliation bills, what is in this package, because we don't want anyone to get political amnesia.

We don't want anyone to forget when they are hurting, when they are trying to pay a bill, when they are trying to get gas, when they are trying to buy eggs, when they are trying to buy a home, when they are looking for a job, when they are trying to bury a loved one, why it is so hard to do any of those things, why the costs are so high.

We are going to continue to remind the American people why all of those costs are going to be so high, and it is because of the cuts that are coming in this reconciliation bill, cuts that Republicans could have stopped, but they have been too silent.

Last week we were here, and we had hearings in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Small Business, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Committee on Natural Resources, in those committees and in others.

I don't know if many of these discussions or outcomes from these committees have made it into the news cycle, so folks don't know what really happened in those committees. I am going to say, in those committees we talked about cutting State Department by close to 50 percent, terminating workers in the State Department, finalizing the shuttering of USAID.

People might say, well, what is USAID? Well, part of what USAID does is contract with American farmers. Farmers have contracts with USAID. USAID buys their product and then uses it. All of those contracts have stopped because Republicans are looking for ways to fill the gap, the big gap, the chasm that has been made by these tax cuts going to billionaires.

They have done so much at the State Department that they have even fired the people who are responsible for purchasing the tickets to bring Americans home from all of their missions around the world. You have Americans who are stuck in countries around the world separated from their families, unable to get home because the ticket agency in the State Department has been shut down.

In the Committee on the Judiciary, we talked about billions of dollars going to ICE for bonuses to buy computers and cars and deporting Americans and allowing January 6ers to be hired to work for the Federal Government, people who came in here trying to bludgeon the Capitol Police and the people who work in this very institution.

In that committee, Republicans voted to allow them to work for the Federal Government and have the authority to go after other Americans.

In the Committee on Natural Resources, they passed a bill that would allow us to sell Federal land, land that we all enjoy, parks, recreational services, and forests.

I want the people in my life, the little people in my world to be able to go and visit a natural reserve or to go to one of our national parks and monuments and see that it is still owned by the United States, that we haven't sold it to some corporation or, God forbid, some other country, someone with the highest bid.

We are selling that land, and the proceeds are going into the coffers because, remember, we have to cover the \$4.5 trillion gap that House Republicans made because they want to give tax cuts to the wealthiest of the wealthy.

What else does that mean? It means that Republicans plan to cut \$900 billion to Medicaid, kicking 8.7 million people off of Medicaid over the next 10

years. The plan calls for new requirements for beneficiaries, for those who are on Medicaid, work requirements.

Some say: Well, I don't have a problem with people going to work. They are also saying: We want seniors, we want folks who are disabled, we want the elderly, we want those folks to be schlepping down the street trying to find a job in this market, of course, when it is actually hard to find employment.

They have been saying: Well, you can make these cuts because there are not even that many people on Medicaid. There are these people who are 150 years old or 130 years old or they have been dead for 4 years, and they are on Medicaid. Well, the reality is that so many of us have constituents who are dependent on Medicaid and Medicare and Social Security that are going to be devastated because of these cuts.

In California, there are 470,000 people on Medicaid, and they are going to be at risk of losing their care because of what the Republican budget plans to do. This is 140,000 children under the age of 19 and 40,000 seniors over the age of 65 just in my district.

I am going to say it again. My district has the 4th highest Medicaid enrollee numbers in the country. California has 7 of the 10th highest Medicaid enrollee districts. There are poor people, there are struggling people everywhere in every district in every state who need Medicaid, who need Medicare, who need Social Security.

I just have to say: If Republicans are so enamored with this big, beautiful, backstabbing bill and believe it to be the manna from heaven, then they shouldn't be afraid to go into their districts and talk about the cuts, talk about cutting Medicaid.

Look at the person in the wheelchair, look at the person who is dependent on Social Security benefits, look at the veteran who is receiving Social Security, and tell them that they don't matter. Tell them that their benefit is not as important as giving the money to Elon Musk and the billionaires. You tell them that.

If you are not telling them to their face, you are certainly going to be telling them that when you vote for this reconciliation bill.

Let's talk about education. DOGE and Musk, under the authority of this administration, have already fired half of the staff in the Department of Education. I don't know about you, but I have young people in my family who are excited about going to college, and they are also scared because they don't even know if the colleges are going to stay open.

I am not just talking about elite Ivy League institutions. I am talking about community colleges; I am talking about state colleges. I am talking about legacy institutions where parents and grandparents went to, and it means something to be able to get into that school and graduate.

I have talked to young people who don't know if there will be any money

for them if they get in, even with the grades. I have talked to young people who are getting ready to graduate and don't know if there will be a job for them. And I have talked to young people who were excited about representing this country and helping us be more competitive and now don't even know if this country is for them.

News flash, all of these young people who I have been talking to are U.S. citizens, American-born, who don't even know if there is going to be a country left, who don't even know if there will be educational institutions left because this proposal includes \$330 billion in cuts that will impact Pell grants, Head Start, school lunches, and more.

We are talking about a \$1 billion freeze for school-based mental health. I don't know about you, but it seems like every single person in this country should be accessing mental health services right now just to make it through the day.

That is what is coming out of this reconciliation package.

Going back to student loan borrowers who saw a glimmer of hope last year, and now they are going to be tracked down like animals in the night when you have an administration that just accepted a \$400 million bribe from another country. The math doesn't math up.

Why are you asking for young people to pay their fair share when it seems like not everyone else is doing the same thing? The regional Head Start office serving my district closed, and Head Start funding at roughly \$12 billion annually represents less than .2 percent of total Federal spending.

Eliminating Head Start would cut childcare and supportive services for about 80,000 young children in California.

Then let's talk about ag. This proposal would halt funding for the Rural Energy for America Program. Once again, cutting a billion dollars in funding for programs that help schools and feed folks through food banks. Cutting this funding would threaten the livelihood of our American farmers and also threaten the nutrition of our children.

Let's talk about our veterans. Under this reconciliation package proposal, we are talking about firing 6,000 veterans. My God. My God. People who have served our country in wars, who have stood up for this country and the people in it, who have stood up for our Constitution, who came back from their service and were hired by the government will be fired, have been fired, are being fired.

Not only are we talking about firing 6,000 veterans, but we are also talking about cutting their services, cutting their medical services, forcing longer wait times for them because when they call, when they go to the VA to get help, there will be fewer people there to help them.

I think about the veterans in my district that I talk to, and they don't deserve to be mistreated like that.

□ 2015

My God, they want to come back and enter into society and be part of a thriving business, to help open a business, and they still need access to their medical care. They still need access to their mental health support, and we are going to cut that. In my mind, that is just so unchristian.

Then, we are talking about cutting Health and Human Services so that if we are trying to make sure that folks don't get tuberculosis, that we keep measles at bay, that we keep HIV at bay, well, if you are at risk, you are going to be in greater danger because the proposed cuts would be cutting NIH, the National Institutes of Health; CDC, the Centers for Disease Control; and FDA, the Food and Drug Administration—the people who make sure that the food we eat is safe, is not poisonous, won't kill us, and the people who make sure that we get accurate, nonpartisan, truthful information about the diseases and the ailments that are out here in this world so that we have the information that we need to keep ourselves and our children safe and healthy. We are not going to have access to that.

The research that is being done to help us fight against cancer and to cure so many other diseases that are out there, those research programs are going to be compromised. The clinical trials happening are going to be compromised because we have decided this reconciliation package, which is a statement of values, is going to be deciding that those things are not important. It is not important to eat healthy food. It is not important to have access to medicine. It is not important to research, to find cures for diseases and illnesses that have plagued our grandparents, our parents.

Have you gone to a children's hospital? Have you visited a child who is dying from cancer? Would you go to that child and tell them there is a higher probability that you are going to die because we are cutting the grants that would allow us to find a cure? That is what is in this reconciliation package.

Then Social Security, cutting 7,000 employees, you cut so many employees in your thirsty quest to find ways to fill this hole for these tax cuts for the billionaires, but you crashed the Social Security website. You have closed offices. You have told seniors and those with disabilities to figure out a way to get themselves to one of the few offices that are still open, but you are going to have to wait in a longer line because we have fired employees and are actually ending phone services for claims.

Really, it is a very sneaky, shady way of kicking people off of the services because you are constricting access.

I don't know about you, but I don't want to see a bunch of seniors struggling in a car or trying to get on the bus to go to the Social Security office that now has shorter hours and longer

lines because they are trying to get a claim that they have earned. Who tells a 75-year-old, a 68-year-old, an 80-year-old grandparent to go suck it—basically, figure out how you are going to survive. We are going to cut all of this from you, but I still want to visit you on Easter. I don't know what people say. I don't know how the hypocrisy formula works, but I am not down for cutting access to Social Security, cutting Social Security, and hurting our seniors because we want to give billions more, trillions more, in tax cuts to millionaires.

Let's talk about the arts and cutting funding for the arts, closing down museums, grant programs, and after-school programs that teach young people how to play music, how to play an instrument, and shutting down libraries.

It is so healing when we turn on the radio. We want to go to a concert. We go to an art performance because that is meaningful, regardless of your political party. Everyone deserves an opportunity to enjoy art, to be able to go to a library and have the choice of what book you want to pick out, but you have no choice when they are all shut down. That is what is in this reconciliation package.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS). The gentlewoman from California has 15 minutes remaining.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I almost lost my train of thought, but it has come back to me because I was talking about the arts.

The gentleman from Maryland was talking about our leadership as a country and how our leadership is in question. I would just like to add that not only is our leadership in question, but our attractiveness as a country is in question. Our competitive edge is in question. Our ability to be seen as forthright and a country of high integrity is in question.

These cuts are hurting our children. They are hurting our grandparents. They are hurting our farmers. They are hurting our small businesses. They are hurting the infrastructure in our States. They are hurting our ports. They are hurting our hospitals. They are hurting our clinics. They are hurting our parks. Honestly, they are hurting our hearts.

I think about that big red, white, and blue flag right behind the Speaker's chair and what that flag represents: opportunity, access, honesty, integrity. What we have seen last week and what we are seeing this week from the House majority when it comes to this reconciliation bill is silence. It is silent on these issues that mean so much to the people in our communities.

I can't tell you how many times I have walked down the street and have had an older person grab me and say, "What is going to happen to my Social Security?" Coming here to vote, I had a Capitol Police officer pull me to the

side and ask me what it meant for his job, if he would have a job. Going to talk to farmers, I had them tell me that they may have to fire or lay off the rest of their employees, that they would not be able to make it. Small businesses in the community that are hiring other people from the community are concerned.

Everyone asks, "What are Republicans doing? Why aren't they standing up for us, too?"

I don't have an answer to that question. I want an answer to that question because when you are silent, it means you are complicit or apathetic. I would hope that there would be no one here who would want to be complicit in the taking away of Social Security, Medicaid, or Medicare. I would hope that no one here would want to be complicit in having young children with cancer at a children's hospital die because we have cut cancer research funding.

As I say this, I think about my mother, a breast cancer survivor who wonders every day if it will come back. Boy, how do you think it gets me right in the craw to have to tell her that this country doesn't care if she lives or dies because it doesn't care enough about finding a cure for cancer to continue to fund that kind of research?

We just celebrated Mother's Day. I wonder if people shared with their mothers how all the support that helps mothers will now be on the chopping block.

I am sharing all of this on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus because as we wait to see what comes out of the remaining committees that are meeting, just know that there is a \$290 billion cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, cutting off food assistance to thousands of families who need it.

Just know that, in these committees, they will be debating raising the age for mandatory work requirements because we want people to work longer and harder and get less while somehow billionaires make more off of the backs of these working families.

Just know that, in these committees, they are going to be talking about cutting access to school lunches. So many of us live in districts where the school district is actually responsible for feeding the children in the community because of the free lunch program.

I know that people might be distracted by the Qatar gift, the \$400 million flying palace. Let's hope there are no bugs in it. I don't know. I know people want to be distracted by all the other things that seem to be coming out of the administration, but I don't want us to be distracted by that.

I want us to be talking about this reconciliation bill. I want us to remember what is going to be voted on in this package, and it is a thing. It is a thing that it is actually taking so long for this package to arrive on the floor.

Do you know why it is a thing? Because we have a House majority trying to wiggle through the truth and figure

out a way to spin death, destruction, and poverty.

There is no way to spin kicking granny off of Social Security. There is no way to spin shutting down hospitals and clinics. We can demonize the folks who are on Medicaid and Medicare, but I want to also remind us that if there is a doctor, if there is a clinic, if there is a hospital that is receiving a reimbursement for taking care of a recipient on Medicaid, that doctor, that hospital, that community clinic is open to serve you, too, because that reimbursement allows that clinic, that doctor, that hospital to stay open to help and serve everyone else in the community.

A lot of this rhetoric that you are hearing from people who don't want to talk about this reconciliation bill is trying to divide us into "us" and "them" buckets. The truth is that we are all in this together. We are all in this country together. We are all in this debate together. We are all in this fight together to make sure that the people in our districts have access to the services that they deserve.

□ 2030

If you are not willing to stand up for Medicare—and don't sign a letter and then run and don't show up in a district. Stand up and talk about saving it, protecting it, defending it, and making it better so that it can serve more people who deserve it rather than cutting it and lying about it and running from the truth.

The truth is that this reconciliation bill, this package, is going to hurt people. It is going to impoverish people. It is going to destroy businesses because the funny thing about economies is that they are circular. Nothing happens in a silo, in a vacuum. Businesses stay open because people are able to go into those businesses, and they are able to shop and buy things. When that happens, that business is able to grow, and they are able to hire more workers. Then those workers are able to do more or produce more.

Mr. Speaker, that is how it works. Yet, when you cut off opportunity, access, incentive, and support, then you compromise that ecosystem. We all have those micro-ecosystems in our communities. That is what makes this country strong. That is what makes this country unique. That is what makes this country worthy of this kind of debate.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to close right now because I know the witching hour is among us. I am grateful for the time that has been given to the Congressional Black Caucus. The Speaker has heard from my distinguished colleagues about this reconciliation package and about all issues of great importance to this caucus, to our constituents, to the Congress, and to all Americans tonight.

This reconciliation bill is a big deal. It is important and it should be talked about and discussed. The best disinfectant is sunlight, and we have to stop allowing people to be so shady about

what is happening in these committees and what is being cut. We have to turn all the lights on and talk about all of the cuts that are coming in this reconciliation package. Yes, we have to point the fingers and point the blame at the people who plan to make these cuts and kill the American people.

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

LIBERTY VERSUS DICTATORSHIP

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. KAPTUR of Ohio was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to place remarks on the RECORD this evening focusing on liberty versus dictatorship.

We have several Members who wish to submit comments for the RECORD. Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY is here this evening. Congressman EUGENE VINDMAN is in a committee markup right now, and Congressman STEVE COHEN will also have remarks for the RECORD.

I will begin briefly, and then I will yield to my fellow Congressman from Illinois.

China's dictator Xi was recently at the historic military parade that fellow dictator Vladimir Putin celebrated in Moscow. The purpose of the celebration was to honor the anniversary of Europe's defeat of Nazi Germany, signaling Putin's intent to actually use that occasion to turn his binoculars on capturing more free territory to control Ukraine and beyond.

Putin and Xi together in that situation was rather hard to look at. Yet, their presence underscored the danger stemming from their close and increasing cooperation, enlarging the spiderweb of tyranny led by Russia, China, North Korea, and Iran, all of them acting against liberty around the world.

Xi said that Russia and China should be friends of steel. He said that they would deepen relationships in all areas, including military ties, and strengthen coordination in order to decisively counter Washington's course of dual containment of Russia and China.

What is more, North Korean troops who have been fighting against Ukraine's freedom and their freedom fighters for months were fully on display in Red Square, where Putin embraced them.

America, pay attention.

While Iran was not present at the parade, it continues to be omnipresent in the skies above Ukraine. Ukrainians can't avoid the Shahed drones that Russia is using and buying from Iran to kill innocent Ukrainian civilians who are fighting for their very liberty.

This military parade took place at a critical moment in Moscow's aggression on Ukraine as American efforts proceed to negotiate an end to it. To be clear: Vital NATO interests are at stake in central Europe, where Ukraine serves as the scrimmage line for liberty across Europe today.

Russia is the free world's only peer in terms of its nuclear capabilities, and Russia's national security doctrine declares our country and our people as its principal foe.

America, pay attention.

Putin has made clear that he wants effective political control in Ukraine and other free nations that used to be part of the Soviet Union. Putin also wants a veto over defense measures being taken in the former Warsaw Pact states that want to remain free. Putin doesn't want that. This means he wants to dictate the fate of many of our NATO allies in Europe and beyond.

Instead of strategically pushing back on Putin's unchanged goals of European and global domination, this administration has steadily given Russian exactly what it wants, both in Ukraine and well beyond. If Putin had a checklist of things he wanted America to do, I will in a brief time tell you what it would look like, and it is exactly what the Trump administration is doing.

Before I get into that, I am going to call on my dear colleague from the great city of Chicago, Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY, to enter his remarks.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, for 1,176 days, people of Ukraine have lived under constant threat of attack and attack. As the war has dragged on for over 3 years, Ukrainians have refused to submit to Putin's violence. At every turn, they have shown the world what it means to be fighting on the front lines for democracy. At every turn, the Ukrainian people have been willing to do what is necessary for protection and for peace.

When their sovereignty was threatened by Putin, they defended their country courageously. When the opportunity for diplomatic negotiations arose, they were willing to come to the table. In exchange for their bravery and sacrifice, all they have asked for is respect for their independence, their autonomy, and their democracy.

Peace between Ukraine and Russia must not come at Ukraine's expense. We want peace. Ukrainians desperately want peace, but it cannot be a Russian victory. In order to have a just and lasting peace, we must return Ukraine to its 1991 borders. Ukraine must also have serious security assurances from the U.S. and NATO so that Putin is deterred from ever threatening the country again.

Russia must alone help fund this great construction after targeting civilian infrastructure, including energy facilities, hospitals, and schools. We must also hold Putin accountable for his army's war crimes, like those in Bucha, which I witnessed, and for the kidnapping of thousands of Ukrainian children.

As the Trump administration continues to push for negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, we must all keep in mind exactly who we are dealing with. Putin has refused to negotiate in

good faith, reportedly violating the very same cease-fire he unilaterally declared last week. So far, he has refused to even direct negotiations with President Zelenskyy in Türkiye.

This is the same man who has welcomed China's, Iran's, and North Korea's support for his war effort. He has shown contempt for all international democratic norms, both in his own country and in dealing with others.

This is why the only way to deal with Putin is by sending a clear message—a message of strength and of unity. As the United States has for the better part of a century, we must continue to stand up to tyrants and defend freedom. We have learned that isolationism and appeasing autocrats is a losing strategy. As President Trump and his administration continue to push for negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, I encourage them to remember history. Remember the reasons we fought the Second World War and the reasons we founded NATO.

Now is not the time to abandon our values or our position as a leader of the free world. Now is the time to pressure Putin to end this brutal war for good. The future of the Ukrainian people, the future of Europe, and the future of democracy are dependent on how we meet this moment. This is a moral, tactical, and strategic imperative.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank our co-chair of the Ukrainian Caucus, Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY of Chicago, for participating this evening.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I will go back to discussing some of the actions the administration has taken that have undermined America's position globally.

First of all, the Trump administration has sided with Russia over Ukraine, most especially by pausing military assistance to Ukraine. Mr. Speaker, 75 percent of those dollars are spent in this country on weaponry to help Ukraine repel the enemy.

Ukraine has been courageously standing and fighting in the breach between liberty and dictatorship. This has come at great cost to her people, her prosperity, and her aspirations.

The poorest country in Europe, Ukraine is holding back Putin's covetousness and aggression against the Continent of Europe. Ukraine wants nothing more than to finally and permanently ascend to the community of free nations in the European Union and join as a strong ally in NATO. For that aspiration, Putin attacked Ukraine and

is eating her territory, and the Ukrainians are holding her off—can you imagine—the third largest military in the world.

Despite Ukraine being aligned with our values in its historic fight to regain its freedom, President Trump has time and again spouted Russian talking points by admonishing Ukraine and falsely suggesting that she started the war.

That is false.

Russia initiated its invasion of Crimea in 2014 and the larger full scale of invasion of Ukraine in 2022. It is just amazing what the Ukrainians are doing. In trying to negotiate a cease-fire between Ukraine and Russia, President Trump and Vice President Vance have squeezed concession after concession out of Ukraine, even its mineral wealth. At times, the Trump administration has effectively held Ukraine's economic future ransom for more military aid.

This includes the dastardly moment when President Trump suddenly withheld U.S. support and intelligence sharing that Ukraine relies on to defend itself from Russia's onslaught. Such a pause undoubtedly cost Ukrainian lives.

Trump has stated that Putin wants peace in Ukraine. Surely he can't believe this. Putin has failed to uphold any cease-fire agreement, including those struck with the United States of America. Dictator Putin doesn't want peace. He wants Ukraine, all of Ukraine, and beyond.

□ 2045

Secondly, the Trump administration has been dividing democratic alliances.

Yesterday, President Trump astoundingly said the European union is worse than China. He even has said that the European union was created to "screw America."

In what world does he live? He seems not to know our history.

Our Nation and European nations that won World War II created NATO to sustain liberty's alliance and as a shield against future invasions. Together, we comprise a formidable force. In doing so America was guaranteed strong security partners to defend against a world war and new threats of tyranny like that of Putin, North Korea, and Iran today.

That is why we have the European allies. They are our oldest friends and partners and we share a love of liberty. Rather than stand united as we have been for decades, the Trump administration has threatened to—are you ready for this—annex Canada and invade Greenland, which is part of Denmark.

Both are current NATO allies. Canada fought nobly with our troops on the shores of Normandy on D-day and many other places. Both nations served honorably alongside our Armed Forces in Afghanistan in response to 9/11. Threatening our neighbors and allies in such a manner is taking a page out of

the very playbook of lies Putin has used repeatedly against Ukraine. Our partnerships have been won and developed as liberty's umbrella with the democratic nations of Europe.

Putin knows that. He cannot defeat our alliance if we stand united. Instead, he now waits for Trump to break apart our own security blanket so he can pick liberty's shield off one by one.

Thirdly, the Trump administration has weakened our cyber defense. U.S. top intelligence officers recently released the annual threat assessment, which states the following: "Russia's advanced cyber capabilities, its repeated success compromising sensitive targets for intelligence collection, and its past attempts to pre-position access on U.S. critical infrastructure make it a persistent counterintelligence and cyberattack threat. Moscow's unique strength is the practical experience it has gained integrating cyberattacks and operations with wartime military action, almost certainly amplifying its potential to focus combined impact on U.S. targets in time of conflict."

So yes, Russia is a real threat to our freedom. Its cyber capabilities are a unique threat. Despite knowing this to be true, Trump has taken steps to tear down our cyber capabilities in a comprehensive manner. Why?

Since taking office, Elon Musk and DOGE have decimated cybersecurity, CISA, our premier cybersecurity agency, with personnel cuts and stop work orders.

Why would anyone do that?

In March, President Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth abruptly ended U.S. cyber operations against Russia. This was done without warning and without consulting Congress.

Then in April, at the beck and call of a far-right, online opinion influencer, President Trump fired four-star General Timothy Haugh without warning from his position leading our military cyber forces. General Haugh—get ready for this—served our Nation honorably with distinction for 34 years.

The Trump administration has left America's cyber gates unlocked at a time when cyberattacks are rapidly on the rise. Putin will make our Nation pay dearly for that set of serious errors.

Fourthly, Trump administration policies threaten U.S. global economic standing. Through American ingenuity and hard work, the likes of wish Russia cannot compete against, our Nation's financial systems are a privileged place at the center of a global economic system.

The United States has the largest economy in the world. Most other nations rely on the U.S. dollar to hold their savings and reliably conduct international trade. Putin wants to end that. Trump's unprecedented and irresponsible reciprocal tariff regime is helping Putin achieve that goal. Not only has Trump's costly universal tariffs endangered our good trade relations with our closest economic allies,

moreover, they are also making others think twice about using and trusting the U.S. dollar.

These costly economic taxes on U.S. consumers will be very difficult to reverse, even if Trump pulls back his tariffs, supply chains are clogged already.

Putin has long spoken about his interest in reducing the world's reliance on America's economic strength and the U.S. dollar. Such a world leaves each American poorer and with fewer economic opportunities. Just as Russia relies on oil exports to finance and undercut the financial sanctions that have been placed on that country due to its invasion of Ukraine, Putin has called for the world to adopt untraceable cryptocurrency to protect his assets. He prefers this unregulated alternative as he pushes the world to abandon the dollar.

Now, Trump is one of the world's biggest promoters of cryptocurrency and has even started his own cryptocurrency to avoid regulated financial markets to enrich himself and his family.

Fifthly and finally, the Trump administration's actions to date are upending America's global reputation. Perhaps most damaging, Trump has upended our global reputation as a responsible partner and guardian of liberty across our world. He leans toward dictators.

What is that all about?

It took 80 years for America, with our leaders like Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan to meticulously secure our place as leader of the free world. We didn't seek it, but we did our job.

America is the global beacon of liberty and justice for all. Our reputation has been earned by tremendous sacrifice and vision. Our commitment to liberty has been built on the sacred graves of over 500,000 Americans who sacrificed their lives for the first time in history and fought not for power or land, but for the liberation of others from tyranny during World War II.

Over 2 million of our fellow citizens bore the injuries from that conflict. In the decades that followed, our Nation and our allies became prosperous not by closing our doors to the world or hiding from the challenges of the Communist bloc, our forebearers met tyranny head-on. We met the threats that we faced and stood together on our Nation's founding commitment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, year after year, in the face of constant threats.

American liberty has been a multigenerational effort, admired around the world with each generation standing firm. In just over 100 days, Donald Trump, whose family has no record anywhere of military service or sacrifice for this Nation, is carelessly throwing liberty to the wolves. He seems to enjoy dictatorship, plutocracy, and wealth over principle. Russia celebrates as America retreats from the world, so does Iran and North Korea.

Trump has taken Putin at his word. Putin's word can never be trusted. As long as President Trump keeps trusting Putin over our allies, then he will continue to do Russia's bidding at the expense of the American people.

If America doesn't lead, then Putin and Xi and all of their dictator buddies will rule the day, and in their world, liberty cannot survive.

America must pay attention. Pay attention not just to what is happening inside our borders but outside our borders. I can tell you there are enemies to liberty across this world. We have to hold our ground. We have to tell our own President pay attention, learn from history, appreciate the relationships that had been won at such a high price.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressmen QUIGLEY, COHEN, and VINDMAN, all of whom will contribute remarks to the RECORD this evening.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 14, 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-922. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, is to continue in effect beyond May 15, 2025, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1255) (H. Doc. No. 119-51); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-923. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as modified, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2025, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1255) (H. Doc. No. 119-52); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-924. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-080, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-925. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 24-094, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ROY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 405. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2240) to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2243) to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2255) to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-95). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 3323. A bill to update the definition of an emerging growth company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Ms. LETLOW):

H.R. 3324. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for the inspection of foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold shrimp for consumption in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. TENNEY, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 3325. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat energy efficient kegs as efficient commercial building property for purposes of the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ANSARI:

H.R. 3326. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to rename the Persian Gulf, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BACON (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 3327. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount excluded from gross income by reason of distributions from governmental retirement plans for health and long-term care insurance for public safety officers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BERA (for himself, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington):

H.R. 3328. A bill to establish an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 3329. A bill to provide for the conservation and designation of habitat connectivity areas, with support from the voluntary conservation programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as American wildlife corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRECHEEN (for himself, Mr. ROY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. PERRY, Mr.

MOORE of Alabama, Mr. CRANE, and Mr. DAVIDSON):

H.R. 3330. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal green energy tax subsidies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 3331. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to merchant mariner credential examination working groups, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. KING-HINDS, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BERA, Ms. TITUS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mrs. KIM):

H.R. 3332. A bill to bolster United States engagement with the Pacific Islands region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 3333. A bill to require the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice to examine and report on the growing nursing shortage across the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRANE (for himself, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 3334. A bill to authorize the United States Capitol Police to take action with respect to threats from unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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 Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 3335. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture by deeming such employment as oppressive child labor; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. CLOUD, and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 3336. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to modify the minimum capital investment for certain depots of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. EVANS of Colorado (for himself, Mr. CRANK, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Ms. BOEBERT, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 3337. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3344 11th Avenue in Evans, Colorado, as the "Deputy Samuel Kent Brownlee Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 3338. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate certain fuel excise taxes and impose a tax on greenhouse gas emissions to provide revenue for maintaining and building American infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Education and

Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. MCBRIDE, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 3339. A bill to require certification examinations for accredited investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FRY (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 3340. A bill to provide for the standardization, publication, and accessibility of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas (for himself and Mr. RULLI):

H.R. 3341. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify standards for general service lamps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Ms. VAN DUYN):

H.R. 3342. A bill to provide direct hire authority to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HARIDOPOLOS (for himself and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 3343. A bill to amend the Federal securities laws to specify the periods for which financial statements are required to be provided by an emerging growth company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 3344. A bill to direct the Attorney General to structure funding issued to the Bureau of Prisons as State block grants; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 3345. A bill to abolish the Department of Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 3346. A bill to abolish the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 3347. A bill to abolish FEMA and establish a block grant program for disaster relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 3348. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act with respect to the definition of accredited investor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM):

H.R. 3349. A bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act with respect to the importation of live dogs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. KIM:

H.R. 3350. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 340 East 1st Street in Tustin, California, as the "Ursula Ellen Kennedy Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 3351. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify that actions of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 3352. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise rules relating to general solicitation or general advertising to allow for presentations or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer at certain events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 3353. A bill to increase the penalty for prohibited provision of a phone in a correctional facility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 3354. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to include the State insurance commissioner as a voting member of the Financial Stability Oversight Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 3355. A bill to provide for additional requirements when Federal banking agencies undertake rulemakings that implement policies of non-governmental international organizations, to require Federal banking agencies to report on certain covered international organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 3356. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to preempt any squatter's rights established by State law regarding real property owned by a member of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 3357. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require issuers with a multi-class stock structure to make certain disclosures in any proxy or consent solicitation material, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 3358. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to take certain steps to enhance the capacity of United States farmers to

produce natural color additives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MRVAN (for himself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 3359. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report annually on compensation for police officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 3360. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the effect of driver-controlled technology in motor vehicles with respect to severe traffic injuries and traffic fatalities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. SALINAS, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 3361. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to reauthorize the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BACON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. BABIN):

H.R. 3362. A bill to authorize grants for crime victims to be distributed to angel families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 3363. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on United States-bound circumvented cargo through Canada or Mexico and entering the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3364. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Inspector General Act of 1978), to establish a Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Inspector General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. UNDERWOOD):

H.R. 3365. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with the option to provide coordinated care through a pregnancy medical home for high-risk pregnant women, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. KEAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 3366. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a grant program to provide for the qualified accreditation and recertification of local law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself and Ms. STEFANK):

H.R. 3367. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify the availability and appropriateness of training for local food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. TRAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. NORTON, Mr.

VARGAS, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. BALINT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SIMON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. FROST, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SOTO, Mr. MIN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. AMO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASAR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BELL, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. BROWN, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. STANTON, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. BYNUM, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. IVEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. CHU, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 3368. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to carry out Executive Order 14160; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. RANDALL:

H.R. 3369. A bill to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 3370. A bill to direct the United States Fire Administration to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve equipment, training, and staffing standards for firefighter Rapid Intervention Teams, including those Teams that respond to port facility fires, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 3371. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that the 3-month State residency requirement for applicants for naturalized citizenship do not apply with respect to spouses of members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty at a location in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, and Mr. IVEY):

H.R. 3372. A bill to develop a scenario-based training curriculum for law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr.

