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No. 109

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 25, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL MEUSER, 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 11:50 a.m.

KEEP RURAL HOSPITALS OPEN AS LIFELINE

(Ms. McBRIDE of Delaware was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. McBRIDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the rural communities in Delaware and the hospitals that are their lifelines because if the Republican budget is passed, that lifeline will be cut.

Across Delaware, rural hospitals are doing more than just providing care. They are holding communities together. They are delivering babies.

They are treating emergencies. They are caring for aging parents. They are anchors of both health and economic stability.

Under this budget, all of that is at risk. For rural hospitals, it means more unpaid bills, more red tape, and more patient bankruptcies. For some rural hospitals, it means closure. When Medicaid is gutted, rural hospitals don't just struggle. They shutter.

Today, over 40 percent of rural hospitals operate at a loss. They rely on Medicaid to keep the lights on and the doors open. Take that funding away, and entire regions lose access to maternity care, cancer treatment, mental health services, and more.

This isn't hypothetical. Before Medicaid expansion, clinics were closing, nurses were being laid off, and people were driving for hours just to see a doctor. Now, the majority party wants to bring that devastation to Delaware, where we have diligently worked to ensure that we have no care deserts.

Even in the places where those hospitals will survive, fewer patients will have coverage.

This budget would impose endless red tape and import the worst parts of the private healthcare system, confusing paperwork and needless bureaucracy, into the Medicaid program.

In total, 16 million people could lose coverage. Millions more could lose access to care in their community. In Delaware, that will mean 40,000 of our neighbors—working families, children, seniors in assisted living, and people managing chronic conditions—getting dropped from coverage.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you what that means in real life. It means missed chemotherapy appointments because the hospital shuts down. It means laboring mothers being driven 1½ hours to the nearest delivery room. It means children skipping care for chronic asthma because their pediatrician can't afford to stay open. It means working

people in Delaware will skip doctors' appointments because they have lost their insurance, only to end up in the emergency room and facing longer wait times and crushing medical bills.

Rural hospitals are left to absorb the costs while patients are burdened with life-altering debt, and, yes, it means more preventable deaths.

All of this, Mr. Speaker, is just to partially—just partially—pay for tax breaks for billionaires.

I have heard from healthcare leaders across my State who have told me plainly that if this budget passes, they will have to reduce services and lay off staff. Their facilities serve hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of Medicaid patients. They are operating on razor-thin margins already.

This plan would push rural hospitals and clinics over the cliff. Cuts to Medicaid aren't just cuts to line items on a budget. They are cuts to care that keep my constituents alive.

Mr. Speaker, let's be honest about what this is: a budget that raises costs for working families, adds red tape for patients and providers, and gives handouts to billionaires, all while risking the collapse of rural healthcare systems.

If you believe in the dignity of rural communities and if you believe that no one should die because their local hospital couldn't keep its doors open, then join me in opposing this horrible and heartless bill.

HONORING BRI ELLIS

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of Arkansas softball sensation Bri Ellis, the Southeastern Conference and USA Softball Player of the Year in NCAA women's college softball in 2025.

□ 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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Mr. Speaker, before I speak to her personal credentials, I will say the Razorback softball team had another banner season, albeit short of qualifying for the Women's College Softball World Series.

The Hogs advanced to its fourth super regional in program history. Under Coach Courtney Deifel, Razorback softball has steadily climbed in the rankings over the last several seasons. Much of that success over recent years is clearly due to attracting quality players like Bri Ellis.

Bri is a native of Houston, Texas. She is a graduate of Memorial High School in Hedwig Village, Texas, and is the 20th ranked player in the Nation. She signed with Auburn and played two seasons with the Tigers before entering the transfer portal and coming to Arkansas.

As a junior, she became a first-team All-SEC player, and it got better in her senior season. This year, Bri hit .440, with 59 hits, 9 doubles, 26 home runs, and 72 RBIs. She posted a nation-leading 1.142 slugging percentage and a .646 on-base percentage.

Her talent and skills made things difficult on opposing teams, but no one sequence during the year better described this young lady's ability than a game against Georgia in the 2025 SEC tournament in Athens.

Realizing her prowess, the Georgia strategy was to limit any damage Bri could inflict on the Bulldogs by refusing to pitch to her, effectively surrendering to her as a base runner, with nine straight pitches out of the strike zone. She was walked twice and then hit by a pitch in her first three at-bats but then came the bottom of the seventh and final inning. The score was tied at 1-1, and Arkansas had loaded the bases ahead of—you guessed it—Bri Ellis. One run wins the game. Georgia had to pitch to her.

On the 10th pitch that she saw that day, Bri did what Bri does best. She launched one deep over the left-field fence for a walk-off grand slam home run.

No moment in Razorback softball history fully captures the impact that this outstanding player has had on the sport in Fayetteville than that game.

Softball experts, recognizing her accomplishments, made her only the fifth position player to win the Player of the Year honor. Bri Ellis didn't just elevate Razorback softball. She became a Bogle Field legend at Arkansas.

I join her parents, Ron and Molly Ellis, and her sister, Emily, in congratulating Bri for an outstanding collegiate career and the legacy she leaves at the University of Arkansas.

Go Hogs.

HONORING WEHIWA ALOY

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor University of Arkansas baseball sensation Wehiwa Aloy, the 2025 Golden Spikes Award recipient given to the top amateur baseball player in the United States.

This great shortstop propelled the Razorbacks to the semifinals of the

Men's College World Series in Omaha. Previous to this honor, Wehiwa was named the 2025 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year.

Aloy was one of college baseball's most electrifying all-around players in 2025. This Wailuku, Hawaii, native started all 65 games at shortstop during the season, and he turned in one of the best offensive campaigns in Razorback history.

He led the team in nearly every major category, including slugging percentage, on-base plus slugging, hits, runs scored, doubles, triples, home runs, extra-base hits, multihit games, and total bases. In many of these categories, he ranks among the top 10 in the program's single-season record book.

Defensively, Aloy dazzled with just 5 errors in 229 total chances while helping turn 31 double plays during the 2025 season.

Wehiwa reached the pinnacle of collegiate baseball without having earned major offers out of Baldwin High School on Maui. Yet, after a year at Sacramento State, he transferred to Arkansas and found his groove.

He captured the hearts and minds of Razorback fans everywhere. In fact, Baum-Walker Stadium looked more like a luau on game day, with so many fans donning leis, Hawaiian shirts, and other island merchandise in recognition of his native Hawaii.

He joins former Razorbacks Andrew Benintendi and Kevin Kopps as the only Arkansas players with national player of the year honors.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an unprecedented spring at Arkansas, with Razorback athletes claiming player of the year honors in both softball and baseball. That has never happened before.

I join his parents, Jamie and Napua; his brother and teammate, Kuhio; and his sister, Kiani, in congratulating Wehiwa Aloy for his Golden Spikes Award and his impact on Razorback baseball. We wish him well as he embarks on what should be a promising professional career.

Go Hogs.

RESPECTING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

(Mr. GREEN of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very special message—an admonition, a prewarning—for the most powerful man in the universe, I am told, the President of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, there is talk of having to go back into Iran. There is talk of the job not having been done as expected.

I make no comments about whether he should or shouldn't go, but I do comment on the Constitution. I do say to the most powerful man in the universe: Mr. President, if you go back

into Iran and do not get the consent of Congress or appropriately notice Congress, Mr. President, I will bring Articles of Impeachment against you again.

Mr. President, no one person should have the authority to take 300-plus million people to war on his own volition. The Congress of the United States must be engaged in this process.

Mr. President, it is pretty simple. Either you will respect the Constitution of the United States of America, or you will expect AL GREEN.

TAKING A STEP TOWARD TRUE ENERGY DOMINANCE

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, if you are packing up your car, booking a flight, or planning a trip this summer, you have probably noticed that things feel a little bit better this year, a little bit smoother, and much more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, that is not luck. That is because Congress is working to pass President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and it is already making a difference in our summer travel plans.

Mr. Speaker, hardworking American families deserve the freedom to fuel up without pinching pennies, and Trump's bill gets us one step closer to true energy dominance.

One of the biggest costs to families hitting the road this summer is the price at the pump. That is why we fought hard to include an important provision in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act that cuts red tape on domestic energy production. It reopens Federal lands for drilling and streamlines refinery regulations.

Mr. Speaker, it is simple: When America produces more energy, we pay less at the pump. That means that we don't have to beg foreign dictators for oil.

In fact, experts are already predicting a decline in gas prices as we move through the summer months. Usually, they go up because the summer fuels are more expensive. Because of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, we have the freedom to make more summer family memories without breaking the bank.

It is not just about driving, either. If you have flown lately, you have probably experienced the delays, cancellations, and chaos plaguing America's airlines and our airports.

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President Trump's big, beautiful bill tackles this head-on by investing in modern air traffic control technology, expanding staffing pipelines, and overhauling the bureaucratic logjam that has kept our skies grounded for way too long.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to President Trump, America will begin streamlining hiring for air traffic controllers, improving FAA coordination, and bringing our aviation infrastructure

into the 21st century where it belongs. That means smoother trips for everyone just in time for peak summer travel season.

This bill is exactly the kind of commonsense, America First legislation that I came to Congress to support. It is proof that when we put American small businesses, our families, and our travelers first, we can make real progress.

Whether you are headed out to one of my favorite spots, Lake of the Ozarks, in my district, if you are flying to visit family, or just filling up the tank for the weekend, know this: Your summer will be easier because we are passing the President's One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

HONORING THE 509TH BOMB WING AT WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride for the brave airmen of Missouri's own 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base in my district, who executed decisive, strategic strikes against the Iranian regime under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump.

I also will take a moment to honor the other heroes who are part of this historic operation. Pilots from the Air National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing, also at Whiteman, made up 50 percent of the flyers alongside the 509. The operation, maintenance, and the support personnel also contributed significantly to the experience in planning, preparation, and execution.

Just this past weekend, the world saw, once again, what American resolve looks like when we are paired with unmatched precision and capability. B-2s launched from Whiteman and executed a long-range strike against Iran in Operation Midnight Hammer.

This is one of the best examples of integration of total force that has come from Whiteman Air Force Base in recent times. Operation Midnight Hammer is a vivid example of what our long-range strike capabilities are all about: strategic reach, rapid response, and incredible deterrence.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker, these were not just strikes, they were a message to the world. It is a message to every rogue regime that threatens American lives and our global stability that when President Trump draws a red line, he means it. This is what peace through strength looks like.

We are all reminded, once again, that under President Trump, America does not bend to tyrants or terrorists. We confront evil. We prove our dominance on the world stage, and we ensure that regimes like Iran's will never get their hands on a nuclear weapon.

Let me say one thing for the Aya-tollah. He now has a choice. This is a time for choosing whether he wants peace or chaos, prosperity or poverty, isolation from the rest of the Arab world or integration to make the Middle East great again.

God bless the 509th and 131st Bomb Wings. God bless our airmen and

women at Whiteman Air Force Base, and God bless Donald J. Trump, our President.

REPUBLICANS ARE PUTTING FORWARD A RESOLUTION THAT TARGETS LOS ANGELES

(Ms. RIVAS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. RIVAS. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud Angeleno. Los Angeles will always be home to me. However, instead of putting a resolution on the floor that helps Angelenos address the cost of living, save their Medicaid, or protect our city's immigrant communities from the Trump administration's cruelty, Republicans are putting forward a resolution that targets Los Angeles, our home, and Californians.

A few items my colleagues on the other side of the aisle forgot to mention in their partisan resolution include: the President's unprovoked escalation and mobilization of the National Guard and Marines against Americans on American soil; the President's comments to arrest Governor Gavin Newsom, an action that would stoke more tension; and the handcuffing and assault of Senator ALEX PADILLA, who boldly dared to demand accountability from this administration.

Those are a few of the facts that were omitted from the Republicans' resolution. The truth is, Governor Newsom, Mayor Bass, and House Democrats, including my House Democratic Caucus colleagues from California, have repeatedly supported the right to peacefully protest and quickly condemned any acts of violence that have taken place.

This resolution could have been a simple resolution condemning violence and thanking our local leaders for keeping communities safe. The resolution that we are voting on this week is a political stunt to distract from this administration's terrorization of hard-working families and immigrant communities that are a huge reason why our city, our State, and our country are great.

Families across Los Angeles are living in fear because of this administration's reckless and chaotic actions that are instilling more fear, causing more chaos, and inflicting more harm among our most vulnerable.

The families and individuals I have spoken with across my district are afraid to leave their homes because they might be illegally detained by masked and unnamed ICE agents and separated from their loved ones.

No one should have to live with that fear. I will be voting "no" on the Republicans' resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my friends across the aisle, especially my Californian Republican colleagues, to stand up for Los Angeles and our great State and vote "no."

SALUTING OUR SOLDIERS OF TOMORROW

(Mr. SELF of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute our soldiers of tomorrow, the service-bound academy students of the Third Congressional District of Texas.

This district of Texas is home to some of the best and brightest young people, and it is always an honor to recommend such fine students to our Nation's service academies.

I am confident that they are ready to join the premier service academies and ultimately serve with the best in the United States military.

This year, Texas' Third District is going to send nine cadets to the United States Military Academy, six midshipmen to the United States Naval Academy, eight cadets to the U.S. Air Force Academy, one midshipman to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, one candidate to the United States Military Academy Civil Preparatory School, three candidates to the Naval Academy Preparatory School, one candidate to the United States Naval Academy Civil Preparatory School, and three candidates to the United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

Mr. Speaker, to these 24 appointees and 8 preparatory candidates, I say God bless them and God bless America. I salute them.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the names of the 32 academy students and their respective hometowns.

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

Nathan Ooreoluwa Adejokun, Melissa TX; Caleb Wesley Caldwell, Allen TX; Jordan Crandall Curtis, Plano TX; Reed William Hisle, McKinney TX; Blake Ryan McKenna, Plano TX; Owen Younghoon Ryu, McKinney TX; Dillon Avery Watt, Plano TX; Anna Faith Williams, Prosper TX; Matthew Sumin Wooton, McKinney TX.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Brandon Preston De Vun, McKinney TX; Aden Tye Lewis, Greenville TX; Sophie Ella Lopez, McKinney TX; Matthew David McCoy, Allen TX; Nickole Sophia Rios, Allen TX; Joaquin Cruz Vargas, McKinney TX.

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Sophie Belle Bridges, Prosper TX; Taylor Rae Carroll, Allen TX; Sara Elizabeth Compton, Prosper TX; Bryce Tanner Denton, Anna TX; Corbin Benzi Glass, Parker TX; Garrett Christopher Hutchins, Lucas TX; Luke Tyler Phillips, McKinney TX; Timothy Hunjae Seo, McKinney TX.

U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

Jack Quinlin Flannery, McKinney TX.

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY CIVIL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Ethan Hunter Hayward, Allen TX.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Trystan Rohan Hutchison, Sachse TX; Tyler Aiden Wall Sr., McKinney TX; Benjamin L. Yost, Princeton TX.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY CIVIL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

McKenzie Kendall Quigley, McKinney TX.

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Howard Fisher IV, Wylie TX; Christian Rome Jeffers, Wylie TX; Aidan Marc Wylie, TX.

CONGRATULATING J.J. SPAUN

(Mr. CISNEROS of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate John Michael Spaun, Jr., or J.J. Spaun, on his U.S. Open victory.

J.J. is a proud product of California's 31st Congressional District, a graduate of San Dimas High School, where he played on the golf team and was a CIF Southern Section finalist 2 years in a row. He went on to play for San Diego State University, and after graduation he went professional.

On the morning of Sunday, June 15, Father's Day, J.J. woke up early to tend to his daughter who wasn't feeling well. Just a few hours later, he was on his way to the U.S. Open.

On the 18th hole, J.J. sunk a 64-foot putt to clinch his first major championship. The 31st Congressional District wants to congratulate him on his incredible victory, and we wish him the best of luck at The Open Championship in Northern Ireland.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN DANIEL REGAN

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the retirement of Captain Daniel Regan of the Covina Police Department.

He was promoted to captain in 2022 and managed the Investigations, K9, Firearms, and Records units. As a well-distinguished and awarded police officer, Captain Regan's 35-year-long career exemplifies true service and sacrifice. He has defined what it means to protect and serve our community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him for all he has done to keep our families and our communities safe. I congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement and we wish him all the best.

COMMENDING GLENDORA AND SAN DIMAS HIGH SCHOOL'S VARSITY BASEBALL TEAMS

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Glendora and San Dimas High School's baseball teams for reaching the CIF Southern Section Division 3 championship game.

After a hard-fought pitchers' duel, Glendora was victorious with a 2-0 shutout victory. This was Glendora High's first baseball CIF championship in 15 years. It was a remarkable season, capped by a historic victory.

Mr. Speaker, both teams are to be commended for their hard work and dedication, and I wish them both good luck for next season. Go Tartans.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION RED WINGS

(Mr. LUTTRELL of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of Operation Red Wings, a mission carried out by United States Navy SEALs and the Army 160th SOAR in June 2005 in the mountains of Afghanistan.

Operation Red Wings was intended to disrupt anticoalition militia activity in the Pech District of the Kunar Province. The primary target was a high-ranking Taliban leader named Ahmad Shah.

To carry out the operations, a four-man reconnaissance team was inserted into the rugged terrain under the cover of darkness. The team consisted of Lieutenant Michael Murphy, Petty Officer Matthew Axelson, Petty Officer Danny Dietz, and Petty Officer Marcus Luttrell. Their mission was to observe and confirm the presence of Ahmad Shah.

Unfortunately, the team's position was compromised by local goat herders. Faced with a difficult ethical decision, the SEALs let the herders go. Within hours, they were surrounded and ambushed by a large force of Taliban fighters.

Despite being heavily outnumbered and outgunned, the SEALs fought valiantly. Michael Murphy, despite being shot, moved into the open to get clear to make a call for backup. That call would cost him his life. Matthew Axelson and Danny Dietz perished shortly after.

A Quick Reaction Force from the 160th SOAR dispatched a Chinook helicopter to rescue the SEALs, but tragically the helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade, killing all 16 men on board. In total, 19 Americans died in Operation Red Wings. It was one of the deadliest days in special warfare history.

The mission is not just a story of loss; it is a powerful testament to courage, brotherhood, and sacrifice.

The names of the men who lost their lives during Operation Red Wings are: Petty Officer Matthew G. Axelson, Petty Officer Danny Dietz, Chief Petty Officer Jacques Fontan, Staff Sergeant Shamus O. Goare, Chief Warrant Officer Corey Goodnature, Senior Chief Petty Officer Dan Healy, Sergeant Kip Jacoby, Lieutenant Commander Erik Kristensen, Petty Officer 1st Class Jeffrey Lucas, Lieutenant Michael McGreevy, Sergeant First Class Michael Muralles, Lieutenant Michael Murphy, Petty Officer Shane Patton, Master Sergeant James Ponder, Major Stephen Reich, Sergeant First Class Michael Russell, Chief Warrant Officer Chris Scherkenbach, Petty Officer James Suh, and Petty Officer Jeffrey Taylor.

Mr. Speaker, may blessings go out to the Gold Star families and friends on this day.

DO NOT FORGET THE CRISIS IN CUBA

(Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the United States' policy toward Cuba.

There are many crises in the world, like Iran. One crisis that does not get enough attention is the humanitarian

one in Cuba today, with its hunger and deprivation.

To many, the word "Cuba" invokes politics. Oftentimes, a topic that politicians use to demagogue in U.S. elections for political advantage. However, Cuba is an island of 10 million human beings. They are people like you and me with families and with hopes for a better future.

There is no doubt that the aspirations of the people of Cuba are stymied by their own government. It denies them fundamental human rights. It does not meet their basic needs. It must do better, much better, to listen to what people are asking for and address their concerns in a real way, and our government in the United States isn't helping. In fact, we make the lives of the Cuban people worse, a lot worse.

I have visited Cuba many times as a Member of Congress. I have met with Cubans in their homes and have talked to them in their own communities. I can tell you firsthand that the U.S. embargo is harmful to the people of Cuba. It denies them food, medicine, and basic goods. It contributes to hunger and human misery. It is a driver of migration from the island.

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U.S. policy toward Cuba fails to see the Cuban people as human beings. Too often, politicians here treat Cubans as commodities, as props in their political arguments. This is dehumanizing.

It has gotten worse under President Trump. Cubans were once welcomed with open arms into the United States, even given preferential treatment not available to others fleeing dire conditions. No more. Cuban immigrants are equally at risk under the Trump administration's cruelty-first policies.

A half million Cuban immigrants are currently in the United States under parole. An additional 110,000 Cubans entered the U.S. legally under the CHNV humanitarian parole program, but the Trump administration eliminated CHNV. Most Cubans are not eligible to adjust their status and are at risk of being sent back to Cuba. The Trump administration is adding to the humanitarian crisis.

I am disappointed in many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They continue to defend the U.S. embargo and the status quo. They claim that they want to force the Cuban Government to treat its own people better, yet now when they have a chance to speak out against the Trump administration's callous indifference to the welfare of the Cuban people or even advance policies that will improve the lives of Cubans on the island, these same people are silent. I find that shameful.

In the past, whether our policy was more relaxed or tightened, our government maintained consultations with Cuban officials to manage migration, but the Trump administration has closed even that door, turning off a basic level of dialogue.

None of this makes sense. Tightening sanctions increases suffering, which drives people to our shores and to the border, but the administration won't even talk to Cubans about migration. How do they plan to return those they want to deport? Do they think they can hold Cubans in detention indefinitely?

Conditions in Cuba are far more desperate than during Trump's first term. To be frank, President Biden disappointed me. He didn't do enough to help. Food and medicine shortages and power blackouts are causing more suffering. Mr. Speaker, 1 million people, one-tenth of the population, have left the island. If the Trump administration wants to stop migration, it should not be contributing to its root cause.

The Cuban people are caught in a vise. They don't have a government that adequately responds to their needs, and they can't look to America to help them, either. A better approach to Cuba starts with seeing each other on a human level. We should promote exchange between artists, musicians, writers, filmmakers, scientists, and students. We can nurture understanding, build relationships, foster trust, and diplomacy will follow.

President Obama understood this. He knew that insanity was doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results, so he loosened restrictions, relieved tensions, and advanced cooperation. We were on the road to helping create a new future for Cuba.

However, Trump takes us backward. He unjustifiably added Cuba to the state sponsor of terrorism list, purely for political reasons. They ought to be removed from that list. He banned travel and blocked remittances. He has cut off our ability to negotiate for the release of political prisoners. He continues to insist on sanctions to economically starve the country. We should instead lift the embargo. By closing off American engagement, he has opened the door for greater Russian and Chinese influence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to consider a human-focused approach to Cuba. Our policy should not add to their suffering. We should hear their aspirations and never doubt the power of the people to create change.

Our Cuba policy is on the wrong track. It is a throwback to the Cold War. It is ineffective, and it makes us look petty and vindictive in the eyes of the world community. We need to do much better.

HONORING DINO DOMINIC FALASCHETTI

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

Mr. HUIZENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a former colleague and, more importantly, a friend. Dino Dominic Falaschetti, or Dr. Dino as he was known to many of us, was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois.

In high school, Dino was a standout golfer, and then in college he became a standout cyclist. That became a lifelong passion. To his friends, he was always the smartest and best dressed guy we knew.

To say the least, Dino's academic achievements were impressive. He received a bachelor of science in accounting from Indiana University, then an MBA in finance and economics from the University of Chicago. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. in economics from Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Dino went on to work for a Fortune 100 company. He also served as a senior economist on the Council of Economic Advisers under George W. Bush and taught economics and finance at not just one, but three distinguished universities. He accomplished all of this before our paths first crossed in the summer of 2015.

Dr. Dino, with his impeccable resume, had just been hired by former Chairman Jeb Hensarling to serve as the newly created position of chief economist to the House Committee on Financial Services.

The chairman and myself had many discussions about the economic impacts of what was going on, and at one point Chairman Hensarling said: I need an economist to help us do this.

Dino was the man that he hired. I was in my third term and had just been named chairman of the Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee. It turned out to be a match made in heaven.

Although we took very different paths to get to the Financial Services Committee, we found ourselves together thinking and developing and debating the economic impact of legislation and the regulators in that space, and then going toe to toe with then-Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen.

Throughout all of it, Dino was a consummate professional, intense and focused, but always taking time to explain complicated monetary policy to anyone—and I mean anyone—who would listen, whether it be a Member of Congress or a junior staffer, but it was always done with a smile.

Dino was often known to say: "Economics is easy, but politics is hard." Boy, is he right.

Following his stint in the people's House, Dr. Dino's career path would make one final stop—this time at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. In 2019, Dino was nominated by President Trump to serve as the director of the Office of Financial Research. To no one's surprise, Dr. Dino was unanimously confirmed and served in that position until 2022.

Through it all, Dr. Dino never forgot where he came from. He was devoted to his wife of 30 years, Suzanne; his dogs; his adopted hometown of Belgrade, Montana; and to others, along with serving his country.

I will never forget and am deeply grateful for his work on my sub-

committee, highlighting much-needed reforms to our financial system that brought about real change and some things that we are still debating yet today.

His contributions to the Financial Services Committee and the House of Representatives will never be forgotten, not to mention the students and colleagues with whom he taught and worked who will always fondly remember Dr. Dino.

Suzanne should know that she has been in our prayers and thoughts. May she experience blessings and peace as she moves forward.

On behalf of his friends here in the U.S. House, we celebrate Dr. Dino's legacy and look forward to the day when we will meet him again.

Rest in peace, my friend. Rest in peace.

CANCELLATION OF IRAN CLASSIFIED BRIEFING

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, what are you and the President afraid of? What are you hiding? You and the administration are shirking your duty to provide Members of Congress a timely and complete classified briefing about Saturday's U.S. strike on Iran, on the intelligence that justified it, on the legal justification, on the objectives, and on the consequences.

Mr. Speaker, we should not have to remind you that the Constitution gives only Congress, not the President, the exclusive power to declare war. The War Powers Resolution of 1973 requires the President, after taking military action, to provide to Congress the information it needs "in the fulfillment of its constitutional responsibilities with respect to committing the Nation to war and to the use of United States Armed Forces abroad."

Yesterday, all Members of this House, Republicans and Democrats, were to receive an already overdue classified briefing from administration officials. However, moments before the briefing was scheduled to begin, you and the administration abruptly, without explanation, canceled it, leaving Members of Congress and the American people in the dark.

There are now reports of a leaked classified battle damage assessment from the Defense Intelligence Agency that disputes what the President and the Secretary of Defense have been telling us. The American people are left wondering: Are the President and the Secretary telling the truth?

Again, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what are you and the President afraid of? What are you trying to hide?

We are proud of the extraordinary servicemembers who put their lives on the line and perfectly executed a complex battle plan, expertly hitting their intended targets at Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan.

We can see from the publicly available satellite imagery that the bombs at Fordow, for example, entered the fortified mountain location exactly where intended.

The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant is buried 300 feet below ground. We can't see inside the mountain to know with certainty whether the GBU-57s "obliterated" the FFEP or not.

That is what makes the leaked report so concerning and why it is so important for the administration to give Members of Congress the full details in a classified setting.

Canceling or even delaying the briefing is completely unacceptable and a failure of your duties and responsibilities to this body.

Mr. Speaker, the stakes could not be higher.

For more than 40 years, Iran has threatened its neighbors, threatened Israel, the United States, and the world. Under the Ayatollahs, Iran has been the largest state sponsor of terror in the world. It has financed, trained, and directed Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic jihad, and the Houthis. For the last 30 years, Iran has marched forward in the pursuit of nuclear weapons, all while chanting: "Death to Israel, death to America."

Let me state the obvious: Iran must never be allowed to have nuclear weapons, ever.

President Trump's decision to unilaterally withdraw from the JCPOA in 2018 enabled Iran to advance forward in its nuclear program to the point that the regime was weeks, if not days, from having sufficient enriched uranium for multiple nuclear bombs.

Some have assessed that Iran could have built up to 10 nuclear bombs within a few months or even a few weeks. The worry, after the IAEA report issued 2 weeks ago declaring Iran was no longer in compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, was that the regime may have decided to do exactly that.

I just returned from visiting Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates with colleagues, both Democrat and Republican. All these countries recognize that a nuclear-armed Iran poses an existential threat to their futures, and of course to Israel, as well as the United States and Europe, so I support the U.S. efforts to stop Iran's march to a nuclear weapon.

However, we cannot permanently end Iran's nuclear programs without a negotiated agreement, without inspectors on the ground, without Iran agreeing to reverse course. We must permanently block every path to a nuclear weapon that Iran might have.

The 12-day war over the skies of Iran and Israel has certainly weakened Iran's program, but we don't know without a classified briefing if it has obliterated it, if it has defeated it.

In fact, we don't know the full extent of the damage to the program. How much of the more than 600 kilograms of highly enriched uranium was Iran able

to hide? How many centrifuges remain intact and operational? How easily can Iran replace the nuclear scientists eliminated by Israel? Was Fordow, as claimed, obliterated, or slightly damaged and easily repaired?

Again, Mr. Speaker, we didn't get the briefing. This is unacceptable.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind the gentleman that it is unacceptable for a Member to attempt to involve the neutral presiding officer as part of the debate. Such conduct undermines this House, the goal of impartial, analytic consistency in presiding that is required of a Member serving as Chair.

RECOGNIZING LORI STEVERMER

(Mr. FINSTAD of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and fellow Minnesota farmer, Lori Stevermer, who recently completed a successful term as president of the National Pork Producers Council.

Lori has dedicated her career to advocating for Minnesota's pork producers. In addition to raising pigs with her husband, Dale, on their farm near Easton, Minnesota, Lori served 9 years on the executive board of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association, including 2 years as president, and on various State and national committees.

The time and effort she invests on behalf of not only Minnesota pork producers but all American pork producers has helped shape a better business climate, expand American producers' market access, and promote the benefits of pork to a wide audience.

Lori often says: "The world is run by the people who show up." And show up she does. Lori has made countless trips to Washington, as well as all across the country and internationally, to advocate for her fellow pork producers.

I thank Lori for her years of relentless dedication and leadership, and congratulate her on a successful year as president of the National Pork Producers Council.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA'S 10TH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL AWARD MEDALISTS

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the winners of this year's Congressional Award medalists from Virginia's 10th District. These young men and women put in 400-plus hours of volunteer work and 200-plus hours of personal development, as well as 200-plus hours of personal fitness activities.

The winners of the Congressional Award's gold medal this year are

Sabrina Lu of Riverside High School, who designed handmade cards and spread cancer awareness; Jason Jayanth of Academies of Loudoun and John Champe High School, who tutored students and volunteered at animal shelters while also playing on the basketball team; and Caitlyn Murphy, a sophomore at James W. Robinson Secondary School, who swam, played violin, and created and delivered more than 800 cards for seniors in local retirement homes.

I congratulate these very accomplished young individuals on their Congressional Award gold medals, and I thank them for their service.

CELEBRATING GAINESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the Gainesville High School baseball team's historic State championship victory.

In just their fourth season—they have only been a high school for 4 years—the Cardinals won their first State title, capping off the season with a 23-5 record.

The championship game itself came down to the wire. With two outs and the tying run in scoring position, the Cardinals recorded the final out and sealed the win.

I congratulate Gainesville High School on its historic championship-winning season and on all the hard work and hustle along the way.

MAKING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COST-EFFICIENT

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, one of the things I get asked is why the Federal Government can't be as fast and cost-efficient as the private sector.

Take a pen like this. If you are trying to buy a lot of them in the private sector, you can just go to Staples and Amazon to purchase them right there, really quickly, and for a pretty good cost.

In the public sector, there are a lot of rules and regulations in place to buy things like pens or staples. It is even harder to do this with technology tools that can help people get their Social Security payments faster, renew passports, or help people access Medicare or Medicaid.

That is why I am introducing the bipartisan FIT Procurement Act today with my colleague Congressman BURLISON. The FIT Procurement Act would raise cost caps and allow the Federal Government to buy more innovative tools without going through the needless bureaucracy.

What we are trying to do is help agencies not have to jump through so many hoops to get innovative tools to help people and help them serve people. It will make it easier, as well, for small businesses to sell to the Federal Government.

Our bill makes commonsense fixes that we can all support on both sides of the aisle. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill that will save American taxpayers money, support small businesses, and spur economic innovation.

RECOGNIZING LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy as it celebrates 30 years of service to our community.

An organization initially founded by 3 individuals has now grown to over 600 volunteers. The conservancy has led the charge on habitat conservation, environmental education, and advocacy in Loudoun County, everything from stream monitoring to bird and animal counting.

The Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy reminds us that conservation isn't just about nature. It is about community, resilience, and quality of life. I know my wife and I are big fans and supporters of them.

I congratulate Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy on all its years of service to the community, and I thank all the volunteers.

CONGRATULATING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES FROM WISCONSIN'S SEVENTH DISTRICT

(Mr. TIFFANY of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the high school athletes from Wisconsin's Seventh District who competed in the State championships during the 2025 spring sports season.

During the individual State boys' golf tournament, Drake Card of Hudson and Tucker Johnson of Neillsville took home the Division One and Division Three State titles, respectively.

For girls' track and field, Maci Heise, Ciara Hartman, Elletta Uddin, Kelly Fern, and Iszy Sonnentag took home titles in their individual events, while the Cameron and Bloomer girls' relay teams won first place in their respective relays.

On the same day, the Marathon High School boys' track team took first overall, going against 50 teams.

Additionally, boys' track and field athletes Samuel Hebert, Lucas Hansen, Gage Mika, Brady Thompson, Taylor Karcz, Ashton Clark, Kyle Schreiner, and Chris Marcell won titles in their individual events, while the Marathon boys' relay team took home first place in the 4-by-400 relay.

I congratulate each of these State champions and their coaches. Keep up the hard work, and enjoy your summer.

INVESTING IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

(Mr. DESAULNIER of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's investments in biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health and the National Cancer Institute.

The research that is conducted through NIH and NCI improves health

outcomes, creates jobs, and furthers our global leadership in biomedical research and innovation.

I am proud to have been a consistent supporter of funding for these institutions, having visited both institutions in Bethesda and around this country.

NIH is the largest public funding source of biomedical research worldwide, with a current budget of \$47.7 billion. Similarly, NCI is the largest public funder of cancer research in the world, with a current budget of \$7.22 billion.

NCI was created by a Republican President, Richard Nixon, as his war on cancer, which has been phenomenally successful.

NIH funding attracts top talent from across the country and, indeed, the globe to help make our biomedical research industry the best by far in the world, an accomplishment Americans should be incredibly proud of.

As a survivor of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, stage IV, the work that goes on at the National Cancer Institute is of personal importance to me and approximately 20 million American cancer survivors. We are alive today because of innovations in medicine funded by taxpayers and the private sector in a wonderful public-private partnership.

Research funded through NCI has undoubtedly helped improve health outcomes. A study published by the American Cancer Society notes that the cancer mortality rate has declined 33 percent since 1991. Those are all Americans who are living today, like myself.

When I was diagnosed, my oncologist said: You are lucky. Ten years ago, with the same diagnosis, I would have had to say all we could do was tell you to enjoy whatever time you have left.

Now, because of these investments, I am able to live a full life expectancy, like many of the other survivors.

From developing the first chemotherapy drug to treat metastatic cancer in 1956 to promising new research on immunotherapy, NCI-funded research has developed numerous new drugs and therapies for cancer.

While these investments and research are good for health outcomes, they are also tremendously good for our economy. In fiscal year 2023, NIH funding generated approximately \$92.9 billion in economic activity. That is a great return on investment, Mr. Speaker.

NIH awards over 80 percent of its annual budget in the form of research grants to 2,500 research institutions across the country, in red States and blue. These grants support the jobs of more than 300,000 researchers at institutions in all 50 States and provide immeasurable benefits to our local communities, especially local community economies.

I am proud that the area that I represent, the San Francisco Bay Area in northern California, is home to 2 of the top 10 recipients of NIH grants, the University of California San Francisco and Stanford University. UCSF is the

top public university recipient of NIH grants, making the region a leader in biomedical research, which benefits the economy and individuals like myself.

The economic benefits are further compounded by private investment. In 2020, private industry as a whole invested \$161.8 billion in biomedical research in the U.S. This was allowed because of the basic research done at NIH and NCI.

Despite these numerous benefits, the current administration and many of my Republican colleagues are proposing to cut the NIH's budget by 40 percent and NCI's budget by 37 percent. That would be a grave mistake for individual Americans who will die and their families and for our economy.

While some claim that private industry alone can replace Federal investment in biomedical research, this just isn't the case. It has been proven over decades. The private sector needs this public-sector investment for them to do many of the drugs and treatments that we currently have. This has been the case for decades. While some claim that this is easily done, there is no way.

Mr. Speaker, the Chinese are investing billions of dollars to catch up to us in this field. We should not lose American leadership.

AMERICAN ECONOMY GAINING MOMENTUM

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the American economy is gaining momentum, but the independent Federal Reserve is, regrettably, not adding the energy needed to abet this growth potential.

After 4 years of inflation caused by excessive government spending and an all-out assault on U.S. energy, our private-sector economy is now in significant recovery, and it truly is only the beginning.

Tariffs are realigning supply chains here at home. By supply meeting and exceeding demand, this will continue to lower inflation.

Additionally, the OBBB makes bonus depreciation, the small-business deduction, and the R&D tax credits permanent, sharpening our competitive edge and incentivizing capital investment.

The table is set for growth. However, nearly \$1 trillion in annual interest payments hang over our heads.

Here is where the Fed's actions can make an enormous difference. Due to the Biden administration's highly inflationary policies, we saw inflation soar to over 9 percent, 20 percent over the 4-year period. Those policies and inflationary rates that came from them forced the higher interest rates by the Fed to as high as 5.5 percent.

The recent CPI report, however, has inflation at 2.4 percent, and PCE, personal consumption expenditures, the Fed's favorite indicator, at only 2.1

percent. Yet, the Fed has not moved much and has left interest rates as high as where they currently are, 4.5 percent.

Mr. Speaker, a 1 percent reduction of interest rates to 3.5 percent would add \$290 billion in GDP growth while also delivering \$200 billion of savings in the service we pay on our debt. That is an improvement of \$490 billion to boost our economy.

Lower rates today will advance housing, an industry with a 3-to-1 multiplier, spur capital investment, and unlock durable good purchases, including cars and household appliances. Unfortunately, fear-mongering by the media drove consumer sentiment down despite, in fact, the lower inflationary data.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the Fed to choose growth over apprehension, as the President is urging.

CONTINUE BUILDING WORLD'S STRONGEST
MILITARY

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we are voting on the fiscal 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, an essential bill that demonstrates our unwavering commitment to our veterans, military families, and national security.

This is a major piece of legislation, totaling \$453 billion, that ensures we support those who have worn the uniform and continue building the strongest military in the world. This bill fully funds veterans' medical care, backing up the words we often say on this floor and throughout our districts that we support our veterans and thank them for their service.

Let me quickly walk through what is in this bill: \$453 billion in total funding, \$150 billion in discretionary funding, \$300 billion for mandatory programs, \$131 billion to fully fund veterans' medical care, \$2 billion for military family housing, and over \$1.2 billion for Guard and Reserve construction facilities.

This supports President Trump's initiative to end veteran homelessness through the Bridging Rental Assistance for Veteran Empowerment program, protects veterans' Second Amendment rights, and invests heavily in general military construction.

I proudly represent more than 45,000 veterans in Pennsylvania's Ninth Congressional District. When I include their families, many of whom have served or are preparing to serve, well over 100,000 Pennsylvanians just in my district alone will be directly impacted by what we do today. We also have 800,000 veterans throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

□ 1100

Mr. Speaker, our Lebanon VA in my district was ranked among the top VAs in the Nation for many years in a row. That is something we certainly take pride in and something this bill supports.

I am also proud to represent Fort Indiantown Gap, the second largest

Army helicopter training facility in the U.S. In total, the Gap trains more than 130,000 military personnel each year.

This bill not only honors our past military heroes, but it also helps inspire the next generation to serve. We are seeing that patriotism grow. Recruitment is way up, thanks in part to the new culture of strength and support for our military under President Trump's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this critical appropriations bill. It reflects our values, strengthens our defense, and ensures we never waver in our duty to those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

HONORING FIREFIGHTERS AND
FIRST RESPONDERS

(Ms. GOODLANDER of New Hampshire was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's firefighters and first responders. These are American heroes who put their lives on the line every single day to keep our communities safe. These are heroes who give their lives to saving lives.

Firefighters run into fire for us. They are on the front lines of fighting our Nation's opioid epidemic. In their service to all of us, firefighters are exposed to toxic chemicals and cancer-causing chemicals every single day. That is why cancer is the leading cause of death for America's firefighters.

They do all this work for us, knowing the hazards of the important job that they do. That is what makes them the best of America. They are heroes with families and loved ones who deserve our support.

Today, the families of fallen American heroes who died from cancers they developed in their service to all of us aren't getting the Federal benefits they have earned because of a gap in existing law. Let me repeat that. American heroes who have died from cancer in service to our country aren't getting the benefits that they have earned because of fixable gaps in Federal law. That is not right, and Congress can do something about this.

I am here today because we must close this gap for New Hampshire heroes who are standing beside me today and who are with us today in this Chamber. They are New Hampshire heroes Lieutenant Jessica Wyman of Nashua Fire Rescue and Lieutenant Aaron Cooper of Keene Fire Department, both of whom lost their lives to lung cancer that they developed in the line of duty.

These two brave heroes gave their lives to keep our communities safe. Their families and loved ones deserve to get the benefits they have earned.

That is why today, Mr. Speaker, I call on Members of Congress from across America to support bipartisan, bicameral legislation, the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act, H.R. 1269. This

is commonsense, long overdue legislation that I am proud to cosponsor. It will deliver for our first responders and their families.

I say today I am forever grateful to Lieutenant Chris Wyman, a hero in his own right, who is here with us in this Chamber today. He has come to Congress to do what we all should hope every American will do, which is to advocate for this legislation that we have to get done.

In this Chamber, there are words behind me, words of New Hampshire's own Daniel Webster, who called on us to do something, to do something worthy to be remembered. These heroes, including this hero standing before us today, have done so much that is worthy to be remembered and worthy to be honored.

As eloquent as Daniel Webster was, I want to say that Lieutenant Jessica Wyman lived by a motto that is even more powerful to me. It resonates even more deeply with me. She lived by the motto: Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand.

I thank Lieutenant Wyman from the bottom of my heart for involving me in this cause. It is a cause that I am going to fight for because it is a cause that we should all be on board with. It is honoring American heroes who are the best of our country.

By making the Honoring Our Fallen Heroes Act law, the United States Congress will do something worthy to be remembered. I want to get all of my colleagues involved. With that, I say let's get this done this Congress. It is long overdue, and I thank Lieutenant Wyman for her service.

HONORING ALZHEIMER'S AND
BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, a time to bring attention to a disease that impacts nearly every family in America in some way.

This month serves as a solemn reminder of the devastating toll Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia continue to take on our loved ones, our caregivers, and our communities.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's today. Around the world, nearly 50 million people are facing daily struggles with this disease or related dementias.

Alzheimer's is not just a health issue. It is a national crisis. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and remains the only one in the top 10 with no known cure. There is no way to prevent it and no effective means to slow its progression.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, deaths related to Alzheimer's increased by 16 percent, further underscoring the urgency for action. Behind these statistics are real people.

I recently had the privilege of meeting with two advocates from my district, Maria Frank of Wellsboro and Julieanne Steinbacher of Williamsport. They came to Washington on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association to share their personal experiences and to urge continued investment in research and support for patients and caregivers.

However, the Alzheimer's Association does more than just advocate for Alzheimer's, dementia patients, and their families. Through its strong network of nationwide chapters, the Alzheimer's Association invests directly in cutting-edge research, offering free, 24/7 care consultation for patients and their families. It hosts community education programs and caregiver support groups, ensuring families and patients receive the critical resources that they need.

Their stories are a powerful reminder that behind every diagnosis is a family doing everything they can to hold on to moments, to dignity, and to hope. This is personal for so many of us.

A diagnosis of Alzheimer's doesn't impact one individual. It affects entire families. There is hope. We have seen progress through bipartisan investment in research. Continued support for groundbreaking innovation can bring us closer to treatment and, one day, a cure.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Maria and Julieanne for their tireless advocacy and commitment to this cause. This month let's support the families impacted and never stop believing in a future where Alzheimer's is no longer a devastating diagnosis but a defeated disease.

CONDEMNING VIOLENCE BY ICE

(Mr. MIN of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 516, sponsored by Representative YOUNG KIM. This resolution has a lot of things I think we all can agree upon, including recognizing the right to assemble and protest peacefully and condemning violence against law enforcement.

In the very last clause, it specifically expresses gratitude to law enforcement including ICE for "keeping our communities safe in the face of danger."

I want to be clear. I commend local law enforcement, including the Orange County Sheriff's Department, which I represent, for their professionalism and courage. It is a tough job, and I am so grateful for the men and women who go out there every day and risk their lives to keep our communities safe.

To extend these thanks to ICE, while failing to acknowledge the myriad of ways in which ICE is making other communities more dangerous, is outrageous and dishonest.

I hear every single day—and I know YOUNG KIM does, too, because we represent neighboring districts in Orange County—I hear from constituents who are deeply concerned about ICE's

lawbreaking. We have seen the videos. We have heard the eyewitness accounts.

ICE agents are kidnapping people in broad daylight. They are assaulting people in broad daylight. They are doing so while masked up, refusing to identify themselves, while wearing civilian clothes like jeans and sneakers.

They come out of unmarked vans. They tackle people. They assault people. Frankly, other than the ICE vests or jackets they are wearing, which, by the way, can now be purchased for \$29.99 on Amazon, they look more like gang members than Federal law enforcement agents.

If a person runs away from these masked vigilantes, they will beat and chase that person down. Mr. Speaker, if you ask to see their identification or their warrant, they will assault you and arrest you. If a person films them, they will pull a gun on that individual.

These tactics are grossly illegal and not tactics that local law enforcement engage in. Our local law enforcement follows the law. They wear body cameras. They are subject to disciplinary actions if they violate due process rights.

ICE is completely unaccountable and totally out of control. We have seen them assault citizens. We have seen them assault elected officials, including Members of Congress and my colleague from California, Senator ALEX PADILLA. Just 2 weeks ago, he was assaulted, tackled, handcuffed, and shoved to the ground for asking a question at a press conference.

The idea that ICE is making our communities safer is ludicrous. I quote the podcaster Joe Rogan: "... if the Trump administration, if they're running and they said ... we're gonna arrest all the people at Home Depot. We're gonna go to construction sites and we're going to just like tackle people at construction sites, I don't think anybody would have signed up for that. "They said, we're gonna get rid of the criminals and the gang members first."

Right? That is crazy.

It is crazy because the reality of the situation is that ICE is not going after violent criminals. They are going after peaceful, law-abiding immigrants. As the rightwing Cato Institute recently found, 93 percent of the people being apprehended by ICE have had no convictions for violent crime.

ICE is not going after MS-13 or murderers or rapists. They are going after innocent people, including a woman in Tennessee who was 5 months pregnant and engaged to a U.S. citizen.

Iris Dayana Monterroso-Lemus was transferred to a detention center in Louisiana. She was forced to sleep on the floor and eat food infested with roaches. She was denied medical care, despite complaining repeatedly about sharp pains in her pelvis. She lost her baby because of this mistreatment.

She was not a criminal. She was an expectant mom whose child died. It is

clear that ICE's lawless actions are making our communities much more dangerous.

Here is a statement issued by the mayor of Santa Ana, which has been the epicenter of ICE raids in Orange County. She said: "The Federal immigration raids ... in Santa Ana have created a climate of fear, anxiety, and instability across our community."

"The aggressive tactics used by Federal agents have shattered trust in law enforcement and are eroding the critical relationship between our residents and the Santa Ana Police Department. When families are too afraid to report crimes or engage with local authorities, we are all less safe."

ICE's lawless sweeps have also deeply impacted the Korean community in SoCal. The first ICE raids targeted Korean-owned garment factories and have caused significant confusion, fear, and terror in the Korean-American community.

I hear every day from Korean Americans who are terrified about ICE. I know that my colleagues, including YOUNG KIM, do, too. They know that ICE is making our communities less safe.

I will close with this. We have all seen the videos and images of Narciso Barranco, a gardener and father of three U.S. Marines, who was tackled and punched repeatedly in the head by ICE agents wearing jeans and sneakers.

As one of his sons, Alejandro, a current marine, stated, while deployed as a marine, if he had treated a detainee the same way ICE agents treated his father, it would clearly be a war crime.

While Narciso Barranco is a resident of Tustin, he is a constituent of YOUNG KIM. I would guess that he would vehemently disagree with the claim that ICE is making our communities safer.

How can anyone express gratitude to ICE when they are literally committing war crimes against their constituents? This resolution is shameful. It is morally wrong. Thanking ICE is the worst kind of political stunt at this point in time when our constituents and our communities are living in fear and terror.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD four items. The first is: "ICE Immigration Jacket Becomes Bestseller on Amazon." You can view the link here: <https://www.newsweek.com/ice-immigration-jacket-best-seller-amazon-2035114>.

The second is a Cato Institute blog entry: "65 Percent of People Taken By ICE Had No Convictions, 93 Percent No Violent Convictions." You can view the article at this link: <https://www.cato.org/blog/65-people-taken-ice-had-no-convictions-93-no-violent-convictions>.

The third and fourth items I would like to add are a statement from Santa Ana Mayor Valerie Amezcuea and a statement from the Korean-American Federation of Los Angeles in response to the ICE raids on June 6.

JUNE 23, 2025.

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR VALERIE AMEZCUA

The federal immigration raids and the deployment of the National Guard in Santa Ana have created a climate of fear, anxiety, and instability across our community. These actions are harming hardworking immigrant families, directly jeopardizing public safety, and impacting the local economy.

The aggressive tactics used by federal agents have shattered trust in law enforcement and are eroding the critical relationship between our residents and the Santa Ana Police Department. When families are too afraid to report crimes or engage with local authorities, we are all less safe.

Our businesses are suffering, our downtown is empty, and our people are in fear, simply because of the color of their skin or their ethnicity. We demand an end to these arbitrary immigration operations. Our community deserves safety, dignity, and respect, not fear.

JUNE 6, 2025.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE KOREAN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LOS ANGELES (KAFLA) URGENT STATEMENT REGARDING RECENT U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) RAIDS

On the morning of June 6, 2025, federal agents carried out coordinated immigration enforcement raids targeting multiple businesses in Downtown Los Angeles, including Korean-owned garment factories.

These sudden and large-scale operations, which led to numerous arrests, were reportedly conducted without prior notice, causing severe disruption and significant damage to the affected businesses.

Disturbingly, reports indicate that individuals with limited English proficiency or those unable to immediately provide documentation verifying their legal status were detained or forcibly removed on the spot. These actions have led to widespread confusion, fear, and distress—impacting not only the Korean American community but also many residents across the area.

The Korean American Federation of Los Angeles (KAFLA) strongly condemns these unilateral and excessive enforcement measures, particularly those executed without adherence to due process. We urgently call upon our local, state, and federal elected officials to investigate these incidents and take immediate steps to ensure that the civil rights of all community members are protected.

KAFLA will continue to work in close partnership with local advocacy groups and community organizations to prevent further harm and to stand up for those unjustly impacted.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the leadership of President Trump, America and the world are safer today than we were a week ago. Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, is no longer on the verge of obtaining a nuclear weapon. They have agreed to a ceasefire with Israel. President Trump is fulfilling his campaign promise of promises made, promises kept to make America safe again.

America wants peace through strength, and that is what President Trump is committed to. For far too long, administrations in Washington,

D.C., have created red lines that were crossed without consequence, agreed to deals with Iran that the regime disregarded, and concerned themselves more with appeasement than with protecting American interests.

President Trump took a different approach. For months, President Trump has urged Iran to make a deal. He has been clear. There is no world where Iran, whose leadership chants "Death to Israel, death to America" will be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon ever. This is not up for debate.

President Trump is restoring America's leadership on the world stage and fighting tirelessly to keep Americans safe, both at home and abroad. This past week, President Trump showed that he is not willing to let America be strung along or taken advantage of.

After Iran refused to accept a deal and continued to wreak havoc in the region through its proxy organizations, President Trump carried out targeted, strategic strikes to prevent the pending threat of Iran's nuclear enrichment program.

□ 1115

He was also clear: Attacks on U.S. Forces will not be tolerated, and there will be grave consequences for such action. This is what leadership looks like, and I applaud President Trump for putting America first.

Audrey and I are grateful that our brave servicemen and -women were not harmed in the strikes, and I continue to pray for the safety of our troops and Americans in the region. The world is safer today because of President Trump, and we pray that the Lord would continue to give him wisdom and discernment as he leads our Nation and continues to work on bringing down tensions in the Middle East.

God bless President Trump, God bless our troops, and God bless our great country.

ONE BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL'S ECONOMIC RELIEF

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work our Republican majorities are putting in to deliver American families the largest tax cut in American history. This process hasn't been easy by any means, but it is worth every single debate we are having to get it over the finish line. If we fail to get this bill passed and on President Trump's desk, then middle- and working-class families will be the ones who pay the price.

Some of my Democrat colleagues continue to lie about what our bill does. Mr. Speaker, the truth is that the One Big Beautiful Bill Act eliminates taxes on tips and on overtime pay. It lowers taxes on Social Security benefits and expands the child tax credit for working-class families.

Our bill helps keep American family farms afloat by eliminating the death tax for most, saving 2 million family farms. The family farmers and ranchers in my district are hardworking men and women who are up and moving by sunrise and working well past sun-

down, ensuring they can feed, clothe, and fuel the world. Their pride doesn't come from large bank accounts, it comes from answering a call that requires hard labor and lots of sacrifices to feed their neighbors. It isn't glamorous, but it is essential, and they need commonsense policies like the ones in the one big, beautiful bill to ensure their businesses can stay afloat and that their families won't lose their inheritance because Uncle Sam is trying to bankrupt them.

If Congress fails to get this bill across the finish line, the average Kansas family will see a tax hike of \$2,200 this January. I understand for some it may not seem like a lot of money, but for the men and women across the Big First District, \$2,200 makes a big difference. It is no secret to anyone who serves in this Chamber that over the last few years the country navigated record levels of inflation brought on by excessive Federal government spending. As input and everyday costs skyrocketed across the country, working- and middle-class families were the ones who bore the brunt. They are long overdue for some relief, and the one big, beautiful bill gives them the relief that they so desperately need.

In a few short weeks, this body will have a chance to show what we stand for. For most of my Democrat colleagues, I know they don't want to give President Trump a win, but surely they can work with him on behalf of working-class families. They are either for the largest tax cuts for middle- and working-class families in American history or they are against them.

Whose side will they be on?

DOBBS DECISION ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. SYKES of Ohio was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, ripping away a constitutional right that generations of women had relied on for nearly one-half century.

In that moment, the Court did not just revoke a legal precedent, they set in motion a wave of chaos, cruelty, and control. What followed was a full-scale assault on reproductive healthcare: abortion, contraception, IVF, and even access to emergency care.

In Ohio, we felt the effects immediately. Just hours after the Dobbs decision was handed down, an extreme and deeply unpopular 6-week abortion ban went into effect, essentially outlawing abortion before many people even knew they are pregnant.

That law put the lives of millions of women in danger overnight. It forced healthcare providers to choose between following their sworn oath to care for patients or facing criminal charges. It caused trauma and suffering that cannot be undone.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, a 10-year-old rape victim was denied the care she needed and was forced to flee the State

to get the care that saved her life and her future.

Yet, despite all of this, the people of Ohio did what we have always done in the face of injustice. We fought back.

In November 2023, Ohioans from across the political spectrum came together and voted to enshrine reproductive freedom directly into our State's constitution: the ability to bear a child, to use contraception, and to access abortion care. It was a powerful, hopeful moment, but, Mr. Speaker, our work is far from over.

That is because within days of that historic vote, Republican lawmakers in Ohio announced they would do everything in their power to prevent our laws from being removed.

That is right. Just days after the people spoke loudly and clearly, some legislators pledged to ignore the will of the voters, and now they are following through. Just last week, members of the Ohio House of Representatives introduced one of the most extreme anti-choice bills in the country.

This dangerous bill would ban nearly all abortions in Ohio, criminalize doctors, and potentially treat patients seeking care as criminals. Let me be crystal clear. Under this proposal, abortion could be prosecuted as homicide. There would be no meaningful exceptions, not for rape and not for incest.

One of the bill's lead supporters, an anti-woman activist, was asked whether he worried this would overturn the will of the voters, the constitutional amendment the people of Ohio passed a couple of years ago. He said that he wasn't concerned. He said: "The will of the voters was evil."

The will of the voters was evil.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think I have heard anything less American. The will of the voters is the bedrock of our democracy, and just as these extremists want to take away the decisionmaking capabilities of women, they have not stopped there. They want to take away the decisionmaking capability of all Ohioans.

That is the ideology we are up against. It is one where the voice of the people isn't just disregarded, but it is condemned. It is one where bodily autonomy is labeled evil. It is one where political extremists will stop at nothing, not even the State constitution, to impose their beliefs on the rest of us. It is chilling and it is dangerous.

This uncertainty is not just an Ohio problem. The United States Supreme Court's recent decision in *Moyle v. United States* dismissed an opportunity to affirm that emergency abortion care is protected under Federal law. Instead, they punted, refusing to give clarity and refusing to give peace of mind to women and doctors across the country.

That is why I introduced a resolution to reaffirm access to emergency care and abortion care to all Americans. That is why House Democrats have introduced bills to guarantee abortion

rights across the country and protect access to birth control, IVF, and other fertility care.

That is because at the heart of this fight there is something bigger than politics. It is about freedom, the freedom to control our own bodies. It is about the freedom to decide when, if, and how we grow our families and the freedom to choose our own futures on our own terms.

We are the best people to make those decisions for ourselves. Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of brilliant minds here in this legislative Chamber and in State houses and in courts all across the country, but women do not need them to be in our most intimate decisionmaking moments. As a Representative of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I will keep standing up for our freedom, and I will keep working to ensure our laws reflect our values.

We must trust women. We must protect our rights, and we must never forget that democracy only works if we honor the will of the people.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LOUDERMILK) at noon.

PRAYER

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

In this brief moment, O God, we call to You as You have invited us to do. We lay before You our concerns, our joys, worries, and hopes, praying that as You have promised, You will answer us.

We quiet our thoughts and open our hearts, putting ourselves in Your hands for You are the source of life and wisdom. Grant us Your guidance and reveal to us Your truth.

Our ears are attuned and our souls prepared to receive the knowledge that You alone possess, great and hidden things that we have not known and cannot on our own obtain without giving ourselves into Your sovereign care.

Though this encounter is brief, abide with us throughout this day, that we would be aware of Your leading. While this may be the only moment we have set aside to hear Your voice and share our hearts, may we be inspired to grow in our relationship with You and listen for Your Word and trust in Your daily mercies.

Let us make time today and every day to be still and know that You are God.

In Your eternal name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TLAIB led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA OPPOSITION JAILED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the corrupt Georgian Dream party continues to wrongfully arrest opposition leaders of the Republic of Georgia.

As the Georgian Dream schemes a one-party state, gives the Chinese Communist Party their Black Sea port, and blocks America from trade, the Georgian people have conducted over 200 days of consecutive protests for freedom.

Americans stand with the legitimate President Salome Zourabichvili and the Georgian people. The MEGOBARI Act for freedom, sovereignty, and rule of law received 90 percent of the vote in the House. Joining the proposed Trump Tower in Damascus, Syria, should be the Trump National Golf Course in Tbilisi, Georgia.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is defending American families with peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin's lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, and hosting Iranian murderers in Moscow.

NO MORE WARS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, no more wars. The majority of Americans do

not support our country getting into another endless war.

President Trump violated the United States Constitution by sending the United States troops to bomb Iran without congressional authorization.