CASAR, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. TRAN, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. MIN, and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 3373. A bill to create a system to report the movement of firearm parts across State lines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TITUS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. CHU, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 3374. A bill to prohibit the pricing of consumer products and services that are substantially similar if such products or services are priced differently based on the gender of the individuals for whose use the products are intended or marketed or for whom the services are performed or offered; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 3375. A bill to require that the retail list price for certain prescription drugs and biological products may not exceed the average retail list price for the drug or biological product among certain nations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BALINT, Mr. BELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):

H.R. 3376. A bill to establish a trust fund to provide for adequate funding for water and sewer infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. ROGERS of Ala-

bama, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. RILEY of New York):

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution expressing support for America's law enforcement professionals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIMMONS (for himself, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. PETERSEN, and Mr. BACON):

H. Con. Res. 32. Concurrent resolution establishing the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking to review, analyze, and make recommendations to Congress to promote the use of Federal data for evidence-building and evidence-based policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H. Res. 404. A resolution recognizing and celebrating "National Salvation Army Week" on May 12 through May 18, 2025; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H. Res. 406. A resolution removing certain Members from certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MENG, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. NADLER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. MIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. POCAN):

H. Res. 407. A resolution supporting the designation of May 10, 2025, as "National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TIMMONS:

H. Res. 408. A resolution censuring Representative LaMonica McIver of New Jersey; to the Committee on Ethics.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. NORMAN introduced a bill (H.R. 3377) to authorize the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Capers, Jr., for acts of valor as a member of the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

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. STEIL:

H.R. 3323.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 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. EZELL:

H.R. 3324.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 3325.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes . . ."

By Ms. ANSARI:

H.R. 3326.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 3327.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BERA:

H.R. 3328.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 3329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. BRECHEEN:

H.R. 3330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 3331.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 3332.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 3333.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 3334.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 3335.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. DELUZZO:

H.R. 3336.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. EVANS of Colorado:

H.R. 3337.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 3338.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 3339.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 3340.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas:

H.R. 3341.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 3342.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HARIDOPOLOS:

H.R. 3343.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: To regulate commerce with states, other nations, and Native American tribes. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 3344.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 3345.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 3346.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 3347.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 3348.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution; The Congress shall have the Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 3349.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mrs. KIM:

H.R. 3350.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mrs. KIM:

H.R. 3351.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 3352.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 3353.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 3354.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 3355.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 3356.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 3357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 3358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. MRVAN:

H.R. 3359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3—Interstate Commerce Clause

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 3360.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 3361.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 3362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 3363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 3364.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 3365.

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. PAPPAS:

H.R. 3366.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 3367.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. RAMIREZ:

H.R. 3368.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. RANDALL:

H.R. 3369.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 3370.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 3371.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 3372.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 3373.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 3374.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 3375.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sec. 8

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 3376.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 3377.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 31: Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 135: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 155: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 253: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 271: Mr. ROSE.

H.R. 309: Mr. FRY, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. SHREVE, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 335: Mr. ONDER.

H.R. 378: Mr. SHREVE and Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 404: Mr. ROSE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. DOWNING.

H.R. 425: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona and Ms. MALOY.

H.R. 436: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. KIM, and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 482: Mr. VINDMAN and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada.

H.R. 503: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 516: Mr. BRESNAHAN, Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 744: Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 759: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. BRESNAHAN.

H.R. 801: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 802: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 909: Ms. UNDERWOOD and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 911: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 941: Mr. MACKENZIE.

H.R. 979: Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. HOUGHIN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SWALWELL, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 987: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 989: Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 994: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 1004: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1007: Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 1056: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1065: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1103: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1107: Ms. TITUS and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.

H.R. 1109: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 1132: Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1151: Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mrs. KIM, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. KILEY of California.

H.R. 1196: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1200: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MRVAN, and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 1262: Mr. MILLS, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. TRAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 1269: Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. POU, and Ms. FRIEDMAN.

H.R. 1307: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 1338: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1346: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 1357: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 1361: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 1422: Mr. FINE and Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 1436: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 1505: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.

H.R. 1520: Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. BACON, and Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 1522: Mr. MANNION, Mr. RILEY of New York, Ms. GILLEN, and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 1529: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 1530: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 1551: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 1578: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 1585: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1616: Mr. SUOZZI and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 1661: Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 1672: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 1682: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 1684: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1733: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 1752: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1773: Mr. WIED and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1781: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1787: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.

H.R. 1810: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1818: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 1873: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 1932: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 1940: Mr. NEWHOUSE.

H.R. 1943: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1970: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 1989: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2000: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 2005: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia,

Mr. ADERHOLT, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 2033: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. BACON, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 2049: Mr. LANDSMAN and Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 2094: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. MILLS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. EVANS of Colorado.

H.R. 2095: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 2096: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

H.R. 2102: Mr. CALVERT, Ms. BALINT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. SHREVE.

H.R. 2103: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 2114: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 2118: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and Mr. MANNION.

H.R. 2120: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 2145: Mr. VINDMAN.

H.R. 2159: Mr. SELF.

H.R. 2172: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 2189: Mr. ONDER and Mr. EVANS of Colorado.

H.R. 2191: Mrs. BICE.

H.R. 2203: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 2220: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2225: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2226: Mr. SELF.

H.R. 2269: Mr. CALVERT and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 2294: Mr. BEGICH.

H.R. 2313: Mr. BEGICH.

H.R. 2332: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 2357: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 2369: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. MCGUIRE.

H.R. 2381: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 2395: Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. DOWNING.

H.R. 2462: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 2489: Ms. SIMON.

H.R. 2497: Mr. BELL.

H.R. 2502: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 2505: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 2509: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 2512: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.

H.R. 2532: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2536: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2550: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 2577: Mr. JAMES and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 2585: Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 2602: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Mr. AMO.

H.R. 2678: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. BACON.

- H.R. 2687: Mr. LALOTA and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 2692: Ms. SIMON.
 H.R. 2701: Ms. GILLEN and Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 2705: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.
 H.R. 2706: Mr. ROSE.
 H.R. 2707: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 2708: Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 2711: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. LATTIMER.
 H.R. 2725: Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 2729: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. WAGNER, and Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 2736: Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 2753: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 2767: Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 2777: Mr. STUTZMAN, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mrs. MCCLAIN.
 H.R. 2788: Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 2789: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 2799: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 2808: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 2821: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
 H.R. 2862: Mr. CISNEROS.
 H.R. 2864: Mr. SUOZZI.
 H.R. 2872: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 2905: Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 2906: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 2911: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. MRVAN.
 H.R. 2912: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 2941: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 2948: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
 H.R. 3033: Mr. HARRIGAN.
 H.R. 3034: Mr. HARRIGAN and Mr. BOST.
 H.R. 3043: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 3049: Ms. ANSARI.
 H.R. 3101: Ms. NORTON and Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 3105: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 3107: Mr. CROW and Mr. BERGMAN.
 H.R. 3112: Mr. HIMES, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
 H.R. 3113: Mr. EVANS of Colorado.
 H.R. 3124: Ms. TOKUDA and Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 3137: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. BOST, and Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 3138: Mr. BAUMGARTNER.
 H.R. 3139: Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. FROST, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 3151: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CROW, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
 H.R. 3174: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. MORAN.
 H.R. 3179: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
 H.R. 3184: Mr. SHREVE.
 H.R. 3194: Mr. FONG, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BOST, and Mr. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 3199: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 3228: Mr. PALMER.
 H.R. 3229: Mr. MOULTON.
 H.R. 3235: Mr. FEENSTRA.
 H.R. 3237: Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.
 H.R. 3239: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 3241: Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 3242: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
 H.R. 3243: Ms. DEXTER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. AMO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. MFUME, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CHU, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
 H.R. 3246: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. VEASEY.
 H.R. 3265: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 3270: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.
 H.R. 3281: Ms. ADAMS.
 H.R. 3285: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 3287: Mrs. FISCHBACH and Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 3291: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. CISCOMANI.
 H.R. 3295: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 3296: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
 H.R. 3304: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. COSTA.
 H.R. 3306: Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. BALINT, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
 H.R. 3313: Mr. CRAWFORD.
 H.R. 3321: Mr. BURLISON and Mr. CLYDE.
 H.J. Res. 67: Mr. KENNEDY of New York.
 H.J. Res. 72: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
 H.J. Res. 73: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
 H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. ALLEN.
 H. Con. Res. 30: Mr. ISSA, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Ms. PEREZ.
 H. Res. 70: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. VASQUEZ.
 H. Res. 166: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MACKENZIE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. VINDMAN.
 H. Res. 352: Ms. MENG, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. TENNEY, and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
 H. Res. 364: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mrs. LUNA, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. HILL of Arkansas.
 H. Res. 367: Mr. BOST.
 H. Res. 373: Mr. PFLUGER.



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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

No. 80

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

Everlasting God, who commanded light from darkness and divided the waters into sea and dry land, great and wonderful are Your works.

By Your power and might, sustain our lawmakers this day. Lord, give them the courage to embrace the good and avoid the evil. When they are fainthearted, strengthen them. When they are weak, support them. When they feel doubt, infuse them with faith in Your power, mercy, and grace. Lord, transform their work from anything mundane into an expression of their worship of You. Help them to make a renewed commitment to excellence in thoughts, words, and deeds.

We pray in Your amazing 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 (Ms. LUMMIS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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 senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, yesterday, I stood here opening the Senate and kicking off the 64th annual National Police Week. That is a week dedicated to brave men and women who protect us and keep us safe.

Tonight, as part of this week's celebration, marks the 37th annual candlelight. Each year, hundreds of officers killed in the line of duty are recognized and memorialized at this vigil. The name of each man and woman who gave their life will be read aloud.

I encourage everyone to join me in recognizing their sacrifices. Honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice helps ensure that their contributions and legacies are preserved for generations to come.

I encourage folks to visit the national law enforcement memorial. The memorial contains what is called "pathways of remembrance," where the names of these courageous officers are engraved on the walls.

While walking the pathways, visitors will notice the sculpture of a lion with an inscription below that reads:

It is not how these officers died that made them heroes; it is how they lived.

These words are so very true, especially today, as the new officers' names are engraved on those walls.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The majority leader is recognized.

ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, the month of May is a special time to celebrate the Americans who serve our country in uniform. May is Military Appreciation Month.

On Saturday, we celebrate those currently serving on Armed Forces Day, and toward the end of the month, on Memorial Day, we honor those who gave their lives in defense of our country.

South Dakota has a rich heritage of military service, and I am proud to represent the men and women carrying on that heritage in the South Dakota National Guard at Ellsworth Air Force Base and serving in our military around the globe.

South Dakota is proud to support our troops. Our State is home to two major military installations that are fixtures of their communities. But 20 years ago, South Dakota was at risk of losing one of these bases.

On May 13, 2005—20 years ago—the Defense Department announced that it was recommending South Dakota's Ellsworth Air Force Base for closure.

I am not the only one for whom this was a gut punch. Ellsworth is a point of pride in the Black Hills. It has been a national security asset since World War II, and it is home to the 28th Bomb Wing's squadrons of B-1B Lancers, which were performing a critical role in the Global War on Terror.

But, at the time, Ellsworth was a single-mission base, and the Air Force saw savings in moving that mission elsewhere and closing the base.

In May 2005, I was a freshman Senator, 5 months on the job, but now my State faced a major test. Losing the base would have been devastating to western South Dakota and a significant loss, I might add, to our national security. So failure was not an option.

But Ellsworth faced long odds. Past rounds of the Base Realignment and

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Closure Commission suggested we had a 12-percent chance of keeping the base open. Some, at the time, were ready to write Ellsworth's obituary, knowing it would take a miracle to save the base. Some thought it would take a political deal, and they doubted that South Dakota had the clout to pull that off.

We knew we weren't going to save Ellsworth through politics, and we weren't going to wait around for a miracle. Instead, we did it the South Dakota way. We worked hard—harder than we ever had. There were just over 100 days from the announcement in May to the financial decision in August, and saving Ellsworth consumed that entire summer.

My staff and I called everyone we could think of. I am sure the BRAC Commission was tired of seeing me that summer, but I was determined to drive home the case for keeping Ellsworth open. We poured through reams of data to make that case.

It was a team effort. Bob Taylor, in my Washington office, and Qusi Al-Haj, in my Rapid City office, didn't see much of their families that summer. The rest of the South Dakota delegation was involved. Then-Governor MIKE ROUNDS was involved as well. Retired Air Force officers like Gen. John Michael Loh and Col. Pat McElgunn lent their voices and expertise to the cause. And countless local officials, community members, and, of course, the 11,000—11,000—South Dakotans who came to the BRAC hearing in Rapid City that June were all part of that team.

In the end, Ellsworth was not saved by miracles or politics. It was saved because we proved that Ellsworth was too valuable to close. Moving all the B-1s to another base was supposed to save money, but we proved that wouldn't actually be the case.

Plus, we demonstrated the Pentagon's analysis failed to account for a number of other factors. Consolidating the entire fleet of bombers in one place was a major vulnerability. An attack, extreme weather, or any issue at that base could ground the entire fleet of B-1s. And consolidation risked overwhelming maintenance and training capacity at that base.

It turned out that Ellsworth was just what the Air Force needed. That is the argument that we made. As Colonel McElgunn put it to the BRAC Commissioners, "Ellsworth has operational advantages to make it the ideal base for the 21st century." And as General Loh testified, "closing Ellsworth will deny the Pentagon a valuable base for future missions."

Ultimately, in August, the BRAC Commission agreed, and it voted 8 to 1 to keep Ellsworth open. And since then, those predictions have proven right. Ellsworth's B-1s have been a consistent asset to our national security.

In 2011, B-1s left Ellsworth to strike targets in Libya, marking the first time a B-1 fleet launched from the

United States to strike overseas targets.

Last year, Ellsworth B-1s conducted a CONUS-to-CONUS mission, taking a continuous 31-hour flight to the Indo-Pacific and back without landing.

And we have continued working to demonstrate Ellsworth's value and to ensure its future will never again be in jeopardy.

In 2007, the Air Force Financial Services Center arrived on base. In 2012, the 89th Attack Squadron came to Ellsworth to control MQ-9 Reaper drones from ground control stations in South Dakota.

In 2015, after a decade of work, we expanded the Powder River Training Complex, nearly quadrupling its size and making it the largest training airspace in the lower 48.

And in 2021, the Air Force announced that Ellsworth would officially be named the first operating base for the new B-21 Raider, a sixth-generation long-range strategic bomber.

From BRAC to B-21, and the story continues.

Madam President, 20 years ago, Ellsworth was said to be a liability. Today, it is very clear that it is a national security asset, and I am working to make sure the base and the surrounding community have what they need to continue to play a key role in our national defense for generations to come.

NOMINATION OF TROY MEINK

Madam President, before I close, I want to speak briefly about Troy Meink, a native South Dakotan, whose nomination to be Air Force Secretary will be considered this week.

Dr. Meink grew up in Lemmon, SD. He graduated South Dakota State University on an ROTC scholarship and met his wife Jean during their time in Brookings.

His service encompasses the breadth of the Air Force's mission. He began his career as a navigator and instructor on a KC-135 crew. He flew 100 flights during the first Gulf war, including 8 combat missions. In the Air Force Reserve, he was the lead test engineer for ballistic test missiles.

Then, in 2013, he became the Deputy Under Secretary for Space. In 2020, he was appointed the Principal Deputy Director of the National Reconnaissance Office.

And in all his spare time, he has coached his kids' competitive robotics teams.

Madam President, Troy Meink is someone who has the experience to lead the Air Force into the next frontier, and I look forward to seeing him take the Air Force to even greater heights once he is confirmed to this position.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

QATAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, news of the Qatari Government gifting Donald Trump a \$4 million private jet to use as Air Force One is so corrupt that even Putin would give a double take.

This is not just naked corruption. It is also a grave national security threat.

So in light of the deeply troubling news of a possible Qatari-funded Air Force One and the reports that the Attorney General personally signed off on this clearly unethical deal, I am announcing a hold on all DOJ political nominees until we get more answers.

Here are some questions that must be answered. First, I call on the DOJ's Foreign Agent Registration Act Unit, or the FARA Unit, to do its job and disclose all activities by Qatari foreign agents inside the United States that could benefit President Trump or the Trump Organization.

Since Attorney General Bondi took charge, the Department of Justice has not been doing its job when it comes to FARA. The FARA unit needs to enforce the law and inform the public of all activities, not just on this luxury plane deal but all deals involving foreign countries in the Middle East and President Trump, his family, and the Trump Organization.

Second, with regard to this half-a-billion-dollar private jet deal, the American people deserve to know the facts. President Trump has told the American people this is a "free jet." Does that mean the Qataris are delivering a ready-on-day-one plane with all the security measures already built in?

If so, who installed those security measures, and how do we know they were properly installed? Why would we take the risk of trusting any foreign country to do this sensitive work?

If not, what security modifications would be needed to ensure a foreign-sourced Air Force One is safe to use?

If this is, as President Trump promised, a "free jet," will the Qataris pay for those highly sensitive installations, or will the American taxpayers cover the cost?

How much will those modifications cost American taxpayers? Hundreds of millions of dollars? Billions of dollars? How much will they cost?

If the American taxpayers are forced to pay for this temporary plane, does it mean the U.S. Government will cancel the contract for the future Boeing plane?

If so, how much will that cancellation cost? And if not, why are American taxpayers being asked to spend hundreds of millions of dollars or more on a plane that will only be used for a year or two?

Additionally, who in the Trump administration was responsible for this crooked deal? What are the parameters

of this deal? And which country brought it up first—us or them? What is Qatar being offered in return?

Considering past security disasters, such as the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, what are the security risks of this arrangement?

And, finally, how is this gift not naked corruption?

The Attorney General must testify before both the House and Senate to explain why gifting Donald Trump a private jet does not violate the emoluments clause, which requires congressional approval, or any other ethics law.

So until the Attorney General explains her blatantly inept decision and we get complete and comprehensive answers to these and other questions, I will place a hold on all political nominees to the Department of Justice.

As disturbing as this latest news about the Qatari Air Force One is, it is frankly just the tip of the iceberg.

For months, Qatari and other Gulf State nationals have spent billions on deals with the Trump organizations, seemingly to buy access to the President, including \$2 billion from the UAE venture capital firm for Donald Trump's new stablecoin, including the launch of a new Trump hotel in Dubai worth over a billion dollars and the construction of a beachside golf course in Qatar, potentially worth \$5 billion.

Donald Trump's business deals in the Middle East reek of crooked self-enrichment. He isn't just blurring the line between public service and personal profit, he is erasing it. This isn't speculation; it is fact backed by overwhelming evidence. He is jeopardizing America's national security to line his own pockets.

What is most chilling about this brazen bribe and the national security betrayal is how openly Donald Trump is doing it, how he is lying about the need for this aircraft and the risks involved and how he is daring Republicans to call him out.

And how are Republicans responding? With silence. With their heads in the sand. Total obeisance. Afraid to tell the "emperor" he has no clothes.

Well, Republicans may be too scared to stand up to Donald Trump, but I will keep pushing and Senate Democrats will keep pushing to get more answers to this nakedly crooked arrangement with Qatar. Until the American people learn the truth about this deal, I will do my part to block the galling and truly breathtaking politicization at the Department of Justice.

TARIFFS

Madam President, now on tariffs, Donald Trump promised in dealing with China he would not back off without getting concessions in return. And then yesterday Donald Trump did, in fact, cave to China without getting much in the way of any concessions. Sadly, it seems like China has, once again, gotten the better of Donald Trump, and that is bad news for American workers, American consumers, American manufacturing.

I have long been clear that going after China is a good thing; going after the Chinese Government when they are unfair on trade is a good thing. I have been clear that tariffs, when used carefully and as part of a larger strategy, can help bring nations like those run by the Chinese Communist Party to heel.

But that is not what happened under Donald Trump. Instead Donald Trump announced "Liberation Day"—pushing us to the brink of recession, sent markets flailing, sent consumers and small businesses into a panic, all so he could cave to China without having anything to show for the heartache and economic detritus.

This has all been another example of Donald Trump's chaos. Chaos. That is a watchword, unfortunately, for the way this administration acts. He has one policy for his tariffs one day, a different policy the next day. One day he is pretending to play a tough guy with China. The next, he is caving to China and getting little, if anything, in return. Who knows what Trump's tariff policy will be in the next 90 days. No business can count on what he might say or do, and any promise that he will stick to his word, stick to his policies, well, the past is prologue; that never happens.

Donald Trump's announcement with China is cold comfort for consumers and small businesses alike for one reason: We don't know what he will do next.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on reconciliation and particularly on SNAP, a program that feeds hungry children, today, the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and Agriculture will begin marking up the main portions of Republicans' so-called "big, beautiful bill."

Reports suggest that Republicans may even name their legislation "One Beautiful Bill." That is ridiculous. I suggest Republicans pick a different name, a more honest name. They should call their bill "The Big GRIFT" because that is what their bill is: Greedy Republicans in Favor of Tycoons. "The Big GRIFT: Billionaires win, American families lose."

There is nothing—nothing—"beautiful" about the biggest cuts to Medicaid in American history. There is nothing "beautiful" about cutting SNAP, the largest anti-hunger program in America, by over \$300 billion.

There is nothing "beautiful" about forcing kids to go hungry just to feed corporate greed. But that is what Republicans want to do. They want to ax SNAP benefits by \$310 billion to pay for tax breaks for the ultrarich. Cutting food from the mouth of hungry children for tax breaks for the ultrarich, that is what they call beautiful? I call it warped.

They want to shift the burden to the States, knowing full well many States won't be able to make up the gap in funding. That means in States across

America and in Puerto Rico, kids, seniors, veterans, and families will go hungry. USDA cuts have already decimated food banks.

I was just in Albany yesterday where the local food bank had 27 tractor-trailers, 1 million pounds of food, 1 million pounds of good, nutritious food for children and others—veterans, elderly—who need the food, all canceled because of Donald Trump's cuts.

Much of that food was produced by local family farms that lost a valuable market, and this is happening across the country. And now Republicans want to add to the devastation by cutting SNAP. That is an even further cut than they have already done, a deeper cut. Republicans call their SNAP cuts "savings" and "reducing waste," but those are euphemisms. What it really means is increasing hunger, increasing poverty, increasing the wealth of the ultrarich. It is morally indefensible. Indefensible.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, this week, Senator KAINE of Virginia and Senator VAN HOLLEN of Maryland are going to force a vote on a resolution here in the Senate, and, astonishingly, it is in defense of illegal immigrant criminals.

They are going to take up the Senate's time, the time of the American people, because they want to defend illegal immigrant criminals. It is called the Kaine-Van Hollen resolution, pure political theater. It is not about human rights. It is not about protecting Americans, in my opinion, from violent crime, and that is why I am opposing what they are proposing here today.

What they are proposing is to shield illegal immigrant criminals—shield them from deportation and shield them as they try to evade arrest.

Democrats want to defend illegal immigrant criminals, and apparently they want to continue to do that. Let's talk about illegal immigrant criminals, and let's talk about the one that they are running to check on in El Salvador: Kilmar Abrego Garcia.

That is what one of them did, went to go check on him. The media likes to call him a "Maryland man." Senator VAN HOLLEN said he doesn't "vouch" for Garcia. Yet he is one of many Democrats now who have gone to El Salvador.

Let's talk about Garcia's record. That is what the American people have been hearing about as well. For starters, Garcia is an illegal immigrant with a deportation order. He has been

ordered by the courts to be deported from the United States. His own lawyer has conceded, in immigration court, that he entered the country illegally back in 2011, and he is fully subject to deportation, and a deportation order has been given.

Moreover, in 2019, an immigration judge again—a judge—determined Garcia was a “verified member” of MS-13. A “verified member” of MS-13. Well, then they appealed. Well, the determination was upheld on appeal. Yes, he is a “verified member” of MS-13. Oh, he is also suspected of human trafficking because in 2022, he was caught driving eight passengers from Texas to Maryland. He was stopped in Tennessee. He was driving eight passengers, Texas to Maryland, in a car registered to a human smuggler. Astonishing. That is what the Democrats are defending.

He was driving on a suspended license, no proof of insurance, all in violation of the law. None of these eight passengers being moved—transported—from Texas to Maryland had any luggage. Tennessee law enforcement recently released the body camera footage of the stop. It is real.

But what else do we know? Well, his wife, Garcia’s wife, sought two protective orders—two protective orders—against him for threatening to kill her. That is whom the Democrats are here defending today—not that one individual but that whole style of behavior that has now impacted every community in America as 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into our country during the Biden administration.

What has President Trump done? He has taken this dangerous thug off the streets. But now Democrats are fighting to bring illegal immigrant criminals, in his case and others, back into the country. How many people want him as a next-door neighbor? Is that good news? Is that what the Democrats want, hey, bring him back, bring him into our community?

President Trump and Republicans in this body are protecting our communities. We are supporting and actually deporting illegal immigrant criminals. Democrats’ policies would allow each and every one of those criminals to roam free in our communities.

Americans were forced to live with Democrats’ failed approach at the border for the last 4 years. Ten million illegal immigrants flooded into the country, entered with ease. Open border policies—what do we know about our home State of Wyoming?—drove up crime, drove upentanyl deaths. So many illegal immigrants, they strained our schools, our hospitals, our communities. And Democrats are now attempting to weaken the strong and successful border security policies that this current administration is actually enforcing, which the Democrats ignored.

Illegal crossings are down 93 percent from last year. In April, only five illegal immigrants were released into the

country. Compare that to April 1 year ago when Joe Biden was in charge. He was the President. The Democrats were the majority.

Mr. President, 68,000 illegal immigrants were released into America in a single month under Joe Biden. That was the month of April last year.

Look, we are putting in place strong border security. Republicans are leading the way. We ended this catch-and-release program. We restored “Remain in Mexico.” We are the party of secure borders and safe communities. The Democrats are the party of open borders and crime running rampant.

So the response of the obstructionist Democrat is to push a political stunt, and that is what they are doing here today. This Kaine-Van Hollen resolution, it wastes the Senate’s time, it delays our important work on behalf of the American people.

I have not heard one Democrat, and I hope some come to the floor and explain how allowing MS-13 gang members to roam free in our communities and in our neighborhoods, how that makes America safer or stronger.

What is the Democrat plan to protect Americans like Laken Riley and Rachel Morin and other victims of their failed policies?

They have none. They have none.

Republicans know how to keep America safe: Secure the border. Fund law enforcement. Deport illegal immigrant criminals. That is the way to keep our country safe and strong.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MIDDLE EAST

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, usually, public corruption happens in secret. The politicians that do it know it is wrong to accept money in exchange for favorable government treatment, and so they hide it until they are found out.

A textbook example would be Louisiana Governor Edwin Edwards, who in the 1990s was quietly taking bribes from businessmen who wanted to get licenses for riverboat casinos.

In the late 1990s, Edwards was convicted of the crimes of extortion, racketeering, and money laundering. The way in which he was doing it was like out of a movie. In one instance, a businessman handed the Governor a suitcase full of \$100 bills, totaling \$400,000—all in order to get a 6-to-0 commission ruling in favor of his casino. Eventually, as with most all corrupt officials who are taking money privately, Edwards was discovered, he was disgraced, and he went to jail.

As we speak, our President Donald Trump is going to the Middle East on a

public corruption tour. He is no less corrupt than Edwin Edwards of Louisiana. In fact, he is way more corrupt. Edwin Edwards took \$400,000. Well, in the Middle East, Donald Trump will cement deals totaling in the billions in exchange for favorable treatment by the U.S. Federal Government for these Gulf countries.

The key difference is that Donald Trump isn’t hiding it like other corrupt officials are. He is not ashamed. He is not doing it in secret. His corruption is wildly public, and his hope is that by doing it publicly, he can con the American people into thinking that it is not corruption because he is not hiding it. But what he is doing, in reality, is no different than any other corrupt public official who does it in private other than the fact that Trump’s corruption, his foreign policy corruption, is just so much bigger in scope and the impact it has on the American people than anything a corrupt mayor or a corrupt Governor may have done.

Trump’s first major foreign trip—and he just landed—is to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE—not because these are our most important allies in the world, not because these are the most important countries in the world, not because he is going there to talk about making the Middle East more safe and more secure—no. His first trip is to these three countries because these are the three countries that have agreed to pay Donald Trump money. Donald Trump is going to collect tribute, and it is all just out in the open.

Frankly, it was pretty easy to see this coming.

Recent former Presidents, Republicans and Democrats, have always very seriously and studiously avoided even the appearance of a conflict of interest. President Bush placed his assets into a qualified blind trust where investment decisions were made without his knowledge or input. Both Biden and Obama divested all of their assets except for cash and mutual funds. They didn’t enter into any new business ventures while in the White House.

In contrast, Trump has refused to abide by these standard ethics rules. His family runs his business, but nobody honestly believes that the kids are really in charge. President Trump is still calling the shots. His interests are not in a blind trust. He has made no pledge that he won’t do new deals, even with foreign entities, while he is in office. In fact, he is doing deals seemingly every single week. He is open for business, and every foreign government knows it. In fact, it appears that right now, the Gulf States are trying to outdo each other to up the price of buying an American President. And because Trump is greedy and he is insecure, he wants to fit in with the billionaire class, he is traveling the region with his hat out for further solicitations.

So let’s ask: What is the going rate right now for a Gulf country to buy access to Donald Trump, to get favorable

treatment from the Federal Government?

For Qatar, we recently found out it is a \$400 million luxury plane. This plane has been opulently configured for royal use. It is not a gift to the U.S. Government; it is a personal gift to the President. The terms of the arrangement apparently include a stipulation that after Trump leaves office, it will be transferred to Trump, to his Presidential library, which means Trump gets the so-called floating palace for himself.

This is outrageous. We have never seen anything like this before in American history—a foreign government gifting a \$400 million luxury plane to the President of the United States.

This is spelled out as blatantly unconstitutional by our Founding Fathers. They wrote into the Constitution a specific clause called the emoluments clause, which prohibits Federal officeholders from accepting gifts from any King, Prince, or foreign state without the consent of Congress. Like, how much clearer could it be? It is unconstitutional. It is illegal. The Founding Fathers knew it was evil to have Members of Congress or the President of the United States accepting expensive gifts from a foreign nation that, in exchange, wants favors from the U.S. Government. Donald Trump's acceptance of the luxury plane from a foreign monarch is basically the corruption that our Founding Fathers were seeking to prevent.

But that is not all he is getting from Qatar. The Trump Organization recently signed a \$5.5 billion golf course and real estate deal with DarGlobal and Qatari Diar, a firm established by Qatar's sovereign wealth fund—\$5.5 billion while Trump is in office.

It would have been unthinkable for any previous President to enter into a \$5.5 billion business deal with anybody—never mind a foreign government—while they are in office, and it still should be unthinkable.

Now, Qatar is a U.S. ally. It is a very important ally. But they are a complicated country. They have their own interests, some of which don't overlap with ours. A foreign government like Qatar should not have a \$5 billion chit hanging over the head of a sitting U.S. President, and they should not be gifting him a \$400 million plane. That should kind of go without saying.

For Saudi Arabia, the price is also in the billions. Soon after leaving the White House in Trump's first term, his son-in-law Jared Kushner created a private equity firm and got a \$2 billion investment from Saudi Arabia. The board of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund questioned whether this was smart, to invest that much money in a totally unproven fund, but the Saudi Crown Prince himself overruled the board, undoubtedly seeing the political advantage of investing directly with the Trump family.

But this was only the beginning. The Trump family has put things into over-

drive during the second term. Within his first 3 weeks of office, Trump convened a meeting at the White House with the head of the Saudi sovereign wealth fund—not to discuss matters of state, but to negotiate a deal between the PGA and the Saudi-backed LIV golf tour. Do you want to know why? To try to bring PGA tournaments back to Trump golf courses. Trump convened a meeting in the White House with the Saudis in order to enrich himself.

In addition to the \$5 billion Qatar real estate deal, the Trump organization is also partnering with a Saudi firm on a \$1 billion Trump-branded hotel and tower in Dubai. The property's website—this is, like, unbelievable. The property's website—this is a Trump-financed property, along with a Saudi investment fund—offers free 10-year “golden visas” to the United States, hinting at the opportunity for investors in Trump's property to buy residency in the United States and a pathway to citizenship. For the UAE, the price is somewhere north of \$2 billion. Last week, Eric Trump and World Liberty Financial cofounder Zach Witkoff spoke at a conference in Dubai on crypto called TOKEN2049.

As an aside here, it is just so fantastic and bone-chilling how transparent these guys are in their use of public positions to enrich themselves.

I am going to tell the story of Trump's stablecoin and the corruption with the Emirates. Let's just pause for a second and consider the fact that the Trump family could have partnered with anybody in the world on their new crypto venture, World Liberty Financial. But of all the people in the world to partner with on this new crypto venture, they chose the son of Trump's Middle East envoy—Trump's Middle East envoy, the guy who is making all decisions on U.S. policy in the Middle East—just to make it crystal clear to the Gulf countries that when they deal with World Liberty Financial, Trump's crypto venture, that they are dealing directly with the people responsible for making the U.S. policy in the Middle East.

It is just stunning. Literally, the sons of the President and the sons of the Middle East envoy are running a crypto venture and then going directly into the Middle East in order to find their first investment. And guess what? Miracle—they found it.

MGX, an investment firm backed by the Emirati Government, at this conference announced that they had looked at all the crypto companies in the world that they could partner with to invest \$2 billion in the crypto exchange finance, and they selected—wait for it, drum roll—the company run by the sons of the President of the United States and the U.S. Middle East envoy—\$2 billion.

World Liberty's role in this transaction is not that complicated. It is kind of similar to a bank. MGX, this Emirati firm, deposits \$2 billion with the firm and, in return, receives the

stablecoin to be used on these crypto exchanges. The firm holds onto these dollars, invests them, and keeps the profits for themselves. So the Trump-Witkoff company just gets, basically, a gift of capital. And if they just use that \$2 billion to invest in Treasury bonds, it would profit around \$85 million a year from these investments alone. And the money goes directly to Trump—just directly to Trump. It is literally not complicated—Emirates, World Liberty Financial, Donald Trump.

This isn't 1990s Louisiana. Nobody is hiding it. On World Liberty's website, they say an entity affiliated with Donald J. Trump owns 60 percent of the equity in the company. Because of this deal, Trump and Witkoff can further capitalize because Trump's stablecoin just became the fifth most valuable stablecoin in the world because of the Emirati investment.

If the plane and the real estate deals and the private equity fund investment and the stablecoin weren't enough for you, Trump has found one last way for Gulf money to flow seamlessly into his pocket. It is called the Trump meme coin. What is the business model here? Trump gets a huge payment whenever he releases a batch of these meme coins, which, by the way, have no underlying value other than just the demands people have for Trump's coin. And each time a Trump coin is bought or sold, a small fee is routed directly to the company owned by Trump. According to one analysis, nearly \$325 million in fees have been accrued since the coin was launched in January. In just 3 months, 4 months, 4½ half months—\$325 million worth of fees.

Trump hides the buyers of the coin. In this way, the meme coin is kind of a little like the Louisiana corruption. But we know that the majority of the buyers aren't Americans who want to help Trump make this Nation great again. The majority of the buyers of Trump coin are superrich foreigners—princes, oligarchs, authoritarians—who are buying the coin in order to get in good with Trump or to get something in exchange.

One great thing about buying the coin is that you get access to Trump in the White House. Again, they are not hiding this. Two weeks ago, Trump announced he would host a private dinner at the White House with seats reserved exclusively for the top 220 Trump coin holders. In 2 days since the announcement, Trump's company made \$900,000 in fees because everybody—mostly foreigners, many of them probably in the Gulf—were buying up the coin as quickly as they could in order to get one of these seats.

If a mayor of a small town was selling meetings at city hall for \$1,000, he would be run out of town on a rail. But that is exactly what Donald Trump is doing in the Middle East and all over the world as foreign buyers line up to buy the meme coin, guaranteed private access to Donald Trump at the White House.

You cannot make this up. The obvious question for the average American is, OK, what does this mean for me? Like, somebody living in New Britain, CT, might think it is kind of gross that Trump is lining his pockets as President, but they want to know, how does this actually affect me?

Well, the most simple way to think about this is, if the guy you elected to protect us and make our lives better is spending most of his time alternating between playing golf and cutting deals for himself, he is not protecting you. He is not spending any time trying to lower costs or defeat our enemies. Corruption can be a full-time job for Donald Trump, and that is a pretty lousy deal for the American people.

More importantly, when our foreign policy is for sale, we are less safe.

Let me give you an example relative to the trip that Donald Trump is on right now. These countries aren't padding Donald Trump's pockets because they like him. They are paying him in order to get things from the Federal Government—from the U.S. Government—without having to make any actual policy concessions that would benefit the U.S. people.

Before anybody could begin to process the brazen corruption of the UAE-Trump-Witkoff crypto deal, reports very quickly emerged that the Trump administration was considering changing regulations to make it easier for the country of UAE to purchase highly advanced semiconductors from U.S. manufacturers. This was a huge priority of the Emirates. But the restrictions are on the UAE for a reason. The UAE has a very troubling and very close security relationship with China. And so the reason why we didn't allow U.S. companies to sell semiconductors directly to the UAE is because we believe it would very easily become a conduit to China getting their hands on these advanced semiconductors and being able to leapfrog the United States in the business of advanced AI.

But all of a sudden, once the cash payment to Trump through the crypto venture was announced, Trump signaled he was willing to throw our security concerns out the window and transfer this sensitive technology to the UAE, even though it is likely China will get their hands on this technology, allowing China to put themselves in a position to leapfrog us in the race for advanced AI. That would be a disaster for the American people. But that is what is happening. We might hand AI leadership to China because that is the price of Trump getting paid. As long as he gets paid, he doesn't seem to care about the impact on regular Americans.

The White House is open for business and the Trump family is proudly advertising to the world where to send the check. They aren't trying to hide it—a \$400 million luxury plane gifted to the President of the United States right as he is going over to negotiate potentially sensitive security arrangements with the Gulf countries.

Every American, every Republican, every supposed national security advocate in the Senate should be outraged by this. We could look the other way, or we could show together, Republicans and Democrats, to stand up for this country and do something about it.

I have joined with Senators SCHATZ and COONS and BOOKER to introduce a resolution condemning the acceptance of the plane. It is a blatant violation of the Emoluments Clause. We could stand together as a Senate to vote for that resolution.

I introduced legislation to make it illegal for Presidents or Members of Congress and their family members to profit off crypto coins while they hold Federal office. We could join together in that effort.

I will personally seek to block any arms sale that is announced as part of this trip with a country that is personally investing in Donald Trump and his family. I will force a full Senate debate and a vote on these sales.

Foreign leaders need to know that there will be a price for participating in the corruption of the American Presidency. This level of corruption is so gross that even Trump's most hardened MAGA sycophants are turning against him. I didn't think I would see the day, but people like Ben Shapiro and Laura Loomer who fawn over Trump, can't believe he is so crass as to think it is OK to accept planes as a gift in exchange for U.S. national security concessions.

This isn't "America First." This is not what he promised the American people. This is Trump first. He is willing to put our Nation's security at risk, take unconstitutional bribes, just so he can fly himself and his Mar-a-Lago golf buddies around the world in gold-plated luxury planes gifted to him by foreign governments—all while at the same time he tells Americans they should be OK buying fewer school supplies for their kids or fewer birthday presents for their grandchildren because he is driving prices up for non-billionaires in this country—all while at the same time he is kicking 13 million people off of their healthcare.

Trump lines his pockets, he corrupts our foreign policy to enrich himself, while driving up prices and stealing healthcare from average Americans. It is a national security disaster, and it is a moral abomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall vote begin now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON RUBINSTEIN NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rubinstein nomination?

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 244 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hawley	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Graham
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Republican whip.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Meink nomination be waived.

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. 71, Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker,

Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice,

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 Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, 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 South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 72, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 245 Ex.]

YEAS—72

Baldwin	Hassan	Murkowski
Banks	Hawley	Ossoff
Barrasso	Heinrich	Paul
Blackburn	Hoeven	Peters
Boozman	Husted	Reed
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Budd	Johnson	Risch
Capito	Justice	Rosen
Cassidy	Kaine	Rounds
Collins	Kelly	Schiff
Cornyn	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cramer	King	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Shaheen
Cruz	Lee	Sheehy
Curtis	Lujan	Slotkin
Daines	Lummis	Sullivan
Ernst	Marshall	Thune
Fetterman	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	McCormick	Warner
Gallego	Moody	Warnock
Gillibrand	Moran	Welch
Grassley	Moreno	Wicker
Hagerty	Mullin	Young

NAYS—26

Alsobrooks	Durbin	Sanders
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Smith
Booker	Markey	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Merkley	Warren
Coons	Murphy	Whitehouse
Cortez Masto	Murray	Wyden
Duckworth	Padilla	

NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Tillis
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 72, the nays are 26.

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 Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:36 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON MEINK NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Meink nomination?

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 246 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Baldwin	Hawley	Ossoff
Banks	Heinrich	Paul
Barrasso	Hoeven	Peters
Blackburn	Husted	Reed
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Britt	Johnson	Risch
Budd	Justice	Rosen
Capito	Kaine	Rounds
Cassidy	Kelly	Schiff
Collins	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kim	Scott (FL)
Cotton	King	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Crapo	Lankford	Sheehy
Cruz	Lee	Slotkin
Curtis	Lujan	Sullivan
Daines	Lummis	Thune
Ernst	Marshall	Tillis
Fetterman	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	McCormick	Warner
Gallego	Moody	Warnock
Gillibrand	Moran	Welch
Grassley	Moreno	Wicker
Hagerty	Mullin	Young
Hassan	Murkowski	

NAYS—25

Alsobrooks	Durbin	Schatz
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schumer
Blumenthal	Hirono	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Van Hollen
Booker	Merkley	Warren
Cantwell	Murphy	Whitehouse
Coons	Murray	Wyden
Cortez Masto	Padilla	
Duckworth	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—1

Graham

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The majority leader.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Danly nomination be waived.

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 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. 83, James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice.

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 James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy, 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 South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 247 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Grassley	Moreno
Barrasso	Hagerty	Mullin
Blackburn	Heinrich	Murkowski
Boozman	Hoeven	Paul
Britt	Husted	Ricketts
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cassidy	Justice	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	King	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gallego	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Hawley
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, in March of this year, I delivered remarks right here on the Senate floor about a piece of legislation—bipartisan, common-sense childcare legislation. I spoke about how the Republican Party is now the party of parents, the party of families, the party of hard-working Americans. I spoke about how we, as the party of life, the party of family, should prioritize ways to make it easier to both start and grow our families.

Since then, more and more colleagues have joined the Child Care Availability and Affordability Act. As we work to build back America, it just makes sense. I was proud to introduce this legislation with Senator TIM Kaine, and we believe it will help address our Nation's childcare crisis.

Supporters are both Republicans and Democrats. They are both parents and grandparents who understand how incredibly difficult it is to find affordable, high-quality, reliable childcare.

I have spoken about my own personal story in this Chamber, but today, I want to speak for the millions of moms and dads who don't just want Congress to do something about this, they need Congress to do something.

Recent polls show that 81 percent of America—think about that. In the time we are in right now, 81 percent of America believes affordable and available childcare is an issue that everyone should be concerned with regardless of whether they have children or not. Seventy-two percent of Republicans say that increasing Federal funding for childcare is an important priority and a good use of taxpayer dollars, and 70 percent of Independents and 90 percent of Democrats agree. Three out of every four Americans believe that the lack of childcare impacts the ability of businesses to function effectively and consistently.

The message from voters is absolutely crystal clear: It is not just parents of young children who are impacted by the lack of affordable and available childcare; it is small business owners, neighbors, grandparents, and friends. This issue cuts across different demographics and party lines.

It is a struggle that Congress absolutely should address. I believe the solution is my childcare legislation, the Child Care Availability and Affordability Act. This plan consists of targeted investments in families and small businesses. It modernizes three existing tax credits to reflect the current economic reality.

This is an example of good, common-sense policymaking. We are not creating a new entitlement; we are letting Americans keep more of their hard-earned taxpayer dollars in a manner that actually grows the economy, and we are offering job creators an incentive to invest directly in their hard-working people who have childcare needs, and those benefits would help.

These tax credits have not been updated since 2001, so almost 25 years ago. Unfortunately, inaction by Congress has contributed to the crisis. The American economy loses \$122 billion a year because of the lack of affordable childcare. In contrast, my bill would cost just over \$4 billion a year. You can do that math.

Imagine the boost to our economy if we made this targeted investment in workers and in families. Consider a parent who may be a low-income individual, many of whom find the high cost of childcare to be the single biggest barrier to reentering the workforce. We could empower those parents to get back to work and move off government assistance.

This is exactly the kind of pro-family, pro-Main Street, pro-worker legislation that has the ability to both transform our economy and support families.

I want to thank my colleagues who have already signed on—most recently, the senior Senator from Alabama, TOMMY TUBERVILLE, and the senior Senator from Arizona, MARK KELLY.

I am encouraged by the amount of support this legislation continues to build, but we can't stop now. They are counting on Republicans—the American people—to be that party of families, party of parents, party of hard-working Americans, and to actually deliver. I believe the American people are firmly behind us, and I want to encourage all of my colleagues to join with me in this effort.

We are elected to serve the needs of our constituents, and when the American people speak out about those needs, we have an obligation to listen and to do something about it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO KELSIE DANIELL

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, today, I stand here to recognize small business. Actually, today, I rise to recognize Kelsie Daniell.

Kelsie began working in my office 7 years ago, as a press secretary, and quickly proved herself, moving up to communications director and now deputy chief of staff for communications and policy. In an era of title inflation, that title doesn't encompass nearly all that Kelsie does. She truly is the glue that holds my operation together.

We all come to Washington focused on the things we really want to tackle but quickly realize that even the best planned day can quickly take unexpected twists and turns.

There are also fires to put out, and I have been fortunate to have Kelsie's

steady hand and solid counsel to count on. No matter the assignment or situation, just like her favorite meme, "This is fine"—"This is fine"—she always responds this way and calmly goes about her work.

However, most days, she is anticipating what could go wrong and getting ahead of it. She is able to put out fires, sometimes even before they start. She has already figured out how to handle the hot topics of the day, while preparing for tomorrow. We all know, if there is a problem, we can turn to Kelsie and say, "Please, fix," and the job gets done.

She is as precise as a fine-tooth comb, from pulling off press conferences abroad to wacky floor speeches, and, of course, my day-to-day operations. Kelsie is relentless in ensuring perfection in execution.

In fact, Kelsie, my staff was very nervous about surprising you today with this speech—because she hadn't edited it. That is because she always puts the finishing touches on every project that makes it better.

She has the same impact on all of us around her. She always brings up everyone by making each of us stronger, myself included.

Whether driving river to river, across Iowa, or navigating the Halls of Congress, she never, ever slows down, including when she brought one of those walking treadmills for her desk in DC. She has even led our staff in Tabata training.

Mr. President, if you have been through that, it is hellacious.

And, of course, watch out for Kelsie if you are facing off against her in pickleball.

Even while keeping us all on track, somehow, she has always found the time to pour into the people around her as a mentor and as a friend.

She is actively involved in her church, and she became a mother during the Iowa caucus.

Her commitment to excellence and drive to always push harder is a true testament to her leadership—characteristics that she has infused into my office and will take with her in whatever she sets her sights on. It is a mindset for us all to aspire to as we prepare for whatever the day brings us.

And as she likes to say before any meeting ends, "one more thing": Kelsie, I will miss your wise counsel, and I am so thankful for your friendship. I know you will continue excelling at everything you do, and I am grateful beyond words for everything you have done for me and on behalf of my Iowans.

So God bless you, Kelsie, in your journeys.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEDICAID

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to oppose any proposals to take healthcare coverage away from the American people who need it most.

Today, the House Energy and Commerce Committee is marking up a section of what is called their budget reconciliation bill, which would reduce spending by \$912 billion over 10 years. That is a lot of money. Out of that, \$715 billion would come from Medicaid and other healthcare programs that are essential to Americans, children, and our most vulnerable families.

House Republicans say that these cuts are about waste, fraud, and abuse—but the real fraud is telling the American people that by implementing these requirements, that somehow these policies are going to save money.

The truth is, it is just making it harder on Americans to stay on Medicaid. A Medicaid program that even the Seattle Times has said cutting it could hurt our State's poor and our children.

So is that what we are trying to do, give a tax break to corporations and billionaires by cutting the effects of Medicaid on poor people and children?

The proposed work requirements basically make Medicaid beneficiaries submit paperwork every month to prove that they are working at least 80 hours a month, but we already know that 64 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries are working. That is what the big fraud is. This chart right here shows that people who couldn't find other affordable health insurance and are working full-time is 44 percent of Medicaid adult recipients.

Some are not working because of their inabilities and due to retirement. So 8 percent of them are not doing that, 20 percent are working part time, 12 percent we basically said it is better for you to be a caregiver and provide the caregiving, and we will cover your health insurance costs so you can provide the caregiving because that way the families stay in the home instead of going to their nursing home, which would cost all of us a ton more amount of money. So they are working.

There are 10 percent not working due to illness or disability, and some are not working because we are smart enough to let people who go to school, but don't have the ability to get affordable insurance, allow some percentage, a small percentage of them to be on Medicaid too.

So what is it that the House is really trying to say? They are really trying to sneak in a massive cut to Medicaid that will shut down hospitals, kick people off of Medicaid, make them go to emergency rooms, cost us all more money, and do nothing but perpetrate a fraud. When in reality, people are working and those that aren't working, we are happy that they are not working because one—could be due to an illness, or they are a caregiver, or they are working part time.

So all of these issues show that the House isn't serious. In 2018, another State tried this, "Oh, brilliant idea. We're going to make a work requirement." Now, if I hadn't been in the U.S. Senate at the same time the House of Representatives tried another canard—"Oh, we're going to block grant Medicaid. We're going to block grant it and it's going to be great, and then we're going to save money."

No, no, the hospitals, the Republican county commissioners, the jails—everybody basically said, "Don't do that. You're going to cut Medicaid—you're going to decimate the safety net that makes healthcare work in our communities. Don't do it." And because we had three Republicans join us, we were able to stop that ridiculous idea of block granting Medicaid.

But in 2018, Arkansas tried the same thing that the House of Representatives are now suggesting. They became the first State to establish a work requirement for certain Medicaid enrollees. It took just 4 months, and the new requirement got 18,000 people kicked off Medicaid.

Where do you think those people go? You think they don't have any healthcare needs? You don't think they go to the hospital and cost us all a bunch load more money? That is what they do. They cost all of us a bunch load more money.

A Federal court ruling stopped Arkansas from implementing that rule a year later because it disrupted so many people because of the work requirement.

And after that, a Harvard University study found that Arkansas' work requirement didn't lead to more people getting jobs. It actually took away their health insurance, and then they didn't have the ability to stay as healthy and get jobs. So is that what is going to happen across our country, to my State, all because the Republicans are putting this nonsensical idea on the table?

Still, the issue is that other States tried the same thing, and other States also stopped their ridiculous idea. So this isn't something that works, and according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, more than 780,000 Washingtonians could be subject to a work requirement and are at risk of having their coverage taken away.

Now, I am already done fighting with the DOGE people who basically said, "Oh, waste, fraud and abuse, and Social Security." Really? My constituent not only had his Social Security benefits cut; they said he was dead. He wasn't dead. And not only did he go there, wait in line, crummy service, and say that he wasn't dead—they still, after that—after he notified Social Security and told him he wasn't dead, and I want my Social Security, they had the audacity to go back into his bank account and claw back money out of his bank account, still saying that he was dead.

Now, is that what really the House of Representatives wants us to do, harass

the heck out of 780,000 Washingtonians to write a proposal every month, telling them they are somehow doing something? Or do we want to set up a program to cover those who can't get affordable insurance and cover them because we don't want to pay the extra costs at the emergency room?

That is what we are trying to say. We don't want to pay the extra costs. So this proposal just doesn't make sense, and so I am not surprised that I got a copy of a letter passed on by health officials in my State that said, "The undersigned here are writing to you to oppose any cuts to the Medicaid rates, any adjustments to the federal Medicaid assistance program, to our healthcare systems, or changes to the direct payment programs."

Well, what is surprising about this is it is signed by the Republican county commissioners, the Republican State representatives. The people in that community who know what it takes to build a healthy community, they sent a letter basically saying, Don't do the very things that the House of Representatives just did.

My own constituents, bipartisan Republicans and Democrats, though, already said, Don't do this because you will cut the legs out from under us. We won't have rural hospitals. And just think about all the jails that are dealing with the opioid and fentanyl epidemic, and now, all of a sudden, you are taking Medicaid away from them. What are they going to do? You are going to make all those people go to an emergency room? Now, all of our emergency rooms, instead of these people being in a detention facility, are all going to be in an emergency room crowding us all out from getting healthcare?

So this idea is ridiculous, and people all across my State are already speaking out about the choices or lack thereof. I spoke to a Medicaid patient in eastern Washington who was worried that she wouldn't be able to be supported when she needed to go to a nursing home because where is all the money going to go?

We are trying to save enough money by putting people on Medicaid, so the people who do need to go to a facility can, but a resident told me that without Medicaid, her father wouldn't have been able to afford treatment or medication for his mental health issues.

So that is really what we want to do? Give a tax break to wealthy, wealthy people and to corporations, just so we can be kicking poor people off of Medicaid?

So I hope our colleagues will not allow this to happen. I hope that our Senate colleagues will be ready to show that the defeat of the fentanyl epidemic needs to be addressed, and helping Medicaid continue with substance abuse treatment is key.

Recent polls show that 77 percent of Americans have a favorable view of Medicaid, including 64 percent of Republicans. And as I said, last week, I

met with the healthcare providers, mostly from central Washington, who said, "You literally will take away essential revenue that keeps our hospitals open, and our State could see five to seven hospitals close."

That is not what we want to see out of a budget proposal to give a tax break to wealthy corporations and individuals. So I ask my colleagues to make sure that we are fighting these cuts to Medicaid. Our communities are demanding it. They are watching, and just like with the block granting of Medicaid, they are not going to believe another idea that has already been tried and failed and doesn't even meet the goals of being successful in making the most affordable healthcare possible and keeping the cost down on all of us.

I urge my colleagues to reject this House proposal on Medicaid.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER S. BOND

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise for two things. First, I wanted to make the Chamber aware of the passing of legendary Missouri Senator Kit Bond.

Former Senator Bond served as Missouri's Governor. He was I think at the time Missouri's youngest Governor and still is historically. He served in this Chamber for 24 years—one of the longest serving Senators from my State.

I have the honor of standing behind, I suppose, the desk that he once had, that Harry Truman had, that Tom Eagleton had, Jack Danforth had, Roy Blunt had, and Senator Bond.

He had a flare, a sense of humor, and an intense dedication for delivering for his home State. He will be missed. I am praying for him, his wife Linda, his son Sam, and all those who knew and loved Senator Bond, during this difficult time.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The second reason I rise, Mr. President, is to seek unanimous consent regarding the nomination of Mr. Brian Burch to be U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican.

The last few weeks have been a whirlwind for Catholics. I had the honor of representing my country, along with four other Senators, at the Vatican for the funeral of Pope Francis. As the first Republican Catholic elected to the Senate from my State, it was certainly an honor, a somber day.

Of course, the conclave then happened, and we now have Pope Leo XIV. He will be installed formally this weekend, which is why I am rising to have this Ambassador approved by the Senate before this weekend so that he can maybe attend as the Ambassador.

Of course, Pope Leo is the first American elected Pope, which is significant and historic. He is from Chicago.

I will note that at my 5 o'clock mass this weekend, during homily, it was made clear that although he is from Chicago, he is not a Cubs fan. So as a Cardinals fan, that was reassuring to know.

But it is a historic time for Catholics, and I think it is important to have this relationship with the Holy See and with the Vatican. It is critical for our country. I think it is important to move forward with this nomination.

Brian is a devoted husband and father to his wife Sara and their nine children. Brian and his wife are raising their family in the greater Chicago area. Ironically, our new Pope was raised there. He is also the cofounder of CatholicVote, a national, faith-based, advocacy organization whose mission has inspired every Catholic in America to live out the truths of the Catholic faith in public life. He has been very involved.

He is a deserving candidate. He has been passed out of the Foreign Relations Committee and would do a great job.

I think it is a very important statement for this Chamber to make to have this Ambassador approved by the Senate before this weekend.

With that, Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 100, Brian Burch to be Ambassador to the Holy See; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to explain what I am doing here.

I have a hold on nominees coming out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee because it has been almost 4 months since Donald Trump and Marco Rubio illegally and unilaterally shuttered the U.S. Agency for International Development under the guise of a so-called review, which should be done by now. This is in violation of the appropriations law, the Foreign Assistance Act, and probably the Impoundment Control Act.

Here is the thing: As a direct result—and it is not so common that you can say "as a direct result"—of something that was done by the Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID, people are dying. Children are dying. Mothers are passing HIV-AIDS to their children. Disaster survivors are being stranded with nowhere to turn. All of this suffering is because of what the United States is doing, in contravention of their own laws.

So I will not expedite confirmation of State Department nominees until and unless this administration starts complying with the law and being accountable to Congress.

I want to make two other points here. I will stipulate that it would be a very nice time to send our Ambassador to the Holy See. It would be an auspicious time to do so. But let's under-

stand how hard it would be to do this in the normal course of business.

You file cloture. It is a cloture petition. The majority leader is in charge of it. You put it at the desk. You wait a day. You take a procedural vote. Two hours later, you take the final passage vote. You have your Ambassador. Why do I know this? Because we are doing this on nine other nominees this week.

So it was the choice of the Senate majority to prioritize the Chief of Protocol; the Legal Adviser for the Department of State; the Secretary of the Air Force; the Deputy Secretary of Energy; the Deputy Secretary of the Interior; the Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources; the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering; the Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget; and the Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

If this is a very important and time-sensitive confirmation, all we need to do is have the majority leader file a cloture petition, we wait 1 day, and then we vote. It is perfectly available to us, if that is an urgent matter, to just do this in the normal course of business.

As I was talking to the Senator from Missouri, with whom I have a pretty solid working relationship, I was explaining that when I was in the majority and we were trying to get confirmations through, I spent a fair amount of time talking to people who had holds. I would always go to their offices, sometimes catch them on the floor, sometimes go to the cloakroom, and say: Hey, what would it take to release this hold?

To this moment, not a single Member has walked up to me and said: What would it take to release the hold? Not the majority leader, not the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, not the Senator from Missouri, not anybody.

The normal way that the minority flexes its authority is to slow things down, even if it is slightly. And this is all this is—like a day, plus 2 hours. So if this is important, we can get it done this week. If it is important for me to release those holds, then somebody should come and talk to me. I remain ready and willing to talk to Leader Thune or any Republican colleague as we continue consideration of these nominees going forward.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I would like to address that.

If this were a blanket hold, if these weren't indiscriminate, maybe that would be productive, but these are indiscriminate holds.

I would offer to this body that not only is the Senate broken through this process and this ruse, the Democrats are broken.

By the way, you don't need to filibuster everything. You don't need 60

votes for everything. For goodness' sake, Clarence Thomas—Clarence Thomas—was confirmed to be a U.S. Supreme Court Justice with 52 votes. That was a different era.

But I will also point to another era. We have not seen an effort like this by the minority party to be obstructionists in 50 years. Not since the Ford administration has it taken this kind of effort for every single nominee. That is brokenness, underlain by the brokenness of their party.

I will use a bit of a baseball analogy here. They are swinging at every pitch, every single pitch, and they look ridiculous.

This week, it is this. Next week, somebody will be down in El Salvador at an MS-13 prison—a prison down there—dining with an MS-13 gang member who beats his wife. This is who they are.

They are also the people now standing up objecting to the confirmation of the Ambassador to the Vatican. Yes, you heard that right—the Ambassador of the Vatican, who could be there for the installation of the Pope.

So I don't want to hear anything about how anybody is being reasonable. This is totally unreasonable. By the way, my friend from Hawaii is defending USAID. Let's talk about that. Let's talk about some of the reforms real quickly, a bit of a breakdown.

Heaven forbid we stop \$20 million on a "Sesame Street" show in Baghdad promoting LGBTQ ideals; \$11 million to instruct Vietnam to stop trash burning; \$56 million to boost Egyptian and Tunisian tourism; \$100 million to build schools in Jordan; \$11 million to instruct Vietnam to stop burning trash—I already mentioned that—DEI programs in Burma, and money for Guatemalan sex changes.

Maybe, just maybe, this isn't the hill to die on. But maybe, just maybe, defending people who are deported, who are MS-13 gang members who are terrorizing our communities, that is not the hill to die on. But next week, it will be something else.

But the truth is, this is really about Trump derangement syndrome. The truth is, this is about the Democrats not coming to grips about, you know, getting smoked in November because they don't have a message. So what are they grasping at? All of these ridiculous things so somebody can say they are the chief resister.

I just never thought I would see a day that the resistance would mean holding up the Ambassador to the Holy See to be there for the installation of the Pope, but here is where we are; total brokenness from the other side.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I am just a little bit taken aback by the personal—the tone here. But I do enjoy working with the Senator on the Commerce Committee, so I am not going to respond in kind, except to say some-

thing very simple, which is: It is Tuesday. If we file a cloture petition—which is not my authority—tonight, there will be one intervening day, and then we vote on Thursday.

So if this is important to the majority leader, all he has to do is file a cloture petition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I would just like to respond by saying it is not personal. The Senator from Hawaii, who is my friend, is—by defending USAID—is defending these positions. That is the only remark I made.

But also acting like—and we did have a conversation on the floor about what it would take—acting like there would be some kind of accommodation that would allow this to move forward in what would normally be a normal process here, but where we are at is the Democrats are objecting to everything. That has not happened in 50 years. That is not normal.

So the accommodation for this instance, I think, is reasonable. Evidently, he doesn't. It is not personal, and here we are. But the idea that the Democratic Party is grasping at straws every single day to make headlines and make themselves look ridiculous isn't personal necessarily, but it is the truth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 218

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, on another matter, it really should go without saying, but no President should be accepting a \$400 million gift from a foreign country. It is gross; it is reckless; it is corrupt; and the outrage and condemnation, especially on the Republican side, should be universal.

There is no excuse or justification for this. It is wrong. That is the end of the story. There is no legal justification. There is no commonsense justification.

Let's unpack this a little bit. Trump is planning to accept a \$400 million luxury plane from Qatar, which he just so happens to be visiting this week on his first foreign trip of his term.

The stated purpose of that trip is to cut business deals, but it is very hard to drive a hard bargain when the people that you are negotiating with just gave you a \$400 million gift. And it means that the other side will have a much easier time getting what it wants, even if American interests are harmed.

A law enforcement official called the gift a "security nightmare" because it would require basically the whole thing to be busted up, taken apart, and reconstituted. If that all sounds blatantly corrupt and incredibly wasteful, it is because it is.

I just want everyone to go through the thought experiment. Imagine if it were a President of the other party, imagine if this happened 25 years ago and you were reading about something in history, do you think that an American President should accept a \$400 million gift?

Do you think that Air Force One—this icon, this symbol of American power abroad that has carried John F. Kennedy's body; where LBJ was sworn in; where George W. Bush was whisked away when the Twin Towers fell; where multiple Presidents of both parties and multiple generations have done extraordinary work around the world making sure that we are the indispensable Nation; that we are the leader of the free world—now sponsored by Qatar.