Taking our country to war requires a vote in Congress. Every single one of us represents close to 800,000 people, and they deserve a vote.

The American people do not want another war. They do not want us spending endless amounts of money to invest in death and destruction. They want us to fund Medicaid, housing, and Head Start. They want access to clean water and so many critical programs that our communities desperately need.

We have seen our government manufacture consent for the invasion of Iraq that killed and displaced millions of people, our loved ones, and created total devastation and instability in the region.

We have seen our government lie about weapons of mass destruction before. We are not going to fall for it again. Instead of listening to the American people who are saying no more wars, Trump is listening to genocidal maniac war criminal Netanyahu who lied about Iraq and now is lying about Iran.

HONORING INGRID IZAGUIRRE

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House and recognize the very hard work and the invaluable contributions of Ingrid Izaguirre to my office.

Ingrid has honorably served as a climate solutions fellow on my legislative team for the past 2 years. During her time with my office, she has stepped up to the plate to manage planning and programming for the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, turning what was an inactive caucus into one of the most active caucuses on Capitol Hill.

Notably, she has facilitated dozens of cross-aisle conversations and educational opportunities for both Members and staff. She has built bipartisan support for permitting reform and for the Department of Energy programs. She has spearheaded numerous legislative proposals through the National Defense Authorization Act to keep our Nation's energy infrastructure more secure and so much more.

Our HoulaTeam will miss her quick wit, unrelenting work ethic, and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, Ingrid has proven that bipartisanship and cooperation on climate change is possible even during these divided times. She should be very proud. We will miss her and welcome her to the Houla alum network, and I have no doubt that she will be successful in her next role.

MEDICAID SHOULD SERVE THE TRULY NEEDY

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of noise coming from the other side claiming that House Republicans are cutting Medicaid with our commonsense work requirements.

Let me be clear: That is just not true.

You can't cut something from someone who was never or is no longer eligible to receive it.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, of the 7.8 million people Democrats say would lose coverage, 4.8 million are able-bodied adults with no kids who could work, but don't. Another 1.4 million are in the country illegally and 2.2 million simply don't qualify under the law already.

Medicaid should serve the truly needy, not those who refuse to help themselves. House Republicans don't cut Medicaid. That is not what we are doing in this bill. We restore its integrity because work requirements are not a punishment. They are a path to dignity and independence.

AMERICANS OF ALL PARTIES DO NOT WANT MORE WAR

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose war in Iran or any wars of choice in the Middle East.

We need to be investing in good-paying jobs at home, healthcare at home, and childcare at home, not billions of dollars in missiles targeted at the Middle East that we can't afford. That is why Representative MASSIE and I introduced a resolution to prevent more wars of choice.

What did we achieve? The intelligence tells us that we just pushed Iran back 3 to 4 months in building a bomb. Vice President Vance says they still have enough nuclear fuel to have 10 nuclear missiles.

We need tough diplomacy to deny Iran a bomb, not more wars at the expense of the American people. Americans of all parties do not want more war.

HONORING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JUAN SANTIAGO

(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 recognize and honor Sergeant First Class Juan Santiago, a decorated veteran and American patriot residing in Melbourne, Florida.

Sergeant Santiago began his career in 1958 in the United States Army at

Fort Buchanan and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. He went on to serve our Nation with distinction around the globe with deployments in Cuba, Italy, Germany, and five tours in Vietnam.

His exceptional service earned him a place in the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame as well as many other numerous honors, including the Honorable Order of St. Michael and two Purple Hearts.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank Sergeant Santiago for his bravery.

RECOGNIZING SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES

(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, it is a privilege to rise and recognize five outstanding young leaders from eastern North Carolina who have earned appointments to our Nation's service academies.

Abel Dees and Parker Stokes are headed to the United States Military Academy.

Leo Fletcher-Fontana will attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Nicholas Santiago and Dylan Sawyer are bound for the United States Naval Academy.

These remarkable young leaders have achieved academic excellence. They reflect the best of our communities and are answering the call that goes way beyond themselves. Behind each of them is a community of supporters and families whose love is making it possible for them.

Mr. Speaker, to our appointees: Abel, Parker, Leo, Nicholas, and Dylan, eastern North Carolina believes in them and we are proud of them.

RECOGNIZING ST. MARYS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the St. Marys Area School District for launching a new agriculture education curriculum, an investment in both their students and the future of our Nation's food system.

Agricultural education is not just for those in rural areas. It is foundational to the future of our economy, environment, and our national security. Programs like this one help students understand where their food comes from, how it is produced, and the science and technology driving modern agriculture.

Beginning next school year, St. Marys will offer ag curriculum starting in seventh grade and extending through high school. Already nearly 100 students have signed up, proof that our young people are eager to learn more about the science, innovation, and business behind agriculture.

As chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I applaud this effort. It is exactly the kind of hands-on, forward-thinking program we need to develop the next generation of farmers, scientists, and entrepreneurs.

Agriculture puts food on our tables, clothes on our backs, and fuel in our vehicles. Programs like this ensure it continues to do so for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the leadership, educators, and students of St. Marys for their vision, and I look forward to seeing the impact of this outstanding program.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3944, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 530 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3944.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1214

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3944) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, with Mr. LOUDERMILK in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am honored to present the fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill to the House today.

This bill supports our troops, their families, and our Nation's veterans.

The bill includes nearly \$18 billion for military construction efforts. It is critical that our servicemembers and their families have the infrastructure and support they need. This bill delivers to construct and improve military housing, childcare centers, and other quality-of-life components that are so important to those who risk so much.

This bill continues to build on investments that strengthen our national security through the construction of modern infrastructure and improvements to critical quality-of-life facilities for our servicemembers and their families.

Additionally, we continue to provide significant funding to build upon prior years' work to enable the Department of Defense to meet the challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

The bill honors our commitment to our Nation's veterans and to our troops. To honor that commitment, the bill provides full funding for healthcare and benefits for veterans. Our veterans have earned these benefits, and we are making good on our promises to them. That includes fully funding our commitment to the PACT Act.

The bill continues robust investments in women's health, rural health, veterans' homelessness issues, and mental health. The legislation maintains all the funding for medical and prosthetic research. It increases funding for VA infrastructure and supports Arlington National Cemetery. It invests in the improvement, operations, and maintenance of burial grounds for those who have sacrificed.

I thank Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I am glad we are at this step in the process and hope that we continue to work together to support our troops and our veterans.

Everyone—everyone, Mr. Chair—should understand that this bill cares for our veterans. It supports our troops and their families. This bill keeps the promises that we have made to our heroes.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3944, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, unfortunately, could not possibly disagree with the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), my friend, more on the description of this bill, which is why I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3944, the fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill.

While I unfortunately cannot support the bill on the floor today, I will say in Chairman CARTER's absence that I am thankful and appreciative of the work that we have been able to accomplish together over the years on this subcommittee. I know he and I both prioritize quality of life for our servicemembers and their families and caring for our veterans.

Unfortunately, this bill hurtles us toward VA privatization, a top Project 2025 priority that undercuts what veterans consistently ask us for in Congress. They want high-quality medical care at the VA; not privatized care that takes longer to receive.

By transferring record funding from VA medical services to community care, which is a 67 percent increase of \$14 billion, this bill pushes veterans into private care, even though veteran polls and studies show that when given the option, veterans prefer to receive their medical care at the VA.

In 2024, veteran trust in VA healthcare rose to a record 92 percent. We should build on this success, not kick veterans to an already crowded private market. I understand that there is a need for community care, especially for veterans in rural areas and specialty care when necessary, and when appointments at the VA are scarce.

However, countless studies show that when veterans seek care at private hospitals and clinics, they wait longer to see providers, and they get worse care. They know VA medical professionals choose this work due to their mission to care for our veterans, and that is something the private sector simply cannot replicate.

We should invest more in VA provider recruitment and retention incentives, increase benefits counselors and adjudicators, not ignore veterans' wishes and speed recklessly into privatization.

On the military construction side, this bill underfunds military construction by \$904 million compared to the President's budget request, and fails to fund some specific needs such as installation resilience and NATO infrastructure commitments. As Russia continues to wage an illegal war in Ukraine and threaten Europe, we should be sending a clear sign that we stand with our NATO allies, allies who have stood by us for decades. We are talking about infrastructure for our troops who are over there, as well as our allies' troops.

We all know that warming global temperatures are having a devastating impact on our military installations, including sea level rise, recurrent flooding, hurricanes, and extreme weather, as well as extreme heat and drought, yet this bill includes zero dedicated funding to mitigate this extreme weather damage to our installations and force readiness.

We have seen time and again what devastating extreme weather can do to installations. In 2018, Hurricane Michael mauled Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, my home State, and cost the Air Force \$4.9 billion to rebuild. When Typhoon Mawar ran through Guam and devastated the island, this Congress provided almost \$1.8 billion to begin recovering from the damage. Unfortunately, we know that future need from Typhoon Mawar will cost many billions more.

Finally, this bill includes a plethora of harmful poison pill riders. It once again prohibits the VA from implementing its interim final rule to protect a woman's right to abortion and counseling. The message sent on that is clear: Republicans want to further limit women's access to healthcare.

Never mind if an abortion is in the best medical interest for the veteran, between her and her doctor. Disturbingly, Republicans think you should only have access to abortion if you are dying.

This bill has the government making personal medical decisions for veterans, not their doctor or the veteran themselves. It is a cruel and ironic way to treat those who fight for our freedoms by taking them away.

This bill also undermines VA's ability to keep at-risk veterans safe by preventing VA from reporting a beneficiary to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. This rider prohibits VA from following Federal law to keep guns out of the hands of people who Federal law says should not have them because they are a danger to themselves or others.

My subcommittee receives notifications every time there is a suicide on VA property. Over the last year, Mr. Chairman, we received suicide notices from Asheville, Los Angeles, McAllen, Minneapolis, Las Vegas, south Texas, Puget Sound, and many, many more. Every single veteran committed suicide with a firearm. Every single one.

With all of these serious concerns, I cannot in good conscience support this bill. I urge my colleagues to oppose it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today is the first of 12 essential steps that the House Appropriations Committee will take to restore strong, responsible governance under the golden age of the Trump administration.

Just this past weekend, Missouri's own 509th Bomb Wing and the 131st Guard Wing of Whiteman Air Force Base in my district demonstrated the vital role that our B-2 long-range strike force plays in preserving national and international security.

Drone warfare between Ukraine and Russia has shown just how vulnerable strategic assets can be. This bill emphasizes the importance of modernizing and hardening our infrastructure for the world's most advanced air wings, such as the B-21 Raider.

Our greatest asset, though, is not our aircraft. I think the ranking member would agree, it is our people. This bill makes bold strides to improve the quality of life for our servicemembers and their families. It expands childcare options. It enhances access to tutoring for children of fallen and disabled veterans, and it supports the daily needs of the men and women who wear the uniform.

Access to a VA facility is not a reality for some of our rural veterans. I hear this each and every day out in my

district, 24 counties southeast of Kansas City. This bill, though, ensures that they are not forgotten. We increased access opportunities by increasing the funds available for community care.

In a powerful act of bipartisanship, we are strengthening the Veterans Crisis Line. When a veteran calls, someone must answer. Increased staffing and resources will help ensure that support is there each and every time.

Mr. Chair, our veterans fought for us. It is time that we fight for them. This bill does that, and I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, a vote to support our veterans. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would certainly agree with the gentleman from Missouri if the Trump administration under Elon Musk's DOGE effort hadn't actually fired employees and interrupted the ability of employees of the Veterans Crisis Line from actually doing their job.

We have no idea how many people lost their lives as a result of that interruption in service. I would love to agree with the gentleman, but unfortunately, the facts on the ground actually reflect that they do not share the same commitment that we do to ensure the safety of our servicemembers and making sure that we look out for them.

Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for yielding. I thank all of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee staff on both sides of the aisle for their work, and in particular Farouk Ophaso and Tyler Coe.

I am opposed to this bill, which will transfer billions of taxpayer dollars to private hospitals and clinics, leading to longer wait lines, poorer communication and coordination, a diminished quality of care for our veterans, and higher costs for taxpayers.

This is a step toward privatization of the Veterans Administration because if you hollow out the Veterans Administration, if you make it impossible for people to be able to access their benefits, then they say: Well, we can't trust the VA. Then they will move in the direction of privatization, and that is where this administration wants to go.

This bill would worsen the quality of life for servicemembers and their families while putting veterans' safety at risk.

While our military faces massive recruitment challenges, the bill underfunds military construction by nearly \$1 billion, hurting our recruitment and retention and undermining our military readiness. By making it harder to keep guns out of the hands of those legally barred from holding them, this bill endangers veterans' safety.

The bill leaves military installations, servicemembers, and their families vulnerable to climate change and worsening natural disasters by failing to include dedicated funding to strengthen our military installations against these threats or to help them recover from past disasters.

Defense leaders, including during President Trump's first term, have warned of the danger that climate change poses to our military, and the tens of billions of dollars in damage to military installations from recent severe weather reinforces their point. Former Secretary James Mattis warned that climate change threatened American interests and our defense assets around the world and said climate change is "a challenge that requires a broader whole-of-government response."

This bill attacks women veterans, who are the fastest growing group served by the Department of Veterans Affairs, with a policy rider that limits abortion access and prohibits abortion counseling. The women who volunteer to serve and defend our Nation, to protect Americans' sacred rights and freedoms, should not come home to find their medical care and family planning decisions being made by anyone other than themselves, their families, and their doctors.

These riders do nothing but put us on a path of partisan division that will make it more difficult to come to an agreement on full-year bills that can actually become law. Ending fiscal year 2025 with an unprecedented full-year continuing resolution was a missed opportunity to invest in our veterans and in our servicemembers. We should be working toward a bipartisan bill that can actually pass this year.

Finally, the bill undercuts our commitments to our military partners. The Trump administration has already done a masterful job at alienating America on the world stage, turning our back on our closest allies. This bill goes even further. It underfunds NATO, the infrastructure, by almost \$200 million. It undermines the infrastructure projects of our own troops in Europe that they are relying on. Our credibility as a national security partner has been trashed by this administration, and now is not the time to retreat from our alliances even further.

The majority may suggest they are supporting veterans' needs with this bill alone, but we all know that it does not contain all the programs the most vulnerable of veterans depend on.

Programs and services from food assistance to education to health research, which this administration has illegally frozen and dismantled, and which their budget decimates funding for, support veterans around the country. Losing that support means abandoning our responsibilities and our promises to our Nation's veterans.

While I am glad that the Democrats on the Appropriations Committee were

successful in shaming our colleagues across the aisle into amending their original bill to include advance funding for the PACT Act, this bill still fails too many veterans in too many ways, so I cannot support it, and I urge my colleagues to vote “no.”

□ 1230

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) will now control the time for the majority.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I thank my good friend, Judge CARTER, for yielding me time.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of this important piece of legislation. Prioritizing veterans and troops says everything about our values, and that is exactly what this first fiscal year 2026 appropriations bill does.

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026, is a testament to caring for those who have selflessly worn America's uniform, their families, and the defenders who follow their path of service. We meet this mission not only in words of gratitude but in policies that support them.

This legislation provides full funding for healthcare and benefits for our Nation's veterans and implements an advance for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund. This marks enhanced investment under President Trump, which is also reflected in critical mental health initiatives and work to fight homelessness.

It devotes funding to improve quality of life, including childcare and housing resources for military families who help carry the weight of their loved one's service.

It reaffirms our commitment to peace through strength by providing for military base infrastructure and key deterrence efforts in the Indo-Pacific.

It also honors our heroes, ensuring the preservation of national military cemeteries and memorials.

With this legislation, our obligations to our Armed Forces, past and present, and our security are upheld. A vote “yes” is a vote to put our veterans, military families, base readiness, and America first.

I thank Chairman CARTER for his hard work on this measure, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting it on final passage.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), my dear friend who is the distinguished ranking member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my continued and resolute opposition to the fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs,

and Related Agencies Appropriations Act in its current form.

I represent a district that is home to Robins Air Force Base, Fort Benning, and Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany. These installations are more than just military sites. They are the backbone of communities where servicemembers live, raise families, and eventually retire to continue serving in civilian life.

Because of this, I have a deep and personal understanding of the needs of our servicemembers, veterans, and their families. I can say unequivocally that this bill fails them.

Our veterans deserve better. Our military families deserve better. Frankly, all of us deserve a bill that reflects our shared commitment to the men and women who wear and have worn the uniform.

National defense is not just about weapons and strategy. It is about people, and this bill, as currently written, does not prioritize the needs of our people. Instead, it is laced with ideological provisions drawn from Project 2025, prioritizing political ambition over the well-being of those who have dedicated their lives to serving this country.

Let me be clear. Healthcare for veterans should not be an ideological battlefield. Yet, this bill accelerates the shift to privatized care at a time when we should be investing in the VA system itself.

Veterans overwhelmingly want to be treated in VA hospitals and clinics, facilities tailored to their unique needs and staffed by professionals who understand the physical, emotional, and psychological cost of service. Instead of fortifying these institutions, the bill undermines them.

Community care is an important tool, but it must remain just that, a supplement, not a substitute. Veterans should be referred to community care only when the VA cannot meet their needs, not as part of a systematic effort to privatize the entire system.

Occam's razor reminds us that the simplest explanation is often the correct one. Here, the simplest explanation for this unprecedented increase in outsourced care is a broader goal to dismantle the VA system itself, aligning with Project 2025's dangerous objective to privatize veterans' healthcare. The consequences of this cannot be overstated.

Equally troubling is the underfunding of military construction, particularly housing and childcare. These are not luxuries. They are necessities. A stable home and quality childcare are foundational to military readiness. When we fail to provide for the families of our servicemembers, we degrade morale, retention, and focus.

We cannot expect excellence from our Armed Forces if we do not support the very people who make excellence possible.

This bill does not build trust. It erodes it. Trust in our government, our institutions, and our promises is what

holds the fabric of this Nation together.

This legislation should be a reflection of our values. It should speak to our priorities. It should say to every servicemember, veteran, and military family: We see you. We value you. We will not let you down.

Instead, it cuts where we should invest. It deregulates where we need oversight. Perhaps most egregiously, it sows division where we desperately need unity.

This is not a partisan issue. It is an American issue. We must rise above ideology to meet this moment with courage and clarity.

I urge every one of my colleagues, especially those who may view this bill as just another line item, to pause and consider the real impact these decisions have on the people we are sworn to serve. Let their needs, not political blueprints, be our North Star today. We must do better.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me time.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. It is fitting that the appropriations bill to come to the House floor this year is one that fulfills our highest priorities, honoring our commitments to those who have served and are currently serving in the United States military.

This bill delivers on our promises by fully funding veterans' healthcare programs and fully funding veterans' benefits and VA programs.

This bill addresses critical infrastructure needs for our men and women in uniform. To address deficiencies in military barracks identified by GAO and others, the bill includes a \$75 million increase. There is also a \$75 million increase for child development centers on military bases to improve the quality of life of many military families.

In closing, I thank my colleague Judge CARTER for crafting a bill that keeps our promises to the veterans and our troops.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR), a new member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Chairman, I would like to first express my gratitude. I am excited to be on the Appropriations Committee and to serve with wonderful colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Chairman, I have been so alarmed by the attacks on hard-working Americans by the Trump administration. We are seeing, through

the Republican reconciliation bill, a historic transfer of wealth from the have-nots to the haves.

It has been equally alarming to see that our veterans have not been exempt from what we are all concerned about. In fact, if we look at the mass firings that occurred, as directed by Elon Musk and his DOGE effort, one-third of our Federal workforce is made up of veterans. They have been at risk with those firings.

We know also that there are additional firings that are coming. There are 80,000 VA employees slated to be fired. The cuts to healthcare in the reconciliation bill will impact veterans' families, which is why I was hoping we could mitigate much of that through this bill. Unfortunately, we have not, which is why I cannot support the bill.

In fact, Project 2025, which we discussed at length last year, one of the tenets of it calls for privatizing the VA. This bill lays the foundation for that. We know that our veterans demand, expect, and deserve the best, highest quality healthcare, and that is why we must do more through this bill and not privatize.

There are other components of the bill that are equally alarming. I hope we can continue to work better on both sides of the aisle to improve care for our veterans. This bill doesn't get us there.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), a member of the Appropriations Committee. He just joined us, and I am happy to have him.

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, as an elected official, one of the greatest honors of my career has been standing shoulder to shoulder with veterans of northwest Indiana. I have worked tirelessly to ensure they receive the world-class care and benefits they have bravely earned in service to our Nation.

Indiana's First Congressional District is home to nearly 40,000 veterans. Every single day, I fight to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs fulfills its sacred promise to those who wore the uniform. That means making sure the VA has the staffing, resources, and funding necessary to deliver the high-quality care that our heroes deserve.

It is with deep regret and strong conviction that I oppose this proposal because it fails our veterans. It fails to meet the obligations we owe those who answered the call of duty.

In particular, I have heard the voices of veterans and their families in northwest Indiana, voices filled with concern and fear. They are worried that the cuts to VA staffing will strip away access to critical care and essential services. We cannot and must not allow that to happen.

Our Nation made a promise. We must honor it with action and not empty words.

I have also heard from veterans who have continued their mission of service by joining the Federal workforce only now to face uncertainty about their futures. These patriots, who once defended our freedoms, now work to uphold the very institutions they once served in uniform. Nearly 30 percent of the Federal workforce is made up of veterans. Cutting staff just doesn't jeopardize care. It threatens the jobs and livelihoods of those who have already sacrificed so much for this country.

I stand ready for the debate ahead. Let's be clear: These cuts are coming at exactly the wrong time. Instead of reducing services, we should be expanding them in the wake of the Honoring our PACT Act.

Veterans exposed to toxic substances deserve swift justice. Right now, the average time for processing a claim is 165 days. Over 2.3 million claims have been submitted, and more than 6,000 of those veterans are right in my district, Indiana's First Congressional District. That number represents hope and progress.

I have to ensure and uphold a duty to the brave men and women who have served.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the distinguished ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and a champion of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding me time.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3944, the fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Unfortunately, I must ask my colleagues to oppose this fundamentally flawed legislation as well. This is not a position I take lightly, and I lament that we have gotten to this point.

As ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have a sacred duty to care for our Nation's veterans, regardless of their race, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, or politics. To fulfill this solemn promise, I am committed to doing all we can to ensure that we have a well-functioning Department of Veterans Affairs.

We must also ensure the VA has adequate funding to do the job we ask it to do. As such, any time veterans legislation is on the floor, I ask two main questions. One is: Does this bill improve access and delivery of care and benefits for veterans, their dependents, and their survivors? Two is: Does it provide appropriate resources to VA to get the job done?

Unfortunately, despite its price tag, this bill fails on both accounts.

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Mr. Chair, at best, I could say this bill is premature. VA has not yet seen fit to provide Congress with full and complete justification for its budget request. We have no clear idea how VA intends to spend the money we would be appropriating through the Department.

At worst, I would say the Republican majority has rushed forward with a bill that is completely divorced from our current reality, one in which VA Secretary Collins is planning to callously fire 80,000 VA employees without regard to the impact on delivery of healthcare and other services.

My Republican colleagues have thoughtlessly rubberstamped a budget proposal that accelerates privatization of veterans' healthcare; threatens progress on ending veteran homelessness; erodes access to disability benefits; guts VA IT modernization, unless someone happens to be one of the President's tech friends; and needlessly drags VA into MAGA Republicans' culture war.

This bill contains numerous dangerous policy riders that hinder VA's ability to serve all veterans. Especially harmful are provisions that deny women veterans the full range of necessary medical care, including necessary reproductive healthcare which includes abortion care and counseling.

On top of that, this bill abandons the premise that all veterans deserve the same level of care they have earned, by cruelly and heartlessly subjecting LGBTQ+ veterans to the bigotry that characterizes this administration. The unpatriotic attack against transgender servicemembers continues in this bill as an unsparing attack against transgender veterans.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, if that wasn't bad enough, this bill continues the harmful Kennedy amendment rider. This shortsighted, dangerous provision prevents VA from protecting beneficiaries and those around them from potential harm, beneficiaries with debilitating mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, Alzheimer's, dementia, and bipolar disorder.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote against this appropriations bill.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY).

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chair, today I rise in grateful support of H.R. 3944, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026.

As a proud Representative of over 76,000 veterans, as well as Camp Lejeune and Military Corps Air Stations Cherry Point and New River, it is my honor to advocate for Federal funding on their behalf.

I proudly support FY 2026 appropriations to increase the VA's budget by 10

percent to ensure that our servicemembers and veterans receive the resources that they need and, more importantly, that they deserve.

North Carolina is proud to be called home by hundreds of thousands of Active-Duty members of our military and those retired from our Armed Services. I am grateful the Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act was included in this package, as well as supporting language for the F-35 sustainment center and utilities upgrade for future F-35 squadrons. I wholeheartedly support this legislation.

We live in a dangerous world now. We had an administration before that wanted to make things about social justice in our military. Military is about defending the rights and freedoms of this country. I am proud that this administration and this Congress are going to support the military in keeping us safe and free.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST), my colleague and friend.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Chair, the theme for congressional Republicans in Congress is putting corporations over people. That is exactly what they are doing in this bill.

Instead of focusing on supporting our veterans, they have added one of the most reckless giveaways to the gun lobby that we have ever seen, gutting the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the very system that keeps guns out of the hands of abusers, felons, and people who might be a danger to themselves and others.

Republicans want to ensure that even if the VA determines that a veteran has a mental health condition to the point where they can't cash their own check, the check has to be given to a family member because they are going through a crisis, congressional Republicans want that person to be able to go to a gun store and buy a weapon.

Most veteran suicides involve firearms. This will deeply worsen the veteran suicide crisis. This does not protect veterans' rights. This protects the gun lobby's profits over the lives of our veterans.

If my colleagues vote for this, they are voting for veterans to die. Mr. Chair, don't let them tell you this bill is about liberty and freedom.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Chair, there is no liberty in a coffin, and there is no freedom in a funeral. Veterans will die if this passes, and anyone who votes for it should be ashamed of themselves.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I want to add some further information because the Veterans Cri-

sis Line was referenced by the gentleman from Missouri.

I want to make it very clear that the Secretary of the VA actually did a YouTube video specifically denying firing anyone from the Veterans Crisis Line when, in reality, he fired 24 people who worked on the Veterans Crisis Line.

If there was any improvement to the Veterans Crisis Line in this bill, it is thanks to my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN), who was successful in passing an amendment that added \$5 million to funding for the Veterans Crisis Line, and the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD), who actually added an amendment that prohibits any further cuts from the Veterans Crisis Line.

We are certainly appreciative of the bipartisan support for that. However, I want to make it clear that we need to remain united in fighting cuts to the Veterans Crisis Line and ensure that veterans have everything they need and a safety net firmly in place.

With all the issues raised during this debate, Mr. Chair, from the blatant push toward privatization of VA medical care to the underfunding of infrastructure and climate resiliency projects and the harmful poison pill riders, I just cannot in good conscience support this bill.

It breaks my heart because we do have such a good working relationship across the aisle with Chairman CARTER and myself. I look forward to working together to improve this bill. I know it is possible as we move forward, and I am hopeful. I urge my colleagues at this point to vote against it.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I acknowledge and ask my colleagues to support the fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

This legislation provides critical funding for military bases, provides housing for our troops and their families, and makes other investments aimed at improving the quality of life of our servicemembers. It ensures that our national defense needs are met both at home and abroad.

We also uphold our pledge to our veterans. This bill fully funds healthcare and benefits for those who have valiantly served. Again, I ask my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee print 119-5 shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as an

original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3944

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$2,103,657,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$321,838,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$77,300,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Army" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$4,104,499,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$526,821,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$155,100,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$3,169,526,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$460,886,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of

the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$32,400,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air Force" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$3,963,383,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: Provided further, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$822,998,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$82,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Defense-Wide" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL
GUARD**

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$358,489,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$47,439,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$210,492,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$36,092,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$305,032,000, to remain

available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$31,508,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$50,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Army Reserve" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$79,829,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$3,219,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That, of the amount made available under this heading, \$50,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Navy Reserve" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$37,863,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$20,162,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$3,200,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading "Military Construction, Air Force Reserve" in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purposes.

**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM**

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$293,434,000, to remain available until expended.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE
ACCOUNT**

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$489,174,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$276,647,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

**FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
ARMY**

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$495,369,000.

**FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND
MARINE CORPS**

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$245,742,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

**FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS**

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$397,217,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$221,549,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030.

**FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
AIR FORCE**

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$346,250,000.

**FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,
DEFENSE-WIDE**

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$52,156,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$8,195,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

**MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING
IMPROVEMENT FUND**

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, \$497,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: Provided, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: Provided further, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: Provided, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: Provided, That not more than \$20,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to

costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: Provided further, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of April 2021, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 124. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

"Military Construction, Army", \$100,000,000;
 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$100,000,000;
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$100,000,000;
 "Military Construction, Army National Guard", \$40,000,000;
 "Military Construction, Air National Guard", \$80,000,000;
 "Military Construction, Army Reserve", \$40,000,000;
 "Military Construction, Air Force Reserve", \$40,000,000; and

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction and cost to complete projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2025 or fiscal year 2026 submitted to Congress: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: Provided further, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 125. All amounts appropriated to the "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army", "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force", and "Department of Defense—Military Construction, Defense-Wide" accounts pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in a National Defense Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2026 in the funding table in section

4601 of that Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 116 of this Act, funds made available in this Act or any available unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be obligated before October 1, 2027, for fiscal year 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 military construction projects for which project authorization has not lapsed or for which authorization is extended for fiscal year 2026 by a National Defense Authorization Act: Provided, That no amounts may be obligated pursuant to this section from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term "congressional defense committees" means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 128. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design and for construction improvements to Department of Defense laboratory facilities, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

"Military Construction, Army" \$35,000,000;
"Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$35,000,000; and
"Military Construction, Air Force", \$35,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section: Provided further, That the Secretary of the military department concerned may not obligate or expend any funds prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required by this section.