I remain flabbergasted that this thing is not going to pass. I remain completely aghast. This is the most blatant, obvious, ridiculous, gross corruption that I have ever seen in my entire life by dollar amount, by symbolism, by violating constitutional and statutory law, and also just violating like—I am not a lawyer. You don't have to be all fancy pants to understand how ridiculous it is that a foreign government is going to say: Hey, we will take care of Air Force One for you.

And so we have a simple resolution—and it is simple. I was going to read it, but you know what, I will just summarize it. It basically says—and the way these things are structured, it is bunch of whereases: Whereas Air Force One is a symbol of the United States; Whereas Air Force One is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Office of the Presidency; and so on and so forth; therefore, be it resolved that we shouldn't do this, that the American President should not accept a \$400 million gift from anybody.

And so, as if in legislative session, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 218, submitted earlier today; that there be up to 2 hours for debate on the resolution and that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the adoption of the resolution; finally, that if the resolution is adopted, the preamble be agreed to and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as usual, my Democratic colleagues are losing their minds over this situation, but let's just talk about the facts.

First of all, this is not a done deal. It has not happened yet. It is all talk. But if reports are accurate, the Government of Qatar is considering gifting the United States Department of Defense an American-made Boeing 747—I will repeat that—an American-made Boeing 747 plane for temporary use as Air Force One.

It is not for the President's personal use, and he will not be using it after he leaves office.

It is customary and totally normal for foreign countries to give our government gifts. The DOJ has already

said that this does not violate any law. So why are my colleagues and the woke media having a full-blown meltdown over this situation?

Perhaps it is because in the past 72 hours, President Trump has delivered so many wins, you can't count them all.

On Sunday, he negotiated a deal with China, dropping tariffs 50 percent.

On Monday, he secured the release of the last remaining hostage in Hamas. Edan Alexander has been through hell the past 584 days, and it took President Trump to bring him home.

Today, President Trump just announced hundreds of millions of dollars in new investment from the Middle East and on Thursday is forcing a face-to-face meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy to end this brutal war in Ukraine.

You would think the media would be celebrating all these wins, along with my colleagues, but as usual, the Trump derangement syndrome is getting in the way.

I am convinced that the media and some of my colleagues would rather President Trump lose on everything and our country lose on everything than be successful.

Whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, we are all Americans. Sometimes, I think we all forget that. And we should all be able to celebrate anytime a President delivers a win for the American taxpayers.

And by the way, we are \$37 trillion in debt. If another country wants to give us a free plane to save the taxpayers of this country \$400 million, the only thing we should say is thank you. Democrats are rudderless right now. They are looking for something to hang their hat on. They see that President Trump has done more in 4 months than President Biden did in 4 years.

So they want to make a plane gift from Qatar the next so-called perfect phone call. To my Democrat colleagues: Instead of wasting our time objecting every time President Trump breathes, maybe you should go get outside of DC and go connect with the American people.

I can promise you, they don't give a rip about an airplane. They care about their lives and this economy and the things that have been destroyed for the past 4 years that President Trump is trying to put back together.

For these reasons, Mr. President, I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 219

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, a lot of Americans are watching this spectacle: a \$400 million gift from Qatar, which President Trump has called a "palace in the sky."

It would be for his personal use now and then afterward when he is a private citizen. And they are wondering, Isn't there a law that prevents it? Isn't there some statute that stops this cor-

ruption—a gift to the President from a foreign power that makes him beholden for his personal benefit and use?

And the answer to the American people is, yes, there is a law. In fact, it is in the Constitution. It is a specific clause. It is called the foreign emoluments clause. It states:

[N]o person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

And the reason for this clause, which was written by the Founders centuries ago, is so powerfully shown today. At the beginning of our Nation, we were a small country, potentially influenced by big foreign powers—England, France.

The Founders were concerned that our Presidents or other officials could be bought, could be influenced, could be pressured by those foreign powers. So they specifically wrote into the statutes a measure that protected our small Nation then.

It applies equally now. In fact, now, it is even more a protection of our national security. This plane is emblematic of a core, metastasizing corruption, an economic cancer that has infected the White House, but it is also emblematic of a national security threat from nations who would buy our President—maybe not signed, sealed, and delivered but exert undue influence.

In fact, the national security threat is even greater from this plane, which would have to be taken apart—a huge expense to American taxpayers—literally taken apart down to its shell.

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I can tell you that there are foreign powers all over the world who would like nothing better than a Qatar plane to be carrying the President of the United States—potentially bugged, infiltrated by systems that could be hacked by them, not just by Qatar or other Mideast nations.

It is a threat to our national security to have the President of the United States riding in this plane unless it is, in effect, taken apart and put back together with the systems and the safeguards that are included on Air Force One.

This blatantly corrupt act shows that the President is just in it for himself. In fact, that kind of equipping of the plane will take billions of dollars of taxpayer money and years of work to bring this aircraft up to the requirements—the minimal requirements—of Air Force One, ready in time for the President to use it after he leaves office. And President Trump won't even pay the transfer fees.

The reports that the U.S. Air Force will pay all of the costs related to retrofitting and transferring this plane to the United States, even to the Presidential library, show the blatant corruption here. Accepting the plane is bad enough, but foisting on taxpayers

the expense of retrofitting it and updating it and then transferring it to his foundation is an insult to every American.

And my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to say it is only Democrats who are objecting, but, in fact, MAGA media personalities strongly agree. One described the planned gift of this plane as a "bribe"—pretty right on. Another called it "indefensible"—also right.

Even Laura Loomer opposes this gift. She described this incident as a "stain" on the Trump administration. I never thought I would say that she is right, too, but it is a stain not on the Trump administration alone. It is a stain on America. It is a stain on our national honor. It is a stain on the integrity of the greatest country in the history of the world.

Foreign governments have figured out how to get to Donald Trump. It is through his wallet, his vanity, and his bank account.

It is not just this "palace in the sky." The Qatari Government has signed a \$5.5 billion deal with the Trump Organization to build a luxury golf resort in Qatar, complete with Trump-branded beach side villas and an 18-hole golf course.

And it is not just Qatar. President Trump has also pursued new business deals with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and others, including Serbia.

On May 1, Trump's cryptocurrency firm announced that an investment fund backed by the United Arab Emirates would be using President Trump's digital coins to complete a \$2 billion transaction. Through this deal, President Trump and his family stand to gain hundreds of millions of dollars from a foreign state, and their "cryptocurrency empire," if I can use that term loosely, which includes World Liberty Financial, as well as their meme coin, \$TRUMP, is making hundreds of millions of dollars—literally, hundreds of millions of dollars, for example, through the transfer fee involved in FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT. That is the reason that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Minority Staff, which I head, has written asking for more facts from FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT and World Liberty Financial.

But this crypto corruption is, again, just one more of the ongoing corrupt con games that President Trump has helmed. LIV Golf, backed by the Saudi Government, will host a tournament at Trump National Doral resort later this year, and the Trump Organization has announced new real estate developments on government-owned land in Serbia and elsewhere.

Now, there is a kind of fundamental principle here, and it goes back to the Founders. The American President is supposed to work for the American people, not for his own enrichment. In foreign policy and on the international stage, he is supposed to represent the United States of America, not his own

business interests, or any foreign state or any business privately.

And that is what the emoluments clause is meant to guarantee. It protects our national security, as well as the integrity of our political system.

When President Trump, brazenly and shamefully, flouts the constitutional protections implemented by the Founders to avoid improper influence, he violates one of the core principles of our Constitution. He has never come to Congress asking for any permission for any of these deals; that is for sure. His willingness to use the privileges of his office to enrich himself and his family seems to know no bounds. Congress simply cannot stand aside because Congress is the one who has to enforce the emoluments clause.

I know. I went to court during the first Trump term. I organized many of my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to ask the courts to enforce the emoluments clause, and we won in district court. Our case failed in the court of appeals because of lack of standing; that is to say, we lacked authorization, specific permission from the House or the Senate to go forward.

There were 214 other Members of Congress who joined in my lawsuit to enforce this clause. There is no other party that is an enforcer for this clause, and if the President refuses to seek our approval for acceptance of these foreign benefits, we have no choice but to go to court again.

I am hopeful that my Republican colleagues will join me in saying: Well, we may be wrong about all of this corruption, about what BLUMENTHAL is saying about the violation of the foreign emoluments clause, but let's let a court decide. Let's bring it to a judge on the Federal court—because in my view this violation of law is so abjectly and obviously clear that it demands an answer from the courts.

Accordingly, in a moment, I will ask for unanimous consent to pass a resolution that would direct Senate legal counsel to file a lawsuit on behalf of the U.S. Senate to enforce the emoluments clause.

And I will just close by saying to my Republican colleagues: I challenge you. I challenge you to prove that you are more than just lackeys to President Trump, that you are just more than automatic approvers of whatever he does, his self-enrichment schemes, and show that the Senate still has spine, still has self-respect, and still has respect for the Founders, who said that no one is above the law.

No one can brazenly and shamefully commit corruption that endangers the national security of the United States of America and makes our Nation vulnerable to this kind of interference from foreign powers, whether they are in the Middle East or Russia or anywhere around the globe.

And so, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 219, submitted earlier today, and

that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Reserving the right to object, I have been around here 5 years now, and I am used to attacks on a lot of people. But for the most successful President in the first 4 months, I have never seen like these attacks from my Democratic colleagues. I don't understand it. And it really isn't an attack on President Trump. It is an attack on the American people, because this body itself, years before I got here, passed the ability to build two of these planes for the President of the United States to use. By the way, they are \$2.5 billion each. That is pretty dang expensive.

I think if you asked the American people if they would take out a swap of a \$400 million airplane instead of \$2.1 billion and maybe add some changes to it—obviously, as I said earlier, I don't know if President Trump will ever fly on this plane. Maybe, in the future, it is for the next President, because it is going to take a while for security purposes. But we just need to be really careful here and make sure we understand the American people have the decision here, not politicians. And I guarantee, if you ask the people that pay the taxes in this country, they would take the alternative to spending \$2.5 billion on an airplane when you could get one for \$400 million and possibly add a few million to it to upgrade it.

So it is just another attack on the best and the greatest President in my lifetime, who fights for the American people, who does things for the American people, who does things to save money for the American people. And hope to God he continues to do that for the next 3½ years he is in office.

So for those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, if President Trump is everything that my colleague has just said, he never would have suggested this \$400 million boondoggle. He never would have thought that the American people should pay billions of dollars to retrofit the plane. He never would have risked the American security in the threat that is posed by foreign powers bugging or hacking the security devices or disabling the mechanisms of this plane.

And if this President never flies on this plane, it will only be because of the vocal and vehement protests that we are seeing, not only on the floor of the U.S. Senate but across the country, from MAGA personalities and commentators to everyday Americans who are aghast that hundreds of millions—in fact, billions—of dollars will be spent on this boondoggle that puts at risk American security. If President

Trump never takes possession of this plane, it will only be because he has been embarrassed and shamed by our vehement and vocal protests against doing it. And the reaction of everyday Americans has been one of vehement objection.

But this plane is only the most visible and tangible evidence of a corrupt administration—and, particularly, the crypto corruption, where hundreds of millions of dollars are literally flowing into the bank accounts and pockets of President Trump and his family. And everyday Americans are suffering losses because of it.

The investors in his meme coin—tens of thousands of them—are losers. They have lost money. And many other Americans are likely to suffer losses as well. So the tangible impact of that crypto corruption is real and present and ongoing.

And so I think enforcement of the emoluments clause through a lawsuit brought by the Senate of the United States, authorized through this resolution, is absolutely necessary and appropriate now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOCELYN NUNGARAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Jocelyn Nungaray was a 12-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted and murdered just north of Houston last June. The two suspects who committed this ghastly crime were illegal immigrants who never should have been in our country in the first place.

To commemorate Jocelyn's life, I have introduced the Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge Act, which would permanently rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in Texas in her memory.

This bill would actually codify President Trump's Executive order and ensure that future generations will remember Jocelyn for years to come. I hope my colleagues will join me in renaming this Texas wildlife refuge in her honor.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 1596 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1596), to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of

Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

Mr. CORNYN. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1596) was passed as follows:

S. 1596

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 “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On June 17, 2024, 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray was brutally murdered in Houston, Texas.

(2) Two illegal aliens who were allegedly members of the Tren de Aragua gang have been charged with her murder.

(3) On March 4, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 14229 (90 Fed. Reg. 11585; relating to honoring Jocelyn Nungaray) renaming the area known as the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge to “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.

(4) Ms. Nungaray loved animals and, given the close proximity of her hometown of Houston, it is fitting that the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge be renamed in her honor.

SEC. 3. RENAMING OF ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

(a) RENAMING.—The Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas shall be known as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the national wildlife refuge referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed with the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON DAILY NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Daily nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted “yea” and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) would have voted “aye.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 248 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Grassley	Mullin
Barrasso	Hawley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hoeven	Paul
Boozman	Husted	Ricketts
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Budd	Johnson	Rounds
Capito	Justice	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	King	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gallego	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Graham	Heinrich
Hagerty	Whitehouse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

The majority leader.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the MacGregor nomination be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection? 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 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. 84, Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice.

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 Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, 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 Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 249 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Banks	Gallego	Moody
Barrasso	Grassley	Moran
Blackburn	Hagerty	Moreno
Boozman	Hawley	Mullin
Britt	Heinrich	Murkowski
Budd	Hoeven	Paul
Capito	Husted	Ricketts
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Justice	Schmitt
Cotton	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	King	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Curtis	Lee	Thune
Daines	Lummis	Tillis
Ernst	Marshall	Tuberville
Fetterman	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	McCormick	Young

NAYS—41

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Shaheen
Booker	Markey	Slotkin
Cantwell	Merkley	Smith
Coons	Murphy	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warren
Durbin	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Graham	Warner
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

EDUCATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, with me today is one of my colleagues, Mr. Connor Domingue, from my office.

High school seniors throughout our country are looking forward to graduation, which is going to happen here in the next few months—in some cases, weeks. The sad reality, though, is that some of these high school seniors won't be able to read. They won't be able to read their diplomas.

In fact, students in several States have actually filed lawsuits against their schools for failing to teach them basic skills like reading and math. One student plaintiff actually alleged in his petition that he can't spell his name, and he is a high school senior.

And it brings me no pleasure to point this out. We all know we have a problem with elementary and secondary education in America, but the truth is that some—not all, but some—of our schools here in America have become failure factories, and our kids are falling behind their global competitors in just about every category—not just reading, not just writing, not just math, also science.

We live in the freest, most prosperous country in all of human history, and yet American kids rank 22nd—22nd—not in all 195 countries in the world, but 22nd among developed nations in terms of our education achievement. It is embarrassing, and the American people deserve better, and so do American kids.

In 1979, President Carter established the Department of Education. As you know, Mr. President, it is a Cabinet-level Agency. Its purpose was to improve education outcomes throughout the country. I want to read you what the Department's mission is supposed to be. I am quoting here. The Department of Education is supposed to "promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access."

Pretty words. Pretty words. That is all they are. Just empty, pretty words. The results have been anything but excellent.

This chart represents reading skills among our kids in America. Down here, mathematic skills.

This is when we started the Department of Education way back here in 1979. This is where we are today. The line—we are doing a little better in math, but the line for reading is basically flat, and the line for mathematics is not exactly steep.

The truth is that our scores, both for reading and math, have not improved appreciably in decades, and any progress that we have seen from the Department of Education's long tenure—which is very low. You can see the

numbers; they speak for themselves—they disappeared during the pandemic when people in power decided to close down our schools.

Funding for the Department of Education has far outpaced spending in the rest of Federal Government. If you compare spending just for the Department of Education to spending in the rest of the Federal Government, the difference is dramatic. Since the 1980s, the Department of Education's spending has increased by 370 percent—370 percent. All other forms of spending have increased, on average, about 195 percent.

Yet the scores remain stagnant, both for reading and for math. Now, looking at these numbers, I think it is pretty clear why President Trump is calling for us to shut down the Department of Education altogether. He wants to—as we know, he wants to return education to our States, and Louisiana provides a perfect example of why that is a good idea.

I want to be clear. I am not saying that Louisiana public education and secondary education is perfect. We are not well, but we are doing much better.

Over the past few years, Louisiana has actually outpaced the rest of the country in several measures of academic improvement and academic achievement in our K through 12 schools. According to the Nation's report card—that is what everybody looks to. The Nation's report card is put out every year by the Department of Education, grading our States on progress in elementary and secondary education. It might be the only decent thing that the Department of Education does. I forget the formal name of it, but we all refer to it as "the Nation's report card."

And according to that report card, Louisiana led the country in reading growth in 2024, and I want to show you that here in a second in a chart. But, first, I want to go back.

I should have emphasized this. Once again, these are the average reading and math scores for all the kids in America since the Department of Education was established—flat line, mostly flat line. But look what happened here—a dramatic drop in both math and education scores. That is the pandemic. That is what happened when people in power decided to shut down our schools.

It was more than one person, I understand that, but for all the people who made this decision—they should hide their heads in a bag. I mean, look what happened. We shut down our schools. We had the largest learning loss in modern history. That is just a fact.

Now, some people are going to disagree with me, and I am not saying that if they disagree with me, they are dumb. But I am saying that if they disagree with me, they better hope the dumbest person in the world doesn't die because they are going to take their place.

I want to come back. Let me go to Louisiana for a second. We didn't shut

down our schools but for a short period of time. You can see the results on this chart. Between 2019 and 2024, Louisiana's fourth graders went from ranking dead last in the country for reading proficiency—here we are, 48th—to ranking 16th. I am very proud of that. Math scores also steadily increased. Louisiana climbed from being ranked 50th to 38th. We went from 50th to 38th and 48th to 16th best in our country. Louisiana made this growth happen during the pandemic and afterwards.

The pandemic was probably one of the most challenging educational periods in our country's history. Parents remember. I remember. Even if your kids are grown, you remember. It was difficult for kids to try to learn from home. It was a disaster. Shutting down these schools was a disaster, and American kids suffered because of it.

According to the Education Recovery Scorecard, which measures how much of the loss we were able to gain back, American students—I am talking about all kids throughout America—are still one-half of a grade behind where students were when they were tested before the pandemic. On average, we lost half a grade. In many States, the academic loss was a full year. That means that fourth graders today can only read as well as third graders prior to the pandemic.

This is an entire generation of kids who fell behind because our people in power decided to shut down our schools. And many of our States, despite the billions of dollars we appropriated to help them, have failed to catch up.

I am going to say it again. The people who insisted on shutting down our schools during the pandemic are responsible for the largest learning loss in modern history. It was dumb, dumb, dumb. And again, I am not saying the people that made that decision to shut down the schools in America are the dumbest people in the world, but they better hope the dumbest people in the world don't die.

Louisiana, though, managed to thrive during this period and afterwards. Why is that? We looked around at what our friends and our neighbors were doing in America and across the world, and we didn't go with the flow. Only dead fish go with the flow. We didn't go with the flow. We said: Let's look at what other countries are doing and working and what other States are doing and working, and that is what we did.

First, we started giving our teachers the tools they needed to teach, and that is important.

In 2021—I remember it like it was yesterday—our State legislature passed a law mandating that all K through 3 teachers receive advanced training in the very best methods of teaching reading. Reading is fundamental. If you can't read, nothing else matters in terms of educational progress. So we sought out the best methods for teaching kids from kindergarten to the third

grade, the best methods to teach reading. We found them, and we educated our teachers in those methods, and it worked.

We tried to make it the case that no kid makes it to graduation day in Louisiana without being able to read. In fact, we passed another law a couple of years ago. I worked very hard on this. It says: If you are in the third grade, at the end of the third grade, you are going to be tested for reading. If you can't read at a third-grade level, we are going to test you again. If you can't read at a third-grade level at the end of the third grade, we are going to test you one more time. If you still fail, you are not going to the fourth grade. You are going to stay in the third grade until you learn how to read. You might be 16 years old in the third grade, but, by God, you are not going to the fourth grade until you can learn how to read.

Now, we don't just leave the kids on their own if they can't read at the end of the third grade after being tested a couple of times. We give them what we call high-dose tutoring. We tutor them and tutor them and tutor them until they can read, and then they can move on. Because do you know when kids drop out of school? Kids don't drop out of school in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade; they drop out of school in the 2nd grade, the 3rd grade, when they can't learn how to read and nobody cares. They are just socially promoted. We stopped doing that in Louisiana.

We also started giving parents a choice in public education.

You know, competition makes us better. It makes you better. It makes me better. Competition makes all of us better. Most parents—not all—most parents are far more invested in their kids' academic success than any teacher—I don't care how well-meaning the teacher is—than any teacher, any school administrator, or any Federal bureaucratic.

Most parents—not all, unfortunately, but most parents in America do not want their kids to be stuck in a school where violence is common and learning is rare. They don't.

Several States throughout the country—I am going to mention four in particular, but they are not the only ones. I am going to mention Florida, Iowa, North Dakota, and Utah. Congratulations to them all. They have implemented successfully school-choice programs. Utah may be the best, Mr. President. This gives parents the ability to do just what it says—gives parents a choice. They can send their kid to a public school. They can send their kid to a private school. They can send their child to a charter school.

Charter schools are tuition-free. Charter schools are public schools. They are tuition-free. But they are not run by the education bureaucracy; they are almost always run by parents and caring adults. They don't have to follow all the redtape in their local school district. They can experiment. They are independent, they are free, and they work.

Every one of these States that I mentioned—their programs are different, but each State that I mentioned—and I want to mention them again because they deserve praise—Utah, North Dakota, Iowa, and Florida. They all have a few things in common. They all allow parents to decide which school will get their kids' share of State and Federal tax dollars.

As you know, Mr. President, we fund our public schools through three sources of revenue. The largest is usually local government. In my State, about half of the money comes from local government, about 40 percent comes from the State government, and about 10 percent comes from the Federal Government. So it is mostly local money, but it is also State money to a large extent and some Federal money. But these are all tax dollars.

In these States that I just described, if parents are happy with the current public school their child is enrolled in, they can tell the State: OK, spend that money per child—that I just described—in my child's school. I am happy with my current school.

But if the parents aren't happy, they can seek another school that is a better fit and move that money. They can choose to take their child's funding to a different school to give that kid a better outcome.

This gives parents a choice, but it also—do you know what else it does? It gets some of our schools off their ice-cold, lazy butts. It makes schools compete, and competition makes all of us better.

There have been a number of studies on school-choice States, and almost all of them have found that these programs, this program of choice—you get to choose which public school you want your child to go to or you can send your child to a private school—this choice results in higher test scores, higher parental satisfaction, and higher student safety.

Last year, Louisiana joined the choice move. I am very proud of that. Our legislature passed a school-choice program. We call it the GATOR Act. Starting this fall, certain students—not all of our kids; we are going to eventually ramp it up so that it does impact all of our kids—but certain of our kids will be able to tap into State-funded education savings accounts that parents can use to pay for their child to attend a different public or a different private or a different charter school. Our goal is 3 years. In 3 years, every student in Louisiana will be eligible to participate in this choice program.

I want to say it again. I am not saying Louisiana's scores are perfect. I am not saying that. But it is undeniable that we are on the right track. We are. We stayed open for the most part during the pandemic. We trained our teachers. We have established standards. You can't go to the fourth grade until you can read. We have implemented parental choice.

I think President Trump—and I don't want to just limit this to Republicans. Many of my Democratic colleagues believe in choice as well. Sometimes they can't be as vocal about it, but I know; I talked to them. They understand, as does the White House, that America's future is sitting in these classrooms every day throughout the country.

I have said it a zillion times, a squillion times in Louisiana. The key to Louisiana's future is not the price of oil. It is not what the unemployment rate is. It is not who the Senator is or who the Governor is. It is education.

The status quo in America isn't working. We didn't make it any better as a result of our behavior with respect to the pandemic, and we are behind, but we can catch up if we just do the right things.

One of those things is returning education to the States. I hope we do dismantle the Department of Education. It is basically a conduit for money—except that money goes through the Department of Education and the 4,000 employees there, and they all put a condition on the money as if they knew what was best for each State. They don't. We ought to dismantle the Department of Education and send that money directly to the States.

Thank you, Mr. President, for your courtesy. Congratulations on the progress that the wonderful State of Utah has made in elementary and secondary education.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the American people, whether they are Democrats, Republicans, or Independents, understand that we have a corrupt campaign finance system which allows billionaires and their lobbyists to play an extraordinarily powerful role in electing candidates and defeating candidates and in crafting legislation. This is through both parties—the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. Money talks. But, today, with Republicans in control of the White House, of the U.S. Senate, and of the U.S. House, we are seeing day by day how this corrupt process plays out for the priorities of the Republican Party and for their billionaire campaign contributors.

Their so-called reconciliation bill—President Trump's "big, beautiful bill"—that the Republicans are putting together right now in the House—is a rather extraordinary piece of legislation. In many respects, given the crises facing our country, this legislation does exactly the opposite of what should be done. It is rather remarkable. You have got a problem, and instead of addressing the problem, they make the problem worse.

It is no secret that we have more income and wealth inequality in our Nation today than we have ever had. It is a serious problem. Today, the wealthiest person in the world—Mr. Elon

Musk, who is now worth more than \$400 billion—owns more wealth than the bottom 52 percent of American society. One person owns more wealth than the bottom 52 percent of American households. It is rather extraordinary. The top 1 percent now owns more wealth than the bottom 93 percent, and CEOs of large corporations now make about 350 times what their workers make. Unbelievably, according to the RAND Corporation, over the past 50 years, nearly \$80 trillion—that is a “t,” \$80 trillion—in wealth has been redistributed from the bottom 90 percent of the American people to the top 1 percent. So what we have seen is that the very wealthiest people in America are becoming much richer while, at the same time, 60 percent of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, and many millions of families are struggling to just put food on the table. That is the economic reality of today.

So what does President Trump’s and Republicans’ reconciliation bill do to address this grossly unfair and, in my view, unstable economic situation? What are they doing when the very rich are becoming much richer while working families struggle?

Well, here is the answer: This legislation makes the rich and wealthy campaign contributors even richer while making life harder and more stressful for the working families of our country. This legislation provides massive tax breaks to the top 1 percent and large corporations and pays for these tax cuts by cutting Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, nutrition, education, and other programs that are life and death for working families. Let me just give you one example of how outrageous this legislation is.

As currently written, this bill provides a \$235 billion tax break to the top two-tenths of 1 percent by increasing the estate tax exemption for couples to \$30 million. I am not talking about the top 2 percent. I am talking about the top two-tenths of 1 percent. The estate tax is only applicable to the very wealthiest people in this country who inherit substantial sums of money from a relative. Under this provision in this reconciliation bill, a couple that inherits \$30 million would now pay zero tax on that inheritance. Once again, this provision applies only to the top two-tenths of 1 percent of Americans—the very, very wealthiest people in this country and people who just coincidentally, I know, make massive campaign contributions to the Republican Party. Coincidence, no doubt, while 99.8 percent of Americans would not benefit by one nickel under this provision. This is the top two-tenths of 1 percent with \$235 billion in tax breaks.

Further, this legislation would provide a \$420 billion tax break to large, profitable corporations that are stashing their profits in the Cayman Islands and other offshore tax havens and which are, by the way, replacing American workers with robots. They get a tax break for throwing American work-

ers out on the street and replacing them with new technology.

The bottom line: The tax provisions in this reconciliation bill provide huge tax breaks to the people in our country who need it the least while doing great harm to ordinary Americans.

Again, whether you are a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent, you know that our current healthcare system is broken; it is dysfunctional; it is cruel; it is wildly expensive. Despite spending almost twice as much per capita on healthcare as any other major nation, some 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured, and we remain the only major country on Earth that does not guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right.

So, given that reality—the reality of a broken, wildly expensive healthcare system—how does this reconciliation bill address the healthcare crisis in America? Does it expand healthcare to more Americans and lower the number of uninsured? You have got 85 million right now. Does it lower that number? Does it take on the greed of the insurance companies and the drug companies that make tens and tens of billions of dollars every single year by ripping off the people of our country? Is that what this reconciliation bill does?

Not quite.

What this legislation, in fact, does do is cut Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act by \$715 billion, which the Congressional Budget Office has estimated would eliminate health insurance for 13.7 million Americans. In other words, this legislation makes a very bad situation, in terms of our healthcare crisis, catastrophically worse. If we were to pass this bill, the number of Americans who would be uninsured or underinsured would rise to almost 100 million Americans. In other words, instead of lowering the number of uninsured or underinsured people in this country, this bill greatly increases that number, but that is not all that this legislation does.

This bill, for the first time, forces millions of Medicaid recipients who make as little as \$16,000 a year to pay a copay of \$35 each time they visit a doctor when they get sick—up to 5 percent of their annual income. Well, what will be the impact of that?

According to a study from Yale University, some 68,000 Americans die every year because they don’t go to a doctor on time. I don’t know about the Presiding Officer, but I have talked to doctors in Vermont and all over this country, and they tell me that patients walk in their doors very, very sick.

They say to the patients: Well, why didn’t you come in earlier when you first felt your symptoms?

And what the patients will say is, Well, you know, I don’t have any health insurance or I can’t afford the copayment or I can’t afford the deductible or the deductible hasn’t kicked in yet.

And they don’t go. Some of these people walk into a doctor’s office so

sick that they die when that should not have been the case.

Now, if you are making a good salary—if you are making a couple hundred thousand dollars a year—the odds are that a \$35 copayment, which many people have, will not deter you from going to the doctor. You may not like it, but you fork over the 35 bucks, and you go to the doctor when you are sick, but if you are a low-income American and if you are struggling to pay the rent or you are struggling to buy food for your kids or to pay for childcare, that \$35 copay may be just too much, and the result is that you don’t see the doctor when you should.

When you throw almost 14 million Americans off of the health insurance they have and when you force low-income people to pay a \$35 copayment that they can’t afford to pay, no one can deny that many thousands more Americans will die if this bill is signed into law. If this bill is signed into law, we are providing a death sentence for many thousands and thousands of people. That is just the simple reality, and nobody can deny that.

Further, when Trump and the Republicans in the House make massive cuts to Medicaid, they are also making massive cuts to community health centers, which provide primary healthcare to 32 million low-income and working-class Americans. In other words, the cuts to Medicaid go well beyond the immediate impact on the individuals who will lose their health insurance; it impacts the entire healthcare community. Community health centers rely on Medicaid for 43 percent of their revenue. When you cut hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicaid, you are significantly cutting back on the access that millions of low-income and working-class Americans will have through primary healthcare.

Once again, community health centers, which provide healthcare to 32 million Americans—many of them in Vermont and all over this country—are struggling today. Make massive cuts to Medicaid, and it will be a disaster for these community health centers and the people who utilize them for primary care.

It is not just community health centers that would be devastated by this legislation. All across this country, rural hospitals are shutting down and facing enormous financial pressure—all over this country. This legislation will only accelerate those closures and bring increased hardship to rural America at a time when rural America already has quite enough problems.

Here is what Rick Pollack, the President and CEO of the American Hospital Association, said:

These proposed cuts will not make the Medicaid program work better for the 72 million Americans who rely on it. Instead, it will lead to millions of hard-working Americans losing access to healthcare and many of our Nation’s hospitals struggling to maintain services and stay open for their communities.

No question, this Medicaid cut will result in rural hospitals being shut down in increasing numbers.

Further, I hope my colleagues will listen to what Bruce Siegel, the president and CEO of America's Essential Hospitals, said in opposition to this bill:

Hospitals, which already operate on thin margins, cannot absorb such losses without reducing services or closing their doors altogether.

That is exactly what rural America does not need. We don't need more hospitals shutting down. We cannot allow that to happen.

Let's be clear. It is not just hospitals and community health centers that are opposed to this legislation; physicians throughout this country have also come out in strong opposition to this legislation.

Let me read from a statement issued today—today—in opposition to this bill from the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American College of Physicians, and the American Psychiatric Association:

Our organizations, representing more than 400,000 physicians who serve millions of patients, are alarmed by proposals to implement cuts or other structural changes to Medicaid during the budget reconciliation process. Cuts to Medicaid will have grave consequences for patients, communities and the entire health care system. With reduced federal funding, it will be harder for patients to access care, states will be forced to drop enrollees from coverage, and it will limit the health care services patients can access and cut payment rates.

The impact of cuts to Medicaid funding is significant and wide-reaching, and it must be reconsidered.

That is what medical organizations in our country, representing 400,000 doctors, are saying about this disastrous piece of legislation.

Further, at a time when some 22 percent of our seniors are trying to survive on less than \$15,000 a year—I will never understand how anybody, let alone a senior, can survive on less than \$15,000 a year—this legislation will make it much harder for seniors and people with disabilities to receive the care they desperately need in nursing homes.

When Medicaid provides over 60 percent of the revenue nursing homes rely on, slashing Medicaid will be a disaster for seniors and the disabled who need to be in nursing homes and their kids as well.

When you cut Medicaid, it is not just throwing up to 13 million people off of the health insurance they have; it is going to be very destructive for community health centers to provide the healthcare they need, very destructive to hospitals all over this country, especially small rural hospitals, and destructive to nursing homes as well.

That is not all that this legislation is doing. For the vast majority of Americans, including myself, who believe that women should have the right to

control their own bodies, this bill essentially defunds Planned Parenthood, which provides vital healthcare to millions of women.

It is not just our healthcare system that would be devastated under this legislation. While this bill provides massive tax breaks to billionaires, it would cut \$290 billion from nutrition programs. That would take food away from an estimated 4 million children and about half a million seniors.

I don't know if there is any religion in this world where it would be morally appropriate to take food out of the mouths of hungry kids and frail seniors in order to provide more tax breaks to billionaires. That is simply and grossly immoral.

Further, for the many young people in our country struggling with student debt and others who wonder how they will ever be able to afford to go to college, this bill cuts Federal funding for education by more than \$350 billion.

Now, what does that mean? Among other things, it means that the average student loan borrower with a bachelor's degree in America would see his or her loan payments increase by about \$3,000 a year or some \$244 a month. So at a time when college is now unaffordable for millions of young people, at a time when we desperately need a well-educated population and the best educated workforce in the world, this bill moves us in precisely the wrong direction.

Finally, at a time when we already spend more on the military than the next nine nations combined and when everyone knows—whether you are Republican, Democrat, or Independent, everyone knows there is massive waste and fraud in the Pentagon. The Pentagon has not been able to take an independent audit for God knows how many years. This bill increases defense spending by \$150 billion.

Let's be clear. This is just some of what is in this terrible bill. There are other provisions equally damaging which I have not touched upon.

It seems clear to me and I expect the majority of Americans that this bill reflects exactly what is wrong with our current corrupt political system.

When we have massive income and wealth inequality, our job is to demand that the wealthy and large corporations start paying their fair share of taxes, not do as this bill provides—give huge tax breaks to the very rich.

When 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured, our job should be to guarantee healthcare to every man, woman, and child in this country, not throw 13 million Americans off of the healthcare they currently have.

When children and seniors in this country go hungry here in the wealthiest country on Earth, our job should be to make sure that all Americans have the nutrition they need to live healthy lives, not increase the level of hunger in our country.

In many respects, this bill represents exactly why so many Americans are

giving up on democracy and have such contempt for Congress. At a time when the richest people have never ever had it so good, they see Republican leadership working overtime to make the billionaire class even richer.

At a time when a majority of Americans are struggling to put food on the table and pay for healthcare, they see Republican leadership making life even more difficult for average Americans.

This is a disastrous piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to oppose it. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, President Trump has been in office for 113 days. On nearly every one of those days, he has announced another very dangerous attack on the Constitution and on our system of justice.

The recent shocking news that the administration plans to deport migrants to Libya—a country that is in chaos, where the prisons are a version of hell—is just a recent example.

I hate to say this, but it is true. It is not just what the Trump administration does; it is the cavalier cruelty by which the administration does it. That cruelty is described in heart-wrenching detail by the Washington Post in a recent article entitled “Trump's 48-hour scramble to fly migrants to a Salvadoran prison.”

The article describes the Trump administration officials who, in their rush to deport a million migrants, have knowingly and flagrantly trampled on the rights of people who are in this country legally—in this country legally.

The Post reviewed court records and conducted interviews of more than 50 men who are believed to be held at the Terrorism Confinement Center, or CECOT, in El Salvador. The Post found:

[D]espite the administration's claims, many of the immigrants sent to El Salvador had entered the United States legally and were actively complying with U.S. immigration rules.

The review by the Post also found:

At least two of the men imprisoned in El Salvador had been approved—

Approved—

by the State Department to resettle as refugees in the United States after [very] extensive vetting by federal law enforcement authorities. . . . At least four had protections against removal through temporary protected status . . . granted to those fleeing Venezuela's humanitarian crisis. . . . Others had been active members of Venezuela's opposition and had open asylum claims.

In other words, these were folks who were friends of freedom. Suddenly, without producing any credible evidence, they are now called “terrorists”—no new evidence.

Prisoners at CECOT—they are abandoned, they are lost, and they are forgotten. They have no access to family or lawyers, no semblance of due process to prove their innocence, and no idea

when they will be released, if they will ever be released.

According to the Post article, Secretary of State Rubio told Bukele that the migrant prisoners would remain there for a year “or until a determination concerning their long-term disposition is made.” No end in sight. It is a very chilling statement.

The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the White House Press Secretary repeatedly referred to these migrants as “the worst of the worst” terrorists and criminals. These are folks who were here legally, following the rules.

Multiple investigations have determined that many of the migrants sent to CECOT in El Salvador literally have never been charged, let alone convicted of anything. The administration’s own lawyers have acknowledged this.

According to the Washington Post report, U.S. officials have refused to provide the names of those who were sent to CECOT. So our government has picked up people, spirited them away to El Salvador, and won’t even disclose the identity of the people who were arrested and deported.

The Washington Post asked three El Salvadoran officials for the identities of deportees who were sent there but received absolutely no response. That is why lawyers and journalists have described CECOT as a Kafkaesque dungeon. Once someone is led in chains through those iron gates, he is as good as disappeared forever.

One person the Trump administration disappeared to El Salvador was Andry Hernandez. He is a 31-year-old makeup artist. He left Venezuela to escape persecution, partly because of his sexual orientation, for which he was persecuted, and his political views, for which he was persecuted.

Andry opposed the Maduro regime. He did not cross the border illegally. He went to Mexico. He obtained an appointment—according to the rules—for an asylum interview. He had an interview, and he was found to have a credible fear of persecution. So he did everything right. Now we see photographs of Andry in CECOT, and they are gut-wrenching. He cries for his mother as guards slap him and forcibly shave his head. He yells out:

I’m not a gang member. I’m gay. I’m a stylist.

The photos also show our government’s alleged evidence for sending Andry to CECOT: tattoos of crowns, which are a symbol of a religious festival for Three Kings Day and have nothing to do with any gang-related activity.

The Trump administration officials have openly praised El Salvador’s President Bukele for receiving these migrants. He is a man who proudly calls himself a dictator—and he is. His rubberstamp legislature and the judiciary caved in to him and allowed him to circumvent their own constitution and run for a second term. Then he imposed a state of emergency, empowering him

to arrest and imprison anyone without charge—indeinitely.

The Trump administration officials have no qualms about paying millions of dollars to President Bukele to jail these migrants, who include folks who were here in this country legally.

The Washington Post article describes the Trump administration scrambling to arrest hundreds of people like Andry, often at their places of employment. And President Trump is then having them secretly and quickly often deported to El Salvador before the courts can even provide a hearing.

Amid these rampant violations of fundamental due process, the administration continues to just dis the Federal courts. And according to a Justice Department spokesperson, “Activist judges do not have jurisdiction to seize control of the President’s authority to conduct foreign policy, remove dangerous illegal aliens from our country, and keep Americans safe.”

This has nothing to do with that. It has to do with the rule of law and the role of the judiciary in our frame of government.

Multiple judges, by the way, appointed by Republicans and Democrats, including President Trump, have ruled against the administration’s efforts to forcibly deport people without any hearing whatsoever. And, by the way, how does forcibly disappearing somebody like Andry Hernandez Romero make us more safe?

Just last week, a Federal judge appointed by President Trump blocked the administration from summarily removing migrants in South Texas under a bogus assertion of the application of the Alien Enemies Act. This should not be happening in this country, and it shouldn’t be happening in El Salvador. It should not happen in Libya. It should not happen anywhere.

Laws matter. Due process matters. Justice matters. How we treat other human beings says more about us than it says about them.

It was Nelson Mandela who said:

No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but the lowest ones.

The Trump administration has made a clear decision to disrespect our laws, to disregard the rights of citizens and individuals who are entitled to due process, and to do it in a way that is cruel and disrespectful of the United States and its commitment to freedom and the rule of law.

Our Supreme Court has ruled that all people, including migrants, are entitled to due process, to an opportunity to rebut allegations against them before being deported. The Trump administration attack is not just on the rights of these individuals, but it really goes to the core of principles and practices established in law that are the foundation of our democracy. And it threatens, therefore, the rights and privileges of all American citizens.

I stand here on behalf of Vermonters who are appalled by this action. I stand

here as a Member of the U.S. Senate who believes it is my responsibility, in the face of these Trump actions, to stand up for the rights of people to have a hearing, to have a right to be brought before a magistrate or a judge, and not be deported without any due process whatsoever. This is important to our commitment as Members of the U.S. Senate to preserve the traditions of the Constitution, the rule of law, and the rights of individuals and the freedom that has been the blessing of our liberty since the founding of our country.

(The remarks of Mr. WELCH pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 224 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

Mr. WELCH. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LUMMIS. 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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee’s intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 24-0Q. This transmittal notifies a cost increase in excess of the total value previously described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 19-60 of April 23, 2020.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-0Q

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of the United Arab Emirates.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 19-60j, Date: April 23, 2020; Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On April 23, 2020, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 19-60 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a Foreign Military Sales Order (FMSO) II to provide funds for blanket order requisitions under a Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Agreement (CLSSA) for common spares/repair parts to support the United Arab Emirates' fleet of AH-64 Apache, UH-60 Black Hawk, and CH-47 Chinook aircraft, additional support, and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated value was \$150 million. There was no Major Defense Equipment (MDE) associated with this sale.

This transmittal notifies an extension of the previously notified Foreign Military Sales Order (FMSO) II for blanket order requisitions under a Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Agreement (CLSSA) for common spares/repair parts to support the United Arab Emirates' fleet of AH-64 Apache, UH-60 Black Hawk, and CH-47 Chinook aircraft, additional support, and other related elements of logistics and program support. There is no MDE being reported with this notification and, as such, the total MDE value remains \$0. The total estimated value of the newly extended, non-MDE articles and services is \$300 million; resulting in an increase in both the estimated non-MDE and overall total case value to \$450 million.

(iv) Significance: The proposed sale will contribute to the UAE's ability to effectively integrate with U.S.-led coalitions and operate independently in support of U.S. interests and the security of U.S. forces in-theater and is consistent with U.S. bilateral and multilateral defense plans in the CENTCOM region.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important partner in the region. This sale is consistent with U.S. initiatives to provide key partners in the region with modern systems that will enhance interoperability with U.S. forces and increase security.

(vi) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 12, 2025.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications

that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 24-118, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.32 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-118

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of United Arab Emirates.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE)* 0.65 billion.

Other \$0.67 billion.

Total \$1.32 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Six (6) CH-47F Block II Chinook helicopters with air-to-air refuel probe capability and extended range fuel tanks.

Sixteen (16) T-55-GA-714A engines (12 installed, 4 spares).

Fourteen (14) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGD devices with M-Code (12 installed, 2 spares).

Eight (8) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (6 installed, 2 spares).

Twenty (20) AN/ARC-231A communications security (COMSEC) radios (18 installed, 2 spares).

Twenty (20) M-240 machine guns (18 installed, 2 spares).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) classified software; AN/APR-39A radar warning receivers; AN/AVR-2B Laser Detecting Sets (LDS); AN/ARC-220 high frequency (HF) radios; KY-100M CONISEC terminals; aircraft survivability equipment (including impulse cartridges for cable cutters and aircraft cartridges); AN/ARN-147 Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni Directional Radio Range/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) receivers; WESCAM MX-15Hdi electro-optical/infrared imaging systems; AN/ARN-153 Tactical Airborne Navigation System (TACAN) radios; AN/APN-209 radar altimeters; AN/APX-123A identification friend or foe (IFF) transponders; KIV-77 COMSEC IFF cryptographic appliques; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; services to support the mission equipment; hardware and services required to implement partner-unique modifications; Fast Rope Insertion/Extraction Systems (FRIES); Internal Extended Range Fuel Sys-

tems (ERFS); in-flight refueling capability; firefighting equipment; ballistic armor protection systems; air worthiness support; spare and repair parts; communications equipment; personnel training and training equipment; site surveys; tool and test equipment; ground support equipment; repair and return; publications and technical documentation; Quality Assurance Team (QAT); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (AE-B-ZAR)

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None
(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 12, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Arab Emirates—CH-47F Chinook Helicopters

The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has requested to buy six (6) CH-47F Block II Chinook Helicopters with air-to-air refuel probe capability and extended range fuel tanks; sixteen (16) T-55-GA-714A engines, (12 installed, 4 spares); fourteen (14) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI) devices with M-Code (12 installed, 2 spares); eight (8) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning Systems (CMWS) (6 installed, 2 spares); twenty (20) AN/ARC-231A communications security (COMSEC) radios (18 installed, 2 spares); and twenty (20) M-240 machine guns (18 installed, 2 spares). The following non-MDE items will also be included: Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) classified software; AN/APR-39A radar warning receivers; AN/AVR-2B Laser Detecting Sets (LDS); AN/ARC-220 high frequency (HF) radios; KY-100M COMSEC terminals; aircraft survivability equipment (including impulse cartridges for cable cutters and aircraft cartridges); AN/ARN-147 Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni Directional Radio Range/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) receivers; WESCAM MX-15Hdi electro-optical/infrared imaging systems; AN/ARN-153 Tactical Airborne Navigation System (TACAN) radios; AN/APN-209 radar altimeters; AN/APX-123A identification friend or foe (IFF) transponders; KIV-77 COMSEC IFF cryptographic appliques; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders; services to support the mission equipment; hardware and services required to implement partner-unique modifications; Fast Rope Insertion/Extraction Systems (FRIES); Internal Extended Range Fuel Systems (ERFS); inflight refueling capability; firefighting equipment; ballistic armor protection systems; air worthiness support; spare and repair parts; communications equipment; personnel training and training equipment; site surveys; tool and test equipment; ground support equipment; repair and return; publications and technical documentation; Quality Assurance Team (QAT); U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.32 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of an important regional partner. The United Arab Emirates is a vital U.S. partner for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve the United Arab Emirates' capability to meet current and future threats by extending its range of flight operations. The UAE will use these assets in search and rescue, disaster relief, humanitarian support, and counterterrorism operations. The United Arab Emirates will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Boeing Helicopter Aircraft Company, located in Ridley Park, PA; and Honeywell Engine Company, located in Phoenix, AZ. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor. Implementation of this sale will require an estimated two U.S. Government and eight contractor representatives to travel to the UAE for up to sixty months for equipment de-processing, fielding, system checkout, training, and technical logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 24-118

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The CH-47F is a heavy-lift, newly manufactured aircraft equipped with two (2) T-55-GA-714A engines. The CH-47F has the common avionics architecture system (CAAS) cockpit, which provides aircraft system, flight, mission, and communication management systems. The CAAS consists of two dual-redundant data buses and an Ethernet local area network. The CAAS includes five multifunction displays, two general purpose processor units, two control display units, and two data concentrator units. The Navigation System has two Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI) devices, two Digital Advanced Flight Control Systems, one AN/ARN-147 (Very High Frequency (VHF) Omni Directional Radio Range/Instrument Landing System (VOR/ILS) marker beacon), one ARN-153 Tactical Air Navigation System (TACAN), two air data computers, and one AN/APN-209 radar altimeter system. The communications suite is as follows: two each AN/ARC-231A multi-mode radios providing VHF FM, VHF AM, ultra high frequency, HAVEQUICK II, and Demand Assigned Multiple Access satellite communications (SATCOM), and one each AN/ARC-220 high frequency radio. The identification friend or foe (IFF) will be the APX-123A, which provides the additional functionality of Mode 5. Aircraft survivability equipment will consist of the AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) and the AN/APR-39 Radar Signal Detecting Set (RSDS).

a. The AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) is the detection component of the suite of countermeasures designed to increase the survivability of current generation combat aircraft and special operations aircraft against infrared guided missiles.

b. The AN/ARC-231A is a software-defined radio that implements an NSA-modernized, Type 1, embedded cryptographic solution. It provides joint service standard line of sight, HAVEQUICK, and SINCARS electronic counter-countermeasures, along with integrated waveform SATCOM.

c. The AN/APX-123A IFF transponder is a space diversity transponder and is installed

on various military platforms. It provides identification, altitude, and surveillance reporting in response to interrogations from airborne, ground-based, and surface interrogators.

d. The KY-100M is a radio encryptor that has sensitive technology.

e. The AN/APR-39A Radar Signal Detecting Set provides the pilot with visual and audible warning when a hostile fire-control threat is encountered.

f. The KIV-77 is a common cryptographic appliqué for IFF that provide Mode-4 and Mode-5 capability.

g. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a ruggedized, portable, hand-held fill device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring electronic key material and data between compatible end cryptographic units and communications equipment. It supports both the DS-101 and DS-102 interfaces, as well as the cryptographic ignition key.

h. The AN/ARC-220 is a microprocessor-based communications system employing advanced digital signal processor technology. The AN/ARC-220 provides embedded automatic link establishment, serial tone data modem, text messaging, GPS position reporting, and anti-jam electronic counter-countermeasure functions.

i. The MX-15 HDI is a multi-sensor, multi-spectral imaging system with a range of features and benefits, including long range laser illumination, that offers superior high-definition imaging resolution from Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) cameras. The MX-15 HDI is ideal for medium-altitude covert intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and search and rescue missions, and it can be integrated into aerostat, fixed-wing, rotary-wing aircraft and unmanned aerial systems.

j. The EAGLE M+429 EGI common is a self-contained, all-altitude navigation system with an embedded GPS receiver. EAGLE M+429 Common provides Precise Positioning System (PPS) Y-code and M-code operation when loaded with NSA approved COMSEC keys via SKL.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that the United Arab Emirates can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to

the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-25 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for defense services estimated to cost \$130 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-25

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the United Arab Emirates

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$0.
Other \$130 million.
Total \$130 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case AE-D-QAM was below the congressional notification threshold at \$40.9 million (\$0 in MDE) and included Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); munitions support equipment; night vision device (NVD) support and spare equipment; spare parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; site surveys; studies and surveys; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The Government of the United Arab Emirates has requested that the case be amended to include additional F-16 aircraft components, spares, and accessories and other related elements of logistics and program support. This amendment will cause the case to exceed the notification threshold, and thus notification of the entire program is required. The above notification requirements are combined as follows:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); munitions support equipment; night vision device (NVD) support and spare equipment; spare parts, consumables and accessories; repair and return support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; site surveys; studies and surveys;

transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; aircraft components, spares, and accessories; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (AE-D-QAM).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: May 12, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Arab Emirates—F-16 Sustainment

The Government of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has requested to buy additional F-16 aircraft components, spares, and accessories; and other related elements of logistics and program support that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was below the congressional notification threshold. The original Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case, valued at \$40.9 million (\$0 in MDE), included Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); munitions support equipment; night vision device (NVD) support and spare equipment; spare parts, consumables and accessories; repair and return support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; site surveys; studies and surveys; transportation support; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services. The estimated total cost is \$130 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major defense partner. The UAE is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve the United Arab Emirates' ability to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity to meet its national defense requirements. The United Arab Emirates will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There are no principal contractors associated with this potential sale. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of additional U.S. Government or U.S. contractor representatives to the UAE.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following documents be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUMMARY—THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF FUNDING CUTS TO U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

(April 2, 2025)

"In less than two months, the Trump Administration has undone six decades of investments that made the United States more respected and influential than any other nation. The resulting chaos has left us weaker and more vulnerable. Like all of my colleagues, I have always supported reforming government and making sure our tax dollars are spent wisely. But this administration has ignored U.S. laws enacted by Congress—cutting foreign assistance programs and USAID staff that are essential for our national security." Ranking Member Senator Jeanne Shaheen

On April 2, 2025, Senator Shaheen hosted a public roundtable for Senators to examine the profound consequences of the Trump Administrations' cuts to U.S. global health programs. The panel highlighted the increased risks to the health of Americans from diseases, including drug-resistant TB and Ebola, to Americans livestock and plant farmers from bird flu and plant diseases, and the increase in global mortality from cuts to vaccines, HIV prevention, malaria, maternal care, newborn care and water and sanitation programs.

TOP LINE IMPACT OF GLOBAL HEALTH CUTS

Our 50-country network for stronger surveillance to deadly diseases from bird flu to swine fever [is] gone.

Our emergency response system that cut response times to global outbreaks from greater than two weeks to less than 48 hours [is] gone.

AIDS programs to prevent new cases of HIV in high-risk populations [is] gone

Programs for preventing child and maternal deaths that reached 93 million women and children under 5 in 2023 and added 6 years of life on average [has been] cut 92%.

Lifesaving tuberculosis programs cut [by] 56%.

Lifesaving water and sanitation programs cut [by] 86%.

Funding for GAVI, the global vaccine alliance, which was set to vaccinate half a billion children [was] terminated and, if not restored, will cost 500,000 lives a year and drive higher exposure to measles in the U.S.

Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

QUOTES FROM PANELISTS ON THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CUTS ARE REPRESENTED BELOW

Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

Dan Schwarz, Vice President, Management Sciences for Health

Nicholas Enrich, former Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

USAID PROGRAMS ARE COST-EFFECTIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

"I led 800 health staff in [USAID] headquarters working alongside more than 1,600 staff in 65-plus countries. With less than half the budget of my Boston hospital system . . . they saved lives by the millions and contained disease threats everywhere. The new administration not only shuttered this work, they fired the staff of the entire agency, terminated 86% of its programs, and kneecapped the rest—all against Congressional directives. They dismantled the US's largest civilian force advancing global stability, peace, economic growth, and survival. And they have done it in a way maximized loss of life and mismanagement of taxpayer dollars." Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

"So, you know, for USAID, in the last six inspector general reports, 94% of the spend-

ing had been audited, 0.3% were found to have issues. Half of that was reclaimed. That is not an enterprise that has been, you know, utterly driven by, criminal behavior." Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

CUTS ARE INCREASING HEALTH RISK FOR AMERICANS

"The safety of Americans is very much at risk as global health security programs are shuttered. Programs that . . . addressed things like the plague, Ebola, [and] drug-resistant tuberculosis. Those have suddenly ended with no warning, even as . . . the United States experienced the worst tuberculosis outbreaks in decades. Emerging health programs . . . helped address emerging health threats at their source in other countries. They're gone." Dan Schwarz, Vice President at Management Sciences for Health

" . . . And I think it should be clear to all of us by now that outbreaks abroad do not stay overseas. That's why Congress has appropriated millions and millions of dollars to shore up early warning systems, surveillance and fragile health systems around the world so that we can protect and detect and respond to diseases early and . . . so that we can get them before they get out of control, before they come to our borders. And unfortunately, these are exactly the programs that have been terminated." Whistleblower Nicholas Enrich, former Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

"[W]e have had a global reduction in, childhood deaths, childhood mortality in the U.S. and abroad of 75% over the last 50 years. 40% of that benefit is from vaccines alone. 60% of that benefit is from measles vaccine alone . . ." Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

THE PRC IS STEPPING UP WHERE THE U.S. IS STEPPING BACK

"That support has been withdrawn and the sustainability and the long-term system of strengthening . . . is questionable for the future. The People's Republic of China is filling that gap. The people in the communities that we serve have lost services, and they are quick to, frankly speaking, look towards other options for [the] . . . support that they need." Dan Schwarz, Vice President at Management Sciences for Health

PEOPLE ARE DYING BECAUSE OF CUTS TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

"About the claim that no one has died. It's absolutely false. [A] medical facility [in Burma] was cut off with no access to oxygen [and] no alternative delivery system. A woman who had come with severe pneumonia had to be turned away because the facility was shut down. And she died three days later from pneumonia. Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

MALARIA DEATHS ARE INCREASING UNNECESSARILY

"U.S. global health efforts have led to a decline in over 48% of malaria deaths globally in Nigeria. During the time that I am delivering these remarks to you, at least two children will die of malaria in Nigeria." Dan Schwarz, Vice President at Management Sciences for Health

EBOLA RESPONSE PROGRAMS TERMINATED

"On February 25, 2025, Elon Musk said in a White House cabinet meeting that Ebola activities had been accidentally turned off, and then turned back on immediately. This was also false, as none of the activities were approved, and no funds had been made available for any Ebola response activities." Whistleblower Nicholas Enrich, former Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

HIV-AIDS TRANSMISSION AND DEATHS ARE INCREASING BECAUSE OF CUTS TO PEPFAR FUNDING

Cases of HIV have risen and they're seeing now complications of HIV. There's a disease called *Cryptococcus meningitis* [where] . . . a parasite get[s] to the brain because of the loss of immune systems. [The] U.S. had supported . . . a treatment for *Cryptococcus meningitis* and it was sitting on shelves in the warehouse, but inaccessible to this person. And this person died, and they still don't have that treatment on hand to be able to address these problems. Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

American scientists had developed a drug called *Lenacapavir* that could prevent or treat HIV with a single injection that lasted six months and perhaps even a year. Deploying this game-changer in high-risk communities through PEPFAR could finally bring an end to HIV as a devastating public health threat." Cuts to PEPFAR will prevent USAID from deploying this game-changing tool. Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

"We're in the opposite place now. We're seeing babies born again with HIV at rates we haven't seen before. We're seeing HIV transmissions now regularly occurring." Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

TUBERCULOSIS

"USAID [had] launched a trial of a four-dose pill that could prevent tuberculosis in exposed individuals and dramatically reduce cases. This intervention is at risk from funding cuts. Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

"When the [USAID] Inspector General, Paul Martin, reported on half a billion in food aid that was rotting in warehouses, having lost controls to prevent diversion to actors who should not get it, the response was not to address the problem, but instead to fire the inspector general." Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

"If you want to see waste, look no further than the interest accruing on unpaid bills since payments were stopped—interest at levels we have never seen before. If you want to see fraud, look into the contractual promises we have made and then broken, forcing our partners into debt for relying on the deals we made with them. If you want to see abuse, look at how the administration has prioritized payments for the few firms that have the ear of senior officials." Whistle-blower Nicholas Enrich, former Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION MEANS NO ROLE IN THE FLU VACCINE

"On day one . . . the United States not only said we were ending membership in the WHO, but [that] our agencies could no longer provide funds immediately to WHO . . . and could no longer even communicate [with the WHO]. [There are] issues like getting . . . the fall flu vaccine, which depends on a WHO process that accesses specimens from people in China . . . where we don't have direct access. [The WHO] directly provides that capability for the United States to guide the determination of our own fall flu vaccine. Now, that's still going to happen . . . but not with direct U.S. involvement and not with [the U.S. on] an advisory committee doing the technical oversight." Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

PANDEMIC RISK AND ZOO NOTIC VIRUSES

"[The] Food and Agriculture Organization . . . is a critical network that we have now brought . . . 49 countries around the world [into]; 75% of our pandemic risks come from animal to human transfer of disease. [FAO] are the ones who are out in the communities monitoring bird flu, monitoring for anthrax, monitoring for, African swine fever, which doesn't necessarily transfer to humans but does devastate our agricultural sector. And [FAO] enable[s] a response that can contain matters before they, before they get out of control. That capability alone . . . is often [the] highest priority investment that [countries] . . . call for. And shutting off that capability is blinding ourselves to what we need to be able to see the surveillance in the first place and then critical to getting that response time." Dr. Atul Gawande, former Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID

ORAL STATEMENT BY NICK ENRICH

Ranking Member Shaheen, Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Thank you for convening this important round table.

I am Nicholas Enrich, a career civil servant with 15 years in the federal government under four administrations—both Democrat and Republican.

Currently, I serve as the Acting Assistant Administrator for Global Health at USAID, overseeing approximately \$10 billion annually appropriated by Congress to strengthen health systems to:

Prevent and respond to infectious diseases, improve maternal and child health,—and diagnose and treat HIV, TB and Malaria.

As a result of my lawful whistleblowing, I was placed on administrative leave on March 2, 2025.

On January 28, the day I was designated as the Acting Assistant Administrator, Secretary of State Rubio issued a waiver for Life-Saving Humanitarian Assistance to President Trump's Executive Order pausing foreign assistance.

From Day One, implementing this waiver was my highest priority. My team recognized it as the only way to mitigate the harm caused by the sudden halt of over a thousand of our programs preventing pandemics and suffering worldwide.

I challenge the administration to provide evidence of the waste, fraud, and abuse they claim to have found at USAID. In reality, USAID is among the most effective agencies in terms of return on investment, with strong financial oversight ensuring accountability of our programs.

If you want to see waste, look no further than the interest accruing on unpaid bills since payments were stopped—interest at levels we have never seen before.

If you want to see fraud, look into the contractual promises we have made—and then broken—forcing our partners into debt for relying on the deals we made with them.

If you want to see abuse, look at how the administration has prioritized payments for the few firms that have the ear of senior officials.

Despite our efforts, by the time I was placed on Leave, we had been fully prevented from implementing the waiver. Our lifesaving programs had been effectively shut down.

By March 2, when I was pushed out:

Nearly all of the contracts needed for our life-saving work had been terminated—abruptly shuttering clinics, interrupting supply chains, and cutting patients off from treatment for deadly diseases, like tuberculosis, risking a rise in new, potentially untreatable, drug-resistant strains.

All Global Health programming—aside from HIV—had been excluded from the Agen-

cy's definition of lifesaving. Contrary to the common understanding of the term "lifesaving", USAID was no longer able to respond to deadly outbreaks under the waiver.

With very few exceptions, payments were halted for our lifesaving work. USAID's efficient and reliable financial system was destroyed, and replaced by a wasteful and inaccurate patchwork that fails to provide needed funding to implement our programs.—and—

And—The Global Health workforce was slashed from nearly eight hundred to just over sixty, eliminating key experts—doctors, epidemiologists, and public health specialists.

Those of us who have dedicated our careers to helping the most vulnerable are all too aware of the damage the dismantling of USAID has caused. However, this damage will not only affect people in need, around the world, but also us, here at home. This will impact our health, our well being, our national security.

This crisis has resulted from deliberate actions and obstructions by leadership at USAID, the Department of State, and DOGE. Their reckless disregard for human life and national security prevented me and my team from implementing lifesaving assistance.

Ultimately, with nearly all of the awards terminated, and with no path for funding new activities, it had finally become clear that there was only one thing left to do. That was to document, in a series of memos, our repeated and increasingly desperate requests, pleas, and warnings, regarding the need to implement activities to avert loss of life on a massive scale,—and substantial risks to U.S. national security.

On March 2, as my last official act before I was sent home, I sent those memos to the Global Health staff, to keep for their records, in the event the blame game ends up pointing the finger at them.

That brings us to today.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak before you.

SENATE ROUNDTABLE ON THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF FUNDING CUTS TO U.S. GLOBAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

(Tuesday, April 1 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.)