SEC. 129. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design, for child development centers, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

"Military Construction, Army", \$25,000,000;
"Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$25,000,000; and
"Military Construction, Air Force", \$25,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 130. For an additional amount for the accounts and amounts specified for planning and design, for barracks, to remain available until September 30, 2030:

"Military Construction, Army", \$25,000,000;
"Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$25,000,000; and
"Military Construction, Air Force", \$25,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 131. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for unspecified minor construction for demolition, to remain available until September 30, 2029:

"Military Construction, Army", \$25,000,000;
"Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$25,000,000;
"Military Construction, Air Force", \$25,000,000;

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section: Provided further, That the Secretary of the military department concerned may not obligate or expend any funds prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required by this section.

SEC. 132. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$241,947,603,000 which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended: Provided, That not to exceed \$29,454,647 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2027 under this heading shall be reimbursed to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", and "Information Technology Systems" for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the "Compensation and Pensions" appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to "Medical Care Collections Fund" to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$20,057,841,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21 of title 38, United States Code, \$97,893,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, includ-

ing the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That, during fiscal year 2026, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$266,736,842.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM

ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$45,428, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$1,394,442.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$507,254, which may be paid to the appropriation for "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN

PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the principal amount of direct loans, \$6,865,235, as authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of the direct loans not to exceed \$75,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$5,007,265, which shall be paid as appropriate to the appropriations for "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" and "General Administration".

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS

BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$3,876,425,000: Provided, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: Provided further, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bio-engineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 322(d) of

title 38, United States Code, grants authorized by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and administrative expenses necessary to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code: \$59,858,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: Provided further, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: Provided further, That nothing in section 2044(e)(1) of title 38, United States Code, may be construed as limiting amounts that may be made available under this heading for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 in this or prior Acts.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$3,000,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2027; and in addition \$38,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028. Provided further, That of the \$34,000,000,000 that became available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of P.L. 119-4), \$3,000,000,000 is hereby permanently cancelled.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$12,000,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, \$350,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property ac-

quisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; \$11,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That of the amount made available on October 1, 2026, under this heading, \$500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

BRIDGING RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERAN EMPOWERMENT

Contingent upon enactment of authorizing legislation to create a rental assistance voucher program for homeless veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs, for necessary expenses to carry out the Bridging Rental Assistance for Veteran Empowerment program, \$970,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2029, of which up to \$75,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out pilot programs, including any necessary administrative expenses, that aim to end homelessness among veterans.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$943,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemetery expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemetery operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$497,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$450,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$287,000,000 of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems

and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$5,882,000,000, plus reimbursements: Provided, That \$1,350,000,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided further, That \$4,531,000,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027, and of which \$118,900,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, for the purpose of facility activations related to projects funded by the "Construction, Major Projects", "Construction, Minor Projects", "Medical Facilities", "National Cemetery Administration", "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", and "General Administration" accounts: Provided further, That \$1,000,000 shall be for information technology systems development, and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: Provided further, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That amounts made available for the "Information Technology Systems" account for development may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: Provided further, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$3,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table entitled "Information Technology Development Projects" under this heading in the report accompanying this Act.

VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 5 and 38, United States Code, \$2,515,893,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: Provided, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and deployment implementation by facility, including any changes from the deployment plan or schedule: Provided further, That the funds provided in this account shall only be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be administered by that Office: Provided further, That 25 percent of the funds made available under this heading shall not be available until July 1, 2026, and are contingent upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

(1) providing the Committees on Appropriations certifying and detailing any changes to the full deployment schedule, no later than 60 days prior to July 1, 2027; and

(2) certifying in writing no later than 30 days prior to July 1, 2027, the following—

(A) the status of issues included in the report referenced in paragraph (1), including issues that have not been closed but have been suitably resolved or mitigated in a manner that will enhance provider productivity and minimize the potential for patient harm; and

(B) whether the system is stable, and optimized for further deployment at VA sites.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$295,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$1,750,000,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2030; Provided, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design for major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, staffing expenses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration and the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment; Provided further, That funds provided for the Veterans Health Administration through the land acquisition line item shall only be for projects included on the five year development plan notified to Congress through the budgetary process; Provided further, That such sums as may be necessary shall be available to reimburse the "General Administration" account for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services provided, including minor construction and leasing services; Provided further, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2026, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2026; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2027; Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee

period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$232,000,000, of which \$200,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$32,000,000 shall remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous "Construction, Minor Projects" appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: Provided, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$171,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended.

COST OF WAR TOXIC EXPOSURES FUND

For investment in the delivery of veterans' health care associated with exposure to environmental hazards, the expenses incident to the delivery of veterans' health care and benefits associated with exposure to environmental hazards, and medical and other research relating to exposure to environmental hazards, as authorized by section 324 of title 38, United States Code, and in addition to the amounts otherwise available for such purposes in the appropriations provided in this or prior Acts, \$52,676,000,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2025, and shall remain available until expended; and, in addition, \$51,742,000,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2026, and shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2026 for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: Provided, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, in this or any other Act, under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities" accounts may be transferred among the accounts: Provided, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts of 1 percent or less of the

total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: Provided further, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That any transfers to or from the "Medical Facilities" account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects", and "Construction, Minor Projects") shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services" account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2025.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation and Pensions".

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2026, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: Provided, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2025 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: Provided further, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus

earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: Provided further, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2025 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services shall be available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$134,343,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, \$7,607,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and \$7,686,000 for the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration: Provided, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: Provided further, That amounts received shall be credited to the "General Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: Provided, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: Provided further, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects".

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under "Medical Services" are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Medical Services" and "Medical Community Care" accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term "rural Alaska" shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited into the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled "Quarterly reporting", under the heading "General Administration" in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration", "Board of Veterans Appeals", "General Administration", and "National Cemetery Administration" accounts for fiscal year 2026 may be transferred to or from the "Information Technology Systems" account: Provided, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the "Information Technology Systems" account: Provided further, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026 for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", "Medical Facilities", "Construction, Minor Projects", and "Information Technology Systems", up to \$654,954,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That section 220 of title II of division A of Public Law 118-42, as continued by division A of Public Law 119-4 is repealed.

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become

available on October 1, 2026, for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", up to \$739,918,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund shall remain available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities", a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: Provided, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 224. None of the funds made available for "Construction, Major Projects" may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 225. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures

and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled “Disability claims backlog”, under the heading “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114–223: Provided further, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$1,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the “Medical Services” account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2026 in this title (except appropriations made to the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2026, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: Provided, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: Provided further, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: Provided further, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: Provided further, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: Provided further, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 229. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026, under the “Board of Veterans Appeals” and the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” accounts may be transferred between such accounts: Provided, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 231. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline

under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term “civil service” has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term “Executive action” includes—

(i) any Executive order, Presidential memorandum, or other action by the President; and

(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

(c)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of the hotline specified in subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on January 1, 2016, based on an analysis of national suicide data and data collected from such hotline.

(2) At a minimum, the study required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline specified in subsection (a) and who receive follow up services from the hotline or mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs thereafter;

(B) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline who are not referred to, or do not continue receiving, mental health care who commit suicide; and

(C) determine the number of veterans described in subparagraph (A) who commit or attempt suicide.

SEC. 232. Effective during the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on January 1, 2026, none of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the “Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration’s Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance” published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 233. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the “Medical Services” account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term “service-connected” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “covered veteran” means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term “assisted reproductive technology” means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of “Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members” issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Af-

fairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member except that—

(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

(4) The term “adoption reimbursement” means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141).

SEC. 234. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 810(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 235. Section 842 of Public Law 109–115 shall not apply to conversion of an activity or function of the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or National Cemetery Administration to contractor performance by a business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribes as defined in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in section 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code.

SEC. 236. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, shall discontinue using Social Security account numbers to authenticate individuals in all information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs for all individuals not later than September 30, 2026:

(b) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may collect and use a Social Security account number to identify an individual, in accordance with section 552a of title 5, United States Code, in an information system of the Department of Veterans Affairs if and only if the use of such number is necessary to:

(1) obtain or provide information the Secretary requires from an information system that is not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary;

(2) comply with a law, regulation, or court order;

(3) perform anti-fraud activities; or

(4) identify a specific individual where no adequate substitute is available.

(c) The matter in subsections (a) and (b) shall supersede section 237 of division J of Public Law 117–328.

SEC. 237. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027 for “Medical Services”, section 239 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 238. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 239. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 for “Medical Services”, funds may be used in each year to carry out and

expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111-163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 240. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 241. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027, section 258 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 242. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede the access of the Inspector General to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to such Inspector General and expressly limits the right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General access to all records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives within 5 calendar days of any failure by any department or agency covered by this section to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 243. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in a manner that would increase wait times for veterans who seek care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 244. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to the Veterans Health Administration may be used in fiscal year 2026 to convert any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2025 to a general purpose funded program unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits written notification of any such proposal to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to any such action and an approval is issued by the Committees.

SEC. 245. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2026 and 2027, section 248 of division A of Public Law 114-223 shall apply.

SEC. 246. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct research commencing on or after July 1, 2025, that uses any canine, feline, or non-human primate unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves such research specifically and in writing pursuant to subsection (b).

(b)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the conduct of research commencing on or after July 1, 2025, using canines, felines, or non-human primates if the Secretary certifies that—

(A) the scientific objectives of the research can only be met by using such canines, felines, or non-human primates and cannot be met using other animal models, in vitro models, computational models, human clinical studies, or other research alternatives;

(B) such scientific objectives are necessary to advance research benefiting veterans and are

directly related to an illness or injury that is combat-related as defined by 10 U.S.C. 1413(e);

(C) the research is consistent with the revised Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document dated December 15, 2017, including any subsequent revisions to such document; and

(D) ethical considerations regarding minimizing the harm experienced by canines, felines, or non-human primates are included in evaluating the scientific necessity of the research.

(2) The Secretary may not delegate the authority under this subsection.

(c) If the Secretary approves any new research pursuant to subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the commencement of such research, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the nature of the research to be conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(2) the date on which the Secretary approved the research

(3) the USDA pain category on the approved use

(4) the justification for the determination of the Secretary that the scientific objectives of such research could only be met using canines, felines, or non-human primates, and methods used to make such determination;

(5) the frequency and duration of such research; and

(6) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of the research, and animal welfare.

(d) Not later than December 31, 2025, and bi-annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any research being conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs using canines, felines, or non-human primates as of the date of the submittal of the report;

(2) the circumstances under which such research was conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(3) the justification for using canines, felines, or non-human primates to conduct such research;

(4) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of such research; and

(5) the development and adoption of alternatives to canines, felines, or non-human primates research.

(e) Not later than December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Department of Veterans Affairs must submit to voluntary U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections of canine, feline, and non-human primate research facilities.

(f) Not later than December 31, 2025, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing —

(1) any violations of the Animal Welfare Act, the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, or other Department of Veterans Affairs policies related to oversight of animal research found during that quarter in VA research facilities;

(2) immediate corrective actions taken; and

(3) specific actions taken to prevent their recurrence.

(g) The Department shall implement a plan under which the Secretary will eliminate the research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by not later than September 20, 2026.

SEC. 247. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 248. Amounts made available for the “Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care” account in this or any other Act for fiscal years 2025 and 2026 may be used for expenses that would otherwise be payable from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, as amended (38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 249. Obligations and expenditures applicable to the “Medical Services” account in fiscal years 2017 through 2019 for aid to state homes (as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code) shall remain in the “Medical Community Care” account for such fiscal years.

SEC. 250. Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, in this or any other Act, under the “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities” accounts, \$1,323,444,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans.

SEC. 251. Notwithstanding any other law, unless prevented by an order issued by a federal or state court, by no later than September 30, 2026, the Secretary shall commence construction of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California authorized in section 1(a)(3) of Public Law 111-82 and in accordance with Lease No.36C10F20L0008 or successor lease.

SEC. 252. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the status of the “Veterans Medical Care and Health Fund”, established to execute section 8002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2): Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include an update on obligations by program, project or activity and a plan for expending the remaining funds.

SEC. 253. Any amounts transferred to the Secretary and administered by a corporation referred to in section 7364(b) of title 38, United States Code, between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019 for purposes of carrying out an order placed with the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, that are available for obligation pursuant to section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, are to remain available for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred by such corporation during the period of performance of such order, provided that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that such amounts need to remain available for such liquidation.

SEC. 254. Unobligated balances available under the headings “Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” may be obligated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a facility pursuant to section 2(e)(1) of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note), as amended, to provide additional funds or to fund an escalation clause under such section of such Act: Provided, That before such unobligated balances are obligated pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to obligate such unobligated balances and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: Provided further, That the request to obligate such unobligated balances must provide Congress notice that the entity described in section 2(a)(2) of

Public Law 114–294, as amended, has exhausted available cost containment approaches as set forth in the agreement under section 2(c) of such Public Law.

SEC. 255. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out the Department of Veterans Affairs interim final rule published on September 9, 2022, or any successor to such rule, or to propose, promulgate, or implement any substantially similar rule or policy.

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be expended for any abortion, including through a medical benefits package or health benefits program that includes coverage of abortion.

(c) The limitations established in subsection (b) shall not apply to an abortion—

(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

SEC. 256. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for surgical procedures or hormone therapies for the purposes of gender affirming care.

SEC. 257. During the period beginning on October 1, 2025 and ending on September 30, 2026, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer, implement, or enforce the final rule issued by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to “Change in Rates VA Pays for Special Modes of Transportation” (88 Fed. Reg. 10032) and published on February 16, 2023.

SEC. 258. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out VHA Directive 1193.01, “Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Program for Veterans Health Administration Health Care Personnel”.

SEC. 259. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide any services to any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 260. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, in any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under such title, to report a person who is deemed mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, or to be experiencing an extended loss of consciousness as a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, without the order or finding a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

SEC. 261. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading “Veterans Health Administration” from prior appropriations Acts, including any funds transferred from the Medical Care Collections Fund to accounts under such heading, \$15,889,000,000 is hereby permanently rescinded: Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were provided under the heading “Medical and Prosthetic Research” or amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further; That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a plan for rescinding amounts pursuant to this section not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$15,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$106,000,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$49,000,000: Provided, That \$3,800,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$115,000,000, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the “Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies” account.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$70,520,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: Provided, That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$25,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 7727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of “E-Commerce” technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 406. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 407. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 30 days.

SEC. 408. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 411. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 101(e)(8) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 412. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United

States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 413. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matter pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 414. For an additional amount for the “Office of the Secretary”, \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the prevalence and mortality of cancers among individuals who served as active-duty aircrew in the Armed Forces: Provided, That the panel or panels established by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct the study shall identify exposures associated with military occupations of covered individuals, including relating to chemicals, compounds, agents, and other phenomena: Provided further, the study shall review the literature to determine associations between exposures and the incidence of overall cancer morbidity, cancer mortality and increased prevalence of brain cancer, colon and rectal cancers, kidney cancer, lung cancer, melanoma skin cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid cancer, urinary bladder cancer and any other cancers determined appropriate by the Department of Veterans Affairs: Provided further, That not later than eighteen months after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine shall submit its report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Congress of its systematic review and data analysis of the research topics.

SEC. 415. There is hereby appropriated \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, for a pilot program for the Secretary to partner with a private laboratory to utilize Forensic Genetic Genealogy sequencing technology to identify the remains of fallen soldiers buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

SEC. 416. (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be obligated, awarded, or expended to procure or purchase covered information technology equipment in cases where the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, or any subsidiary or parent entity of the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, of the equipment is an entity or parent company of an entity listed on any of the following:

(1) The Chinese Military Company List of the Department of Defense.

(2) The Non-SDN Chinese Military Industrial Complex Companies List of the Department of the Treasury.

(3) The Denied Persons List, Entity List, or Military End User List of the Department of Commerce, if the entity is—

(A) an agency or instrumentality of the People's Republic of China;

(B) an entity headquartered in the People's Republic of China; or

(C) directly or indirectly owned or controlled by an agency, instrumentality, or entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(4) The Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List of the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) The prohibition under subsection (a) shall apply to a case in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has entered into a contract with a non-Department entity for the procurement or purchase of, or the expenditure of funds on, covered information technology equipment.

(c) In this section, the term “covered information technology equipment”—

(1) means a computer, printer, or interoperable videoconferencing equipment for direct use by employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs in an office environment; and

(2) does not include services that use such equipment, including cloud services.

SEC. 417. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be used to—

(1) Classify or facilitate the classification of any communications by a United States person as a mis-, dis-, or mal-information; or

(2) Partner with or fund nonprofit or other private organizations that in any way instruct, influence, direct, or recommend that private companies in any way censor, prohibit, or obstruct lawful and constitutionally protected speech of United States persons, including recommending the censoring or removal of content on social media platforms.

SEC. 418. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the policies and requirements described in the transmittal sheet of the Veterans Health Administration published on August 8, 2019, titled “Smoke-Free Policy for Employees at VA Health Care Facilities (VHA Directive 1085.01)” remain in effect.

SEC. 419. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to reduce the staffing, hours of operation, or services of the Veterans Crisis Line or any other suicide prevention program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 420. \$0.

This Act may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026”.

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in House Report 119-167, amendments en bloc, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 530.

Each further amendment printed in House Report 119-167 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 530, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in House Report 119-167 not earlier disposed of.

Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 530 shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective

designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 530, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF TEXAS

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 530, I offer amendments en bloc.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 29, and 30 printed in House Report 119-167, offered by Mr. CARTER of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 35, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 36, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 36, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 40, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 36, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,500,000)”.

Page 44, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 36, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 36, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,500,000)”.

Page 37, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. CASTOR OF FLORIDA

Page 4, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$360,000,000) (increased by \$360,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. GOODLANDER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Page 34, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 31, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert the following “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 31, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert the following “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 31, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$285,000,000) (increased by \$285,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 31, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 31, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 2, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 4, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

Page 30, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 31, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 37, line 3, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 44, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 28, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. SCHWEIKERT OF ARIZONA

Page 39, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. SCHWEIKERT OF ARIZONA

Page 31, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 530, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in favor of this en bloc package. It includes bipartisan amendments that both sides have agreed to.

I appreciate Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ working with us on this amendment. I ask my colleagues to support it, and I urge its adoption.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment. This amendment contains non-controversial amendments that raise awareness on programs that we all care about. That includes the need to ad-

dress a variety of medical care issues at the VA, the need to build more childcare development centers, construct more State extended-care facilities, expediting claims processing, and many others.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), a fearless defender of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the en bloc package which includes three amendments I offered to the FY 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

My first amendment requires a resident advocate in every veterans home across the country. This advocate will be a direct line of contact for our veterans and their families, ensuring that they have someone who can immediately help with any concerns and respond without delay.

In my home State of New Jersey, 190 veterans tragically lost their lives because of the COVID outbreak at the veterans homes in Paramus, New Jersey, and Menlo Park. This tragedy was preventable and unacceptable. My amendment will help ensure catastrophes like that never happen again.

My second amendment will help VA hospitals provide kosher meal options for Jewish veterans. Right now, many Jewish inpatient veterans are only served frozen, prepackaged kosher meals that severely lack quality nutrition.

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We must ensure that no veteran has to choose between their religion and their health.

Finally, my third amendment will encourage continued funding for the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, which has delivered millions in grants for mental health services to help prevent veteran suicide. Without additional funding, this critical program will expire later this year. We cannot and must not let that happen.

After sacrificing so much, our great veterans should never struggle to get the care, recognition, and respect they have rightfully earned. That is why I strongly urge my colleagues to support the en bloc package.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN).

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of my amendment urging the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive plan to relocate the VA regional office from Manila to Guam.

Guam is home to one of the highest per capita populations of veterans in the United States, but our role doesn't stop there. We serve as a critical hub

for veterans across the western Pacific, from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the Freely Associated States. Yet, despite this regional responsibility, Guam still lacks a full-service VA regional office.

Today, veterans throughout our region are forced to rely on remote services or travel thousands of miles to Honolulu, more than 3,800 miles away, just to meet with a benefits counselor or resolve a claim. That is not just inconvenient. It is unjust, and it is unacceptable.

My amendment seeks to change that. It would direct the VA to develop a plan within 1 year for transitioning its regional office from Manila to Guam. This isn't about turning off the lights in the Philippines overnight. It is about creating a deliberate, responsible roadmap that ensures veterans in the western Pacific and the Philippines continue to receive care while aligning the VA's footprint with our evolving strategic reality.

The men and women who sacrificed for our country did not do so with an expiration date on their service. Our commitment to them must be equally enduring. We have a duty to ensure they are not forgotten or left behind.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. GOODLANDER), who is a new Member and a veteran of our Armed Forces.

Ms. GOODLANDER. Mr. Chair, I thank Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for her leadership.

Mr. Chair, I rise today on behalf of the 88,000 brave American heroes, veterans, who call the State of New Hampshire home.

We owe a sacred obligation to the women and men who served our country in uniform. We have got to make sure that they receive the high-quality healthcare they have earned.

There are 48 States here in the continental United States, and my home State of New Hampshire is the only one without a full-service VA hospital. My amendment before the House today would change that. It will ensure the Trump administration follows through on its promise to expand services to support a full-service VA medical center in New Hampshire.

It is past time that we right this wrong and fill this gap.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues here in Congress to support my amendment which will do just that.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT).

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today with deep respect and unwavering gratitude for the brave men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States of America. My support for the members of our military does not end when their service is complete, and I will always take steps to ensure that our Nation's veterans and their families receive the benefits that they were promised and are owed.

My amendments included in this package today ensure our Nation keeps its sacred promise to those who have served our great country.

From providing additional funding for the construction of new State extended care facilities to increasing funds for medical and prosthetic research, and from reducing the backlog at the Board of Veterans' Appeals to providing burial services and benefits for veterans in rural areas lacking a VA national cemetery, my amendments will directly improve the quality of life for veterans throughout Colorado and America.

This bill makes good on President Trump's promises that he made to our veterans. It mirrors his executive orders on no funds for DEI and on radical transgender surgeries while also supporting the President's efforts to combat veteran homelessness through investment in the new Bridging Rental Assistance For Veteran Empowerment program.

This bill protects the Second Amendment rights of veterans by preventing the VA from sending information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation about veterans without a judge's consent.

It also prohibits the VA from processing medical care claims for illegal aliens.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bipartisan en bloc and for this critical piece of legislation. Our veterans are the living embodiment of duty, honor, and sacrifice. They have stood on the front lines for our freedom, and this bill is a great opportunity to now stand for them.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I do not have any additional speakers, and I also yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF TEXAS

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 530, I offer amendments en bloc as the designee of Chairman COLE.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 2 consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 14, 15, 19, 25, 28, and 32 printed in House Report 119-167, offered by Mr. CARTER of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON OF TEXAS

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,100,000)".

Page 3, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$4,100,000)".

Page 9, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$4,100,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MRS. HOUCHIN OF INDIANA

Page 30, line 9, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 31, line 17, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 12, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 2, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(decreased by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 33, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 31, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. SHREVE OF INDIANA

Page 5, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$55,000,000) (increased by \$55,000,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 530, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in favor of the amendment. It includes various priorities related to veterans' health care and benefits and calls for improvements to our military bases.

Mr. Chairman, I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend from the great State of Texas, "the judge," as we call him back in the freest and greatest State in the Union, for his leadership.

I have an amendment, Mr. Chair, and it is one I think all of my colleagues would want to support.

In the last week, the world witnessed the might of America's unparalleled air superiority and what a critical role our strategic bombers and the men and women who pilot and maintain them play in keeping our enemies, like Iran, in check.

For nearly 40 years, the B-1 has been the tip of the spear of America's air superiority. The B-1 has served us well, but at a time when our adversaries like China are making their own historic investments in their own military, it is time we roll out America's next generation warfighter.

That is why I rise in strong support of this amendment that would direct a little over \$4 million to enhance gate security at military installations set

to receive the B-21 Raider, including Dyess Air Force Base in the key city of Abilene, Texas.

The B-21 Raider represents the most capable and lethal bomber this world and this planet has ever known and seen. It is the future of our long-range strike capability, designed to evade modern air defenses and deliver both nuclear and conventional payloads across the globe.

Dyess, the base in Abilene, Texas, will soon become a key platform for deploying this cutting-edge aircraft. We have a responsibility to ensure that this investment in national defense is protected accordingly.

Let's be clear: This is not a theoretical threat. In 2023 alone, U.S. officials reported over 100 incidents of Chinese nationals attempting to unlawfully access Department of Defense facilities.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, in May of this year, two foreign nationals, here illegally under President Biden's open-border crisis, attempted to breach the Marine Corps base in Quantico in a box truck. These are not isolated incidents, Mr. Chair. They are part of a disturbing trend that put our installations, our technology, and, most importantly, our servicemembers at risk.

This amendment is straightforward. It funds the necessary upgrades to the gate infrastructure at bases like Dyess to comply with the Department of Defense force protection standards. Reinforcing access control preventing unauthorized entry is common sense. As I said, it is straightforward, and it will help both our servicemembers, our air arsenal, and our overall national security posture.

Mr. Chair, I thank the judge for his leadership, and I urge adoption of this amendment.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, this en bloc contains eight amendments that will make this bill worse than it already is.

It includes a funding cut to the Veterans Benefits Administration, further exacerbating the backlogs in processing disability compensation claims, leading to long waits for veterans.

The Republican MILCON-VA bill already cuts the NATO Security Investment Program by \$188 million. This amendment would further cut it by another \$4.1 million. It is shocking that my Republican colleagues would condone this, especially while they are offering amendments encouraging the speedier processes of claims and lamenting the delays in countless Republican speeches.

NATO infrastructure investment receives robust funding from our NATO

partners, but there is an illegal Russian war going on, so it would seem that we need more investments in NATO infrastructure now more than ever. Yet, this amendment would further cut into it.

The amendment also seeks to continue the Republican push to privatize VA medical care. The bill already includes a 67 percent increase to medical community care which is an increase without justification or rationale. We received no backup information from the administration whatsoever as to why they proposed this or why it is necessary because it isn't. It is a simple additional attempt to march the VA toward prioritization and away from what we know veterans want.

The amendment promotes untested and dangerous medical treatment for our veterans. It makes a bad bill even worse.

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move the adoption of this en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, this en bloc doesn't do a single thing to improve this bill. In fact, it makes it worse. It cuts the Veterans Benefits Administration. It discriminates against veterans and doubles down on privatization of VA medical care.

Mr. Chair, I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), and I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee and the dean of women of the House of Representatives.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) from the great State of Florida very much for yielding. She certainly has educated us about Florida, among other things, and she is a proud, proud ranking member on this bill.

□ 1315

This bill punishes our veterans by pushing out professionals from the De-

partment of Veterans Affairs. It promotes premature retirements, and it paves the way for private equity takeovers, leaving care delayed, denied, and diminished.

For this reason, at the appropriate time I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would mandate metrics requiring a report on veteran employee separations, deferred resignations, early retirements, and contractor-driven cuts exposing employment erosion and salary shortfalls of those who have served our Nation. Veterans deserve data not desertion.

I will vote "no" on the military construction bill also because the underlying bill underfunds our military construction accounts by nearly \$1 billion. This hurts our military readiness at a time when our enemies like China choose to invest in themselves. I also can't support a bill that paves the road to VA privatization. Perish that thought.

While I have the time, it is long overdue for the Department of Veterans Affairs to approve the request from northwest Ohio to expedite the dual affiliation of the University of Toledo Medical Center and the VA Ann Arbor Health Care System. Our VA community clinic in Toledo stands ready to support this effort, and over 83,000 veterans in the northwest quadrant of Ohio deserve the convenience of access to the State of Ohio's medical center and academic center at Toledo.

In Toledo, to level funding in this account will not allow us to grow and fully support the needs of all of our veterans.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the motion to recommit, and I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment.

Ms. Kaptur moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3944 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

VETERANS FIRINGS ACCOUNTABILITY

SEC. _____. Not later than 15 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall transmit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report detailing, for calendar year 2025 and the comparable periods of time for the last five calendar years, the number of veterans separated from Federal service; the number of veterans participating in a Deferred Resignation Program or who have left Federal service under a Voluntary Early Retirement Authority; and the number of veterans employed by contractors or subcontractors performing work for the Federal government who have seen their working hours, wages, or employment reduced or terminated.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. HERNÁNDEZ).

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of Congresswoman KIGGANS' amendment No. 79, which ensures sufficient VA medical

care for veterans in the U.S. territories, Commonwealths, and Freely Associated States.

This amendment is critical for places like Puerto Rico where over 79,000 veterans reside on the island and have served our Nation with honor and distinction. Yet far too often, they face unequal access to the care they have earned, whether it is limited specialty services, understaffed facilities, or long wait times for off-island referrals.

The same is true in Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the Freely Associated States in the Pacific. Veterans in these communities, no matter where they live, should have access to quality medical care owed to them.

This amendment sends a clear message: Our commitment to veterans does not stop at the mainland. It reinforces the principle that all who served deserve timely, high-quality care, regardless of where they live.

I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS) for her leadership, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Puerto Rico for his fierce advocacy of the veterans from Puerto Rico, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Chairman COLE, I move to strike the last word.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Indiana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Chair, my amendment provides \$55 million to build a new aviation maintenance hangar and operations building and renovate the existing hangar space at our Shelbyville, Indiana, Army Aviation Support Facility.

Mr. Chair, 900 Indiana guardsmen assigned to the 38th Combat Aviation Brigade have supported 16 deployments since 2001, including to Iraq, Kuwait, and Bosnia. Our Shelbyville facility remains a crown jewel of Indiana and Midwest Army aviation.

This proud combat aviation unit has one of the oldest Army aviation flight facilities in the National Guard. Built in 1972, it currently supports 11 aircraft and more than 50 full-time personnel.

Upgrading the facility will save over 500 man-hours and prevent more than \$200,000 in annual damage to blades and equipment. A new facility supports rapid homeland response and will sustain recruitment and retention of Indiana's finest soldiers. This amendment serves to equip our next generation of guardsmen to protect our homeland both at home and abroad.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. CORREA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 119-167.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 35, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 530, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of amendment No. 8 directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to make recommendations on changes that are needed to its existing healthcare infrastructure so veterans can receive psychedelic-assisted therapies upon FDA approval.

In December of 2024, the VA announced \$1.5 million in funding for clinical research on MDMA-assisted therapy for veterans with PTSD and alcohol disorder, as well.

This is the first time the VA has funded research on psychedelic compounds since the 1960s.

My fellow Psychedelics Advancing Therapies Caucus co-chair, General JACK BERGMAN, and I are encouraged by the promising results so far that we have seen in treating veterans with PTSD and other disorders.

However, these therapies are different from traditional therapies in many ways. Psychedelic therapies involve hours-long sessions with multiple therapists, additional safety issues, and special training considerations for providers.

We introduced this amendment because we need to be ready and be proactive to make sure that when the VA is ready to administer these therapies they actually can.

While MDMA-assisted therapy did not receive FDA approval last summer, approval of certain psychedelic therapies will likely come very soon. We owe it to our veterans to make sure that they can access these therapies upon approval.

Every day we lose nearly 20 veterans to suicide. One suicide is way too many. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to make sure that our veterans have the best care they need as soon as possible.

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. FINE). Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank my dear friend and fellow PATH Caucus co-chair, Congressman CORREA, for his work on this amendment.

Washington, D.C., has built its success on good partnerships, especially across the aisle, on issues that benefit all of our Americans, not just a few.

I rise in strong support of this amendment, which directs the Vet-

erans Administration to begin preparing for the rollout of breakthrough treatments for veterans battling PTSD, depression, and substance abuse disorders.

President Trump's first administration took a bold and necessary step by granting breakthrough therapy status to MDMA and psilocybin acknowledging their potential to transform mental health care.

Last December, the VA followed suit funding its first psychedelic-assisted therapy study in over 60 years. That was a critical milestone, but research alone is not enough.

Without a plan to turn findings into frontline care, we risk failing the very people this research is meant to help: our veterans.

We know the stakes. Too many servicemembers come home bearing invisible wounds. While traditional treatments work for some, far too many are left cycling through ineffective medications, suffering in silence, or worse, giving up entirely.

Emerging VA studies involving MDMA and psilocybin show remarkable potential not just for improvement but for truly lasting healing. They offer hope, but hope alone doesn't heal.

Washington has a bad habit of funding studies without ever building the systems needed to implement the results. We cannot afford to repeat that cycle here.

This amendment sends a clear message to the VA: Don't just study. Prepare. Prepare to implement new therapies and newfound ways to improve the lives of veterans now, not 5 or 10 years from now.

That means identifying the clinical infrastructure needed to deliver these treatments, training and certifying providers, and launching pilot programs to bring these therapies from the lab into real world care settings. Again, we can't wait 5 or 10 years while veterans continue to suffer.

Every day we delay is a day someone loses hope or their life.

If there is a treatment that works, we have a responsibility to be ready to deliver it. This isn't about politics. It is about promises kept. We owe our veterans more than research. We owe them results. We owe them implementation. This amendment moves us one step closer to delivering.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 13 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. JOYCE OF OHIO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 119-167.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Mr. MAST, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. XXX. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used to enforce Veterans Health Directive 1315 as it relates to—

(1) the policy stating that “VHA providers are prohibited from completing forms or registering Veterans for participation in a State-approved marijuana program”;

(2) the directive for the “Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management” to ensure that “medical facility Directors are aware that it is VHA policy for providers to assess Veteran use of marijuana but providers are prohibited from recommending, making referrals to or completing paperwork for Veteran participation in State marijuana programs”; and

(3) the directive for the “VA Medical Facility Director” to ensure that “VA facility staff are aware of the following” “[t]he prohibition recommending, making referrals to or completing forms and registering Veterans for participation in State-approved marijuana programs”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 530, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), the true sponsor of this amendment who has just arrived to state his position.

Mr. MAST. Mr. Chair, I am here to speak on my amendment No. 21. This is something that we have dealt with here in Congress before. Specifically it relates to veterans' access to cannabis.

The story that I will tell in advance of this is simply this: I woke up in Walter Reed Army Medical Center not too far from here a number of years ago, and when I woke up, I was missing two legs and a finger. I had been out of consciousness for a week plus.

What I woke up to was being on a laundry list of medications. I had an epidural. I had oral morphines and oxies. I had antidepressants, anti-inflammatories, and heavy sleep sedatives. I had a Dilaudid drip and a number of other things that I can't even remember at this point all at once. I had never been on any of these things before in my life.

Immediately, as soon as I woke up, I started to wean myself off of these drugs because I was saying to myself: I might be very uncomfortable, but I don't want to be dependent on sleep sedatives. I might be in a lot of pain, but let's start by getting off of this painkiller and this painkiller and this painkiller. I am not depressed, so take this antidepressant away.

These narcotics were beyond painful to come off of. I was down to the lowest amount after about 6 months of the last narcotic, which was an oral morphine. Going from the lowest amount twice a day 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. to nothing, I spent the next several months

miserable, suffering the gamut of withdrawal symptoms: irritability to say the least, food going through me, up all night. You name it. That was just after 6 months.

The state that these narcotics, in many cases, leave our veterans in are, at the most extreme end of it, states of suicide and, at the other end of it, just extreme states of dissatisfaction and lacking purpose in life. In some cases it does leave them in a better condition.

The point I am making with this true story is that veterans need to have options outside of these narcotics.

□ 1330

In many States, there are legal cannabis medical programs. They need to have the ability when they are being seen by their primary care physician inside of the VA to have discussions about whether cannabis is or is not right for them. They have access to it in their State. They need to be able to talk to their medical provider about what they fill out on the paperwork, what the right dosage amount is, how that is going to interact with any other medications that they might be on, and how it might affect their blood pressure or other things going on with them personally.

If we are not giving that option to have that conversation at the most serious level without worrying about some kind of reprisal for the doctor or otherwise, then we are doing our veterans a disservice in, certainly, at minimum, all of these States where there are legal cannabis programs.

I am not a doctor. I would not purport to know when this is a good treatment for somebody, when it is not, or the amounts that they should take. Yet, I know that as long as it is available in these various States, their doctors need to have the opportunity to discuss that treatment with them. The fact of the matter is, while I have heard of many of my brothers- and sisters-in-arms being in a state of suicide because of the narcotics they have been on, I have yet to hear about any of them attributing a state of suicide to the cannabis that they have had as a part of their life.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for support on amendment No. 21.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, what else can I say after hearing the true story of a true American hero and why it should be important for all people—Floridians, every veteran—to be able to access cannabis if, in fact, it is necessary and prescribed by a doctor and if it helps them treat whatever they have come home with?

My father was wounded and left for dead in World War II, and he came home. I know what it takes for these people and the hurt that they have gone through on behalf of our country. They deserve every option available to bring them back to what they were before they left on our behalf.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 31 will not be offered.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD) having assumed the chair, Mr. FINE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3944) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1615

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUNN of Iowa) at 4 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

CONDEMNING THE ATTACKS ON MINNESOTA LAWMAKERS IN BROOKLYN PARK AND CHAMPLIN, MINNESOTA, AND CALLING FOR UNITY AND THE REJECTION OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN MINNESOTA AND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

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 resolution (H. Res. 519) condemning the attacks on Minnesota lawmakers in Brooklyn Park and Champlin, Minnesota, and calling for unity and the rejection of political violence in Minnesota and across the United States, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 179]

YEAS—424

Adams	Diaz-Balart	Johnson (GA)
Aderholt	Dingell	Johnson (LA)
Aguilar	Doggett	Johnson (SD)
Alford	Donalds	Johnson (TX)
Allen	Downing	Jordan
Amo	Dunn (FL)	Joyce (OH)
Amodei (NV)	Edwards	Joyce (PA)
Ansari	Elfreth	Kamlager-Dove
Arrington	Ellzey	Kaptur
Auchincloss	Emmer	Kean
Babin	Escobar	Keating
Bacon	Espallat	Kelly (IL)
Baird	Estes	Kelly (MS)
Balderson	Evans (CO)	Kelly (PA)
Balint	Evans (PA)	Kennedy (NY)
Barr	Ezell	Kennedy (UT)
Barragán	Fallon	Khanna
Barrett	Fedorchak	Kiggans (VA)
Baumgartner	Feenstra	Kiley (CA)
Bean (FL)	Fields	Kim
Begich	Figures	Knott
Bell	Fine	Krishnamoorthi
Bentz	Finstad	Kustoff
Bera	Fischbach	LaHood
Bergman	Fitzgerald	LaLota
Beyer	Fitzpatrick	LaMalfa
Bice	Fleischmann	Landsman
Biggs (AZ)	Fletcher	Langworthy
Biggs (SC)	Flood	Larsen (WA)
Bishop	Fong	Larson (CT)
Boebert	Foster	Latimer
Bonamici	Foushee	Latta
Bost	Fox	Lawler
Boyle (PA)	Frankel, Lois	Lee (FL)
Bresnahan	Franklin, Scott	Lee (NV)
Brown	Friedman	Lee (PA)
Brownley	Frost	Leger Fernandez
Buchanan	Fry	Letlow
Budzinski	Fulcher	Levin
Burchett	Garamendi	Liccardo
Burlison	Garbarino	Lieu
Bynum	Garcia (CA)	Lofgren
Calvert	Garcia (IL)	Loudermilk
Cammack	Garcia (TX)	Lucas
Carbajal	Gill (TX)	Luna
Carey	Gillen	Luttrell
Carson	Jimenez	Lynch
Carter (GA)	Golden (ME)	Mace
Carter (LA)	Goldman (NY)	Mackenzie
Carter (TX)	Goldman (TX)	Magaziner
Casar	Gomez	Malliotakis
Case	Gonzales, Tony	Maloy
Casten	Gonzalez, V.	Mann
Castor (FL)	Gooden	Mannion
Castro (TX)	Goodlander	Massie
Cherfilus-	Gosar	Mast
McCormick	Gottheimer	Matsui
Chu	Graves	McBath
Ciscomani	Gray	McBride
Cisneros	Green (TN)	McCaul
Clark (MA)	Green, Al (TX)	McClain
Clarke (NY)	Griffith	McClain Delaney
Cleaver	Grothman	McClellan
Cline	Guest	McClintock
Cloud	Guthrie	McCollum
Clyburn	Hageman	McCormick
Clyde	Hamadeh (AZ)	McDonald Rivet
Cohen	Harder (CA)	McDowell
Cole	Haridopolos	McGarvey
Collins	Harrigan	McGovern
Comer	Harris (MD)	McGuire
Conaway	Harris (NC)	McIver
Correa	Harshbarger	Meeks
Costa	Hayes	Menendez
Courtney	Hern (OK)	Meng
Craig	Higgins (LA)	Messmer
Crane	Hill (AR)	Meuser
Crank	Himes	Mfume
Crawford	Hinson	Miller (IL)
Crenshaw	Horsford	Miller (OH)
Crockett	Houchin	Miller (WV)
Crow	Houlahan	Miller-Meeks
Cuellar	Hoyle (OR)	Mills
Davids (KS)	Hudson	Min
Davidson	Huffman	Moolenaar
Davis (IL)	Huizenga	Moore (AL)
Davis (NC)	Hunt	Moore (NC)
De La Cruz	Hurd (CO)	Moore (UT)
Dean (PA)	Issa	Moore (WI)
DeGette	Ivey	Moore (WV)
DeLauro	Jack	Moran
DelBene	Jackson (TX)	Morelle
Deluzio	Jacobs	Morrison
DeSaulnier	James	Moskowitz
DesJarlais	Jayapal	Moulton
Dexter	Jeffries	Mrvan

Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Olszewski
Omar
Onder
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Patronis
Pelosi
Perez
Perry
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Rulli

Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schmidt
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Shreve
Simon
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Staubert
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Stutzman
Subramanyam
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano

Taylor
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Turner (OH)
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Whitesides
Wied
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—8

Beatty
Bilirakis
Brecheen

Greene (GA)
Hoyer
Jackson (IL)

Ocasio-Cortez
Sherrill

□ 1646

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

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 530 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3944.

Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR) kindly take the chair.

□ 1647

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3944) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, with Mr. TAYLOR (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 21, printed in House Report 119–167, offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), had been disposed of.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendments en bloc printed in House Report 119–167 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments en bloc.

The Clerk redesignated the amendments en bloc.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 206, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 180]

AYES—219

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei (NV)
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bean (FL)
Begich
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs (AZ)
Biggs (SC)
Boebert
Bost
Bresnahan
Buchanan
Burchett
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crank
Crenshaw
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Downing
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elizy
Emmer
Estes
Evans (CO)
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Fine

Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Garbarino
Gill (TX)
Golden (ME)
Goldman (TX)
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, V.
Gooden
Gosar
Graves
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Hamadeh (AZ)
Harder (CA)
Haridopolos
Harrigan
Harris (MD)
Harris (NC)
Harshbarger
Hern (OK)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Hurd (CO)
Issa
Jack
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy (UT)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley (CA)
Kim

King-Hinds
Knott
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Langworthy
Latta
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Mackenzie
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McDonald Rivet
McDowell
McGuire
Messmer
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Moore (AL)
Moore (NC)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WV)
Moran
Moylan
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Onder
Owens
Palmer
Patronis
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Reschenthaler

Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rouzer
Roy
Rulli
Rutherford
Scalise
Schmidt
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Shreve
Simpson
Smith (MO)

Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Stutzman
Suozi
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons

Turner (OH)
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Wied
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—206

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Ansari
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragan
Bell
Bera
Beyer
Bishop
Bonamici
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bynum
Carbajal
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Conaway
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dexter
Dingell
Doggett
Elfreth
Escobar
Espallat
Evans (PA)
Fields
Figures
Fletcher
Fong
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Friedman
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (CA)
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)

Gillen
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Goodlander
Gottheimer
Gray
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Hernández
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy (NY)
Khanna
Krishnamoorthi
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latimer
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Liccardo
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Mannion
Matsui
McBath
McBride
McClain Delaney
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Melver
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Min
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Morrison
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Norton
Olszewski

Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pelosi
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Pou
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Randall
Raskin
Riley (NY)
Rivas
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Simon
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Subramanyam
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Tran
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Vindman
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Whitesides
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—13

Beatty
Bilirakis
Brecheen
Crawford
Fedorchak

Gimenez
Greene (GA)
Jackson (IL)
Ocasio-Cortez
Radewagen

Salazar
Sherrill
Wittman

□ 1653

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted AYE on Roll Call No. 180.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendment, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUNN of Iowa) having assumed the chair, Mr. TAYLOR, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3944) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 530, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The question is on the amendments.

The amendments were agreed to.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Kaptur of Ohio moves to recommit the bill H.R. 3944 to the Committee on Appropriations.

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

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 216, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 181]

YEAS—208

Adams	Ansari	Barragán
Aguilar	Auchincloss	Bell
Amo	Balint	Bera

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

NAYS—216

Aderholt	Ciscomani	Fitzpatrick
Alford	Cline	Fleischmann
Allen	Cloud	Flood
Amodei (NV)	Clyde	Fong
Arrington	Cole	Foxx
Babin	Collins	Franklin, Scott
Bacon	Comer	Fry
Baird	Crane	Fulcher
Balderson	Crank	Garbarino
Barr	Crawford	Gill (TX)
Barrett	Crenshaw	Gimenez
Baumgartner	Davidson	Goldman (TX)
Bean (FL)	De La Cruz	Gonzales, Tony
Begich	Diaz-Balart	Gooden
Bentz	Donalds	Gosar
Bergman	Downing	Graves
Bice	Dunn (FL)	Green (TN)
Biggs (AZ)	Edwards	Griffith
Biggs (SC)	Ellzey	Grothman
Boebert	Emmer	Guest
Bost	Estes	Guthrie
Bresnahan	Evans (CO)	Hageman
Buchanan	Ezell	Hamadeh (AZ)
Burchett	Fallon	Haridopolos
Burlison	Fedorchak	Harris (MD)
Calvert	Feenstra	Harris (NC)
Cammack	Fine	Harshbarger
Carey	Finstad	Hern (OK)
Carter (GA)	Fischbach	Higgins (LA)
Carter (TX)	Fitzgerald	

Hill (AR)	Massie	Salazar
Hinson	Mast	Scalise
Houchin	McCaull	Schmidt
Hudson	McClain	Schweikert
Huizenga	McClintock	Scott, Austin
Hunt	McCormick	Self
Hurd (CO)	McDowell	Sessions
Issa	McGuire	Shreve
Jack	Messmer	Simpson
Jackson (TX)	Meuser	Smith (MO)
James	Miller (IL)	Smith (NE)
Johnson (LA)	Miller (OH)	Smith (NJ)
Johnson (SD)	Miller (WV)	Smucker
Jordan	Miller-Meeks	Spartz
Joyce (OH)	Mills	Stauber
Joyce (PA)	Moolenaar	Stefanik
Kean	Moore (AL)	Steil
Kelly (MS)	Moore (NC)	Steube
Kelly (PA)	Moore (UT)	Strong
Kennedy (UT)	Moore (WV)	Stutzman
Kiggans (VA)	Moran	Taylor
Kiley (CA)	Murphy	Tenney
Kim	Nehls	Thompson (PA)
Knott	Newhouse	Tiffany
Kustoff	Norman	Timmons
LaHood	Nunn (IA)	Turner (OH)
LaLota	Obernalte	Valadao
LaMalfa	Ogles	Van Drew
Langworthy	Onder	Van Dwyne
Latta	Owens	Van Orden
Lawler	Palmer	Wagner
Lee (FL)	Patronis	Walberg
Letlow	Perry	Weber (TX)
Loudermilk	Pfluger	Webster (FL)
Lucas	Reschenthaler	Westerman
Luna	Rogers (AL)	Wied
Luttrell	Rogers (KY)	Williams (TX)
Mace	Rose	Wilson (SC)
Mackenzie	Rouzer	Wittman
Malliotakis	Roy	Womack
Maloy	Rulli	Yakym
Mann	Rutherford	Zinke

NOT VOTING—8

Beatty	DesJarlais	Ocasio-Cortez
Bilirakis	Greene (GA)	Sherrill
Brecheen	Jackson (IL)	

□ 1702

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 206, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 182]

YEAS—218

Aderholt	Cline	Flood
Alford	Cloud	Fong
Allen	Clyde	Foxx
Amodei (NV)	Cole	Franklin, Scott
Arrington	Collins	Fry
Babin	Comer	Fulcher
Bacon	Crane	Garbarino
Baird	Crank	Gill (TX)
Balderson	Crawford	Gimenez
Barr	Crenshaw	Golden (ME)
Barrett	Davidson	Goldman (TX)
Baumgartner	De La Cruz	Gonzales, Tony
Bean (FL)	DesJarlais	Gooden
Begich	Diaz-Balart	Gosar
Bentz	Donalds	Graves
Bergman	Downing	Green (TN)
Bice	Dunn (FL)	Griffith
Biggs (AZ)	Edwards	Grothman
Biggs (SC)	Ellzey	Guest
Boebert	Emmer	Guthrie
Bost	Estes	Hageman
Bresnahan	Evans (CO)	Hamadeh (AZ)
Buchanan	Ezell	Haridopolos
Burchett	Fallon	Harrigan
Burlison	Fedorchak	Harris (MD)
Calvert	Feenstra	Harris (NC)
Cammack	Fine	Harshbarger
Carey	Finstad	Hern (OK)
Carter (GA)	Fischbach	Higgins (LA)
Carter (TX)	Fitzpatrick	Hill (AR)
Ciscomani	Fleischmann	Hinson

Houchin	McCaull	Scalise
Hudson	McClain	Schmidt
Huizenga	McClintock	Schweikert
Hunt	McCormick	Scott, Austin
Hurd (CO)	McDowell	Self
Issa	McGuire	Sessions
Jack	Messmer	Shreve
Jackson (TX)	Meuser	Simpson
James	Miller (IL)	Smith (MO)
Johnson (LA)	Miller (OH)	Smith (NE)
Johnson (SD)	Miller (WV)	Smith (NJ)
Jordan	Miller-Meeks	Smucker
Joyce (OH)	Mills	Spartz
Joyce (PA)	Moolenaar	Stauber
Kean	Moore (AL)	Stefanik
Kelly (MS)	Moore (NC)	Steil
Kelly (PA)	Moore (UT)	Steube
Kennedy (UT)	Moore (WV)	Strong
Kiggans (VA)	Moran	Stutzman
Kiley (CA)	Murphy	Taylor
Kim	Nehls	Tenney
Knott	Newhouse	Thompson (PA)
Kustoff	Norman	Tiffany
LaHood	Nunn (IA)	Timmons
LaLota	Obenrolte	Turner (OH)
LaMalfa	Ogles	Valadao
Langworthy	Onder	Van Drew
Latta	Owens	Van Duyn
Lawler	Palmer	Van Orden
Lee (FL)	Patronis	Wagner
Letlow	Perez	Walberg
Loudermilk	Perry	Weber (TX)
Lucas	Pfluger	Webster (FL)
Luna	Reschenthaler	Westerman
Luttrell	Rogers (AL)	Wied
Mace	Rogers (KY)	Williams (TX)
Mackenzie	Rose	Wilson (SC)
Malliotakis	Rouzer	Wittman
Maloy	Roy	Womack
Mann	Rulli	Yakym
Massie	Rutherford	Zinke
Mast	Salazar	

NAYS—206

Adams	Escobar	Lynch
Aguilar	Espallat	Magaziner
Amo	Evans (PA)	Mannion
Ansari	Fields	Matsui
Auchincloss	Figures	McBath
Balint	Fletcher	McBride
Barragán	Foster	McClain Delaney
Bell	Foushee	McClellan
Bera	Frankel, Lois	McCollum
Beyer	Friedman	McDonald Rivet
Bishop	Frost	McGarvey
Bonamici	Garamendi	McGovern
Boyle (PA)	Garcia (CA)	McIver
Brown	Garcia (IL)	Meeks
Brownley	Garcia (TX)	Menendez
Budzinski	Gillen	Meng
Bynum	Goldman (NY)	Mfume
Carbajal	Gomez	Min
Carson	Gonzalez, V.	Moore (WI)
Carter (LA)	Goodlander	Morelle
Casar	Gottheimer	Morrison
Case	Gray	Moskowitz
Casten	Green, Al (TX)	Moulton
Castor (FL)	Harder (CA)	Mrvan
Castro (TX)	Hayes	Mullin
Cherfilus-	Himes	Nadler
McCormick	Horsford	Neal
Chu	Houlihan	Neguse
Cisneros	Hoyer	Norcross
Clark (MA)	Hoyle (OR)	Olszewski
Clarke (NY)	Huffman	Omar
Cleaver	Ivey	Pallone
Clyburn	Jacobs	Panetta
Cohen	Jayapal	Pappas
Conaway	Jeffries	Pelosi
Correa	Johnson (GA)	Peters
Costa	Johnson (TX)	Pettersen
Courtney	Kamlager-Dove	Pingree
Craig	Kaptur	Pocan
Crockett	Keating	Pou
Crow	Kelly (IL)	Pressley
Cuellar	Kennedy (NY)	Quigley
Davids (KS)	Khanna	Ramirez
Davis (IL)	Krishnamoorthi	Randall
Davis (NC)	Landsman	Raskin
Dean (PA)	Larsen (WA)	Riley (NY)
DeGette	Larson (CT)	Rivas
DeLauro	Latimer	Ross
DeBene	Lee (NV)	Ruiz
Deluzio	Lee (PA)	Ryan
DeSaulnier	Leger Fernandez	Salinas
Dexter	Levin	Sánchez
Dingell	Liccardo	Scanlon
Doggett	Lieu	Schakowsky
Elfreth	Lofgren	Schneider

Scholten	Suozi	Underwood
Schrier	Swalwell	Vargas
Scott (VA)	Sykes	Vasquez
Scott, David	Takano	Veasey
Sewell	Thanedar	Velázquez
Sherman	Thompson (CA)	Vindman
Simon	Thompson (MS)	Wasserman
Smith (WA)	Titus	Schultz
Sorensen	Tlaib	Waters
Soto	Tokuda	Watson Coleman
Stansbury	Tonko	Whitesides
Stanton	Torres (CA)	Williams (GA)
Stevens	Torres (NY)	Wilson (FL)
Strickland	Trahan	
Subramanyam	Tran	

NOT VOTING—8

Beatty	Fitzgerald	Ocasio-Cortez
Billirakis	Greene (GA)	Sherrill
Brecheen	Jackson (IL)	

□ 1709

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.” So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 179, NO on Roll Call No. 180, YEA on Roll Call No. 181, and NAY on Roll Call No. 182.

□ 1710

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

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

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the national security investments in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, investments that reaffirm President Trump's commitment to peace through strength.

This bill delivers \$25 billion for the Golden Dome missile defense system, our answer to hypersonic and NextGen threats from adversaries like China and Iran.

It expands our naval fleet, restocks our munitions, modernizes our nuclear deterrent, and accelerates the delivery of Next Generation aircraft and autonomous systems.

Just as important, it puts our troops first, with \$8.5 billion to improve barracks, housing, healthcare, childcare, and career support for military families.

At a time when global threats are growing, this bill ensures America leads from a position of strength, not weakness. It is a generational investment in the safety of our country, the security of our allies, and the brave men and women who defend our freedom.

Let's get this bill to President Trump's desk.

LEADERSHIP OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1664, the Deploying American Blockchains Act of 2025, which passed under voice vote. This bill gives the Department of Commerce broad authority to pursue U.S. leadership of blockchain technology.

This is an unusual circumstance because I actually support the legislation and supported the legislation during the last administration because we had a Secretary of Commerce then who was one of the finest public servants that I have had the pleasure of working with.

Now, however, we have a Secretary of Commerce who is pushing to use crypto to the benefit of himself and his own family, specifically his son, who is trying to make deals overseas.

Our Secretary has strong ties to the stablecoin Tether. He spent 40 years as CEO and chairman of Cantor Fitzgerald, one of Tether's key investors. He is using his and his family's weight to pitch Tether to foreign governments across the Middle East, turning public policy into personal profit.

The United States Government must be a free and impartial referee. We should not be a bull or a bear on crypto. We should ensure market integrity, force amplification of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency, but that becomes impossible when the Secretary of Commerce is so conflicted as he is on this matter.

That is on top of the fact that the President himself has been selling off the Presidency with the \$TRUMP meme coin. We cannot allow this administration to continue to grift off of blockchain.

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

REMEMBERING JOHN OSTLUND

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

Mr. DOWNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and to remember Yellowstone County Commissioner John Ostlund.

Last week, Yellowstone County lost a pillar of the community. Since 2003, he faithfully served the people of Yellowstone County, embodying the grit, spirit, and generosity that defines Montana.

John worked tirelessly to improve his community, advocating for improved rural ambulance coverage, supporting local businesses, playing a key role in MetraPark renovations, and always championing fiscal responsibility.

There are countless stories of John's selflessness. If he was ever late for a meeting, chances are he was helping someone change a flat or helping the sheriff with a case. That is just the type of guy John was.

John's dedication extended well beyond public service. He was a loving

husband and father, and his commitment to his family and his community was unwavering.

Montana is going to miss Commissioner Ostlund dearly. The hearts of the Treasure State are with the entire Ostlund family during this difficult time.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF DOBBS DECISION

(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, 3 years ago this week, the Supreme Court stripped from millions of women the right to make their own healthcare decisions. Since overturning *Roe v. Wade*, women across this country have struggled, suffered, and even died. Doctors are forced to hesitate even in emergencies, fearing prosecution, and State legislatures have been emboldened to threaten medical practitioners in other States.

As Westchester County executive, I signed legislation to protect women from harassment and intimidation when seeking an abortion because this decision is deeply personal and belongs to a woman and her doctor, not to politicians, not to protesters, not even to the Supreme Court.

That is why I am a sponsor of the Women's Health Protection Act. Congress must codify the right to reproductive freedom as the law of the land. If we do not, women across the country will continue to suffer unnecessarily in the wake of the misguided decision in *Dobbs*.

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

(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 congratulate the United States military on their successful bombing of the three nuclear facilities in Iran over the weekend.

Imagine flying 37 hours in a B-2 bomber to defang a nuclear Iran. These successful strikes proved to the world yet again that the United States military is the best and most capable in the world.

I thank the men and women of U.S. Northern Command and Cheyenne Mountain in my district in Colorado Springs for detecting missile launches and helping pass on that intelligence.

I believe that under no circumstance should Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism, have nuclear weapons. The President's decision took courage, courage that other Presidents in the past just didn't have.

I am an unwavering supporter of the Nation of Israel and in bringing any Iranian nuclear weapons programs to a swift and decisive end.

RECOGNIZING KAITLYN ANTHERS

(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, today I rise to recognize my district's 2025 Congressional Art Competition winner, Kaitlyn Anthes as my Constituent of the Week.

Kaitlyn's charcoal drawing, titled *To Light and Guard*, will hang in the U.S. Capitol representing Virginia's Seventh District for the next year.

Her artwork was so impressive that when we received her piece, my district director initially thought we had purchased professional artwork to hang in the office.

In addition to being a talented artist, Kaitlyn recently graduated from Courtland High School in Spotsylvania.

In Congress, I am working to strengthen public education so students like Kaitlyn have access to programs that allow them to pursue their passions.

I congratulate Kaitlyn on this well-earned accomplishment and wish her luck as she heads off to college in the fall.

□ 1720

DELIVERING ON EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

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

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the one big, beautiful bill is the most transformative legislation in a generation.

It delivers tax-free Trump accounts for newborns, tax cuts for working families, and no tax on tips and overtime. For millions of parents, the most powerful piece of this is that it delivers nationwide school choice.

States like Utah have led the way. We have shown that when parents are in charge and students are first, kids thrive. This bill brings real education freedom to every ZIP Code in America.

I grew up in the segregated South. My parents, both educators, saw education as a legacy. I want that same legacy and opportunity for my 17 grandkids and millions of schoolkids across the country.

This bill empowers parents with scholarships for tutoring, private and parochial schools, and special needs, keeping the Federal Government out of the way.

Mr. Speaker, school choice funds students, not systems. Let's pass the one big, beautiful bill and deliver on the promise of educational freedom for every child and every family.