TESTIMONY OF ATUL GAWANDE, MD, MPH

I was the Assistant Administrator for Global Health at USAID during the last administration. It was the best job in medicine most people haven't heard of. I led 800 health staff in headquarters working alongside more than 1,600 staff in 65-plus countries. With less than half the budget of my Boston hospital system—about \$9 per U.S. household—they saved lives by the millions and contained disease threats everywhere.

Before my departure on January 20, I briefed this committee about several major opportunities ahead for the next few years. Among them were three breakthroughs. The journal *Science* had just declared one of them the scientific breakthrough of 2024. American scientists had developed a drug called *Lenacapavir* that could prevent or treat HIV with a single injection that lasted six months and perhaps even a year. Deploying this game-changer in high risk communities through PEPFAR could finally bring an end to HIV as a devastating public health threat.

Similarly, USAID launched a trial of a four-dose pill that could prevent tuberculosis in exposed individuals and dramatically reduce cases—while three TB vaccines complete testing.

And USAID was just about to scale up a novel, inexpensive package of existing drugs and treatments that was found to reduce severe hemorrhage after childbirth—the leading cause of maternal hemorrhage—by 60%.

American companies, nonprofits, and scientists played key roles in these breakthroughs, and they were poised to transform global health over the next five to ten years. The next administration had no reason not to pursue these objectives. Congress had already funded them. There was nothing partisan about them at all.

But instead of saving millions of lives, we got surgery with a chainsaw. The new administration not only shuttered this work, they fired the staff of the entire agency, terminated 86% of its programs, and kneecapped the rest—all against Congressional directives. They dismantled the U.S.'s largest civilian force advancing global stability, peace, economic growth, and survival. And they have done it in a way maximized loss of life and mismanagement of taxpayer dollars.

Here are few specific examples of the global health damage:

Our 50-country network for stronger surveillance to deadly diseases from bird flu to swine fever—gone.

Our emergency response system that cut response times to global outbreaks from >2 weeks to <48 hours—gone.

AIDS programs to prevent new cases of HIV in high-risk populations—gone

Programs for preventing child and maternal deaths that reached 93 million women and children under 5 in 2023 and added 6 years of life on average—cut 92%

Lifesaving tuberculosis programs—cut 56%
Lifesaving water and sanitation programs—cut 86%

Funding for Gavi, the global vaccine alliance, which was set to vaccinate half a billion children—terminated and, if not restored, will cost 500,000 lives a year and drive higher exposure to measles in the U.S.

The damage is already devastating. And it is all part of a larger dismantling of America's world-leading capacity for scientific discovery, health care delivery, and public health that goes well beyond USAID. They are using the same playbook to purge staff and destroy programs in across our entire domestic infrastructure in government, universities, and medical center. And they inserting political controls on NIH science research, FDA approvals, and CDC guidance.

For the sake of power, they are destroying an enterprise that added more than 30 years to U.S. life expectancy and made America the world leader in medical technology and innovation. We need you in Congress to stop this process. USAID cannot be restored to what it was. But we must salvage what we can of our health, science, and development infrastructure and stop the destruction.

DAN SCHWARZ—VICE PRESIDENT AT
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH
TESTIMONY AT SENATE GLOBAL HEALTH
ROUNDTABLE

Good afternoon Ranking Member Shaheen and members of the Committee. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you today about the impact of the recent terminations of global health programs.

My name is Dan Schwarz, I grew up in a small town in Appalachia and am a practicing pediatrician and a Vice President at Management Sciences for Health.

MSH is a Virginia-based nonprofit that works with communities to save lives by sustainably strengthening country health systems. MSH has been in operation since 1971 and has worked in more than 150 countries, often in close partnership with the U.S. Government.

My remarks today are informed by my career as a doctor, both here in the U.S. and abroad. They are guided by my oaths to care for all and to do no harm. I offer them in the spirit of an objective analysis of the impact

recent program terminations will have on the health of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

I would like to begin by telling you about one of the most effective methods of stopping malaria. Quite simply, it involves providing preventative treatment to women and children most at risk throughout the rainy season—the most dangerous time for malaria. In Nigeria, where we work, they have over 25% of the world's malaria infections and 30% of malaria deaths—that's about 200,000 deaths a year. 70% of those deaths are children under the age of 5. During the time that I am delivering these remarks to you, at least two children will die of malaria in Nigeria.

Every year, with the generous support provided by the American people, at the beginning of the rainy season we work with the Nigerian ministry of health to get the medicines and train the health workers who provide it to those children.

This has prevented millions of cases of malaria and saved hundreds of thousands of lives. It's extraordinary life-saving work that Americans should be very proud of.

This year, however, this will not happen. That is because these U.S. government-funded projects have been terminated. Millions of children are at risk of sickness and many will die. We should not be proud of that.

These stories are not unique. Thousands of programs have been terminated without warning, with deadly consequences for communities around the world. At MSH we had 15 USAID projects terminated; only five remain. We have let go of over 1,000 of our team members—colleagues who live and work in these communities, providing this life-saving treatment.

At MSH, we focus on building strong health systems. Viewed from this perspective, the recent terminations are even more concerning. The elimination of foundational programs like maternal health or health worker training only serves to undermine the effectiveness of what programs remain. These cuts will devastate entire communities.

But let's bring it home, right here in this city, in this very room. The safety of Americans is very much at risk as global health security programs are shuttered. Programs we implemented that responded to the plague, Ebola, and drug-resistant tuberculosis have suddenly ended, even as the United States experiences its largest TB outbreak in decades. These programs helped address emerging health threats at their source and built the capacity of country governments to confront disease themselves.

Today, we should be discussing how to make America's investment in global health more efficient and effective. We should be discussing how we can integrate programs such as HIV and malaria treatment into countries' primary health care systems and reduce reliance on outside sources. Or how we can help countries to finance their own health needs. Instead, we are asking if life-saving foreign assistance is of benefit to the U.S. The answer to that question is and always has been a resounding "yes." We have so much to be proud of. But with the recent program terminations, we are turning our backs on that. So much progress has already been lost in the past two months, and so many lives will be lost with it.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to speak with you today. I look forward to your questions.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN ALLEN C. BRADY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life of U.S. Navy

CAPT Allen Brady who passed away on April 24, 2025, at the age of 95. We remember Captain Brady for his bravery and his sacrifice to our Nation through his 30 years of Active Duty. Captain Brady entered the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1947 and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy on June 1, 1951, first assigned as a signal officer aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Palau* (CVE-122) from July 1951 to May 1952, followed by flight school. Captain Brady proudly served our Nation in several assignments during the Cold War, Korean war, and Vietnam war. During the Vietnam war, Captain Brady served as an A-6A pilot and executive officer of VA-85 at NAS Oceana and deployed aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Kitty Hawk* (CVA-63) from September 1966 until he was forced to eject over North Vietnam and was taken as a prisoner of war on January 19, 1967. He remained a prisoner of war for 2,237 days from January 19, 1967, to March 4, 1973, when he was released during Operation Homecoming. Captain Brady received a Silver Star for his time as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, where he was subjected him to extreme mental and physical cruelties in an attempt to obtain military information and false confessions, yet Captain Brady resisted. He showed incredible bravery and determination in that brought honor to his naval service, the U.S. Armed Forces, and the United States of America.

Captain Brady continued to serve his country until his retirement from the Navy on October 1, 1979. On behalf of all Floridians, our entire country, and my fellow Navy sailors, it is an honor to remember the life of CAPT Allen C. Brady, a true American hero.

TRIBUTE TO HADLEY DEAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Hadley for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Hadley is a native of Washington, DC. She is currently a junior at Madeira School in McLean, VA. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Hadley for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CORA MASTERS BARRY

• Ms. ALSOBROOKS. Mr. President, Cora Masters Barry has been a champion for youth, families, and sports,

benefitting Marylanders and our neighbors in the District of Columbia alike. Mrs. Barry is the former first lady of Washington, DC, and is the founder and CEO of the Recreation Wish List Committee, an organization of area businesses, government and community leaders who work to renovate and improve recreation centers.

She began her impactful career in the world of sports as one of the first women to serve as a boxing commissioner and was a tireless advocate for safety in boxing. She worked alongside Members of Congress to help write legislation to regulate the sport and was a member of the executive committee for the World Boxing Council and the International Boxing Federation.

Mrs. Barry has also made her mark on the tennis world, serving on the Community Development Committee and the National Junior Tennis League Committee of the United State Tennis Association. She helped Serena Williams establish a school for girls in Africa and served as vice president of the Oracene Williams Learning Foundation to maximize opportunities for youth with special needs. She also helped spearhead the Southeast Tennis and Learning Center.

Mrs. Barry, a former tenured professor of political science at the University of the District of Columbia, specialized in Black politics, the Presidency, and the Constitution. She has been an advocate for voter education, registration and mobilization.

I ask that you join me and the residents of Maryland in offering my well wishes to Cora Masters Barry on the occasion of her 80th birthday. And I am so grateful for the impact this luminary has had, not only on the District, but Marylanders as well.●

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE TOWN & COUNTY CLUB

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Town & County Club in Hartford, CT, a remarkable organization dedicated to advancing the interests of women.

The Town & County Club is a private women's city club located in Hartford's historic Asylum Hill neighborhood. The club was formed in 1925—just 5 years after women gained the right to vote—by a group of 400 progressive and determined women. Investing their own resources and time, the early membership was committed to three objectives: to provide an organized center for women's work, thought, and action; to advance the interests of women; and to promote the sciences, literature, and art.

The focal point of the club is the historic 1895 Theodore Lyman House. At this beautifully maintained facility, the club serves as a retreat for both members and guests to converse, connect, and celebrate, hosting a wide variety of events, special occasions, and other activities. This includes every-

thing from birthday parties, weddings, anniversaries, and memorials to business events, conferences, and presentations.

The club also undertakes significant and remarkable philanthropic activities. This includes the Town & County Club Scholarship Fund, created over 23 years ago to assist women who are actively pursuing an undergraduate college degree in the Greater Hartford area. To date, over \$350,000 in scholarship funds have been awarded to 142 deserving women, the majority of whom were both working and raising a family as they pursued their education. The club also hosts the Lyman Heritage Preservation Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to restore and preserve the historic property, as well as engage in educational and outreach initiatives in local communities.

The Town & County Club is celebrating their 100th anniversary on May 21—a truly remarkable milestone—and remains dedicated to its original principles of scholarship and the uplifting of women. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the Town & County Club and the outstanding services they provide for the Greater Hartford community.●

RECOGNIZING TIMBER CITY CHIROPRACTIC

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Timber City Chiropractic of Maquoketa, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In December 2003, Dr. Don Schwenker and his wife Colleen opened Timber City Chiropractic. Don, a Maquoketa native, served Active Duty in the Air Force for 8 years. He then joined the Iowa Air National Guard and studied at Palmer College of Chiropractic. After graduating with a concentration in family chiropractic and acupuncture, Don and his wife moved back to Maquoketa. The couple recognized the need for a holistic family chiropractor in their hometown and opened their family practice. Timber City Chiropractic is committed to serving families and blue-collar workers across the community, calling itself the mechanic of the human body. The couple rented a local building for 5 years, and in 2008, they purchased a building on S. Main Street that allowed them to expand both its services and role in the community.

Timber City Chiropractic offers a full range of chiropractic and acupuncture services tailored to each client's individual needs. The business works with its clients to set up programs to deliver the best possible results when dealing with both acute and chronic discomfort. Additionally, the small business

has a broad selection of holistic services, including cellular body detoxification, hydrotherapy, and massage therapy, all performed by a licensed massage therapist. Don works as the clinic's president, primary chiropractor, and acupuncturist, while Colleen manages the front office, billing, and social media. Timber City Chiropractic is also an associated provider for Veterans Affairs (VA) and provides our veterans across eastern Iowa with critical care.

Timber City Chiropractic participates as a member of the Maquoketa Area Chamber of Commerce and is a proud supporter of veterans in the community. Over the years, Don and Colleen both served on the chamber board, and each served a term as president. In 2024, the chamber honored Don and Colleen with the Volunteers of the Year award. Previously, the chamber awarded Don the Executive Director's Award, as well as the President's Award. In 2013, Don and two other community members cofounded the Jackson County Economic Alliance. Additionally, Don served on the Maquoketa City Council. He later became the mayor of Maquoketa for 10 years, and today, he is a Jackson County supervisor. Colleen is actively involved with the Maquoketa Athletic Boosters, and in 2014, the Maquoketa Chamber of Commerce awarded her the Volunteer of the Year. The couple also teamed up with the chamber to revive the Timber City Adventure Race, a signature triathlon fundraiser for Maquoketa. This December, Timber City Chiropractic will celebrate its 22nd business anniversary in Iowa.

I want to congratulate the Schwenkers for their entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to providing meaningful chiropractic and acupuncture services to workers and families across eastern Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

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-929. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to the Republic of Korea (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-099) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-930. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed transfer of major defense equipment with an original acquisition value of approximately \$242,284,321 to Ukraine (Transmittal No. RSAT 25-10931) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-931. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, 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 Colombia in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-121) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-932. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, 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 Denmark in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-032) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-933. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, 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 25-008) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-934. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to the Republic of Korea in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-112) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-935. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-011) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-936. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to France and the UK in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-018) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-937. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Brazil, Chile, and the UK in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-012) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-938. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, in-

cluding technical data, and defense services and the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad to Switzerland, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Slovenia in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-107) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-939. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, 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 Australia in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-077) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-940. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, 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 Taiwan in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-119) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-941. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Luxembourg and Mexico in the amount of \$50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-105) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-942. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 40(g)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act, the report of proposed exports to Syria (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-007) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-943. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 40(g)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act, the report of proposed exports to Syria (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-029) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-944. A communication from the General Counsel, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Conference's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-945. A communication from the Executive Director, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-946. A communication from the Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer, Postal Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002

(No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-947. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-948. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-66, "Residential Building Permit Classification Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-949. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-63, "DC Legendary Musicians Way Designation Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-950. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-64, "Girl Scouts' Way Designation Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-951. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-65, "Closing of a Portion of a Public Alley and Dedication of Land for Alley Purposes in Square 756, S.O. 24-00310, Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-952. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Federal Student Loan Repayment Program Calendar Year 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

*Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

*Scott Pappano, of Pennsylvania, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

*Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

*Michael Cadenazzi, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

*Sean O'Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

*Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army.

*Daniel Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

*Katherine Sutton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

By Mr. CRAPO for the Committee on Finance.

*Rodney Scott, of Oklahoma, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. LEE:

S. 1721. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal green energy tax subsidies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 1722. A bill to fund human spaceflight infrastructure and commercialization of space support at Johnson Space Center; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 1723. A bill to support the creation and implementation of State policies, as well as the expansion of existing State policies, for improving the quality and affordability of charter school facilities and to authorize the provision of technical assistance that will support the growth and expansion of high-quality charter schools; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 1724. A bill to revise the boundaries of a unit of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Topsail, North Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 1725. A bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act with respect to the importation of live dogs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 1726. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that the Department of Veterans Affairs definition of "medical services" includes medically necessary automobile adaptations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 1727. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to permit employee stock ownership plan participants to benefit from the full amount of beneficial ownership that can be accrued in the plan while also fully realizing the benefits of saving for retirement in a defined contribution plan; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 1728. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to expand the membership of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans to include representatives of employee ownership organizations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1729. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to streamline conservation practice standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1730. A bill to provide adequate funding for water and sewer infrastructure, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 1731. A bill to require the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy in response to the global basing intentions of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1732. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat energy efficient kegs as efficient commercial building property for purposes of the energy efficient commercial buildings deduction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 1733. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to provide for increased transferability of Federal-aid highway funds; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1734. A bill to authorize grants for crime victims to be distributed to angel families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 1735. A bill to require certain agencies to include a page on the website of the agency relating to permit applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1736. A bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify the availability and appropriateness of training for local food service personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 1737. A bill to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, and to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 1738. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education from receiving gifts from or entering into contracts with foreign countries of concern; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 1739. A bill to provide for advocacy of support for nuclear energy, and establish a nuclear energy assistance trust fund, at the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other international financial institutions, as appropriate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1740. A bill to bolster United States engagement with the Pacific Islands region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1741. A bill to ensure transparency with respect to the impact of certain tariffs on the prices of goods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. REED):

S. 1742. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture as oppressive child labor; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. GALLEGOS):

S. 1743. A bill to require the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere to conduct an economic impact study of the financial costs of extreme heat, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 1744. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to include Taiwan among the list of recipient countries with respect to which shorter certification and reporting periods apply and to expedite licensing for allies transferring military equipment to Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 1745. A bill to repeal certain provisions of the CHIPS Act of 2022 and the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act, to limit Federal mandates imposed on entities seeking Federal funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1746. A bill to establish the Commission on American Quantum Information Science Dominance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 1747. A bill to promote the use of the Classical Learning Test (CLT) at military service academies and Federally-run schools; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KIM, and Mr. KELLY):

S. Res. 218. A resolution condemning any acceptance of Presidential aircraft, or any other substantial gift, from a foreign government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 219. A resolution directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action in the name of the United States Senate to enforce the Foreign Emoluments Clause contained in clause 8 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mrs. MOODY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr.

BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BANKS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KIM, Ms. ERNST, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BENNET, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORENO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. REED):

S. Res. 220. A resolution designating the week of May 11 through May 17, 2025, as "National Police Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. Res. 221. A resolution congratulating the College of Idaho Yotes for winning the 2025 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Basketball National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KING, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. Res. 222. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2025 as "Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 223. A resolution commending and congratulating the Trinity College men's basketball team for winning the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men's Basketball National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 224. A resolution calling for the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid to address the needs of civilians in Gaza; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 83

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 83, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide enhanced penalties for convicted murderers who kill or target America's public safety officers.

S. 131

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the names of the Senator from Delaware

(Mr. COONS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) were added as cosponsors of S. 131, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a tax credit for nurse preceptors.

S. 167

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) 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. 180

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 180, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of grant amounts for providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) 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. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 539, a bill to reauthorize the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, and for other purposes.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, a bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, and for other purposes.

S. 1246

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the names of the Senator from North Caro-

lina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1246, a bill to establish the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a cabinet-level independent agency, and for other purposes.

S. 1303

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1303, a bill to permit the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum to be located within the Reserve of the National Mall, and for other purposes.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 1515

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to prohibit the Federal Insurance Office of the Department of the Treasury and other financial regulators from collecting data directly from an insurance company.

S. 1595

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1595, a bill to establish standards for trauma kits purchased using funds provided under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program.

S. 1597

At the request of Mr. SHEEHY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1597, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that agencies may not deduct labor organizations dues from the pay of Federal employees, and for other purposes.

S. 1600

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1600, a bill to protect hospital personnel from violence, and for other purposes.

S. 1623

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1623, a bill to require reciprocity from certain countries with respect to the reporting of official meetings with State and local officials, and for other purposes.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1668, a bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and individuals appointed to Senate-confirmed positions from issuing, sponsoring, or endorsing certain financial instruments, and for other purposes.

S. 1670

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1670, a bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to require investment advisers for passively managed funds to arrange for pass-through voting of proxies for certain securities, and for other purposes.

S. 1672

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1672, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify that a permit is not required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for a discharge resulting from the aerial application of certain products used for fire control and suppression, and for other purposes.

S. 1675

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1675, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, by adding an additional aggravating factor to be considered in determining whether a sentence of death is warranted.

S. 1683

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1683, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for Workforce Pell Grants.

S. 1709

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1709, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1711

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1711, a bill to address national security risks and prohibit the use of Federal funds for the procurement of certain vehicles and vehicle technologies produced or provided by entities based in certain countries, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 195

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator

from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 195, a resolution requesting information on El Salvador's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1741. A bill to ensure transparency with respect to the impact of certain tariffs on the prices of goods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 1741

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 "Truth in Tariffs Act".

SEC. 2. TARIFF IMPACT TRANSPARENCY.

(a) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this section, subject to subsection (b), no person may sell to a consumer in the United States a good without displaying to such consumer, in a clear and conspicuous manner, the portion of the price of such good that is attributable to a covered tariff, which shall be identified to the consumer as the "tariff surcharge".

(b) EXEMPTION.—The requirements of subsection (a) shall not apply to a sale made by a small business concern (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

(c) ENFORCEMENT BY THE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this section or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall enforce this section and the regulations promulgated under this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this Act.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates this section or a regulation promulgated under this section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(C) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(D) RULEMAKING.—The Commission may promulgate, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.

(2) COVERED TARIFF.—The term "covered tariff" means a tariff, including a tariff rate change—

(A) imposed on an emergency or other discretionary basis by the President; and

(B) that entered into force on or after January 20, 2025.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. REED):

S. 1742. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employment of children in tobacco-related agriculture as oppressive child labor; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 1742

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 "Children Don't Belong on Tobacco Farms Act".

SEC. 2. TOBACCO-RELATED AGRICULTURE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

Section 3(l) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(l)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence—

(A) by striking "in any occupation, or (2)" and inserting "in any occupation, (2)"; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon the following: "or (3) any employee under the age of eighteen years has direct contact with tobacco plants or dried tobacco leaves"; and

(2) in the second sentence, by striking "other than manufacturing and mining" and inserting "other than manufacturing, mining, and (as described in paragraph (3) of the first sentence of this subsection) tobacco-related agriculture,".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 218—CONDEMNING ANY ACCEPTANCE OF PRESIDENTIAL AIRCRAFT, OR ANY OTHER SUBSTANTIAL GIFT, FROM A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KIM, and Mr. KELLY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 218

Whereas the aircraft commonly referred to as "Air Force One" is a symbol of the United States;

Whereas Air Force One is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Office of the President of the United States;

Whereas Air Force One is equipped with some of the most sensitive technologies designed to transmit some of the most highly classified national security information of the United States;

Whereas the acceptance of Presidential aircraft from a foreign government—

(1) constitutes a substantial gift; and
(2) poses counter-intelligence and other national security concerns;

Whereas the acceptance of a substantial gift from a foreign government could unduly influence the foreign policies of the United States;

Whereas the acceptance of Presidential aircraft from a foreign government would establish a concerning precedent for the acceptance of substantial gifts from foreign governments without the consent of Congress;

Whereas the Foreign Emoluments Clause contained in clause 8 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States states that no present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind, may be accepted by the President of the United States from a king, prince, or foreign state without the consent of Congress;

Whereas the President of the United States has a constitutional and statutory obligation to uphold the public trust; and

Whereas the violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause of the Constitution of the United States undermines public trust and the integrity of public office in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns any acceptance of a Presidential aircraft, or any other substantial gift, from a foreign government as a grave national security threat to the Office of the President;

(2) demands that any such gift may only be accepted by the President with the explicit consent of Congress;

(3) urges the executive branch to reject compromising the national security of the United States by operating an aircraft not built under the security specifications or supervision of the Department of Defense as Air Force One; and

(4) condemns any acceptance of a Presidential aircraft, or any other substantial gift, from a foreign government if such acceptance violates any law.

SENATE RESOLUTION 219—DIRECTING THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL TO BRING A CIVIL ACTION IN THE NAME OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO ENFORCE THE FOREIGN EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE CONTAINED IN CLAUSE 8 OF SECTION 9 OF ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. COONS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 219

Whereas the Foreign Emoluments Clause contained in clause 8 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States (in this preamble referred to as the “Foreign Emoluments Clause”) states that no present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind, may be accepted by the President of the United States from a king, prince, or foreign state without the consent of Congress;

Whereas the Founders included the Foreign Emoluments Clause in the Constitution—by unanimous agreement of the State delegations—to ensure the President would remain loyal to the Nation and the public interest;

Whereas the Foreign Emoluments Clause has long been understood to be “directed against every kind of influence by foreign governments upon officers of the United States,” in the absence of consent by Congress’;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump reportedly plans to—

(1) accept a plane from the government of Qatar for United States Government use as Air Force One during the Trump Administration; and

(2) transfer that plane nominally to the Donald J. Trump Presidential Library shortly before the expiration of his term of office but continue personal use of the plane after his Presidency;

Whereas MGX Fund Management Limited is an investment firm established and backed by the government of the United Arab Emirates;

Whereas, on May 1, 2025, MGX Fund Management Limited announced an agreement to use a stablecoin from the cryptocurrency business World Liberty Financial, which is owned in part by President Trump and members of his family, to complete a \$2,000,000,000 deal with Binance Holdings Ltd. (in this preamble referred to as the “MGX Fund-Binance deal”);

Whereas, as a result of the MGX Fund-Binance deal, President Trump and the family of President Trump stand to receive hundreds of millions of dollars from a foreign state;

Whereas, since the election of President Trump, businesses owned in whole or in part by President Trump have announced other deals involving the governments of Saudi Arabia, Serbia, and Oman;

Whereas the President of the United States has a constitutional and statutory obligation to uphold the public trust; and

Whereas the violation of the Foreign Emoluments Clause undermines public trust and the integrity of public office in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel shall bring a civil action in the name of the United States Senate to enforce the Foreign Emoluments Clause contained in clause 8 of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of the United States with respect to the emoluments described in the fourth, sixth, and eighth whereas clauses of the preamble by enjoining President Donald J. Trump from accepting any present, emolument, office, or title of any kind whatever from a foreign state without obtaining the consent of Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 220—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 11 THROUGH MAY 17, 2025, AS “NATIONAL POLICE WEEK”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KING, Mrs. MOODY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BANKS, Mr. KELLY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. KIM, Ms. ERNST, Ms.

BALDWIN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BENNET, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LEE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MORENO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. REED) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 220

Whereas Federal, State, local, and Tribal police officers, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers across the United States serve with valor, dignity, and integrity;

Whereas each law enforcement officer is charged with—

(1) pursuing justice for all individuals; and

(2) performing the duties of a law enforcement officer with fidelity to the constitutional and civil rights of the public the officer serves;

Whereas law enforcement officers swear an oath to uphold the public trust even though, through the performance of the duties of a law enforcement officer, the officers may become targets for senseless acts of violence;

Whereas, in 1962, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 (76 Stat. 676) (referred to in this preamble as the “Joint Resolution”), which authorizes the President to proclaim May 15 of every year as “Peace Officers Memorial Day” in honor of the Federal, State, and local officers who have been killed, disabled, or otherwise injured in the line of duty;

Whereas the Joint Resolution also authorizes the President to designate the week in which Peace Officers Memorial Day falls as “National Police Week”;

Whereas the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, dedicated on October 15, 1991, is the national monument to honor those law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty;

Whereas Peace Officers Memorial Day 2025 honors the 234 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty during 2024, including—

- (1) Cliff Acosta;
- (2) Charles Afanasewicz;
- (3) Benedicto Albizu;
- (4) Luis Algarin de Jesus;
- (5) Cody Allen;
- (6) Jesus Anaya;
- (7) Michael Ansbro;
- (8) Derek Baer;
- (9) Earl Barksdale;
- (10) Ross Bartlett;
- (11) Rondald Bates;
- (12) Dustin Beasley;
- (13) Christopher Berry;
- (14) Salvatore Bertocci;
- (15) Marcellus Bethea;
- (16) Isaiah Bias;
- (17) Steven Bilodeau;
- (18) Steven Blecki;
- (19) Tobin Bolter;
- (20) Matthew Bowen;
- (21) Jeremy Boykins;
- (22) Paul Brantman;
- (23) Joshua Briese;
- (24) Taylor Bristow;
- (25) Jeffrey Brown;
- (26) Adam Buckner;
- (27) James Buebendorf;
- (28) Jeffrey Burke;
- (29) William Burkel;
- (30) Darron Burks;

(31) William Butler;
 (32) Raymond Buzzo;
 (33) Cailee Campbell;
 (34) Kenneth Campbell;
 (35) Kevin Canavan;
 (36) Jacob Candanoza;
 (37) Yolanda Carberry;
 (38) John Carey;
 (39) Clay Carns;
 (40) Phylicia Carson;
 (41) Jimmy Cenescar;
 (42) Frank Cimmino;
 (43) Christopher Cizmarik;
 (44) William Clancy;
 (45) John Coddou;
 (46) Gerard Coggins;
 (47) John Collins;
 (48) Erick Contreras;
 (49) Zane Coolidge;
 (50) Jesse Cooper;
 (51) Joseph Cordaro;
 (52) Dale Coski;
 (53) James Crowley;
 (54) Russell Croxton;
 (55) Brandon Cunningham;
 (56) Robert Daffin;
 (57) Daniel Daly;
 (58) Wayne David;
 (59) Leonard Davis;
 (60) Cooper Dawson;
 (61) James Delaney;
 (62) Jacob Derbin;
 (63) Elio Diaz;
 (64) Ignacio Diaz;
 (65) Daniel Didato;
 (66) Jonathan Diller;
 (67) Evan Dunn;
 (68) Ricky Eade;
 (69) William Elliott;
 (70) Paul Elmstrand;
 (71) Rex Emrick;
 (72) Patrick Erlandson;
 (73) Fernando Esqueda;
 (74) Burl Everman;
 (75) Joshua Eyer;
 (76) Andrew Faught;
 (77) Zachary Fink;
 (78) Ricky Finley;
 (79) Fred Fislar;
 (80) Alfredo Flores;
 (81) Troy Floyd;
 (82) Michael Floyd;
 (83) Theresa Foiles;
 (84) Herbert Fonseca;
 (85) Christopher Gadd;
 (86) Steven Galan;
 (87) Juvencio Garcia;
 (88) Joseph Geschwind;
 (89) Jorge Gonzalez;
 (90) Leslie Graves;
 (91) Michael Griffin;
 (92) Kevin Grossheim;
 (93) Peter Grzymalski;
 (94) Christine Guerin-Sandoval;
 (95) Louis Haarstick;
 (96) Brent Hall;
 (97) Justin Hare;
 (98) Paul Hargrove;
 (99) Brian Herbert;
 (100) Jonah Hernandez;
 (101) Kyle Hicks;
 (102) Stuart Holt;
 (103) Billy Hooser;
 (104) Michael Hoosock;
 (105) Michael Horan;
 (106) Luis Huesca;
 (107) Katherine Hutson;
 (108) William Jackson;
 (109) Adam Jangel;
 (110) Michael Jensen;
 (111) Timothy W. Johns;
 (112) Christopher Johnson;
 (113) Demetrice Johnson;
 (114) Troy R. Joiner;
 (115) Segus Jolivette;
 (116) Kurt Jones;
 (117) Russell Jones;
 (118) Justin Joslyn;
 (119) Jeffrey Kanas;
 (120) Daniel Kerstetter;
 (121) John Kilpatrick;
 (122) Carlo Krecic;
 (123) Nevada Krinkee;
 (124) Michael Kurinzi;
 (125) Raymond Kuuchi;
 (126) Andrew Lansing;
 (127) Charles James Lau;
 (128) John Leatham;
 (129) David Lee;
 (130) Joel Legaspi;
 (131) Robert Leonard;
 (132) Stephen Liell;
 (133) Bradley Link;
 (134) Lex Love;
 (135) Joseph Love;
 (136) Christopher Luna;
 (137) Austin Machitar;
 (138) Jeremy Malone;
 (139) Clinton Martin;
 (140) Enrique Martinez;
 (141) Davis Martinez;
 (142) Gregory McCowen;
 (143) John McCrary;
 (144) Brendan McGarry;
 (145) Scott McKenna;
 (146) Joseph McKinney;
 (147) William McLean;
 (148) William McNaughton;
 (149) Bradford McNew;
 (150) David McShane;
 (151) Anthony Mezzacappa;
 (152) Philip Michael;
 (153) Floyd Miles;
 (154) Hunter Miller;
 (155) Thomas Miller;
 (156) Daoud Mingo;
 (157) Eric Minix;
 (158) Jamal Mitchell;
 (159) Christina Musil;
 (160) Wanda Negron;
 (161) Gerald Nelson;
 (162) Vicente Ortiz;
 (163) Rodney Osborne;
 (164) Ronald Owen;
 (165) Luis Paez;
 (166) Kevin Palmer;
 (167) Richard Parker;
 (168) Steven Pavoglio;
 (169) Aaron Pelletier;
 (170) Joshua Phipps;
 (171) Samuel Poloche;
 (172) Joseph Ponzii;
 (173) Joel Popp;
 (174) Kenneth Prorok;
 (175) Corey Proulx;
 (176) James Puhalski;
 (177) Michelle Quintero;
 (178) Kevin Ramirez-Vasquez;
 (179) Eliezer Ramos-Velez;
 (180) Billy Randolph;
 (181) Ronald Raskin;
 (182) Bradley Reckling;
 (183) Allan Reddins;
 (184) Chase Redner;
 (185) Hunter Reedy;
 (186) David Reynolds;
 (187) Jamieson Ritter;
 (188) Timothy Rivers;
 (189) Charles Rivette;
 (190) Bernard Roberts;
 (191) Edwin Rodriguez;
 (192) Jaime Roman;
 (193) Braulio Rosario;
 (194) Matthew Ruge;
 (195) Brian Rutherford;
 (196) Denis Ryan;
 (197) Mohamed Said;
 (198) Thomas Sanfratello;
 (199) Ryan Santana;
 (200) Hector Santiago;
 (201) Jack Santora;
 (202) Philip Schifini;
 (203) Brandon Schreiber;
 (204) Steven Singer;
 (205) Cory Slifko;
 (206) Justin S. Smith;

(207) Ryan So;
 (208) Jason Southard;
 (209) Harry Stafilius;
 (210) Joseph Stillitano;
 (211) Robert Sumner;
 (212) Daniel Swain;
 (213) Bryan Sweetman;
 (214) Ian Taylor;
 (215) Corey Thompson;
 (216) Jewel Todman-Phillip;
 (217) Gabriel Torres;
 (218) Michael Torrisi;
 (219) Phoukham Tran;
 (220) Steven Tyrrell;
 (221) Randy Van Name;
 (222) Ralph Waller;
 (223) James Ward;
 (224) Thomas Waterman;
 (225) Thomas Weeks;
 (226) John Welch;
 (227) Erick Whitaker;
 (228) Justin White;
 (229) Alfred Williams;
 (230) William Wilson;
 (231) Jordan Wingate;
 (232) Joseph Wojtowics;
 (233) Rafael Wordlaw; and
 (234) Jermyus Young; and

Whereas, according to the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (also known as the “LEOKA Program”), since the beginning of 2025, 18 law enforcement officers were reported to have been killed in the line of duty: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 11 through May 17, 2025, as “National Police Week”;

(2) expresses unwavering support for law enforcement officers across the United States in pursuit of preserving safe and secure communities;

(3) recognizes the need to ensure that law enforcement officers have the equipment, training, and resources that are necessary in order to protect the health and safety of the officers while the officers protect the public;

(4) acknowledges that police officers and other law enforcement personnel, especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, should be remembered and honored;

(5) expresses condolences and solemn appreciation to the loved ones of each law enforcement officer who has made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Police Week by honoring law enforcement personnel and promoting awareness of the essential mission that law enforcement personnel undertake in service to their communities and the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 221—CONGRATULATING THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO YOTES FOR WINNING THE 2025 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS MEN’S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISC) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 221

Whereas, on March 25, 2025, the College of Idaho Yotes won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (“NAIA”) Men’s Basketball National Championship with a resounding 93–65 victory over Oklahoma Wesleyan University;

Whereas, in the 2024–2025 season, the Yotes earned an astonishing 35–2 record;

Whereas the Yotes starting guard Samaje Morgan contributed a game-high total of 28 points;

Whereas Dougie Peoples scored 21 points within 15 minutes and hit 5 shots from behind the 3-point line;

Whereas Johnny Radford and Tyler Robinnett scored 12 and 10 points, respectively;

Whereas the Yotes entered halftime with a decisive 20-point lead;

Whereas this is the Yotes' third NAIA Men's National Basketball Championship title and their second title in the last 3 years;

Whereas the Yotes have an undefeated 3-0 record in NAIA Men's National Basketball Championship games;

Whereas the people of the State of Idaho are united in celebrating the College of Idaho's tremendous success; and

Whereas the College of Idaho's students, faculty, administration, and athletic personnel are recognized for supporting the team throughout the 2024-2025 season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the College of Idaho Yotes for winning the 2025 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Basketball National Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, support staff, faculty, and fans who were instrumental in the College of Idaho's victory; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution for appropriate display to—

(A) the president of the College of Idaho, Doug Brigham;

(B) the vice president of athletics of the College of Idaho, Reagan Rossi; and

(C) the head coach of the College of Idaho men's basketball team, Colby Blaine.