LOWERING THE TEMPERATURE

(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, it is time for Americans to lower the temperature. Political extremism and dangerous divisions among Americans are causes for serious reflection.

As inexplicable hate is spewed out, my gratitude goes out to law enforcement in all forms working around the clock to keep our Great Lakes communities and Nation safe. Yet, rising gun violence, drugs, and outlandish behaviors, such as cars driving on the turnpike at 90 miles an hour, remain as fallout from the pandemic. They must be addressed.

The heroic police deputies in Minnesota who addressed a deranged, extreme perpetrator did their job. We applaud them for their brains and valor.

Restoring some calm to America is not a Democratic or Republican challenge. It is an American challenge.

I welcome the suggestion of Sophie and Colin Hortman, children of slain Minnesota State House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark. In their children's words: "If you would like to honor the memory of Mark and Melissa, please consider the following: Plant a tree. Visit a local park and make use of their amenities, especially a bike trail. Pet a dog. A golden retriever is ideal, but any will do. Tell your loved ones a cheesy dad joke and laugh about it. Bake something—bread for Mark or a cake for Melissa—and share it with someone," like your local firefighters. "Try a new hobby and enjoy learning something. Stand up for what you believe in, especially if that thing is justice and peace."

Mr. Speaker, I hope all listening today take this message to heart.

WARNING CALIFORNIA'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

(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, for months, I have been warning California's political leadership that our State is in violation of Federal civil rights laws, with a policy that even Governor Newsom has admitted is fundamentally unfair. That policy is one that allows for biological males to compete in women's sports.

Today, that warning proved well-founded as the Department of Education concluded its investigation, finding that California is in blatant violation of Title IX. As a result, our State could lose its Federal education funding.

The good news is that we don't have to. The State can prevent any loss of funding simply by complying with the Department's very reasonable conditions: reverse this unfair policy; provide titles, honors, and awards to female athletes who are unjustly deprived; and issue those athletes an apology.

This will simply restore fairness, common sense, and sanity in California. I am calling on California's political leaders to comply with these conditions immediately.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF OC AIR DISASTER

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Loma Ridge air disaster.

On June 25, 1965, 60 years ago, a military jet took off from El Toro Marine base in Orange County. It was heading to Vietnam. After takeoff, the jet plunged into a mountain, killing all 84 persons onboard. This remains Orange County's worst air disaster.

Today, I honor the 72 marines and 12 airmen who lost their lives that day. I thank them and their families for making the ultimate sacrifice for our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING DOUG KENNEDY

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Doug Kennedy, who is retiring after 45 years of serving southeast Nebraska as a radio broadcaster.

Doug's service as a reporter and news director for KWBE in Beatrice has spanned a remarkable seven different station ownerships. During that time, his accuracy and professionalism earned the trust of his listeners and the respect of his colleagues.

Doug's list of accolades features more than 100 awards from the United Press International and Associated Press, and his enduring dedication has meant so much to his community.

Described by Mayor Bob Morgan as a positive and stabilizing influence for the city, Doug has also served several years on the City of Beatrice Community Redevelopment Authority.

Doug's steadfast work ethic is a model of Nebraska devotion to a job well done, and I certainly wish him a happy retirement.

RESTORE FUNDING FOR MALNOURISHED CHILDREN

(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 24th time to demand that the Trump administration restore funding for lifesaving food aid for malnourished children.

This is Plumpy'Nut. It is used to treat malnutrition. Until this Trump administration began, we were shipping Plumpy'Nut around the world,

saving millions of lives a year. Starvation is still the leading cause of death for children globally.

Before he became Secretary of State, Trump's own Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, understood the value of food aid. He once said: "We don't have to give foreign aid. We do so because it furthers our national interest."

He is right. This is not just charity. This is about strengthening our alliances, bringing stability to fragile regions, and saving lives.

Secretary Rubio needs to do the right thing: Restore this aid immediately.

This is sitting in warehouses in Rhode Island, here in the United States. It should be getting to kids who need it, and I will continue to speak out until it does.

CONGRATULATING LSU BASEBALL

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

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Louisiana State University baseball team for taking home their eighth national title.

Under the leadership of Coach Jay Johnson, LSU captured their second title in 3 years. The Tigers triumphed through their championship season with 53 wins and an undefeated College World Series.

Coach Johnson and his team exemplified excellence on and off the field, making Louisiana proud of not only their athleticism but also their outstanding character and service to the Baton Rouge community.

As LSU's Representative in Congress, I joined my constituents in following the team's journey to yet another championship. ESPN this week referred to LSU as the "Greatest Ever College Baseball Program," and I couldn't agree more.

This victory wasn't just about raising the trophy at the end. It was a testament to the resilient, winning spirit of our State.

I thank the players, coaches, and staff for inspiring a new generation of Tigers to dream big and for representing Louisiana with honor on the national stage.

Congratulations. Geaux Tigers.

□ 1730

LAKE OF THE ISLES PENCIL SHARPENING

(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 John and Amy Higgins and their work to host the Fourth Annual Lake of the Isles Pencil Sharpening.

In 2022, after high winds damaged a 180-year-old oak tree near the historic Bull Higgins house, John and Amy

commissioned local sculptor Curtis Ingvaldstad to shape it into a piece of art that folks of all ages can identify with: the No. 2 pencil.

Since then, John and Amy have welcomed the Minnesota community to join them on the first Saturday in June for an annual ceremonious pencil sharpening, complete with music, coordinated dance, and ice cream.

Through this annual event, John and Amy present the community with a story of renewal—a symbolic sharpened pencil to write new love letters or thank-you notes with—and invite folks to reflect on all of the things they have done in the past year and welcome in the next.

HONORING HOPI CODE TALKERS

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

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in proud recognition of the Hopi Code Talkers and to honor their extraordinary contributions during World War II.

At a time when the free world stood in the brink of destruction, ten courageous Hopi men answered the call and helped turn the tide of world history. Using their native language, these legendary warriors relayed critical intelligence during combat, creating an unbreakable line of communication that helped give America the upper hand.

They served valiantly with the U.S. Army's 81st Wildcat Division and the 5th Air Force, shielding vital operations and saving countless lives.

This week, members of the Hopi Tribe are hosting their annual event, honoring their important legacies. On behalf of all Americans, we are grateful for the heroic efforts of the Hopi Code Talkers.

LOWERING COSTS FOR ALL VIRGINIANS

(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, meet Tariff Bear. He is cute, soft, and cuddly. He is only triple the cost of a normal bear like him. He is here to show us how this administration's tariffs are raising costs on families' favorite toys, clothes, and shoes because toys like him are becoming unaffordable to families.

I recently got a letter from a concerned young Scout who is worried that the administration's tariffs will drive up the cost of Legos, one of his favorite toys. As a dad, this hits home for me. My girls are Lego and Disney Princess fans. I have watched the movie about ten times.

From Transformers to Lincoln Logs to Barbies, this administration is raising prices in our toys aisles with these tariffs. We keep hearing that this President is ushering in a golden age. I

think raising costs on families buying gifts, clothes, or shoes for their children does not sound very golden to me.

To the young constituent who wrote to me, I will fight to lower costs for all Virginians and all Americans and to keep Tariff Bear where he belongs, which is in hibernation.

HONORING HELVI LUCKADOO

(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, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Helvi Luckadoo of Forest City, North Carolina, who recently passed away at the age of 94.

Helvi was born in Tartu, Estonia, where she enjoyed childhood until World War II turned her world upside down. At just 13 years old, she and her family fled the Soviet invasion, crossing the Baltic Sea to safety and eventually arriving in America through Ellis Island.

She built a new life in North Carolina, raising four sons, serving her neighbors at Rutherford Regional Health System, and later managing the bookstore as Isothermal Community College. She believed deeply in freedom, family, and faith.

Her story is one of perseverance and quiet heroism. Western North Carolina is a better place because of Helvi Luckadoo. She called it home, and she leaves behind a proud legacy and a family who loved her dearly. May her memory be a blessing.

OUR ATMOSPHERE AND CO₂

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is the time of year with a lot of fretting over heat waves. We are calling it a heat dome now. What does that really mean?

It usually means that the next step by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle typically is to say: Oh, my gosh, it is more climate change. We have to put out another tax for climate change.

California is getting ready to do that on gasoline starting on July 1. It is estimated anywhere from 47 cents to 65 cents per gallon. What are we talking about? It is CO₂, which is carbon dioxide.

Look at these charts. This is 1970 and 2025. Yellow is nitrogen. Blue is oxygen. Here is argon, and here is carbon dioxide. Look at that little sliver right there. Look at that one. It is the same.

It is an infinitesimal amount of the percentage of gases in our atmosphere. Yet we are spending trillions and changing our lifestyle in this country. We are chasing the number of CO₂ from 0.04 percent down to 0.035 or whatever the number of the week is.

We are harming ourselves while the rest of the world keeps moving forward. Oil and gas by other developing countries is going to skyrocket while we live in caves.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2025.

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

SPEAKER JOHNSON: It has been an honor to serve on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee from the 110th Congress until now. With this letter, I respectfully resign from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to facilitate my appointment to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

While I am stepping away from my formal membership on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I will never stop being a champion for the transportation and infrastructure needs of Memphis, the distribution capitol of the United States and the world.

As always, I remain,
Most sincerely,

STEVEN COHEN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

HOLDING POWER ACCOUNTABLE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mrs. RAMIREZ of Illinois was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. 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 my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week, I joined Representative CHUY GARCÍA, Representative JONATHAN JACKSON, and Representative DANNY DAVIS at the ICE Processing Center in Broadview to investigate ICE's inhumane and unlawful detention of immigrant families and our constituents.

The visit to the processing center comes after credible reports that the center is being used to unlawfully detain immigrants, contrary to city and State ordinances, including constituents of the Members who sought entry.

The reports suggest that constituents are being housed in the processing center for prolonged periods of time without access to their medication, to legal counsel, or even basic necessities.

Let me be very clear. Just because something isn't named a detention fa-

cility doesn't mean this administration isn't going to use it as one. If people are detained there, it is a detention facility, period.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I came to the ICE Processing Center in Broadview to fulfill my congressional oversight authority granted under appropriation laws.

Under the law, Members of Congress have the authority to enter any facility operated by the Department of Homeland Security used to detain people. Whether the facility is formally identified as a detention facility is irrelevant.

The operational capacity of agents and staff at the facility is also irrelevant when it comes to allowing access to Members of Congress. It is the role of Congress to provide oversight.

Let me say that loud and clear for any of my colleagues that are here and that perhaps have forgotten that. It is the role of Congress to provide oversight. I suggest Kristi Noem and DHS staff read section 527(a) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2024, which is Public Law 118-47.

Am I shocked? Let me be honest. I am not shocked. We were illegally denied entry. While we weren't surprised, it was pretty disrespectful for Members of Congress to not be able to do their job.

I want my colleagues to visualize this. There are four Members of Congress, all of them showing their ID. In addition to wearing their congressional pins, they are identifying themselves.

We ring the doorbell, and we are waiting for about 45 minutes. We wait to gain entry into the facility where no one comes to the door at any given time. No one responds through the intercom. The cameras demonstrate someone is watching us.

□ 1740

We are waiting there to do the job that we were called to do by law which is to conduct unannounced oversight. When we finally get acknowledged—which, by the way, it meant I saw unmarked cars going in and out of the side gate—as we walked through, we were talking to someone who was unwilling to identify themselves through a little hole through the gate.

He refused to identify himself. When we told him we were there, do you know what he said, Mr. Speaker?

“Given guidance by my superiors, I am told that you should send an e-mail to DHS.gov.”

He told four Members of Congress, including a Member of Congress who is the Member of Congress in that jurisdiction of where that holding center is: “Just send an email.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure that people understand. We have sent emails, and we have sent letters. I want to make sure that the American people understand what is happening to us.

We have sent emails, and we have sent letters. We have challenged the illegal, unconstitutional actions of this

authoritarian government, and we have not received any responses.

It is our job as Members of Congress to provide accountability and oversight of activities of the executive branch. Activities that, by the way, this Chamber right here funds through appropriations. Activities that we authorize, or do not, through lawmaking, which is our constitutional role.

My favorite part of our interaction that day—1½ hours of our time outside waiting to be seen—was the sign that staff from the holding center placed on the door which reflects ICE's formal response to our visit.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what the sign said:

"ICE field offices are not detention facilities and fall outside of the section 527 requirements.

"When planning to visit an ICE facility, ICE asks for requests to be submitted at least 72 hours in advance. Visit requests should be submitted during business hours to the Office of Congressional Relations, (OCR) at CongressToICE@ice.dhs.gov. Visit requests are not considered actionable until receipt of the request is acknowledged by OCR to the requestor.

"ICE does not house aliens at these locations, rather these are working offices where ERO personnel process aliens to make custody determinations based on the specific circumstances of each case. Aliens determined to require detention are transferred to an ICE detention facility pending removal or the outcome of their removal proceedings. Due to our high operations tempo, we are not facilitating any visits to ICE field offices or suboffices at this time."

Mr. Speaker, is that unbelievable? Maybe it is.

Actually, it is believable because given Noem's disregard for Congress and the rule of law, this is what they do.

Mr. Speaker, do you know who makes the laws that govern the DHS facilities? Do you know who makes the laws, Mr. Speaker? It is Congress.

Mr. Speaker, do you know who doesn't get to just change the rules when they decide? It is DHS.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what is not a valid consideration for denying illegally required oversight? Your operations tempo.

You see, Mr. Speaker, as a result of our visit and the visits of Members that they have conducted in New Jersey, California, New York, and Illinois last week, ICE issued new guidance that unlawfully restricts Members of Congress to access ICE facilities.

Mr. Speaker, you heard me right. They decided that they were going to issue new guidance to go above Congress and further put a policy in place that is against the law.

Two days ago, Ranking Member BENNIE THOMPSON, Ranking Member JAMIE RASKIN, Subcommittee Ranking Member LOU CORREA, and subcommittee Ranking Member PRAMILA JAYAPAL, affirmed that Kristi Noem,

DHS, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement are illegally obstructing congressional oversight by denying Members of Congress access to multiple facilities used to detain immigrants in recent weeks.

Tonight, over the next 45 minutes or so, I will be here with my colleagues talking to the American people about what is happening, and what we are hearing directly from them. My colleagues and I will discuss how we will continue to assert congressional authority, even if Kristi Noem, even if Stephen Miller, and even if RFK and everyone else in that Cabinet attempts to obstruct us from doing our congressional work of congressional authority and legislative action.

I will yield to my colleagues who will share how they have attempted to provide oversight despite this hostile administration's lack of respect for Congress as a coequal branch of government and how we are actively defending our communities against this authoritarian agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the congresswoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to affirm a simple truth: Congress is a coequal branch of government, not a ceremonial afterthought, not merely a suggestion box, and not someone that is along for the ride. We are constitutionally equal with our powers delineated in Article I of the United States Constitution.

Yet, under the Trump administration, we have witnessed a disturbing pattern: a blatant disregard for the constitutional role of Congress and its vital duty of oversight. Subpoenas are ignored. Testimony is blocked. Oversight is treated not as a safeguard and not as a constitutional role or duty of democracy but as an inconvenience of power, an inconvenience of having the audacity to do our jobs and to make sure, yes, sir, that you are doing yours, because that is a part of our responsibility.

It is what we take our oath of office for. It is what the Constitution and the Framers of the United States Constitution envisioned when they set out some 237 years ago to write the United States Constitution, that no one body would become so powerful that it could do as it pleases without any checks or balances.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. This is not about partisan politics. It is about the preservation of our Republic.

When an administration past, present, or future believes it can operate without oversight or accountability, then democracy begins to erode.

Congress has both the authority and the obligation to shine light into the darkest corners of our government. Oversight is not obstruction, it is our constitutional duty.

We owe it to the American people to ask hard questions, to demand honest

answers, and to ensure that no one—I mean no one—not even the President, is above the law. That is not defiance, that is democracy.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for his comments. That is democracy. Today we are talking about how we preserve democracy under the circumstances that we are living in.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) to say a little bit more about that today.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. RAMIREZ for convening this very important discussion.

I will talk about something that is a little bit of an extension of this, but I do want to remind people that I visited Delaney Hall Detention Facility in the State of New Jersey with LAMONICA MCIVER and ROB MENENDEZ. It was difficult getting anyone to address us and give us the kind of inspection and respect that our offices deserved.

The suggestion that Members now should have to make an appointment before inspecting one of these facilities defeats the notion of oversight. Oversight is to catch the operation going as it is. Oversight is to see if the conditions are humane, the food is delivered, and that people are treated well, et cetera.

It is insane that this administration could think that they could put this condition upon us.

I will talk about what I consider is a further extension that this administration is out of control. What we have seen in recent weeks in L.A. and over the past few months across the country is another illustration of an outrageous abuse of power by our President and his Cabinet.

□ 1750

President Trump, Deputy Chief of Staff Miller, and Secretary of Homeland Security Noem have gone too far, letting their hatred of immigrants overwhelm them to the point of abusing innocent Americans.

Their actions pose a threat to all of us. They have disregarded the rights of citizens and noncitizens alike.

In just the last few months, DHS has accused a U.S. citizen of entering the country illegally and held that person for days, despite the person showing his birth certificate and Social Security card.

A U.S. Army Purple Heart veteran who has lived in the U.S. for nearly 50 years was told to leave due to a 15-year-old minor drug conviction.

In Newark in January, ICE detained a veteran without a warrant, disregarding his veteran ID card.

A 10-year-old U.S. citizen with brain cancer was deported because his parents were undocumented.

Trump's actions tell us that no one is safe from his storm troopers. How ICE agents are going about fulfilling Trump's arbitrary arrest quotas is also alarming.

Masked, plainclothes officers have been entering communities and abducting people to process them for deportation. This is extremely dangerous for several reasons. The first is the risk of confusion for those being detained and arrested, as well as for bystanders.

Think about what you might do if you witnessed three to four men in street clothes grabbing someone off the street and throwing them in the back of a black SUV. It doesn't take much imagination to see the danger involved if a Good Samaritan were to intervene.

Additionally, the lack of clearly identifiable uniforms has made it easier for copycats and impersonators to purchase fake gear on Amazon, allowing them to go around neighborhoods harassing residents. We have already seen this happening.

In response, I introduced a piece of legislation, the ICE Visibility Act, to eliminate this confusion and increase safety in our communities by requiring ICE officers to wear visible and distinct uniforms at all times.

This administration is creating chaos and confusion on our streets and infringing on the freedoms and the liberties of Americans.

This bill that I am introducing obviously won't solve the problem of a runaway ICE that puts arrest quotas over the rights of our communities, but it might just prevent a disaster that is waiting to happen.

This illustration of governance abuse, about rogue ICE agents, about disrespect at detention facilities, and about the poor quality of those facilities means that our work is vitally important to the well-being and the safety and security of those who are in our country and those who are being detained here for whatever reason.

I thank the gentlewoman for this opportunity to speak to this issue.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congresswoman for her leadership, for her integrity, and for her principled leadership in times such as this. We are so grateful for her.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) to talk a little bit more about the work that we have to do, and frankly, to remind us that this Chamber, this House of Representatives that we call the people's House is a coequal branch of government.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for organizing this critical Special Order hour to shed light on the horrors inflicted on immigrant communities by the Trump administration.

I am proud to represent the Inland Empire of southern California just east of Los Angeles. My district is home to a thriving immigrant community. It has been enriched by immigrants just like so many other communities across the country.

In recent weeks, this community has been plagued by fear. Images of masked agents dragging people out of cars, using excessive force, and disappearing individuals in unmarked cars are sow-

ing fear. We cannot allow this to continue. Make no mistake, this is all on President Trump.

The President has instructed ICE to meet arbitrary deportation quotas. Their aggressive and baseless target number of 3,000 daily arrests does not require them to focus on violent offenders and criminals.

Instead, mothers and fathers who have been in this country for years with no criminal record and who have raised their children in the United States are being targeted.

This administration's claim that it aims to deport violent criminals is a falsehood.

What we are witnessing is the erosion of due process.

I have been especially troubled by the image of a landscaper, a man whose sons have served in the Marines, being punched repeatedly in the head by ICE agents this past Sunday.

Is this something my Republican colleagues are proud of? That we repay veterans of the United States Marine Corps by assaulting, detaining, and deporting their father who was simply trying to provide for his family?

Last week, I joined several of my colleagues to tour the Adelanto ICE detention center. Thanks to the work of my colleague, Representative JUDY CHU, our delegation was able to enter the facility to conduct an oversight visit and speak with some of those being detained.

What I saw was people held in deplorable conditions, many of them being denied access to clean clothes for 10 days. Immigrant detention is a multi-million-dollar industry with some private prison groups now aiming to cash in on the funding included in the Republican spending bill.

The GEO Group that owns Adelanto boasted about a \$31 million windfall if they keep full capacity.

Republicans want to boost the funding of ICE to hire more masked agents and pay out more contracts like that at Adelanto.

According to my Republican colleagues, our budget is too tight to provide healthcare or groceries for those in need, it is too tight to keep hospitals in rural areas open, but it is flush with enough cash to pay for more masked agents and more inhumane detention facilities for those who are beaten and dragged off the street.

This is not who we are. This is not the character of our country. I don't think my Republican colleagues understand the gravity of their silence. It seems they have been silenced from speaking out against this brutality due to their fear of this President.

They are even too afraid to hold townhalls to face their own constituents directly. It is sad that many Members of Congress have rolled over and enabled this cruelty that is now happening in our country.

There are Members on this side of the aisle who have not been silent, who have actively opposed this President

and will continue to speak out. Democrats will continue to be a check against this President. We will continue to fight for the due process rights of every American. We will continue to show up in our communities so that the American people can see that there are some Members of Congress who will actually listen to and fight for them.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I commend Congresswoman RAMIREZ for conducting this Special Order hour, and I thank her for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my Congressional Progressive Caucus colleagues to express my utter horror at the way in which the Trump administration is catapulting us towards an authoritarian state.

We in Congress are one of the three branches of government, yet the President has been acting like a king since day one.

Since assuming office, Donald Trump has dismantled Federal agencies and unlawfully halted billions of dollars in congressionally appropriated Federal funding. He has undermined the delicate system of checks and balances by flagrantly ignoring court orders. He has arrested a judge and a mayor. He has threatened to arrest a sitting Governor. He has taken to the floor and handcuffed and detained a United States Senator. He has accused and caused to be indicted a United States Congresswoman for having the temerity to do her job by being at an ICE facility to conduct oversight.

□ 1800

He has also violated the right to due process by dispatching armed, masked, unidentifiable people, wearing plain clothes and tactical gear, onto the streets of select American cities. They pull up on people, jump out with assault weapons, force them into unmarked cars, and disappear them. Their families learn days later that their loved one has been shipped off to a foreign gulag without presenting evidence to a judge that they should be removed.

Trump has done this to legal permanent residents and talked openly about doing it to American citizens.

While unleashing terror on our streets, Trump's brazenly corrupt decision to accept a \$400 million Boeing 747 jet from Qatar for his personal use is a direct violation of the Emoluments Clause of our Constitution, and it has caused a firestorm of controversy.

Yet, MAGA Republicans in control of Congress turn a blind eye to it. My Republican colleagues are afraid to hold Donald Trump accountable. The majority is afraid to investigate the serious national security, public integrity, and foreign policy implications of the President accepting an emolument from a foreign government and flying around in a Qatari jumbo jet, taking it

with him as a door prize when he leaves office in January 2029—if he leaves office. This is blatant, in-your-face corruption to see how far he can go in his attempt to replace democracy with dictatorship.

Congress has the authority to introduce Articles of Impeachment against the President, but I don't expect that it is going to happen because my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are too afraid to do so. It is the ultimate exercise of congressional oversight, and it requires a simple majority vote in the House of Representatives and a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate in order to impeach and convict.

I am prepared to take any necessary action to stop Trump's reckless assault on the Federal Government and our democracy. While I believe many of Donald Trump's actions merit impeachment, I believe that the critical first step needs to be taken by this body as soon as possible.

As I said before, I don't expect it to happen because MAGA Republicans have completely abdicated their constitutional responsibility to exercise any shred of oversight on this out-of-control executive.

In fact, this Congress has acted as a rubberstamp as Trump consolidates power in and unto himself. Time and time again, Republicans continue to capitulate on their core principles in complete sycophancy of Trump's disastrous, antidemocratic agenda.

Despite being in the minority, House Democrats are working tirelessly to push back against Trump's hostile government takeover by litigating his illegal actions, introducing legislation to curb his powers, and mobilizing the public against his destructive agenda.

I have joined thousands of Georgians and millions of Americans against the Trump administration's attacks on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and other public services, including SNAP benefits for children, infants, and seniors.

Though it is unlikely that a Republican-led House will do anything to hold this executive accountable, we are going to continue to do everything we can to demonstrate to the American people that we are not going to take this lying down. We are going to be with them. We are going to be out on the streets in peaceful protest. We are going to make sure that we preserve and protect this democracy that our forefathers and foremothers have fought so hard to guarantee to us.

I will not stop doing the job that my constituents sent me to Washington to do because a megalomaniac is trying to override the Constitution, and I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will do the same.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Congressman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know about Congressman JOHNSON, but perhaps in Georgia or in other parts of the country this may be happening. I have not

met a constituent who has told me, "Congresswoman RAMIREZ, I wake up in the morning asking how my life could be better," and then answer that immediately by saying, "Do you know how my life would be better? If the President of the United States of America had a \$450 million new plane that had been donated from a foreign country."

I have never heard a constituent tell me when I have asked them what the most important thing is for them right now: "Do you know what the most important thing is for me? It is for Kristi Noem to get \$50 million more in the budget. By the way, cut my Medicaid, groceries, and SNAP benefits because what I really want is for this person who was never elected to get an upgrade on a plane. Make sure that you dedicate \$50 million of taxpayer dollars so that she can have a brand-new plane so that she can cosplay wherever the hell she is going."

I have never heard that. I hear the gentleman. I am curious. What Members of Congress have heard from their constituents—perhaps in Louisiana or other parts of the country—that what they care most about is that we cut their healthcare and cut SNAP benefits and that we make it harder for them to age in place or retire with dignity because their number one priority is to take their taxpayer dollars to ensure that the President becomes even richer and that she gets more costumes to wear around the country?

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his work and courageous leadership.

Something the gentleman said was that our constituents didn't send us here to make sure that the rich get richer. Our constituents didn't send us here so that the President can become even richer by selling off coins or offering people to be able to come to the White House, which taxpayers pay for, and have dinner with him if they invest more on his coins.

Our constituents said: "The rent is too darn high. I can't buy a house. I have to choose between going to the doctor and buying groceries. I don't know if I could afford the car payment and tuition for my son or daughter in college. This darn job I have, it is so difficult to make sure that I can cover the costs, so I have to work a second job. What are you going to do about it?"

That is why I am so grateful that we are here having a conversation about what the job of Members of Congress is: to make the lives of their constituents better.

It is not to make Donald Trump's life better, not to make Kristi Noem's life better or richer, but to make their lives better.

One of the other things that we should be doing as Members of Congress is affirming that we are a coequal branch of government, the thing that I ask eighth graders about in their Constitution tests all around the country.

Part of that work is oversight, but it is ridiculous and infuriating to me that

my Republican colleagues, who continue to obstruct oversight every chance that the majority can, don't seem to agree. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to think that who got them elected, who they serve, that the only people who matter are not the 730,000 constituents that they have but Donald Trump, Stephen Miller, and Elon Musk, as long as he and Donald Trump are getting along and paying for elections.

Congress' power is critical in this moment. Congressman JOHNSON said it so beautifully. We have to do everything in our power to ensure that our constituents know who we are here for. Otherwise, we can't be the people's House.

Congress' powers are established to be a check on an out-of-control, lawless executive branch like the Trump administration. For instance, when the executive branch decides to use a notorious offshore prison with a history of gross human rights violations as a staging location for mass deportations without due process and in violation of international law, I thought that would be an ideal time for Congress to conduct oversight.

□ 1810

It is why I requested that the Committee on Homeland Security, that some of us here serve on, would conduct an official oversight visit to CECOT.

I was of the opinion that a congressional delegation needed to urgently go to CECOT in El Salvador and check on the health and well-being of all the political prisoners who we have sent to that heinous place.

My Republican colleagues disagreed, and Chairman MARK GREEN said that my official request to conduct oversight in my capacity as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability was "to virtue signal to [my] radical base."

At least he responded to that one. When I asked him to conduct oversight of Guantanamo, after the first flights to Guantanamo separated undocumented immigrants from the protections of our Constitution and their due process, and even amidst the reports that the U.S. was spending more than \$40 million of taxpayer money holding migrants in Guantanamo, in that case, I was just ignored. I didn't expect much more.

Republicans in Congress have repeatedly given up their power. I don't know why. They got elected by the people to represent the people, but they are just rolling out the red carpet for Trump's authoritarian regime. Republicans in Congress have allowed Trump to literally walk all over them. They are enabling a massive expansion in Presidential power and completely surrendering the power and authority of Congress.

If they don't want to actually assert their authority as a coequal branch,

then why are you here? In allowing the administration to rescind funds, freeze funds, and cancel grants and contracts that were duly appropriated by Congress, Republicans have given Trump the power of the purse. But the power of the purse is Congress' power. It is our job. It is what we were sent to administer for the people. They have abandoned a critical check and balance.

Republicans have become the enablers of Trump's authoritarian power grab, and you don't have to look farther than the Speaker of the House. He was quoted yesterday saying: "Many respected constitutional experts argue that the War Powers Act is itself unconstitutional."

"I'm persuaded by that argument. They think it's a violation of the Article II Powers of the Commander in Chief. I think that's right."

That is the leader of Congress saying that Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, which gives Congress the constitutional authority to declare war, is a violation of Article II Powers of the President.

That tells you all you need to know. MIKE JOHNSON is more loyal to the President than he is to the separation of powers. He is more loyal to the administration's authoritarian agenda than he is to the Constitution. He is certainly more loyal to this President than his constituents who depend on Medicaid and Social Security for their daily life needs.

We will remind them that Congress has a job to do and that we will not concede the power of the people.

I ask my colleagues, again: Why did you come here?

They made a lot of campaign promises. Perhaps while you are campaigning you actually listen to some people. Perhaps what they heard from people was, we are tired of a government that doesn't deliver to the people. Make my life better, not worse.

Yet, somehow, we are waiting for a Senate bill, this big, ugly bill, as if it couldn't get any uglier, that would actually slash more resources from the very same people that sent us here instead of making their life better.

Mr. Speaker, we have to ask ourselves in this moment what role are we playing and who are we here for? Did we take an oath to protect the Constitution of the United States of America or not?

Is our loyalty to the values of this country and the people that sent us here? I hope it is not to super-PACs, but rather the people, our constituents.

Or is it doing whatever Donald Trump tells you to do?

This is a critical moment in U.S. history. I will highlight, as I wrap up my Special Order hour, a few people that despite the darkness, despite the stoking of fear that you see happening throughout the country, continue to demonstrate who we are and who we should be as a Nation.

I will start by recognizing someone who I believe to be a leader in the com-

munity. He is someone who I know stands up by defending our neighbors. He is someone who recognizes that fear does not create unity and love. Fear creates division. As we reflect on what it means to stand up to authoritarianism by defending our neighbors, our neighborhoods, and our culture, I recognize a longtime community leader and a public servant, Billy Ocasio.

Billy was born and raised in Humboldt Park in Illinois' Third Congressional District. Billy's leadership over several decades has made a significant impact in Chicago, Illinois, and its local Puerto Rican and immigrant community.

A proud product of Chicago Public Schools, Billy graduated from Von Humboldt Elementary School and Roberto Clemente Community Academy.

Rooted in the community that raised him, Billy served as the 26th Ward alderman for 16 years, from 1993 to 2009, where he championed major infrastructure and community development projects, including the creation of Division Street's signature Puerto Rican flags, the McCormick Tribune YMCA, and Humboldt Parks' first-ever public library branch.

Billy's service expanded as he became senior adviser to then-Governor Pat Quinn, as he was appointed to work on social justice issues impacting communities across the State of Illinois.

Both Billy and his wife, Veronica Ocasio, have lent their talents and time to creating and growing the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, also based in Humboldt Park. In Billy's role as president and CEO, as well as in Veronica's role as director of education and programming, the Ocasios have nurtured the museum to become a locally, nationally, and internationally celebrated institution.

Through exhibits, events, oral history sharing, and more, the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture does important work to preserve and uplift the rich culture of Puerto Rican traditions and to stand up to gentrification through cultural resistance.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Billy Ocasio for his lifetime of service and commitment to fighting for our communities. At a time when wannabe kings threaten welcoming cities like Chicago, I am inspired by the stories of local residents demonstrating that diversity, that equity, that inclusion which are exactly what make our communities and our country strong.

In a time such as this, we need to summon the courage of those who came before us to unapologetically and defiantly defend immigrants from the administration's authoritarian attacks. History presents us with plenty of inspiration. In some cases, it is someone who made it possible for the grandparents of so many of my colleagues to be able to serve in this very same Chamber.

Today, I honor the legacy of Sister Frances Xavier Cabrini, better known as Mother Cabrini, the patron saint of immigrants, whose life and legacy remind us of the enduring strength and dignity immigrants in America have.

Born in 1850 in Lombardy, Italy, Frances Cabrini arrived in the United States in 1889 to New York, at the invitation of Pope Leo XIII, who encouraged her to bring her mission to the growing number of Italian immigrants in the Americas.

At the time, Italian Americans were targets of xenophobia, discrimination, and even violence, just like other immigrants living in the United States at the time and today.

Italians were wrongfully seen as unable to assimilate, dangerous, and a threat to the American way of life, language which is also, unfortunately, still familiar today.

Yet in the face of this hateful, dehumanizing rhetoric, Mother Cabrini responded not with fear or hatred—what our President wants—but with bold, unwavering love and compassion.

As the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she built a movement grounded in hope, service, faith, and fierce love for those under attack by those in positions of power.

Under her leadership, the Sisters established more than 60 schools, hospitals, and orphanages, many of them serving newly arriving immigrants, the sick, and the poor.

□ 1820

In 1909, Mother Cabrini became a naturalized citizen of the United States. She believed in the promise of this Nation—not as an abstract ideal, but as a place where those seeking refuge and opportunity could find dignity, community, and purpose. At a time when her own community, the Italian community, was under attack, she chose to claim her place in this country, not as an outsider, but as a full participant in shaping its future.

Her naturalization is particularly worth reflecting on today, when President Trump seeks to roll back the hard-won rights of immigrants, especially the right to birthright citizenship, which is guaranteed under the 14th Amendment of our Constitution.

President Trump has repeatedly questioned this right, threatening to unravel one of the most fundamental principles of American democracy: that all who are born here belong here.

In 1946, Mother Cabrini was canonized as a saint by Pope Pius XII, becoming the first American to be beatified by the Catholic Church. She is now recognized as the patron saint of immigrants, a title that honors her tireless advocacy for all those who migrate and her unwavering belief in the sacred dignity of every single human life.

In Chicago, many know her from the former Cabrini-Green public housing development, which stood as a symbol both of the challenges of poverty and

segregation, and of the enduring hope of working families seeking a better life. Her name endures in our memory because her legacy endures.

As we close out Immigrant Heritage Month, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini challenges us to stand up to those in power who would seek to divide us and pit us against our own neighbors.

Despite those who seek to use their faith to justify their cruelty, we remember that the Bible itself teaches us that: "When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as you love yourself."

For my colleagues who say they read the Bible every day, that is Leviticus 19:33-34.

In a time of rising nationalism, expansion of imperialism, and fear, may the example of Sister Cabrini guide us back to fierce, compassionate, inclusive love.

May her memory inspire us to build a nation where everyone feels a deep sense of belonging, where every person's humanity is honored, and where we truly love our neighbors as ourselves.

May she inspire us to build an empire, as she says, of hope, solidarity, and compassion.

As I close, I am reminded of the words of Mother Cabrini. I thank all of my colleagues who have joined today's Special Order on Holding Power Accountable: Congressional Oversight against Trump's Authoritarianism.

Members of Congress are actively defending our communities against this agenda, and we will continue to show up.

To the constituents who are worried about their Medicaid, to the constituents who are worried about their neighbors, to the constituents who are asking themselves: How can the President say one thing and do the other? How can he talk about peace and go start a war? How can he say that he is a Christian and hate his neighbors? I want you to know that not all Members of Congress here are the same.

Some of us have the courage, the ability, and the willingness to defend our communities, regardless of their legal status, regardless of who they love, regardless of their financial status.

We believe in due process. We believe in the rule of law and the Constitution, and I think that some of my colleagues on the other side took an oath saying that they believe in it, too. We believe in our democracy and checks and balances and accountability. We believe that undermining our laws and processes make all of us less safe.

We continue to demand that this administration allow us to exercise our right to oversight in all of its forms. I ask my colleagues, as I wrap up, the question that I asked before: Why did you come here? Why are you here? Why do you leave your family every Monday

or Tuesday to get on a flight and be here for 4 to 5 days? What will your legacy be? What will your grandchildren say about what you did in this place?

I know what Mother Cabrini did in a time where Italians were treated as less than human. She stood up for them. She made it possible so that your grandparents and your great-grandparents could be able to give your parents and your families the life that they deserve so that you can serve here in Congress with me.

What will your legacy be? If you are wondering why constituents don't believe in government, it is because we say one thing, and then harm them. I believe that this is a moment where we can choose to love, to choose compassion, to choose unity over hate, over darkness, or over using Truth Social to demean and degrade other people because we don't agree with them.

I say to you that as long as Members of Congress, like Congressmen JOHNSON, TAKANO, WATSON COLEMAN, CARTER, and I are here, we continue to demand that this administration honor due process, that we continue to do congressional oversight—especially in ICE facilities and detention centers, and that we ensure that people being held there are treated humanly, with dignity and respect. We are not alone.

The American people will continue to protest for their rights. The American people will continue to show up. The American people will continue to demand more of us, not less of us. They will continue to demand that we protect and expand democracy, not suppress voters.

We say and continue to say that it is our responsibility for such a time as this to be reminded why we decided to come to the people's House, and who we represent and who we serve because I do not represent or serve at the pleasure of Donald Trump. I serve and represent 730,000 people in the Chicago area, and I will fight for them every single day and the democracy that we all took an oath to protect and serve.

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

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

DOBBS V. JACKSON ANNIVERSARY

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NORMAN. 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 materials on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), my good friend.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration that yesterday was the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which overturned the disastrous 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, a major victory for the pro-life movement. This decision rightfully reaffirmed that ending the life of an unborn child is not a constitutional right. While this was a step in the right direction, there is still much to be done to protect the lives of our Nation's most innocent.

Modern science objectively proves that new, distinct human life begins at the moment of conception. It is truly incredible that, with today's technology, we know that a baby's heartbeat starts at just about 22 days after conception, their unique fingerprints are formed at 12 weeks of gestation, and by 15 weeks, the baby is sensitive to pain. That is why I have cosponsored the Life at Conception Act, which legally recognizes the life and value of an unborn child regardless of their size or level of development.

Additionally, at the start of this Congress, I reintroduced legislation to recognize January 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, as the Day of Tears to memorialize the unborn victims of abortion.

Since the Dobbs decision, the fight to protect the unborn is far from over, given the issue of abortion was handed down to the States. Therefore, abortions are still occurring across the country, and the rapid rise in access to the chemical abortion drug, mifepristone, is deeply alarming.

It is estimated that mifepristone accounted for 63 percent of the abortions in 2023, resulting in approximately 642,700 unborn babies losing their lives that year.

Women and girls have been misled into believing that taking mifepristone to induce an abortion is as safe as using Tylenol. However, new data indicates that nearly 1 in 10 women taking the chemical abortion pill experience serious complications, such as sepsis, infection, hemorrhage, or another serious adverse event within 45 days of taking the drug.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, this real-world complication rate is 22 times higher than the FDA currently acknowledges on the mifepristone label.

Additionally, the Biden-Harris administration removed the requirement for a woman to receive these drugs in person from a healthcare provider. This in-person requirement allowed providers to determine gestational age, rule out life-threatening ectopic pregnancies, and identify signs of abuse before dispensing mifepristone.

This change not only poses serious, irresponsible medical risks but also bypasses pro-life State laws, like what we

have in Georgia, by permitting the shipping of abortion pills.

Let me give you an example. This is a package, a brown envelope. This was ordered online with a simple filling out of a form, answering a few questions, and putting in your name and address. It showed up about a week later.

If you look at the return address, it is fake. It says: James Smith, 2301 L Street Northwest, Washington, D.C. That is the West End Library here in Washington. It was postmarked from Capital District 208 here in Washington, D.C.

In this package, in this brown envelope, are three packages. One, two, and three are the only marks on them. They are mifepristone and the drugs that induce an abortion. They are so easily accessed online, sent free of charge—but to whom?

I believe that any abortion is a tragedy. I also recognize that while mifepristone is still legal—and I hope that one day it is not legal and is banned because it is responsible for so many murders of unborn children. While it is still legal, for the well-being of women and girls, we must investigate the safety and efficacy of mifepristone and reinstate in-person dispensing requirements for the abortion drug.

Every life is a gift from God. As leaders, our greatest responsibility is to protect the life and liberty of every person, especially our most innocent. After all, our first and most fundamental right is the right of life.

Think about it. Think about the first document that birthed our Nation, the Declaration of Independence. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

What was the first right mentioned? The right to life. We as a government have a responsibility to protect that life, especially the life of an innocent unborn child.

Abortion is not the solution. We must have compassion for both the unborn and pregnant women who are struggling. That is why I am pleased to know that, in Georgia alone, there are over 670 organizations that offer support and care for pregnant women.

As we celebrate the victorious anniversary of the Dobbs decision, I remain resolute in defending the sanctity of life and protecting the precious unborn.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for yielding.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the anniversary of the Dobbs decision, I want to point out, from the outset, that there is no species, no animal, that kills its own.

My family has been in the horse business for a good while. We raise pleasure

horses. There is no mare that we have that kills its born, the new horse. We are in the cattle business. There is no cow that I have ever seen that has killed what it births. Yet, we as humans, for some reason, take that as a right that we can have.

The Dobbs decision was one of the most important decisions of our lifetime. For nearly 50 years, Roe v. Wade took power away from the people and handed it to unelected judges, but Dobbs finally made it right.

The Court didn't outlaw abortion, as my friends on the left tried to claim. What it did was restore the fundamental truth that States and the citizens who live in them have a right to decide how we protect life.

In South Carolina, we have chosen to stand for the unborn, and I stand before you today in unwavering support of our State's rights to do just that.

In 2018, Governor McMaster took a bold step. He blocked abortion clinics, like Planned Parenthood, from receiving Medicaid funding because these dollars should go toward real healthcare helping women, children, and families, not to organizations that end innocent lives.

Despite what my good friends from the left claim, killing a child is not a birth control measure.

When Planned Parenthood sued to undo the decision, it wasn't just about funding. It was about undermining the rights of our States, our government, and our people.

That is why I led a bicameral amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to take up *Medina v. Planned Parenthood*. This case is about far more than Medicaid. It is about whether the States, like South Carolina, can align their healthcare policies with their values and whether the courts will respect these values.

Dobbs and *Medina* both point to the same truth. Washington, D.C., clearly doesn't get to decide everything. The Constitution makes it clear those decisions rest squarely with the American people.

I will continue to fight for States' rights and for the rights of South Carolinians to govern ourselves without Federal interference.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

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. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3383. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 with respect to the authority of closed-end companies to invest in private funds, with an amendment (Rept. 119-169). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3379. A bill to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to require the Federal financial institutions regulatory agencies to update the CAMELS Rating System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 119-170). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 2625. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment (Rept. 119-171). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HARRIS of Maryland: Committee on Appropriations. H.R. 4121. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-172). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 4120. A bill to address behavioral health and well-being among education professionals and other school staff; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALLEN (for himself and Mrs. MCBATH):

H.R. 4122. A bill to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to furnish necessary services, appliances, and supplies to individuals receiving medical benefits for illnesses; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BURLISON (for himself, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mrs. LUNA, and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 4123. A bill to improve Federal technology procurement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 4124. A bill to reform the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 4125. A bill to establish the total number of Representatives at a number that provides that the average number of constituents represented by a Member from any

State is equal to 500,000 and to apportion Representatives among the States accordingly, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 4126. A bill to direct the Transportation Security Administration to carry out covert testing and risk mitigation improvement of aviation security operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 4127. A bill to establish a pilot program to address technology-related abuse in domestic violence cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRY (for himself and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 4128. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the advanced manufacturing production credit to include distribution transformers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 4129. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to provide an exemption from the registration requirements under that Act to certain advisers of private funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 4130. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exclude qualified institutional buyers and institutional accredited investors when calculating holders of a security for purposes of the mandatory registration threshold under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GILL of Texas (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. STUTZMAN):

H.R. 4131. A bill to prohibit fetal remains in publicly owned water systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. ROSS, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 4132. A bill to provide for digital communication of prescribing information for drugs (including biological products), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. FIGURES):

H.R. 4133. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to make adjustments to the environmental quality incentives program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Mr. SORENSEN):

H.R. 4134. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to add flood prevention and mitigation measures to purposes of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4135. A bill to encourage States to participate with the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council's online dashboard for certain covered projects; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 4136. A bill to establish an Office of Public Engagement and Participation within

the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 4137. A bill to require the Secretary of State to report annually on adverse security clearance adjudications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 4138. A bill to prohibit the heads of executive agencies from asking about gender identity on any form or survey, to require executive agencies provide male and female as the only options to respond to questions about sex or gender on any forms or surveys and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS):

H.R. 4139. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for adjustments to the Medicare part D cost-sharing reductions for low-income individuals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BERA, and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 4140. A bill to provide protection, support, and humanitarian assistance to Rohingya refugees and internally displaced people in Burma as well as promote accountability and a path out of genocide and crimes against humanity for Rohingya; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 4141. A bill to direct the Department of Energy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct collaborative research in order to advance numerical weather and climate prediction in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on 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. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H.R. 4142. A bill to protect the United States Government from foreign adversary AI and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ (for himself, Mr. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 4143. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 4144. A bill to require the Director of the United States Geological Survey to map future groundwater rise and conduct a study on its potential impacts to infrastructure and public health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. GOLDEN of

Maine, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COHEN, Ms. MACE, Mr. BARR, and Mr. IVEY):

H.R. 4145. A bill to amend the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 to make technical corrections; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ONDER:

H.R. 4146. A bill to limit the use of data from automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. STRONG, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. COLE, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 4147. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Ms. FOXX, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. MANN, Mr. SELF, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. HOUGHIN, and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 4148. A bill to provide that the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to "Updating the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Regulation" shall have no force or effect; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, and Mr. BELL):

H.R. 4149. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, 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. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CHU, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. KENNEDY of New York):

H.R. 4150. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a higher Federal matching rate for increased expenditures under Medicaid for maternal health care services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.J. Res. 102. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that the Senate is made more representative by adding twelve Senators to be elected using a national popular vote, and providing for twelve Electors at-large for President and Vice-President, who shall cast their ballots for the respective winners of the national popular vote; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BARRAGAN (for herself, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. BERA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CHU, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DOGETT, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr.

GOMEZ, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LICCARDO, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MIN, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. RIVAS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TRAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. GRAY, and Ms. ROSS):

H. Res. 543. A resolution recognizing the right to peacefully protest and condemning violence and authoritarian responses to expressions of dissent; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. LIEU):

H. Res. 544. A resolution supporting the designation of the month of June 2025, as “National Men’s Health Month”; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H. Res. 545. A resolution supporting the designation of Guam War Survivors Remembrance Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WILSON of Florida (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. MCIVER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BROWN, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MFUME, Mr. TONKO, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. PETERSEN, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 546. A resolution encouraging Members of Congress to visit ICE detention facilities in their States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 4120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. HARRIS of Maryland:

H.R. 4121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The principal constitutional authority for this legislation is clause 7 of section 9 of ar-

ticle I of the Constitution of the United States (the appropriation power), which states: “No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law . . .” In addition, clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution (the spending power) provides: “The Congress shall have the Power . . . to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States . . .” Together, these specific constitutional provisions establish the congressional power of the purse, granting Congress the authority to appropriate funds, to determine their purpose, amount, and period of availability, and to set forth terms and conditions governing their use.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 4122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BURLISON:

H.R. 4123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 4124.

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. CASTEN:

H.R. 4125.

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. CRANE:

H.R. 4126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, of the U.S. Constitution

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 4127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 4128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 4129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GARBARINO:

H.R. 4130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. GILL of Texas:

H.R. 4131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

“[clause 18 of] section 8 of article I of the Constitution”, such as “clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution”.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 4132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 4133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper

for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 4134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 4135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 4136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 4137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 4138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 4139.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. MEEKS:

H.R. 4140.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 4141.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 4142.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 4143.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 3(d) (1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 4144.

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. MURPHY:

H.R. 4145.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states:

The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.

By Mr. ONDER:

H.R. 4146.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 4147.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 4148.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 article 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 4149.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 4150.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.J. Res. 102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 51: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 261: Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 390: Mr. VINDMAN.
H.R. 425: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 429: Ms. SIMON, Mr. CORREA, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 472: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 516: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. GRAVES.
H.R. 563: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 575: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 650: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 740: Mr. AMODEI of Nevada and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 753: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 811: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 873: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 909: Ms. RANDALL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 929: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 979: Mr. WIED, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. CHU, and Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1007: Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 1047: Mr. BRESNAHAN and Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 1065: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 1086: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 1189: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 1227: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1246: Mr. WIED.
H.R. 1269: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. ELFRETH, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 1340: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 1383: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 1410: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 1417: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY.
H.R. 1422: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. ONDER, Mr. FIGURES, and Ms. RIVAS.
H.R. 1505: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1530: Ms. BYNUM.
H.R. 1585: Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. FOXX, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1589: Mr. MANNION.
H.R. 1611: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 1661: Mr. KENNEDY of New York and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1674: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 1827: Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 1873: Mr. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 1876: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 1877: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 1987: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 2012: Mr. BAUMGARTNER.
H.R. 2028: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Ms. POU.
H.R. 2031: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 2048: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 2055: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2102: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. STUTZMAN, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 2110: Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 2126: Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 2175: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. CISNEROS.
H.R. 2192: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 2195: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2203: Mr. GRAY.
H.R. 2213: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 2253: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2270: Mr. FINE.
H.R. 2332: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.
H.R. 2349: Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 2350: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 2357: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 2368: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 2489: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2499: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 2528: Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. HUNT, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. MESSMER.
H.R. 2531: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2548: Mr. SESSIONS and Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 2556: Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 2559: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 2598: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 2678: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H.R. 2701: Mr. BACON, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 2725: Mr. HIMES, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 2736: Mr. SWALWELL and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 2756: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 2790: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 2799: Ms. OMAR, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2828: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 2854: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2948: Mr. IVEY.
H.R. 2999: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 3015: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 3033: Mr. MCCORMICK.
H.R. 3063: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 3087: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 3100: Ms. LEE of Florida and Mr. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 3108: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 3111: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 3115: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 3121: Mr. LIEU and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3131: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3151: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 3170: Mr. MESSMER and Mr. MACKENZIE.
H.R. 3172: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 3207: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.
H.R. 3226: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3246: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3295: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3332: Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 3335: Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 3392: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 3410: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 3452: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3453: Mr. MESSMER.
H.R. 3538: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 3562: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3566: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 3595: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3604: Mr. FROST, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 3608: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.
H.R. 3616: Mr. BRESNAHAN and Mr. GRIFFITH.
H.R. 3619: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 3636: Mr. MOULTON and Mr. BISHOP.
H.R. 3639: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3644: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3694: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. NEGUSE, and Ms. MCBRIDE.
H.R. 3696: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 3699: Mr. ONDER and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 3701: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 3715: Mr. RULLI.
H.R. 3740: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.
H.R. 3770: Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 3809: Mr. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 3833: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 3835: Mr. KEAN.
H.R. 3858: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 3868: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 3898: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.R. 3901: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 3906: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 3916: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 3930: Mr. FIELDS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 3974: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3981: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4003: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4004: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Ms. FRIEDMAN.
H.R. 4018: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. SHREVE, Mr. WITTMAN, and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 4057: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. PAL-LONE.
H.R. 4058: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 4064: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 4070: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 4084: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 4087: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 4091: Mr. FITZGERALD and Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas.
H.R. 4092: Mr. BEGICH.
H.R. 4101: Mr. KENNEDY of New York and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 4102: Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 4103: Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. DEXTER, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. MENG, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H.R. 4104: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 4107: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.J. Res. 28: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mr. FONG.
H.J. Res. 101: Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. LETLOW, and Mrs. BICE.
H. Con. Res. 12: Mr. WIED.
H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. MFUME and Ms. ADAMS.
H. Con. Res. 38: Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. DEXTER, and Mr. MFUME.
H. Con. Res. 40: Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. MCBRIDE, Ms. KAMLAGERDOVE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. BEYER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SORENSSEN, and Mr. IVEY.
H. Res. 64: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H. Res. 70: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H. Res. 254: Mr. STUTZMAN.
H. Res. 372: Ms. STANSBURY.
H. Res. 394: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H. Res. 457: Mr. LICCARDIO.
H. Res. 495: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H. Res. 512: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Res. 515: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. CARSON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. MCCORMICK.

H. Res. 533: Mr. BERA.
H. Res. 537: Mr. CARSON.
H. Res. 539: Mr. CLYDE.



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Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025

No. 109

Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, June 24, 2025)

The Senate met at 3:30 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, 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.
Immortal, invisible, God only wise.
Lord, You have promised in Your Word that "in all labor there is profit." Give our lawmakers today the profit of wise decisions that will bless our Nation and world. Help them to see that with many advisers, there is safety. Make each legislator determine to do what is right as You give him or her the ability to understand Your will and the courage to do Your bidding.

May our Senators stretch out their hands toward You, depending upon You to lead them to a safe harbor.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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 Paul Dabbar, of

New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

VETERANS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I want to bring attention to all of the selfless veterans that have served our country, especially those from my home State of Iowa.

Each and every veteran has put a piece of themselves towards the mission of protecting our Nation that we are blessed to live in, so it is tremendously important to commemorate and thank these veterans.

I want to give you one example of how that is done: the Honor Flights that take place at the World War II Memorial. The veterans that travel from across the country to here in Washington, DC, represent big cities, small towns, and rural areas. But what they all embody is deep courage, sacrifice, and humility. Honor Flights are just one small reflection of the gratitude that we have for these brave souls.

I hope that for visitors to our Nation's Capital who have the privilege to witness an Honor Flight, it may inspire deeper gratitude to all the veterans. This is what I found when, occasionally, I get an opportunity to go to the World War II Memorial to meet the veterans that have flown in from Iowa.

And many times, I had the occasion to see—when he was still alive—former Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, even in his weak condition being in a wheelchair, there to meet those same veterans from all over the country, not just from Iowa.

It is a priority for me to share their legacy with every new generation of Americans to foster a deeper appreciation for our Republic.

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. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, next year, if Congress fails to act, a typical family will face a \$1,700 tax hike. A typical family in South Dakota will face a \$2,500 tax hike. Republicans are determined to make sure that doesn't happen.

Later this week, we will consider our reconciliation bill that will prevent that tax hike by extending the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. I say "extend," but we are doing a lot more than just extending the 2017 tax cuts. We are making them permanent. In some cases, we are even improving on them.

Our 2017 tax relief legislation lowered tax rates for every income group. It doubled the child tax credit. It nearly doubled the standard deduction. The bill we are voting on this week will make all of that permanent, and it will go even further when it comes to the child tax credit, increasing it to \$2,200 per child and linking it to inflation—again, permanently.

We are not stopping there. Our bill suspends taxes on tips, boosting the income of millions of Americans who earn tip income. It suspends taxes on overtime pay for millions of American workers, meaning police officers, firefighters, nurses, and others will be able to keep more of what they earn when they spend long hours away from their families. And an increased standard deduction for seniors will allow them to reduce their tax burden even further. The American people have better uses for their hard-earned money than sending it to Uncle Sam. And this bill will permanently ensure Americans can keep more of what they earn.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The other legacy of the 2017 tax cuts is how they boosted our economy by lifting the tax burden on America's job creators. We lowered tax rates for owners of small- and medium-sized businesses, farms and ranches. We made it easier for them to recover the cost of investing in their businesses, which, in turn, freed up cash for them to invest in their operations and their workers. These and other major reforms helped kick-start our economy.

And in the wake of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our economy grew at a substantially better rate than projected. Real wages increased. Unemployment fell to a 50-year low. The poverty rate fell to the lowest level ever recorded. Business investment increased. Everywhere you looked, there was positive economic news.

Mr. President, we were able to make some of the business tax reforms permanent in 2017. And now we have an opportunity to make the rest of these pro-growth policies permanent. That includes lower rates for small- and medium-sized businesses, the job-creating 199A small business deduction, and full expensing for new equipment and for domestic research and development.

Once again, we are going beyond just making the 2017 tax relief permanent. We are setting our country up for a brighter future by further advancing a pro-opportunity, pro-growth Tax Code.

Our bill includes full expensing for new factories and factory improvements so we can expect to see more growth and more jobs for American workers and more goods made in America. It raises the death tax threshold to \$15 million and links it to inflation permanently, which will spare countless family farms, ranches, and small businesses from a potentially devastating tax and the headaches and expense of planning for it.

And an entire generation of Americans will be able to access new investment accounts when they reach adulthood that can be used toward their education, to start a business, to buy their first home, and to get a running start on the American dream.

Mr. President, this is a good bill. It is going to be great for our country. The Council of Economic Advisers, which accurately predicted the economic growth and higher wages in the wake of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, released its forecast of the Senate bill this morning. It contains a lot of good news, starting with as much as 4.9 percent higher GDP in the next few years. That means more jobs. It means bigger paychecks, as much as \$10,000 per year for a typical family. It means more opportunity. Believe it or not, it means more revenue, revenue that we bring in in the right way—by growing our economy—not by raising taxes. In fact, the same forecasters who got the effects of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act right are estimating as much as \$6 trillion in deficit reduction stemming from the bill's pro-growth policies.

Mr. President, we are well on our way to getting this bill passed this

week, which means we are well on our way to a stronger and more prosperous America. That means Americans keeping more of their hard-earned money; it means American businesses growing and investing in our country and our workers; and it means a thriving economy like we had before the pandemic.

Republicans are ready to deliver.

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. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Trump administration has failed miserably—miserably—in its responsibility to inform Congress about what is happening right now in the Middle East. Before the strikes, leaders in Congress got virtually no heads up. Then the administration delayed the briefing scheduled yesterday. It was scheduled a week ago. Now they are trying to get away with sending only the Secretary of State and Defense for tomorrow, instead of the usual intelligence officials that attend the briefings.

Let's be very clear: A briefing from only the Secretaries of State and Defense would be woefully insufficient. If they are the only ones in attendance, they will only parrot whatever the President wants them to say.

Sending intelligence officers to briefings in Congress is a longstanding bipartisan practice, and Congress is entitled, as the representatives of the American people, to hear from the administration about matters of national intelligence and national security.

Refusing Congress like this would be egregious, troubling, and a violation. It would make Americans wonder: Why would Donald Trump prefer to send two talking heads to meet with Congress instead of intelligence analysts and policymakers.

Intelligence officials have an obligation to seek the truth, to speak the truth. Perhaps that is why Donald Trump does not want to send the intelligence officials to talk to us. Maybe Donald Trump doesn't want Congress or even America to know the truth about what is going on.

We know there have been a lot of confusing reports—some from intelligence sources—over the last days, suggesting the strikes in Iran were not as successful as the President initially claimed. There may be questions about the accuracy of these reports. I have no idea if these reports are accurate.

And, today, the President said, earlier this morning, that “the intelligence was very inconclusive. The intelligence says we don't know.”

All of this only underscores the need to hear from intelligence analysts and to hear from them directly.