SENATE RESOLUTION 222—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2025 AS “MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH”

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KING, and Mr. CURTIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 222

Whereas, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council, motorcycling is a great tradition enjoyed by an estimated 30,000,000 individuals annually in the United States, representing approximately 9 percent of the population;

Whereas motorcycles are a valuable component of the transportation mix;

Whereas motorcycles are fuel-efficient and decrease congestion while having little impact on the transportation infrastructure of the United States;

Whereas the motorcycling community promotes rider safety education, licensing, and motorcycle awareness;

Whereas the motorcycling community is committed to decreasing motorcycle crashes through training and safety education, personal responsibility, and increased public awareness;

Whereas, according to the Motorcycle Industry Council, approximately 87 percent of motorcycles are operated on highways in conjunction with other vehicles;

Whereas motorcyclist fatalities occur more frequently than passenger vehicle motorist fatalities;

Whereas motorcycle awareness is beneficial to all road users and will help decrease motorcycle crashes; and

Whereas the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration promotes Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month to encourage riders

to be properly licensed, receive training, and wear personal protective equipment, and to remind all riders and motorists to always share the road: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 2025 as “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month”;

(2) recognizes the contribution of motorcycles to the transportation mix;

(3) encourages motorcycle awareness by all road users;

(4) recognizes that motorcyclists have a right to the road and that all motorists should safely share the roadways;

(5) encourages rider safety education, training, and proper gear for safe motorcycle operation; and

(6) supports the goals of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month.

SENATE RESOLUTION 223—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE TRINITY COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2025 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION III MEN'S BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 223

Whereas, on Saturday, March 22, 2025, the Trinity College men's basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the “Trinity College Bantams”) won the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division III Men's Basketball National Championship (referred to in this preamble as the “National Championship”), defeating the New York University Violets by a score of 64 to 60, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne, Indiana;

Whereas the 2025 NCAA National Championship win is the first in the history of the Trinity College Bantams;

Whereas the Trinity College Bantams finished the 2024-2025 season with a record of 30 wins and 3 losses, tying a program record for wins;

Whereas, during the 2024-2025 season, the Trinity College Bantams won the New England Small College Athletic Conference title for the second straight year;

Whereas the head coach of the Trinity college Bantams, James Cosgrove, was named the 2025 National Association of Basketball Coaches Division III Coach of the Year; and

Whereas, in addition to outstanding athletics, Trinity College is a premier academic institution that—

(1) was founded in 1823;

(2) in the 2024-2025 school year, enrolled 2,235 students from 48 States and 82 countries; and

(3) has faculty and alumni that have been awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the MacArthur award, and many other recognitions for exemplary academic and cultural contributions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Trinity College men's basketball team for winning the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men's Basketball National Championship;

(2) congratulates the fans, students, and faculty of Trinity College; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Trinity College, Joanne Berger-Sweeney; and

(B) the head coach of the Trinity College men's basketball team, James Cosgrove.

SENATE RESOLUTION 224—CALLING FOR THE URGENT DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN AID TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CIVILIANS IN GAZA

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KIM, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 224

Whereas the entire population of the Gaza Strip, an estimated 2,200,000 people, is facing acute levels of hunger;

Whereas, according to the United Nations, since January 2025, approximately 10,000 children have been identified as suffering from acute malnutrition—a telltale sign of imminent famine;

Whereas the borders of Gaza have been blocked since March 2, 2025, prohibiting entry of food, medicine, infant formula, fuel, and other lifesaving humanitarian supplies;

Whereas all 25 World Food Program-supported bakeries in Gaza closed on March 31, 2025, as wheat flour and cooking fuel ran out, and the same week World Food Program food parcels distributed to families—with two weeks of food rations—were exhausted;

Whereas the Executive Director of the World Food Program Cindy McCain said on April 25, “People are starving, and . . . many more are going to starve as a result of this.”;

Whereas women eat last and least in times of heightened food insecurity; and

Whereas the health system in Gaza is near total collapse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) is gravely concerned with—

(A) the humanitarian crisis and acute suffering of the Palestinian civilians in Gaza; and

(B) the suffering of the hostages and hostage families; and

(2) calls on the White House, Department of State, and other relevant United States Government agencies to urgently use all available diplomatic tools to bring about the release of the hostages, an immediate cessation of the blockade on food and humanitarian aid for Palestinian civilians, and a durable end to the conflict in Gaza.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I want to speak about a very uncomfortable but very real tragedy that is unfolding before our very eyes, and that, of course, is starvation in Gaza. It is a tragedy that is totally foreseeable and is totally preventable.

Today, the families and children of Gaza—today, right now—are facing starvation, and this is following a monthslong complete denial of the delivery of food and aid within the borders of Gaza. For more than 2 months, Israeli forces have stopped thousands of tons of food and water and medicine

and formula and shelter and other humanitarian aid from reaching Gaza.

The results of that siege have been and are unbearable for the families there. Babies and children are starving to death right now—right now—in Gaza.

I have behind me the picture of an infant girl in Gaza who starved to death this past week. Her parents could not get the lactose-free formula that she needed to keep her alive. That formula was on one side of the Gaza gate; that starving child was on the other. There was never even an effort to just hand that formula to keep that young girl alive, over the fence or to open the gate.

I want to honor this beautiful infant girl today by sharing her name, and I ask all of us to remember it. Her name is Jinan Iskafi. And to Jinan's parents, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, I would like to say that we—all of us—offer our wholehearted condolences for your unspeakable loss.

I know the Presiding Officer and I know my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are horrified about this suffering and this death of innocent infants. We all agree on this. Babies and children should not starve to death. We are united in our opposition to such unnecessary death and suffering, and I believe all of us do not accept that Jinan's death is a "cost of war," a reality of war that can't be avoided. Jinan's death was totally avoidable. It was totally preventable.

It has been over 2 months since the Israeli Government has been using its power to withhold food, medicine, life-saving cancer treatments, dialysis systems, formula, and more from starving and suffering families across Gaza. Half a million Palestinians in Gaza are facing starvation, and that number is rising.

The IPC report that was released 1 year ago offered a similarly dire warning. Yet here we are today. And, really, there is no end in sight. More than 70,000 children and more than 17,000 mothers need urgent treatment for acute malnutrition, urgent treatment to prevent starvation. All the while, these trucks that are filled with food and medicine, much of that aid provided by the United States and our allies, are right there across the border.

This situation that folks face in Gaza is unprecedented in contemporary conflict. We cannot have or sanction a government's intentional policy of starvation. Nearly 30,000 babies and children have been killed in Gaza—faces seared into the traumatized hearts of their mothers, their brothers, their uncles. But even today, even more than that number are severely malnourished; even more than that number are facing famine conditions.

Jinan—that name means paradise. Think of the hope of the parents when they named their beautiful child "paradise."

It is up to all of us to do all we can to make this the last picture of a baby

boy or girl who starves to death in Gaza. And, today, I am offering a resolution with my colleagues that makes a simple point. It notes simply that children are starving to death. They are starving to death as we are here comfortably debating what we think are important issues. And it must be the effort of all of us to do all we can to bring this siege and this war to an immediate end.

I would like to thank my colleagues that joined me today in offering this call for humanity: Senators BENNET, BOOKER, DUCKWORTH, DURBIN, HIRONO, KAINE, KING, HEINRICH, HICKENLOOPER, KIM, KLOBUCHAR, MARKEY, MERKLEY, MURPHY, MURRAY, SANDERS, SCHATZ, SHAHEEN, SLOTKIN, SMITH, VAN HOLLEN, WARNER, WARNOCK, WARREN, and WYDEN.

Mr. President, I want to conclude my remarks tonight by sharing one more time the name of this infant girl, and I ask my colleagues to please look at her face, recognize her humanity, and recognize her name: Jinan Iskafi.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 2:50 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND CENSUS

The Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 4:45 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-567, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board: Carter Burwell of Virginia.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 220, S. Res. 221, S. Res. 222, and S. Res. 223.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, 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 and resume consideration of Calendar No. 84, Katharine MacGregor, postclosure; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m.,

the Senate vote on confirmation of the MacGregor nomination, and if cloture is invoked on Calendar No. 42, Michael Rigas, all postcloture time be expired at 2:15 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and if cloture is invoked on Calendar No. 72, Emil Michael, all postcloture time be expired at 5:30 p.m.; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Wednesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be im-

mediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Ms. LUMMIS. 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 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 13, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REED RUBINSTEIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE LEGAL ADVISER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TROY MEINK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JAMES DANLY, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF ENERGY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RABBI JASON
KIMELMAN-BLOCK'S LEADER-
SHIP AT BEND THE ARC: JEWISH
ACTION

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my distinguished constituent and friend, Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block, as his fourteen years of remarkable leadership as the Washington Director of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action come to a close.

I have been proud to partner with Bend the Arc in the fight for strong democracy, solidarity and justice. For over a decade at Bend the Arc, Rabbi Jason has modeled these principles every day in his role as a core leader within the interfaith solidarity movement. When leaders in government face stark moral and political choices, Rabbi Jason hasn't hesitated to pray—not just with his hands and his mind but with his heart and his feet, in the tradition of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel—to influence public actions. He is quick to remind us of our collective imperative to advance social justice and fairness for all Americans. I have seen him communicate the intricacies of budget reconciliation through a parable from the Torah.

Throughout his career, Rabbi Jason has shared his profound knowledge about the complexities of antisemitism, immigration, mass incarceration and war and peace, both within the American Jewish community and with my colleagues in Congress. He's been at the forefront of movements to protect and expand voting rights; to institute a living wage through the Fight for \$15 movement; to end the injustice of mass incarceration and to fight the appalling Muslim Ban and other unjust immigration policies. Rabbi Jason also carefully cultivated Bend the Arc's Selah Leadership Program to imbue the next generation of Jewish social change leaders with core skills and practical experience.

Rabbi Jason is a man of society and a man of nature, a man of public engagement and private life. I see him and his wife Devora on multiple occasions enjoying a long Shabbat afternoon hike through the forests of Maryland's beautiful Eighth District. I know he deserves the additional time he will be able to spend with his family now.

Bend the Arc derives its name from the assertion by 19th century abolitionist and Unitarian minister Theodore Parker—and made famous by Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.—that “the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” For more than a decade, Rabbi Jason has dedicated his waking hours to carrying this prophetic voice forward and bringing Bend the Arc's promise into reality. He is a gentleman and a scholar who brings soulfulness and warmth to his interactions with everyone, no matter their background, their age or their political affiliation.

Rabbi Jason has shown us what it means to devote one's life's work to solidarity and what Dr. King called the beloved community. Through the relationships he has built and his unwavering commitment to creating a better future for all people, Rabbi Jason Kimelman-Block has made a profound difference in Washington. It is an honor to represent him and support his righteous causes in Congress. On behalf of the good people of Maryland's Eighth District, I proudly salute his 14 years of service at Bend the Arc.

RECOGNIZING NYPD SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER E. LEAP

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, NYPD Sergeant Christopher E. Leap of Babylon, New York on the occasion of his recognition with an Honorable Mention in the 2025 TOP COPS Awards from the National Association of Police Organizations. Sergeant Leap has been an exemplary member of the NYPD and has been recognized by the department for his meritorious and excellent service to the City of New York 12 times since he joined the department in June 2013.

Sergeant Leap was nominated for this award by his fellow officers for his heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty in an incident that occurred on August 1, 2024, on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. On that night, Sergeant Leap, along with Sergeant Carl Johnson, responded to reports of an armed robbery and apprehended a suspect after pursuing him on foot through busy traffic. During the struggle to detain the suspect, the assailant fired a shot, wounding both sergeants. Additional officers arrived on the scene, and working together, they were able to subdue the suspect and secure the area. Thanks to the swift and coordinated response of Sergeant Leap and his fellow officers, this violent criminal was taken into custody.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Sergeant Leap and to commend him for his heroism and this well-deserved award. I wish him many safe and distinguished years on the police force to come and convey my deepest gratitude for his outstanding service to the people of New York.

RECOGNIZING ALMA MORENO DEL VALLE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alma Moreno Del Valle for earn-

ing the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alma has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Alma, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alma's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Alma Moreno Del Valle on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KRISTIN AMATO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Kristin Amato has made through her work with the CARES Senior Clinic. Kristin has over 24 years in nursing experience. She has worked in ER department's, home health, orthopedics and will be a nurse practitioner in June 2026. She uses her time and talents to help patients in need.

It is clear Kristin Amato has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBU- TIONS OF DOW CONSTANTINE

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dow Constantine, who is stepping down after 16 years of service as King County Executive. Throughout his tenure, Dow has been a transformative leader, driving significant progress in our region with a relentless focus on equity, sustainability, and community well-being. His leadership has made a lasting impact not only in King County, but throughout our entire region. Thanks to Dow's leadership and his commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, Martin Luther King, Jr. County will remain a welcoming place for all to thrive.

Dow has brought significant positive change to King County. A few notable achievements including the creation of a bold climate action plan, protecting immigrant communities, expanding affordable housing, leading efforts to address homelessness, advancing mental health initiatives and promoting sustainable transportation. His administration created over

• 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.

3,800 affordable housing units and acquired 1,400 supportive housing units through the Health Through Housing program. Dow supported the creation of the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission (KCIRC), provided funding to immigrant-serving organizations and reinforced King County's commitment to being a welcoming community. He launched the Crisis Care Centers initiative, providing essential care and reducing the burden on emergency rooms and jails. Dow's commitment to environmental conservation resulted in the protection of 30,000 acres of land and the restoration of 500 acres of fish and wildlife habitat, including the successful resurgence of the Kokanee salmon population. Through his advocacy for sustainable transportation, he expanded King County Metro with the launch of eight RapidRide routes and growing the Link Light Rail network to 51 stations.

Dow's leadership has always been grounded in the values of equity, public service and collaboration. His legacy will continue to inspire future leaders to carry forward the work of building a stronger community that serves all people. As he moves on to serve as CEO of Sound Transit, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Dow's accomplishments and service to our country. On behalf of Washington's 7th Congressional District, I thank Dow for making King County a more inclusive, sustainable, and just place to live.

**RECOGNIZING THE INCREDIBLE
SERVICE OF UNITED STATES
MARINE CORPORAL JOSEPH DON-
ALD**

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Marine Corporal Joseph Donald for his incredible service to our country and to recognize his recent approval to receive the Purple Heart.

The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most revered military decorations. It is awarded to those who have been wounded or killed in action while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It represents not just injury, but sacrifice—the physical cost of defending our freedoms.

Corporal Donald served honorably for over six years, including deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq. His time in uniform coincided with some of the most dangerous years of conflict, ending in 2011. During that period, he witnessed the loss of many fellow Marines—brothers and sisters in arms who gave their lives in service.

In 2011, while deployed in Afghanistan, Corporal Donald was severely injured in an explosion. Despite the severity of his injuries, Corporal Donald's resiliency is a true testament of his character and to the Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment.

Today, as we recognize Corporal Donald's receipt of the Purple Heart, we also reflect on the sacrifices made by so many service members like him. His story is one of bravery, dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Corporal Donald formally on the honor of re-

ceiving the Purple Heart award. I join the rest of the community in thanking Corporal Donald for his courage and bravery in the line of duty.

RECOGNIZING ALFONZE ROMERO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alfonze Romero for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alfonze has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Alfonze, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alfonze's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Alfonze Romero on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KRISTINA ARNOLD

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Kristina Arnold has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, she helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Ms. Arnold was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Kristina Arnold has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING MARTHA JANE WEST

HON. WESLEY BELL

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, service, and unwavering commitment of Ms. Martha Jane West—a proud educator, community advocate, and lifelong champion for equity and justice—who passed peacefully on Sunday, March 30, 2025, surrounded by her loving family in Mississippi, following a lengthy illness.

Born in Dyer, Tennessee, Ms. West charted a path of purpose early in life. She earned her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Tennessee State University in 1953, a proud alumna who remained deeply involved

with her alma mater throughout her life. Each summer during her college years, she visited St. Louis with her cousin, forging a bond with the city that would eventually become her life-long home.

Following her graduation, Ms. West settled in St. Louis, living for more than three decades on the 5100 block of Greer Avenue in the Kingsway West neighborhood. Her commitment to education was unwavering. She began her career at the Nursery Foundation—the first integrated nursery school in St. Louis—before dedicating herself to the St. Louis County Special School District, where she served students with the highest needs for over 40 years before her retirement.

Beyond the classroom, Ms. West gave tirelessly to her faith community at Lane Tabernacle Methodist Church, where she had been a devoted member since 1960. She shared her time, talent, and treasure as part of the Kitchen Committee and the Trustee Auxiliary Club, visiting the sick, supporting the elderly, feeding the hungry, and collecting clothing for those in need.

Her sense of civic duty extended far beyond her church walls. She was deeply engaged in local politics and social justice. As a precinct captain in the former 20th Ward, she registered voters, attended the Democratic National Convention in the 1980's, and proudly cast her ballot for President Barack Obama in 2008. She was an active member of the NAACP, the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, the Organization for Black Struggle, and the Tennessee State University Alumni Association. Whether speaking out at St. Louis Public School board meetings or calling into the iconic Onion Horton radio show, Ms. West's voice was one of courage, conviction, and clarity.

Ms. West never shied away from the front lines in the fight for justice. She was a visible force in demonstrations to protect and honor the legacy of Homer G. Phillips Hospital in the Ville neighborhood. She also knew how to celebrate her community—supporting local clubs and causes through galas, dances, and events. Among her proudest philanthropic efforts was serving as the number one booster for TSU during its annual alumni fundraiser dinner and dance.

Ms. Martha Jane West was a woman of principle, purpose, and boundless compassion. Her legacy lives on in the countless students she nurtured, the communities she uplifted, and the lives she so profoundly impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Ms. Martha Jane West. May her service be remembered, her example be followed, and her family be comforted with the peace and pride of knowing her legacy will endure.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF REPRESENTATIVE MIA LOVE**

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the Honorable Mia Bourdeau Love, a trailblazing public servant, devoted wife and mother, proud Haitian American, and

the first Black Republican woman elected to the United States Congress. I enjoyed serving with Congresswoman Love during her time in this body and considered her a friend.

Born Ludmya Bourdeau in Brooklyn, New York, to Haitian immigrant parents Jean Maxime and Marie Bourdeau, Mia embodied the values of compassion, resilience, freedom, and service to others—principles instilled in her from childhood and manifested through decades of unwavering commitment to family, faith, and public leadership. At age five, she and her family moved to Norwalk in Southwestern Connecticut where she would grow up and later attend Norwalk High School.

Mia inspired countless individuals through her historic example—serving as a councilwoman, mayor, congresswoman, commentator, mentor, and friend. Her light, wisdom, authenticity, and spirit of service have left an indelible mark on both the Haitian American community and the state of Connecticut, and her voice will continue to resonate across generations.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Love and Bourdeau families and all who knew and loved Mia. I look forward to partnering with the Haitian American Collaborative, a national organization located in Mia's former hometown of Norwalk, to honor her memory by continuing her work of uplifting Haitian communities, building legacies of impact, and preserving the rich cultural heritage she so proudly represented.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS DEMPSTER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Dempster for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Thomas has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Thomas, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Thomas's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Mandalay Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Thomas Dempster on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KAY HOFFLAND

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Kay Hoffland has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, she helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help.

A truly selfless leader, Ms. Hoffland was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Kay Hoffland has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

WORLD IP DAY AND INVENTIONS CAUCUS

HON. KEVIN KILEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. KILEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate World Intellectual Property Day and the creation of the Congressional Inventions Caucus.

The newly created caucus will work to foster education, collaboration, and legislative action on intellectually property issues in Congress. I would like to thank Rep. DEBORAH ROSS for leading this caucus with me in the House, as well as Sen. DAINES and Sen. COONS.

Copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets are key to America's innovation, industrial strength, standard of living, and our economic and national security.

Intellectual property-intensive firms account for 44 percent of U.S. jobs and better pay and benefits than jobs with that utilize little or no intellectual property.

It is integral to cutting-edge technologies, discovery, and development of new miracle medicines, sophisticated computing, and advanced microchips. Intellectual property is also foundational for movies, music, publishing, and much more.

Intellectual property industries produce almost 80 percent of U.S. commodity exports. Many of these industries even have trade surpluses since the United States is the world's top intellectual property exporter, with exports valued at \$140 billion in 2024.

RECOGNIZING DAYANARA TISCARENO ESCALERA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dayanara Tiscareno Escalera for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Dayanara has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Dayanara, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Dayanara's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Dayanara Tiscareno Escalera on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING CHARLES ROSS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero and a true patriot, Mr. Charles Ross of Nicholasville, Kentucky. Mr. Ross, a 96-year-old veteran, was a prisoner of war during the Korean War for three years.

Charles Ross enlisted in the United States Army on February 13, 1947. Born on December 6, 1928, in Columbia, South Carolina, he was just 18 years old when he enlisted. He was inspired by soldiers who served in WWII, and he wanted some adventure in his life. After basic training at Fort McClellan in Alabama, he spent three years in post-WWII Germany with the 1st Infantry. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, Mr. Ross was deployed there with the 1st Provisional Battalion. He was then assigned to the 3rd Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Brigade. Soon after arriving in Korea was the Battle of Inchon, followed by the Battle of PyongYang, and the Battle of Unsan, which was long and treacherous. Mr. Ross' battalion of around 900 men was surrounded by 10 to 20,000 Chinese soldiers. After fighting the Chinese off for three days and nights, they ran out of food, water, and provisions. Many lives were lost. On the fourth day, the Chinese Army started shelling chemical rounds of white phosphorous. All those who were able to run did so, crossing the Nammyon River. Mr. Ross and a fellow soldier broke off from the crowd and hid. An older Korean civilian helped them find shelter in a cave and brought them water and broth. Leaving the cave, they were soon found and surrendered to the Chinese Army. They were taken to Camp 5 in Pyoktong in January of 1951. Prisoners in the camp experienced untreated wounds, disease, frozen ground, starvation, and many died. They were forced to work on the burial detail, which was horrendous. In August of 1951, Mr. Ross and other non-commissioned officers were taken to Camp 4, where conditions were somewhat improved. He was released from the POW camp on August 20, 1953, reunited with the American Army, and promoted to Master Sergeant.

Mr. Ross' POW experience left him with lifelong Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and painful neuropathy in his feet from the frigid Korean winters. He retired from the Army in 1970 as a Command Sergeant Major. Mr. Ross lives in Nicholasville, Kentucky with his daughter Barbara. He and his late wife Janet have three children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was recently celebrated by Rolling Thunder Chapter 5 for National Prisoner of War Day.

Charles Ross is a true patriot, a great American, and an inspiration to us all. I am forever grateful to him and his fellow soldiers who sacrificed so much in service to our Nation. It is my honor to recognize his service before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHANNEL CAT PASSENGER FERRYBOAT SERVICE IN THE QUAD CITIES

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary milestone in the Quad Cities—the 30th anniversary of the Channel Cat passenger ferryboat service. What began as a bold idea in 1994, led by Kathy Wine, Executive Director of River Action, has since become a vital part of our region's transportation network and a celebrated symbol of innovation along the Mississippi River.

With early support from the Riverboat Development Authority and a coalition of local leaders, the first water taxi launched over the July 4th weekend in 1995, connecting communities and offering a new way to experience our historic river. Since MetroLINK assumed operation in 1998 under the direction of CEO Jeff Nelson, the Channel Cat has grown tremendously. Federal grants have helped fund three ADA-accessible vessels powered by biodiesel, construction of improved riverfront docks, and even plans for future electric ferries.

The Channel Cat has provided over one million rides, giving residents and visitors alike a unique and sustainable way to cross the Mississippi River—connecting two states, three downtowns, and countless cultural and recreational opportunities.

On May 23, 2025, we celebrate three decades of impact and innovation. I proudly recognize the Channel Cat for its outstanding service and commend Kathy Wine and Jeff Nelson for their visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship and public access along our riverfront. The Quad Cities is a better, more connected place because of their work.

RECOGNIZING NOAH TRASK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Noah Trask for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Noah has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Noah, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Noah's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Noah Trask on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING JUDY SALVADOR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Judy Salvador has made through her work with Metropolitan Ministries. Judy has been a dedicated volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries since 2016. Monday and Friday mornings at the Metro Welcome Center are lively and welcoming, thanks to this remarkable woman. She greets both new and returning volunteers with enthusiasm, ensuring newcomers feel comfortable and understand the importance of their roles. Her humor, empathy, and dedication ensure smooth operations across all areas, from kitchen prep to client shopping in the metro market. She welcomes everyone—volunteers, clients, residents, and community members—with warmth, compassion, and genuine joy in service. Judy is always ready to tackle any task that needs attention. Metropolitan Ministries relies heavily on her to keep Volunteer Services running smoothly, not just during the holidays but all year round. She embodies the four key values of Metro's culture, including: Character, Chemistry, Competency, and Calling.

It is clear Judy Salvador has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING NYPD DETECTIVE FABIO L. GONZALEZ

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, NYPD Detective Fabio L. Gonzalez of Babylon, New York on the occasion of his recognition with an Honorable Mention in the 2025 TOP COPS Awards from the National Association of Police Organizations. Detective Gonzalez has distinguished himself as an exemplary member of the New York City Police Department, having been recognized for meritorious and excellent service to the City of New York 16 times since joining the department in July 2011.

On July 4, 2024, in Jamaica, Queens, Detective Gonzalez and Officer Patrick E. Lynch responded to a call for assistance after a woman had been stabbed. Upon entering the apartment, they encountered the suspect holding a knife to his father's neck. After repeated commands in both English and Spanish were ignored and the suspect began to cut his father's throat, Officer Lynch fired at the suspect, striking him once, saving the father's life. Detective Gonzalez and Officer Lynch then discovered the near-lifeless body of an eight-year-old child and, recognizing the urgency of the moment, rushed the child to Jamaica Hospital in their patrol vehicle. Tragically, despite their heroic efforts, the child did not survive.

Mr. Speaker, Detective Gonzalez demonstrated extraordinary courage, composure, and selflessness in the face of life-threatening

danger. It is my great honor to recognize him for his bravery and to commend him on receiving this well-deserved award. I wish Detective Gonzalez continued success and safety in his distinguished service to the people of New York, and I extend my deepest gratitude for his unwavering dedication.

HONORING JA'KYRA CHAPMAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Ja'Kyra Zyrielle Chapman.

Ja'Kyra Zyrielle Chapman is a 17-year-old visionary residing in Centreville, Mississippi—one of the smallest cities in the state. She is a dreamer with an abundance of ambition that reaches far beyond the horizon.

The youngest of four children, Ja'Kyra was raised in a family where love holds greater value than material possessions, and cherished memories are considered more precious than anything the world can offer. Humility has been the cornerstone of her upbringing and her approach to life.

Academically, Ja'Kyra has demonstrated excellence and dedication. She holds a 4.13 GPA, earned a 26 on the ACT, and has received numerous honors and awards. These accomplishments reflect her commitment to continuous improvement and her preparation for success in future academic and professional endeavors.

Aspiring to become a fashion designer, Ja'Kyra is also a trailblazer in her family as the first to attend college. She is eager to embrace new experiences and is determined to lead a life of purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ja'Kyra Zyrielle Chapman for her outstanding achievements and contributions to the Centreville, Mississippi community.

RECOGNIZING LILITH ROBERTS-RUIZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lilith Roberts-Ruiz for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Lilith has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Lilith, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Lilith's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Lilith Roberts-Ruiz on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KRYSTAL MARTINEZ

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Krystal Martinez has made to our community through her work with New Beginnings Youth Shelter which serves homeless kids aged 10–17 who are between foster homes, abandoned, or homeless. The whole team jumps in to take care of the kids that have no one else looking out for them. They teach kids structure, respect, understanding and so much more in a loving environment. The team really cares and each member is deeply invested in the kids' long-term success.

It is clear Krystal Martinez has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING DEPUTY GALINA CLAUSSEN**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Deputy Galina Claussen of the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Claussen was assigned to the Special Operations Division of the Clay County Sheriff's Office which is specifically responsible for civil process service, courtroom security, evidence room management, and animal control. Deputy Claussen assumed the direct management and development of the animal control program, which had just been given to the Sheriff's Office by the Clay County Commissioners.

Through her hard work and dedication, Deputy Claussen made the animal control program a great success. Deputy Claussen is very respected among her animal control partners with the Health Department, Veterinarian Kayla Lawlor, fellow Deputies, and the public who make reports of concern. In addition to Deputy Claussen's skills and abilities that serve the citizens of Clay County so very well, her professionalism, integrity, and positive attitude foster camaraderie among her peers.

Deputy Claussen has earned the respect of her fellow officers and that of every member of the Sheriff's Office Command Staff.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I would like to take a moment to thank Deputy Claussen for her dedication and service to her community.

CONGRATULATING MEMPHIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Memphis Central High School

Jazz Band and Band Director Ollie Liddell for winning First Place Honors at the 30th Annual "Essentially Ellington Competition and Festival" at Lincoln Center in New York City on Sunday, May 11. The band was one of 127 that applied this year, competing with bands from all over the world including Japan and Spain, and was one of the 30 bands—some trained at music magnet schools or with private tutors—invited to New York. The Central High students advanced to the semifinal level where 10 were selected and then was one of the top three bands to play. Dr. Liddell has been the band's director for the past 13 years, often spending 12-hour days in the band room to give students the practice time they need—especially since many can't play in their apartment complexes or transport heavy instruments home. Overall, the band won the Best Band honors and awards for outstanding trumpet section, outstanding trombone section, outstanding rhythm section, outstanding alto saxophone soloist for student Jackson Hankins, outstanding trumpet soloist for Kingston Grandberry and outstanding trombone soloist for Marqese Cobb. The Memphis Central Jazz Band was selected to compete at "Essentially Ellington" in 2020 and 2021, but the competition was held virtually, so the students did not have the opportunity to travel to New York. In an interview with The Daily Memphian columnist Geoff Calkins in January, Liddell explained that many of his students arrive at the band room with no prior knowledge of jazz. He added: "The City of Memphis is why I do what I do." Over the years, the numbers in the Central jazz band jumped from about 80 to the current 187. The festival in New York concluded with a concert at the Metropolitan Opera House featuring the top student ensembles and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra directed by Wynton Marsalis. Memphis is home to many talented musicians, and Central's band members have now earned international recognition—a testament to the hard work of the students and Dr. Liddell.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN REIL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jordan Reil for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jordan has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Jordan, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jordan's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jordan Reil on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING LESA BURNHAM

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Lesa Burnham has made through her work with the CARES Senior Clinic. Lesa is a tireless volunteer, eager to assist with all clinic needs. She is quick to get the patients ready to see the doctor, answer phones, and keeps the patient EMR updated. She is an inspirational decorator, creating holiday decor throughout the clinic that lifts patients' spirits.

It is clear Lesa Burnham has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING EULESS POLICE CORPORAL JAMES GORDON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Euless Police Corporal James Gordon for his twenty-eight years of selfless service to North Texans.

Corporal Gordon, a graduate of Lewisville High School and Texas A&M University, began his career in public service as a Probation Officer for Denton, Tarrant, and Dallas Counties. He joined the Euless Police Department in 1996, serving with distinction for nearly three decades. Promoted to the rank of Police Corporal in 2000, he has held numerous critical assignments and roles that strengthened the safety and trust in the community.

Corporal Gordon is best known to many in the Euless community for his role as a Neighborhood Police Officer and his dedicated work with crime watch programs. He has been a pillar in community engagement efforts through the Citizen's Police Academy, CERT Program, Child Safety Seat Program, Rape Aggression Defense (RAD), CPR instruction, and the David Hofer Police Camp. His commitment to safety extended to conducting home security surveys and creating the Euless SAFE business program to promote responsible business security practices.

A skilled and decorated officer, Corporal Gordon served as a SWAT officer from 2001 to 2008 and has been a Defensive Tactics Instructor since 1999. His leadership earned him the title of Crime Prevention Expert from the Texas Crime Prevention Association and STEP Officer of the Year for the State of Texas in 2007. His professional affiliations include the Texas Crime Prevention Association, where he serves as President of the North Texas chapter, and the Texas Municipal Police Association. His commitment to duty and the community has also been recognized through numerous awards, including the Distinguished Service Award, multiple Unit Citations, and the prestigious Euless Employee of the Year in 2018. Beyond his accolades, James Gordon is a trusted mentor, an Eagle Scout and a devoted public servant who has made a lasting impact on countless lives.

As he enters a well-earned retirement, dedicating his time to family and friends, I express my deepest gratitude for his courage and commitment to the safety and well-being of the people of North Texas. Congratulations and thanks to Corporal James Gordon.

CONGRATULATING ECORE INTERNATIONAL ON BEING NAMED EXIM'S EXPORTER OF THE YEAR

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Ecore International for being named Exporter of the Year by the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM).

Beginning as a small cork manufacturer in 1871, Lancaster-based Ecore International is a global leader in circular rubber flooring. Ecore has covered projects from local gyms, turf fields, and playgrounds to NFL locker rooms and Churchill Downs. What makes Ecore truly special is their dedication to sustainability and innovation. Ecore uses recycled rubber and ensures it can be reused continuously, transforming 430 million pounds of rubber waste annually into 1,500 different products.

Ecore International operates in 76 different countries and has 13 facilities across the United States, including 2 in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. Their recognition as EXIM's Exporter of the Year compliments their noteworthy pedigree of awards and accomplishments.

It is with great pride that I can consider Ecore International among my constituents. I thank the company for helping to solidify Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District as a center for manufacturing and innovation, and once again I congratulate them for being EXIM's Exporter of the Year.

RECOGNIZING HEYZEL PEREZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heyzel Perez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Heyzel has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Heyzel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Heyzel's hard work, determination, and perseverance as Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Heyzel Perez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING DEAN LANCASTER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Dean Lancaster has made as a volunteer with the Hernando County School System. Mr. Lancaster offered his services as an announcer for high school basketball games. Coach Kupcik decided to allow him to announce at an upcoming game and had no idea what to expect. When Mr. Lancaster arrived to announce his first game, he came early, brought all his fancy equipment, and got to work setting up. That night, he blew everyone away and bought a real, college-like feel to the game. He was prepared and professional, enthusiastic and exciting. He brought music, catchphrases, and announcing on the call—the whole nine yards. All night long people were asking, “where did this guy come from?”, “he is amazing!”, “Can he come to every game?”. Coach Kupcik told him, “You’re hired!” That day, and every day moving forward, he refused payment for his services. Mr. Lancaster always says it’s his way of giving back to the community. Since his “tryout”, Mr. Lancaster has offered his talents, professionalism, and enthusiasm to every home Boys Basketball game at Springstead High School. Over the years, he has agreed to do the same for every home Varsity Football and Baseball game as well. Because he has been so popular and because he brings so much to the events he is announcing, Mr. Lancaster has also been requested to announce at other big events at Springstead, such as senior nights, their annual cheer competition and during the final matches of the historic Corey Hill Memorial Wrestling Tournament. As an Athletic Director, Coach Kupcik shares that having a consistent announcer locked in is always a plus. It’s one less thing to worry about. But having a consistent, amazing, professional-level announcer that transforms a relatively meaningless Tuesday night baseball or basketball game into a must-go-to, college like event for fans and players alike is truly a blessing. Mr. Lancaster is one of a kind, and is now a true part of what Springstead Athletics is, and forever an Eagle.

It is clear Dean Lancaster has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 14, 2025, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C.

These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on May 14 answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Richard Adamo, Richard G. Aiello, Robert Alicea, Ronnie R. Anderson, Enrique Araujo, Michael Barrows, John M. Bauer, Charles Bauman, Donald L. Beach, James O. Beatty, John D. Bogumil, Edward J. Bosic, William A. Browne, Steven J. Burval, Richard E. Butt, Paul E. Canik, Robert A. Clavenna, Theodore Clemon, Jr., John Conroy, John C. Cosentino, James D. Cox, Edward Cruz, Michael A. Dantino, John H. Dotson, Charles J. Drosos, Bruce Engel, Gerald J. Ewalt, Larry L. Ferris, Philip S. Fertitta, Mario Fontana, Raymond M. Furlong, Ronnie J. Gagnon, Sylvester Gant, Marvin D. Goldberg, Anthony J. Gomez, Walter A. Gorak, Charles O. Grafton, Frank J. Haggerty, Harold E. Hanson, John K. Harper, Jr., Robert E. Hess, Rodney L. Hiltz, Gregory Hines, Alan Hoeksema, John H. Hollmeyer, Paul Isenmann, George Jonkman, Jr., Richard Karwowski, Arthur L. Kavanaugh, Gerald Kielian, Robert C. Kielian, Billy W. Knight, Patricia D. Knight, Donald Kochevar, Robert J. Kowalsky, Walter C. Koziel, Harold Kuras, Donald E. Lange, William D. Langele, Michael E. Lareau, Gary L. Lockridge, Sr., Marvin L. Losey, Norman M. Lurie, Robert H. Marcinkowski, Timothy J. Marden, Dennis C. McCarroll, Thomas Merchant, Thomas S. Messenger, Willis Miles, Ronald J. Miller, Eric E. Miller, John Milton, Jeffery Monahan, Dennis P. Monroe, James L. Moore, Robert J. Mrozek, Theodore Musak, Gerald Musak, Terrance W. Niewiadomski, Donald E. Nixon, Frank Ochoa, Jr., Joseph A. Panarale, James R. Phillips, Michael Pisaurro, Stephen Prado, Alan R. Pringle, Bruce Riemenschneider, Keith M. Roseland, Russell Ruzanski, James P. Ryland, Charles E. Sampson, Abdias Saucedo, William Schell, Rodney L. Schuler, Thomas J. Schwartz, Leonard W. Seltzer, Fred T. Short, Leonard R. Sklaney, Philip G. Spotofora, Thomas W. Stefanski, William F. Stewart, Ronald G. Stille, James S. Strugala, Richard P. Sutton, Richard A. Tamborski, Thomas Therkildsen, Edward Thoele, Maynard L. Visser, Randall J. Voorn, Edgar L. Ward, David C. Wegner, Bartel Zandstra, Robert Zichmiller, Frank Zlatos

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 121, I mistakenly voted YEA when I intended to vote NAY.

RECOGNIZING FERNANDA OROZCO
SAENZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fernanda Orozco Saenz for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Fernanda has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Fernanda, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Fernanda's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Fernanda Orozco Saenz on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KYLE SMITH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Kyle Smith has made through his work with the Pasco County Human Services Team. The Pasco County Human Services Team has proven itself to be a cornerstone of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the community. Amidst the devastating impacts of Hurricanes Helene and Milton, they emerged as an indispensable force, transforming challenges into triumphs and ensuring no resident was left behind. The team managed and helped coordinate efforts for shelters that housed 485 residents. When Hurricane Milton struck shortly thereafter, the team rose to even greater heights, coordinating shelters for 5,800 individuals and 1,315 animals—an extraordinary feat of operational precision and compassion. Despite personal hardships, including one case manager losing her home while another lost her rental property, the team prioritized the welfare of the community, working tirelessly to ensure safety and stability for all. Post-storm, the team was responsible for helping shelter residents whose homes were no longer safe, find appropriate alternatives for housing. Their dedication shone through in rapid response efforts. In the days immediately following Hurricane Helene, 49 residents received critical assessments and essential resources. After Hurricane Milton, they worked with 225 displaced individuals who remained in shelters, demonstrating their unparalleled ability to adapt and respond under pressure. The team leveraged the Human Services Needs app to streamline disaster case management, supporting 1,351 residents. Their follow-up system, in partnership with other agencies, ensured personalized service for every individual. This innovative approach epitomized their ability to harness technology and partnerships for meaningful impact. Beyond immediate relief, the

team worked with individuals and families who would require long-term recovery efforts. For approximately 150 permanently displaced residents, they implemented a housing eligibility process, with the intent of ensuring fair and transparent allocation of resources. By securing placements at facilities like Pasco Hope, the team supported individuals and families along a pathway to rebuild their lives. Between September 28 and October 18, 2024, the team managed an overwhelming volume of calls—1,194 through their direct line and another 1,214 through work phones. Yet every call was met with care, professionalism, and actionable solutions, reflecting the team's deep commitment to being a lifeline for the community. The Pasco County Human Services Team exemplifies what it means to serve with excellence, compassion, and innovation. Their remarkable achievements during Hurricanes Helene and Milton, coupled with their dedication to long-term recovery and cutting-edge approaches to disaster management, have left an indelible mark on Pasco County.

It is clear Kyle Smith has made a profoundly positive impact on our community with his work as part of the Pasco County Human Services Team, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
RETIREMENT THRIFT INVESTMENT BOARD INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board Inspector General Act of 2025, which would create an independent Inspector General (IG) for the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (FRTIB). The FRTIB administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), the retirement savings and investment plan for federal employees.

In 2022, the FRTIB launched a new recordkeeping system with the goal of modernizing TSP's recordkeeping, improving customer service and bolstering cybersecurity. There were widespread problems with the new system, including account access, account balances, missing or incomplete information in accounts and hours-long wait times to reach customer service. I, along with several colleagues, asked the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine the implementation of the new system. GAO found that FRTIB "did not fully implement key acquisition management practices . . . [which] significantly increased the risk of a problematic rollout of the new system."

TSP has approximately 7.2 million participants and \$937 billion in assets, making it the world's largest defined contribution plan. Federal employees dedicate their careers to serving our country, and they deserve a retirement savings and investment plan that provides top-tier customer support and security.

While the Employee Benefits Security Administration has oversight responsibility for TSP, as it does for private sector 401(k) plans, there is no IG for the FRTIB. The problems

with the rollout of the recordkeeping system are evidence enough that the FRTIB needs an independent IG.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING DULCE VILLEGAS
MENEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dulce Villegas Menez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Dulce has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Dulce, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Dulce's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Dulce Villegas Menez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING KIMBERLY GODDING
BROOKS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Kimberly Godding Brooks has made to our community through her volunteerism. Since 2008, 17 years, Kimberly Godding Brooks has volunteered her time and talents to support Friends of Citrus and the Nature Coast Grief Services for children. Kimberly started as a Volunteer Coordinator, for Camp Good/Teen Encounter, a grief support camp for kids and teens who have experienced a loss. Trained volunteers provide therapeutic activities, in a camp setting, and help children share their stories with peers, whereby strengthening their ability to cope. Kimberly was Branch Manager with a local bank which donated backpacks to all campers. When Kimberly married Robert Brooks, she quickly recruited him to become a Camp Volunteer. Kimberly and Robert use "Lifelines", an exercise using strings and dark glasses, that block vision, to help children build self-confidence and "find their way". When Kimberly's mom, Lynn Godding, moved to our area, Kimberly quickly recruited her as a volunteer for the camp "kitchen team." In 2018, Kimberly and Robert's daughter Coral was born. She began attending volunteer events, meetings, workshops and camps with her parents. Coral became an official volunteer at age 6 and serves as a role model for other camp kids. She participates in local fundraising activities. Kimberly is still employed as a bank Branch Manager. She serves on the organization's Advisory Board, actively participates in fundraising activities and continues to advocate for Camp Good Hope/Teen Encounter and other grief

support services in our community, along with her husband, mom and, of course, Coral. Volunteering has become a Godding/Brooks “family affair”! Kimberly is truly an example of an outstanding volunteer and a Hero in our Community.

It is clear that Kimberly Godding Brooks has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN & COUNTY CLUB

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Town & County Club in the historic Asylum Hill neighborhood of Hartford, Connecticut. Over its storied 100-year history, the club has grown into the premier location for members to enjoy organized social, intellectual, and artistic gatherings.

On May 21, 1925, just five years after the 19th Amendment guaranteed women's suffrage, 400 women founded the Town & County Club as Hartford's first private women's club. The club's first President, Miss Anne Eliot Trumbull, helped draft their Articles of Association. The Articles state that the club was formed with the purposes of “creating an organized center for women's work, thought and action; advancing the interests of women, promoting science, literature, and art; providing an accessible place of meeting for its members, promoting social intercourse by such

means as the members of the corporation shall deem expedient and proper for that purpose, and for acquiring and maintaining and club house and grounds.”

The pioneering women who founded the Town & County Club at a time when membership at most private clubs was exclusive to men created an organization worthy of its storied 100-year history. It is my honor to celebrate the Town & County Club of Hartford, Connecticut.

RECOGNIZING LAURIE SWINK

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Laurie Swink has made to our community through her work with Selah Freedom. Laurie's passion, tireless efforts, and unwavering commitment to fighting human trafficking have not only impacted the lives of thousands but have sparked systemic change across the Nation. With over 7,000 survivors of human trafficking having found hope, healing, and a new chance at life through Selah Freedom's programs, Laurie's legacy continues to shape a future where survivors are empowered and human trafficking is eradicated. Laurie Swink co-founded Selah Freedom in 2011, with a clear mission to address the growing crisis of human trafficking and to restore freedom and dignity to those trapped in it. Since then, her leadership has been a catalyst for change, and her vision for Selah Freedom has transformed the organization into a national leader in anti-trafficking efforts. Laurie has worked tirelessly to create programs that provide more

than just temporary relief; she's built a holistic, long-term framework that addresses the multifaceted needs of survivors. Under Laurie's leadership, Selah Freedom provides survivors with safe housing, trauma-informed counseling, legal advocacy, life skills training, job readiness programs, and educational opportunities. This comprehensive support system has allowed victims to heal, regain independence, and lead successful lives beyond the trauma of trafficking. The impact Laurie has made is visible not only in the numbers but in the individual success stories of survivors who are now thriving—getting jobs, going to school, and, in many cases, becoming advocates themselves. Laurie is a compassionate leader who connects with survivors on a personal level, understanding their unique challenges and walking alongside them every step of the way. Laurie's deep empathy and ability to listen, care, and offer practical solutions have empowered survivors to overcome the seemingly insurmountable obstacles they face. Laurie has become a powerful voice in the fight against human trafficking, using her platform to raise awareness, educate communities, and advocate for change at the policy level. Laurie has worked with law enforcement, legislators, and local leaders to strengthen laws, increase resources for trafficking victims, and ensure that survivors have the support they need to rebuild their lives. She has played a key role in transforming how society understands and addresses human trafficking, ensuring that the issue is no longer hidden or overlooked.

It is clear Laurie Swink has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2869–S2902

Measures Introduced: Twenty-seven bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1721–1747, and S. Res. 218–224. **Pages S2895–96**

Measures Passed:

Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge Act: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of S. 1596, to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S2881–82**

National Police Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 220, designating the week of May 11 through May 17, 2025, as “National Police Week”. **Page S2901**

Congratulating the College of Idaho Yotes Men’s Basketball Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 221, congratulating the College of Idaho Yotes for winning the 2025 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men’s Basketball National Championship. **Page S2901**

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 222, expressing support for the designation of May 2025 as “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month”. **Page S2901**

Congratulating the Trinity College Men’s Basketball Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 223, commending and congratulating the Trinity College men’s basketball team for winning the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men’s Basketball National Championship. **Page S2901**

Appointments:

Public Interest Declassification Board: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106–567, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Interest Declassification Board: Carter Burwell of Virginia. **Page S2901**

MacGregor Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Katharine

MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. **Pages S2882–87**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 249), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2882**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, May 14, 2025; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, all post-cloture time be expired at 2:15 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, all post-cloture time be expired be expired at 5:30 p.m. **Pages S2901–02**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 244), Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. **Pages S2869–74, S2902**

By 74 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. EX. 246), Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force. **Pages S2875, S2902**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 72 yeas to 26 nays (Vote No. EX. 245), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2874–75**

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 248), James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. **Pages S2876–81, S2882, S2902**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 247), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2875–76**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2893–94**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S2894–95**

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2897–S2901

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S2895–96

Additional Statements: Pages S2892–93

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2901

Record Votes: Six record votes were taken today.
(Total—249) Pages S2874–76, S2882

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:31 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2901–02.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD: CONSERVATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on conservation, after receiving testimony from Gary Blair, National Association of Conservation Districts, Starkville, Mississippi; Brad Doyle, Arkansas Farm Bureau, Weiner; Lynn Tjeerdsma, Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, Platte, South Dakota; Chad Ellis, Texas Agricultural Land Trust, San Antonio; and Megan Dwyer, Illinois Corn Growers Association, Coal Valley.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Adam Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, who was introduced by Senator Hagerty, and Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Michael Cadenazzi, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, Scott Pappano, of Pennsylvania, to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration, Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, Justin Overbaugh, of Florida, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Daniel Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, Anthony Tata, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Katherine Sut-

ton, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, Michael Obadal, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Army, and Sean O'Keefe, of Virginia, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

DoD'S MISSILE DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense missile defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Andrea Yaffe, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Space Policy, General Gregory M. Guillot, USAF, Commander, United States Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, Lieutenant General Heath A. Collins, USAF, Director, Missile Defense Agency, and Lieutenant General Robert A. Rasch, USA, Executive Officer Guam Defense System Joint Program Office, all of the Department of Defense.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, and Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Commerce, and Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, who was introduced by Senator McCormick, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Rodney Scott, of Oklahoma, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

EAST AFRICA AND THE HORN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine East Africa and the horn, focusing on a turning point or breaking point, after receiving testimony from Joshua Meservey, Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Michelle Gavin, Council on Foreign Relations, New York, New York.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 119th Congress:

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy: Senators Ricketts (Chair), McCormick, Curtis, Cornyn, Lee, Coons, Merkley, Schatz, and Van Hollen.

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism: Senators McCormick (Chair), Cruz, Scott (FL), Lee, Daines, Rosen, Murphy, Kaine, and Booker.

Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation: Senators Daines (Chair), Barrasso, Ricketts, Paul, Curtis, Murphy, Duckworth, Booker, and Schatz.

Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development: Senators Hagerty (Chair), Scott (FL), Barrasso, Ricketts, Paul, Van Hollen, Coons, Kaine, and Duckworth.

Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy: Senators Lee (Chair), Paul, McCormick, Barrasso, Hagerty, Duckworth, Schatz, Rosen, and Coons.

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy: Senators Cruz (Chair), Daines, Paul, Cornyn, Barrasso, Booker, Coons, Merkley, and Van Hollen.

Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues: Senators Curtis (Chair), Cornyn, Hagerty, Scott (FL), Cruz, Kaine, Merkley, Rosen, and Murphy.

Senators Risch and Shabheen are ex officio members of each subcommittee.

INSURANCE INDUSTRY CLAIMS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census concluded a hearing to examine the insurance industry's claims practices following recent natural disasters, after receiving testimony from Nick Schroeder, Sandy Springs, Georgia, and Cliff Millikan, Toms River, New Jersey, both of Pilot Catastrophe Services; Douglas Quinn, American Policyholder Association, Omaha, Nebraska; Michael Keating, State Farm, Bloomington, Illinois; Michael Fiato, Allstate Insurance Company, Northbrook, Illinois; Natalia Migal, Columbia, Tennessee; and Jacob Vertel, Arden, North Carolina.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG SUPPLY CHAIN

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine competition issues in the prescription drug supply chain, focusing on pharmacy benefit manager power play, after receiving testimony from Sharon Faust, Navitus Health Solutions, Madison, Wisconsin; Sheetal Kircher, Northwestern University Survivorship Institute, Chicago, Illinois; Randy McDonough, American Pharmacists Association, Iowa City, Iowa; Juan Carlos Scott, The Pharmaceutical Care Management Association, Washington, D.C.; and Neeraj Sood, University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy, Los Angeles.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 54 public bills, H.R. 3323–3376; 1 private bill, H.R. 3377; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 31–32; and H. Res. 404, 406–408, were introduced.

Pages H1998–H1200

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H2002–03

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 405, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2240) to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; pro-

viding for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2243) to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2255) to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–95).

Page H1998

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Miller-Meeks to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1951

Recess: The House recessed at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1954**

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Thanedar announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 353) Impeaching Donald John Trump, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors. **Pages H1955–59**

Governing Board of the Office of Congressional Conduct—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individuals to serve as the Governing Board of the Office of Congressional Conduct: Nominated by the Speaker after consultation with the Minority Leader: Ms. Karen L. Haas of Maryland, Chair; Mr. Leon A. Westmoreland of Georgia. Nominated by the Minority Leader after consultation with the Speaker: Mr. William P. Luther of Minnesota, Co-Chair; Ms. Lorraine C. Miller of Texas. **Page H1960**

United States Holocaust Memorial Council—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council: Representatives Schneider and Frankel (FL). **Page H1960**

Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation: Representative Amo. **Page H1960**

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2026: Mr. Joshua Hodges of Batavia, Illinois. **Page H1960**

United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2026: Mr. Christopher Slevin of Washington, DC. **Page H1985**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:46 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H1985**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Calling upon local communities to support organizations that provide resources and aid Gold Shield Families in their time of need: H. Res. 364, calling upon local commu-

nities to support organizations that provide resources and aid Gold Shield Families in their time of need; **Pages H1960–61**

Expressing support for local law enforcement officers: H. Con. Res. 30, expressing support for local law enforcement officers, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nay vote of 411 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 123; **Pages H1961–65, H1985–86**

Amending the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for lifetime National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes for family members of members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives while serving their country: H.R. 1682, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for lifetime National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes for family members of members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives while serving their country; **Pages H1965–66**

Flatside Wilderness Additions Act: H.R. 1612, to designate the Flatside-Bethune Wilderness in the Ouachita National Forest; **Pages H1966–69**

Amending the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes: H.R. 331, amended, to amend the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act to clarify a provision relating to conveyances for aquifer recharge purposes; **Pages H1969–70**

Community Reclamation Partnerships Act of 2025: H.R. 167, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977; **Pages H1970–72**

Providing for a memorandum of understanding to address the impacts of a certain record of decision on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund: H.R. 1001, to provide for a memorandum of understanding to address the impacts of a certain record of decision on the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund; **Pages H1972–73**

Expedited Appeals Review Act: H.R. 677, amended, to establish a process to expedite the review of appeals of certain decisions by the Department of the Interior; **Pages H1973–74**

Strengthening America's Turning Point Act: H.R. 1550, to redesignate Saratoga National Historical Park as Saratoga National Battlefield Park; **Pages H1974–75**

Apache County and Navajo County Conveyance Act of 2025: H.R. 1829, to require the Secretary of

Agriculture to convey certain lands within the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest; **Pages H1975–76**

South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2025: H.R. 531, amended, to amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988; **Pages H1977–79**

Redesignating certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr: H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr, by a 2/3 ye-a-and-nay vote of 362 yeas to 50 nays with two answering “present”, Roll No. 124; **Pages H1979–80, H1986–87**

Apex Area Technical Corrections Act: H.R. 618, amended, to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the City of North Las Vegas and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association; **Pages H1980–82**

Reversionary Interest Conveyance Act: H.R. 952, to convey the reversionary interest of the United States in certain land in Sacramento, California; and **Pages H1982–83**

Fire Safe Electrical Corridors Act of 2025: H.R. 2492, to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to permit removal of trees around electrical lines on National Forest System lands and Bureau of Land Management lands, respectively, without conducting a timber sale. **Pages H1983–84**

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed. Salem Maritime National Historical Park Redesignation and Boundary Study Act: H.R. 2215, to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site as the “Salem Maritime National Historical Park”. **Pages H1984–85**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two ye-a-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1986 and H1986–87.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee began a markup on Committee Print on legislative proposals to comply with the reconciliation directive included in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, H. Con. Res. 14.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee began a markup on Committee Print on legislative proposals to comply with the reconciliation directive included in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, H. Con. Res. 14.

IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS THROUGH DATA ACT; LEOSA REFORM ACT; FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SERVICE WEAPON PURCHASE ACT OF 2025

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2240, the “Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act”; H.R. 2243, the “LEOSA Reform Act”; and H.R. 2255, the “Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act of 2025”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 6–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2240, the “Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act”, H.R. 2243, the “LEOSA Reform Act”, and H.R. 2255, the “Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act of 2025”, under closed rules. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of each bill. The rule provides that the respective amendments in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary now printed in each bill shall be considered as adopted and each bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in each bill, as amended. The rule provides one hour of general debate on each bill equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides each bill one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Knott, Raskin, and Gillen.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee began a markup on Committee Print on legislative proposals to comply with the reconciliation directive included in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, H. Con. Res. 14.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 10:30 a.m., SD-124.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and United States Capitol Police, 3 p.m., SD-192.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider the nomination of Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, 9:45 a.m., SR-253.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine FAA reauthorization one year later, focusing on aviation safety, air traffic, and next generation technology, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: business meeting to consider the nominations of William L. Doffermyre, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Catherine Jereza, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (Electricity), and Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary (Fossil Energy), both of the Department of Energy; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, all of the Department of Energy, and Ned Mamula, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, John Busterud, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, and Adam Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine trade in critical supply chains, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 1:30 p.m., SD-430.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold oversight hearings to examine delivering essential public health and social services to Native Americans, focusing on Federal programs serving Native Americans across the operating divisions at the Department of Health and Human Services, 3:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine foreign threats to

American innovation and economic leadership, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine financing America's manufacturing and industrial boom, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine preparing for disasters, focusing on unique challenges facing older Americans, 3:30 p.m., SD-106.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, continue markup on Committee print to comply with reconciliation directives included in H. Con. Res. 14 Section 2001(b)(1), 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the Federal Judiciary, 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, oversight hearing on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, oversight hearing on the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps, 2 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Homeland Security, oversight hearing on the U.S. Coast Guard, 2 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled "Energy, Installations, and Environment Update", 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "National Security Space Programs", 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled "Reimagining Education: How Charter Schools Are Closing Gaps and Opening Doors", 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "Expanding Choice and Increasing Supply: Housing Innovation in America", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, hearing entitled "Enhancing Competition: Shaping the Future of Bank Mergers and De Novo Formation", 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, hearing entitled "National Economic Security, Advancing US Interests Abroad", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled "A New Era of Homeland Security: A Review of

the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, hearing entitled “The MATCH Monopoly: Evaluating the Medical Residency Antitrust Exemption”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “Waste and Delays: Examining VA’s Improper Payments in its Compensation and Pension Programs”, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, with a vote on confirmation thereon at approximately 11:30 a.m. Following which, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

At 2:15 p.m., if cloture is invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Michael Rigas, to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

At 5:30 p.m., if cloture has been invoked, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination of Emil Michael, to be followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

Senators should expect two additional roll votes on or in relation to the confirmation of the nomination of Eric Matthew Ueland, and the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Sean Donahue, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 14

House Chamber

Program for Monday: Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H. Res. 405—Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2240) to require the Attorney General to develop reports relating to violent attacks against law enforcement officers; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2243) to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act and provisions relating to the carrying of concealed weapons by law enforcement officers; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2255) to allow Federal law enforcement officers to purchase retired service weapons.

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