What is the administration hiding? Were the strikes successful? How much enriched uranium does Iran still have? How many months will it take them to make a nuclear device? Are they locating centrifuges in a new place, and what is our knowledge of that? Are our troops safe? Are Americans in the region safe? Is the conflict contained? What happens next? And how will the administration achieve the critical national priority of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon?

Both parties, by and large, agree that Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon. I do. But if the President is misrepresenting the impact of our military strikes and these reports have some accuracy—we don't know if they do—and if the President is turning away from diplomacy with Iran, as his recent post suggested, then what the hell is going on? What is Donald Trump's plan?

We really don't know the answers to any of these critical questions. The administration refuses to be transparent. All we get are talking points and tweets. We know that Donald Trump makes things up, day to day, and then has to retract and turn around.

And tomorrow, all we are going to get are talking points from Rubio and Hegseth, because that is what we know they are trained to do.

On top of that, today, it was reported the administration may actually start limiting intelligence sharing with Congress. The administration should immediately undo this decision, if it is true.

Are they afraid of the truth? Do they want to hide the truth?

The intelligence Agencies are known to tell the truth. Is that why they are so afraid to get their information out—the information of the intelligence Agencies out?

As I said yesterday, the administration's stonewalling of Congress is outrageous, evasive, and derelict. The administration has no right to stonewall Congress on matters of national security. Senators deserve information, and the administration has a legal obligation to inform Congress precisely about what is happening right now abroad.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today because Republicans are making America safer and more prosperous, and, as part of that, we are strengthening Medicaid.

You know, I am a doctor. I practiced medicine in Wyoming for over 20 years,

and I cared for many, many Medicaid patients my entire career. I understand Medicaid's importance—importance for the people that it is intended to serve. I have also seen its shortcomings.

Medicaid became a law in 1965. It was meant to be a safety net for the poor, for pregnant women, for children, and for the disabled.

Today, Medicaid has been stretched way beyond its intended purposes. Today, Medicaid covers 71 million people. Many of these are able-bodied, working-age individuals. As a result, Medicaid has become broken and bloated. Its costs are ballooning. It is going to go bankrupt unless we take action now to strengthen it.

The Republican plan will strengthen Medicaid for those for whom it was originally intended.

Our bill ensures that illegal immigrants do not receive taxpayer-funded healthcare. It was never intended for that. But 14 liberal States currently give free taxpayer funded healthcare to illegal immigrants.

California, of course, is the biggest offender because they set up a money-laundering scheme. The scheme is set up to siphon money from the Federal Treasury to provide free healthcare for illegal immigrants. The 1.4 million illegal immigrants who receive free healthcare, they strangle Medicaid in the funding. They are filling up waiting rooms and clinics. They are making it harder for Americans to get in to see a doctor.

Our bill ends liberal States' magnet for illegal immigrants. Medicaid cannot continue to be a reward for open borders and sanctuary cities.

Additionally, our bill roots out waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption in Medicaid. Experts tell us that, in recent years, Medicaid has wasted over \$1 trillion in improper payments alone.

In 2021, 660,000 people were enrolled in Medicaid in more than one State. How can that be? That is costing lots of money. The Wall Street Journal did a breakdown of this. They found that these double payments alone cost American taxpayers over \$2 billion.

Republicans will not allow scammers to continue to game the system and steal money from taxpayers.

Additionally, our bill puts in place work requirements for these able-bodied, working-age adults. Twenty-one million able-bodied adults are currently on Medicaid.

An American Enterprise Institute study recently found able-bodied adults on Medicaid who don't work. How do they spend their time? Well, they spend over 4 hours every day watching TV and playing video games. That is 125 hours a month. They ought to be working or at least looking for a job.

Our bill requires these people to work or train 80 hours each month to remain on Medicaid. That is a lot less than the time they are currently spending watching TV and playing video games.

Senate Republicans are proposing a responsible path to self-reliance for

able-bodied, working-age people—no more taxpayer-funded coddling.

Let me share with you a story about a man whose son relies on Medicaid. This man's son has autism and epilepsy. Medicaid was designed to serve individuals like this man's son. Yet, today, his son is stuck on a 10-year waiting list for in-home care.

The man wrote about his family's needs. He wrote a whole article about it, entitled "My Son Is Counting on Medicaid Work Requirements"—not for the son but for others, so they start working to make it easier for this man's son to get the benefits that he needs.

Medicaid is often called a lifeline. Years of waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption have pushed those who truly need it to the back of the line.

Republicans are fighting for families like this one. We are making sure Medicaid is there for the vulnerable.

Meanwhile, Democrats are fine with healthy, working-age adults continuing to stay home, play video games, and receive Medicaid forever.

Work requirements work. In the 1990s, Bill Clinton proposed that we end welfare as we know it. President Clinton partnered in a bipartisan way with the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, to pass bipartisan reform.

Bipartisan welfare reform lifted millions out of poverty. Even President Obama admitted it. He said:

We have to have work as the centerpiece of any social policy.

President Obama was right then, and Republicans are right today.

Today, every Democrat has vowed to oppose our commonsense reforms. Democrats' wasteful approach continues to drain Medicaid.

Medicaid is for the truly needy. Medicaid is not for illegal immigrants or for able-bodied, working-age men who refuse to work.

Republicans are rescuing this lifeline so that it serves those who need it the most now and into the future.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we move ahead with the vote scheduled for 4:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON DABBAR NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Dabbar nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 325 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	King	Sheehy
Cotton	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cramer	Landford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Warner
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Lujan	Slotkin
Booker	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallago	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Paul	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Coons	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Shaheen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority whip.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Kies nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF KEN KIES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion to invoke cloture on Mr. Ken Kies, who is nominated to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at the Treasury Department.

The Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy is the senior adviser to the Secretary of the Treasury for analyzing, developing, and implementing Federal tax policies and programs.

Mr. Kies is eminently qualified for this position. He has a total of 47 years of experience as a tax attorney, covering every aspect of the Internal Revenue Code. Mr. Kies has also been involved in every significant piece of Federal tax legislation since 1981.

If confirmed, Mr. Kies will be a valuable partner in our efforts to prevent a \$4 trillion-plus tax hike on American families and businesses and to deliver additional tax relief for middle-class workers and families.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in advancing his nomination.

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. 93, Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, Bill Hagerty, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Roger F. Wicker, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Bernie Moreno, Katie Boyd Britt, Mike Lee, Mike Rounds, Deb Fischer, Steve Daines, Rick Scott of Florida, James Lankford, Jon A. Husted, Ted Cruz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call, under rule XXII, has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Nevada (Mrs. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 326 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Duckworth	Markay	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Galleo	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—3

Coons Cortez Masto Shaheen

(Mr. HAWLEY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are here today to ensure the Senate fulfills its constitutional duties regarding the sole power to involve our Nation in war. An important briefing will take place tomorrow and, perhaps, a vote on this very issue.

Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution clearly states that the power to declare war is an explicit power of Congress. Three words: to declare war. Congress overwhelmingly reaffirmed this constitutional provision when it passed the War Powers Act in 1973 over the veto of President Nixon.

Under the War Powers Act, the President has the authority to approve military attacks as a response to an imminent threat or with the express authorization of Congress. Neither of these were the case with President Trump's decision to bomb Iran over the weekend. The Iranian regime sponsors terrorism; wants to destroy Israel and undermine U.S. interests; oppress its own people; and is interested in owning a nuclear weapon. But those are not justifications to ignore the Constitution. If the United States is to start a war with Iran over these or any other issue, the Constitution itself requires it must be with the consent of Congress.

Let me also add that we had an effective agreement that contained Iran's nuclear program—I remember it well under President Obama—that is, until President Trump, in his first term, abruptly withdrew the United States from this agreement, adding to the more volatile situation which we face today.

That is why I support the Senator from Virginia TIM KAINE's War Powers Resolution. It requires a prompt debate and vote prior to using additional U.S. military force against Iran. This Senate should not allow the country to be led into another Middle Eastern war without its consent.

When I reflect on the time that I have served in the Senate, one of the most memorable votes was on the question of the invasion of Iraq. If the Presiding Officer will recall that debate, the argument was being made by the White House that there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and that we had to preemptively start a war with

that country to stop those weapons from being used against us or our allies. We know what happened. There was a vote on the floor of the Senate. It was about 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock at night. There were 23 of us who voted against the invasion of Iraq—one Republican and 22 Democrats. I believe it was the best vote I ever cast as a Senator. There were no weapons of mass destruction. We were invading a country under a false premise. We were going to wage a war there and, unfortunately, did at the expense of American lives for a long period of time.

This Senate should not be led into another war in the Middle East without the consent of the American people through Congress. Our Founders knew this point: One should never send our sons and daughters into war without the consent of the American people—an argument I have made regardless of who the President has been of either party.

We have already ceded too much congressional power on so many different subjects. I am almost speechless, which is something for a Senator. We are at a point where Congress continues to give away its power and its authority. I don't know how to explain it. I don't know why people would go through the awful challenge of running for office to serve in the U.S. Senate while each and every President tries to take away our authority to appropriate funds, for example; to make critical decisions. And so many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are willing to give that away to their favorite President. Well, when you give away that authority, the next President may not be your favorite, but he will have the authority that you ceded and gave away to your favorite President. We have already ceded too much in appropriations and key items. Let's not do that when it comes to war.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. President, on another topic, school may be out for the summer, but I have a pop quiz for the American people who are following us at home. The following statements are about President Trump's so-called Big Beautiful Bill. Try to guess whether a Senate Democrat or a Senate Republican made the following statement:

Statement No. 1:

If we don't watch out, people are going to get hurt, people are going to be upset. It's going to be the number one thing on the nightly news all over the place.

Statement No. 2 in reference to the Big Beautiful Bill:

I'm concerned that if there are cutbacks in some of the Medicaid programs it could have an adverse effect on our rural hospitals . . . Many of them are barely making it now financially.

Statement No. 3 on the subject of slashing Medicaid payments:

This is a whole new system that is going to defund rural hospitals.

If you guessed that all three statements were made by Senate Republicans about the Republican reconciliation bill, you are right. Even my Republican colleagues know that, under Trump's plan, billionaires will win, and American families will lose. The more we learn about this bill, the worse it looks. Perhaps that is why the Senate Republican leader is anxious to pass the bill before the arbitrary Fourth of July deadline.

It is expensive. Yesterday, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that the Republican proposal will add \$4.2 trillion to our national debt. In Trump's first term—in that 4-year period of time—he added more money to the debt of the United States than any President in 4 years in history. Now he is going to top that number with this new Big Beautiful Bill in adding to our national debt.

Does the proposal borrow against the future to lift millions of children out of poverty or invest in clean energy jobs of the future that will grow our economy? Think again. This bill provides tax breaks to the ultrawealthy.

One of my colleagues did a calculation here. If you make the cutoff point in income of \$400,000 a year and say you won't give any of the new Trump tax breaks to people making more than \$400,000 a year, you eliminate 60 percent of this tax proposal, as 60 percent of it goes to people making over 400,000 a year.

What about the highest level, the 0.1-percent income? The tax break—the permanent tax cut annually—is nearly \$350,000. Come on.

Do you really believe Elon Musk is waiting to see whether this goes through so he can take this tax break and spend it on something worthwhile? Not at all. The richest people in the United States—God bless them—don't need this tax cut. Working families do.

And it is unpopular. A recent FOX News poll—did I say “FOX”?—found that 38 percent of registered voters supported the House-passed bill, and 59 percent opposed it. It is downright mean. This measure will be the most significant healthcare cut in American history as 16 million Americans would lose their health insurance.

I heard one Republican Senator on the news say: Well, that is just health insurance that we are providing for illegal aliens.

He is wrong. Medicaid doesn't cover that. Under Medicaid, of the people who will be denied coverage, 16 million of them are American citizens.

Medicaid cuts will lead to higher copays, longer emergency room wait times, and skyrocketing nursing home expenses.

So many of our senior citizens in my State and in other places or the places that take care of them need a helping hand—nursing facilities and the like. The majority of that is being paid for by Medicaid, and the Republicans want to cut that Medicaid reimbursement. What is that going to do when you are

trying to take care of your mom or your grandmother if you can't afford to keep them in a good place? In an extreme situation, they may have to move in with you, and you would have to change your own lifestyle and your own relationship within the family.

One provision in particular in the Republican bill will cripple the funding mechanism used to keep hospitals afloat. According to the Children's Hospital Association, this provision in the Republican bill will cut funding for most children's hospitals by 42 percent. So, if you have a children's hospital in your town, in your State, at 42 percent, ask them what that will mean in terms of services for the kids they are helping.

Take Children's Mercy. It is the children's hospital in Kansas City serving kids in Missouri and Kansas. Thirty-five percent of its revenue is from Medicaid, and the hospital operates with a 5-percent margin. If you take a chain saw to Medicaid, families with sick kids who trust Children's Mercy will have another worry on their minds, and in red and blue States, rural hospitals will be in jeopardy of closing. For what? For a tax cut for the wealthiest people in America? Really?

Don't take it from me. I recently spoke with the CEO of BJC Healthcare, the largest hospital system in Missouri. A third of their patients are from Illinois, I might add. I asked them about their concern with people losing insurance under this Republican bill. This is BJC out of St. Louis, MO.

BJC Healthcare cares for more Medicaid patients than any other health organization in the region. More than a third of their patients are covered by Medicaid paying for 1 million visits a year. It is the same story for SSM Health, headquartered in St. Louis, operating nine hospitals in Missouri, including the famous hospital, Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

SSM's CEO expressed her “deep concerns about the proposed Medicaid changes” in the Republican bill, stating that the Republican bill “threaten[s] coverage for millions of people and jeopardize[s] financial stability of safety net providers like SSM Health.” For what? For a tax cut for the wealthiest people in America?

Sixty percent of this tax cut goes to people making over \$400,000 a year and, at the highest levels, a \$346,000 annual cut in taxes for the richest people in America. So do we cut back on these hospitals?

In Missouri, 250,000 individuals are expected to lose coverage under the Republican plan, resulting in Missouri hospitals facing an increase of \$430 million in uncompensated care costs in a single year.

I know these numbers are numbing, so many of them are so big. But let's get down to the basic message. Hospitals that are hanging on—rural hospitals, hospitals in the inner city, children's hospitals—are the ones that are making it barely each and every year.

They are the ones who will lose replacement of funds by Medicaid under the Republican plan.

What would the cuts mean for rural hospitals in Missouri? Already, 10 rural hospitals are in jeopardy of closing. This Republican bill could be the final straw. I hear exactly the same message across the river in Illinois.

I heard this message from UnityPoint Health, which has hospitals in Illinois and in Iowa. They told me that Medicaid covers nearly 40 percent of the children born at their hospital, and they rely on provider taxes to offer maternal, emergency, and behavioral health services. If Republicans have their way, these critical services are in jeopardy, and some will go away.

Todd Patterson, the CEO of Washington County Hospital in Iowa, said:

Medicaid is not a line item—it is a cornerstone. . . . When policymakers in Washington . . . slash Medicaid funding . . . they are turning off the oxygen for rural health care.

I will tell you, I grew up in Downstate Illinois, and I have represented them in Congress and in the Senate. These hospitals are critical to the economy in these communities. You take a hospital out of a community, and you have taken out a major employer and a major economic factor. Try to attract a new business and explain a hospital is 2 hours away. Try to keep a new business in town when the hospitals are going down.

Currently, 107,000 people in Iowa are projected to lose health insurance under this plan. It would increase annual uncompensated care costs for hospitals by nearly \$190 million.

Republicans in Iowa and Missouri get sick and rely on their hospitals, just like Democrats. My colleagues know these Medicaid cuts would be devastating, and no bandaid hospital grant fund that Republicans are frantically trying to create will make up for this seismic hole.

While President Trump said he would protect Medicaid, he is now pressuring Republicans to make deep cuts in the program. He is asking Republicans to choose billionaires over hard-working American families.

Now is the real test for Senate Republicans.

I can remember when it occurred during Trump's first term—another tax bill, another massive increase in the national debt. How were they ever going to pay for it? Well, there was a proposal that they would cut back on the Affordable Care Act, ObamaCare. That cutback was hanging by one vote in the balance. I was sitting here at this chair and watched as John McCain came through those Senate doors at 2 o'clock in the morning. He was the deciding vote. John McCain walked to the well and gave a “no” and saved the Affordable Care Act from Trump's first term.

Now we are going through this scenario again—again—another Trump tax cut, more cuts when it comes to

medical care, particularly for families who are the most vulnerable.

Will anyone rise to the occasion as John McCain did?

We need four Republicans to stand up and say: Enough. Stop penalizing the families of America and the rural hospitals of America and the smalltown hospitals of America for a tax break for wealthy people. We are better than that in America. It is time. We need four Republicans with good sense to step up before it is too late.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1220

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, when I was in grade school, my dad, the mechanic, would point to the schoolhouse doors and say: Son, if you go through those doors and you work hard, you can do almost anything because we are so fortunate to live here in the United States.

He was a big fan of public schools giving an opportunity for every child to thrive. I took his advice to heart and went through those doors and studied hard and loved the vision of opportunity for every child in America.

But the fact is that many careers require more than a K-through-12 education, and the cost of college has exploded.

When I was graduating from high school, if you worked a summer job at minimum wage, which was about \$3 an hour, you could save enough money, living at home, to pay your tuition at any of the public universities in the State of Oregon. Well, try paying your tuition today, a year of tuition, based on minimum wage working the summer.

We are in a situation where college is so much more important now than it was decades ago to so many parts of our society, and yet it is so much more expensive. It is a huge barrier to opportunity for every child.

My children are 29 and 27. Not so long ago, they were in grade school in my neighborhood—my blue-collar neighborhood—and people would say to me: Jeff, I am not sure I should encourage my son or my daughter to go to college because I am afraid they are going to end up with a mountain of debt, and that debt is going to be a millstone around their neck—instead of creating opportunity, obstructing opportunity.

Indeed, we have seen the challenge in which, because of the cost of college, our sons and daughters are marrying later. Because of debt from college, our sons and daughters are finding it much more difficult to be able to buy a home, which has been the primary source of family wealth for middle-class Americans.

So we should do something about this. But, unfortunately, my Republican colleagues want to make college more expensive.

I wish you could come to my blue-collar community, get out of your gated communities where you live with

people affluent enough to just pay their son's and daughter's education, and understand how expensive college is as a barrier to opportunity here in the United States of America.

Specifically, they want to make it harder for children to afford college by eliminating income-driven repayment plans for borrowers. Income-driven repayment plans help folks responsibly pay off their student loans by basing a borrower's monthly payments on their income and their family size. It sounds like common sense to me.

One of these income-driven repayment plans is the Saving on a Valuable Education, or SAVE plan, which more than 8 million Americans are enrolled in. But in the reconciliation bill—the proposed bill that we will be voting on later this week—it is slashed, and Senate HELP Committee Republicans are attempting to slash these loans in their portion of the reconciliation bill as well.

As a result of these cuts, the Student Borrower Protection Center calculates that a typical borrower with a college degree will pay about \$250 more per month. Now, if you are coming from affluence, maybe you are like: \$250 a month. Oh, less than 10 bucks a day, not a problem.

But you know it is a massive problem for children across America, for our young adults across America, for our families who are not among those millionaires and billionaires who so often inhabit this Senate Chamber.

Why do Republicans want to get rid of programs that help individuals and working families, help lift them up and responsibly pay back what they owe and instead want working families to believe that perhaps college is not a possibility because of the mountain of debt it will create on their children?

It is a “families lose, billionaires win,” this attack on affordable ways to pay for college. It is another example of the “Big Beautiful Betrayal,” the way this reconciliation bill puts families down and helps the rich get richer.

Families lose, and billionaires win—that is not a good theme for America. It is not good policy. It is not even good politics. How about we work together on families thrive and billionaires pay their fair share?

I have introduced the Savings Opportunity and Affordable Repayment Act, or the SOAR Act, with Senator KAINE, with Leader SCHUMER, and with Senator SANDERS to codify and expand the SAVE plan and help borrowers in four important ways:

First, it will allow more low-income borrowers to qualify for income-driven repayment plans, increasing the number of students who will be able to responsibly pay back their loans.

Second, it protects borrowers from runaway interests.

Third, it incentivizes former students to keep paying their loans rather than default by shortening the timeline for loan forgiveness from a maximum of 25 years to 15 years.

CBO did a report on this back in 2020, and what they found is that those who participate in an income-driven repayment plan are half as likely to default as people who don't. So it becomes a win-win. More money gets paid back to the Treasury, not less.

Finally, it will help many more borrowers by making them eligible for these programs by including Parent PLUS borrowers and borrowers with Federal family education loans.

We know that the SAVE plan and other income-driven repayment plans work. They increase repayment rates; they reduce default rates; they lower costs for families; and they create a vision for our young folks that, yes, you can afford to go to college here in the United States of America; no, it won't create a mountain of debt that will be a millstone around your neck.

Don't we want to send that message of opportunity to all of our young folks so they can aspire to their dreams, so they can reach their highest potential, so they can return their success by helping their entire community and our entire Nation thrive? Yes, of course, we do.

So, colleagues on both sides of the aisle, let's join together in the vision of families thrive and billionaires pay their fair share, and let's do that by passing the SOAR Act.

So, Mr. President, I propose that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the SOAR Act. And to give you the precise technical language for that, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 1220 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). Is there objection?

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I rise to object to S. 1220, a bill seeking to transfer the burden of \$230 billion in student debt to the 87 percent of Americans who chose not to go to college or already responsibly paid off their loans.

To be clear, this legislation does not differentiate between those trapped with overwhelming debt and those who could easily pay back their loans. If this bill is enacted, a majority of those who borrowed money to get a bachelor's degree would not have to pay back even the principal on their loans, and 91 percent of their student debt would be eligible for reduced payments. And it would be subsidized by everybody watching on C-SPAN right now.

There is no free lunch. These policies are as unfair as they are irresponsible. Where is the relief for the Louisiana truckdriver who took out a loan to buy a truck? What about the hard-working mom who paid off her student loans

but now struggles to afford her mortgage? Would this legislation give those Americans relief? No, it gives them a greater burden. The truckdriver and that mom, they are on the hook for those who decided to go to college to get a degree to make more money. They would be on the hook for that, as well as their own cost of living.

Now, I am sure my Democratic colleagues will argue that some of those students are trapped with overwhelming debt, and this legislation will help them get out of it. But this bill does nothing to address the broken higher education system that created the overwhelming debt in the first place. It doesn't address the rising costs at colleges and universities. And let's point out that, in the last 30 years, tuition and fees at private non-profit colleges have risen by 75 percent. At public 4-year institutions, they have increased by 102 percent.

Meanwhile, according to a non-partisan analysis, 23 percent of bachelor's degree programs and 43 percent of master's degree programs had a negative return on investment. What does that mean? It means you spend a lot of money to get your degree, but you don't actually increase your ability to earn more money because of that degree and, along the way, you get into student loan debt.

We need real solutions to fix this broken system, and Republicans provide these solutions. As chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, I am leading my committee's portion of the One Big Beautiful Bill, legislation that will make transformative changes to the higher education system.

First, it reforms student loan repayment plans that cost American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars. This includes fixing our income-driven repayment program that is targeted to help struggling Americans.

Second, it increases the affordability of higher education by eliminating inflationary loan programs that evidence shows drive higher tuition prices and cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

Third, it restores accountability so that universities are not receiving Federal loan dollars for programs that leave students worse off than if they had never entered that program.

And, lastly, this legislation increases access to career or technical education through establishing Workforce Pell. A young person from Louisiana who wants to be a master welder doesn't need to attend a 4-year university, but they can now use their Pell grant to attend a technical school, giving them the skills for a successful career. That is a wise investment of Federal student loan dollars.

Unlike S. 1220, the legislation before us today, Senate Republicans are putting forth real solutions to address the root causes of the student loan crisis.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to get the One Big Beautiful Bill across the finish line so we can fix

the broken higher education system and ensure that every American can succeed.

Mr. President, the Democrats' legislation is unfair to the hundreds of millions of taxpaying Americans who will be forced to bear the burden of paying off someone else's student debt. It would make our higher education problems worse, not better. And for those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I enjoy working with my colleague from Louisiana, and he has made several points worth noting.

He has noted that this strategy of enabling people to pay back their loan according to their income doesn't solve the large issue of why our colleges cost so much, and he has noted that it doesn't do anything about predatory college programs that charge a lot and deliver little.

Now, I was here when Tom Harkin led the effort to shut down the for-profit programs that often weren't even accredited but were signing up veterans like crazy and ripping them off, leaving them with massive debt. And we couldn't get any help from across the aisle to take that on.

So he is right; it won't solve everything. But the idea is that you pay according to your income, and as your income goes up, you pay back more. And the default rate is cut in half. So the Federal Government actually takes in more money than it would otherwise, and students believe that they do have an opportunity, despite the high cost of college—because that is just not going to be fixed overnight.

You know, in Germany, tuition is zero. Germany has said every child should have the opportunity to thrive. But here in America, we make it so the rich have that opportunity, and ordinary families in my blue-collar community are going: We don't think our children can afford to go to college.

That hurts all of us. It hurts every child whose dreams are crushed because of these high costs of college.

I am happy to work with my colleague from Louisiana on ideas on how we lower the cost of college. But we have got a lot of folks going to college right now. Let's help these students know that they can go through those doors as a freshman and, if they thrive, they are going to pay back their loans fast and, if they don't thrive so much in a higher income job or it is a public service job, they will pay it back more slowly. But they will never have to default.

I think it is a vision worth continuing to work on because our higher education system is not working as well as the systems in many other countries that are saying every child will have an opportunity.

I believe—like my father did, like my mother did—in America as a land of opportunity for every child, not just the children of the rich.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, every day, our Nation's ICE officers are putting their lives on the line to get criminal illegal aliens out of the communities, and I wanted to see firsthand what they were going through. So this past weekend, I joined a ride-along with ICE agents outside of Nashville.

Until you are actually on the ground, you do not appreciate the amount of work that goes into their operations. They are identifying the criminal illegal aliens. They are finding out where they are, and they are figuring out the safest way to surveil them and also to apprehend them.

And it is so much more than a full-time job. As I visited with the agents, what I found out is that nearly every one of them is working 75 and 80 hours a week, dealing with some of the worst criminals imaginable.

Now, when I joined the agents for the ride-along, they were targeting a criminal illegal alien who had been convicted of child sexual abuse. The agents could see a child on the individual's property, but they could not enter the home because they are not given a warrant. Instead, they have to wait until the criminal comes outside or is in a public space, and then they are able to apprehend him.

That is why it is so important that local law enforcement work with our ICE agents.

In Democrat cities with sanctuary policies, however, our Federal law enforcement is facing an uphill battle. Recently, amid violent anti-ICE riots in Los Angeles, a mob surrounded ICE agents who had taken an illegal alien into custody. Amid the commotion, a group of men jumped out of a van and grabbed the suspect, helping him flee from the agents. According to recent reports, LAPD refused to send out an alert to track down the vehicle. They didn't want to run afoul of LA's sanctuary city policies.

What we also know is these ICE agents nationwide have seen a 500-percent increase in attacks against them.

Now, all of this should not be happening in our Nation's cities, which is why Congress should do everything that we can to support the ICE agents and work to make America safe again.

My CLEAR Act would ensure that State and local law enforcement officials have the explicit authority to assist the Federal Government in our immigration enforcement efforts, codifying the 287(g) program that is absolutely so critical to local law enforcement.

I also introduced legislation that would make it illegal to dox Federal immigration officials who are working to protect our communities.

Last month, Nashville's Democratic mayor did exactly that, handing information about Federal law enforcement agents on a silver platter to criminal gangs. Meanwhile, House Democratic

Leader JEFFRIES said ICE agents should be unmasked “no matter what it takes, no matter how long it takes.”

This appalling effort from Democrats comes at a time when, as I said, these agents are facing a 500-percent increase in assaults—500 percent.

Just last week, a criminal illegal alien in Minnesota used his car to drag an ICE officer 50 yards while that criminal was trying to evade arrest.

President Trump and Republicans understand that law enforcement deserves our unwavering support. That is why we are going to do what it takes to help them.

OPERATION MIDNIGHT HAMMER

Mr. President, this weekend, the U.S. military did something absolutely incredible. With Operation Midnight Hammer, the United States of America wiped out Iran's nuclear program.

For years, the Islamic Republic has unleashed chaos across the Middle East with terrorism, murder, and violence. All the while, they worked to develop nuclear weapons while they were chanting “Death to Israel” and “Death to America.”

Now, under President Trump's decisive leadership, that threat is eliminated, thanks to the bravery, valor, and unmatched capability of the U.S. military. It is hard not to be in awe when you read the details of the operation.

Departing from Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, our servicemembers flew seven B-2 Spirit bombers for 18 hours to Iran's nuclear sites, dropped more than 400,000 pounds in bunker buster bombs, and returned home with zero casualties. At the same time, a U.S. submarine under U.S. Central Command launched more than two dozen Tomahawk cruise missiles at the regime's nuclear infrastructure. Supporting the operation were more than 125 aircraft, including dozens of aerial refueling tankers.

Make no mistake, we have the only military on the planet that could get this job done, and it is because our brave servicemembers are the greatest fighting force in the history of the world.

Every single American should be grateful for the men and women who carried out Operation Midnight Hammer. Because of their efforts, a ceasefire has already been reached between Israel and a much weaker Iran. This is what peace through strength looks like, and only the U.S. military, under President Trump's leadership, could accomplish this feat.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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.

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY VEBLEN, SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Veblen, SD. The town of Veblen will be celebrating its quasiquicentennial July 18–20, 2025. Veblen will host quasiquicentennial events, which include a parade, vendor show, street dance, class reunions, fireworks, and much more.

Veblen is located in Marshall County, nestled in the beautiful rolling hills of the Coteau des Prairies in northeastern South Dakota. The Veblen area has long been known as a community surrounded by the natural beauty of the breathtaking Glacial Lakes Region. Home to more than 300 people and multiple businesses, Veblen is known for its rich historical heritage and robust rural spirit. Since its beginning 125 years ago, the community of Veblen continues to serve as a strong example of South Dakota values and traditions.

I offer my congratulations to the citizens of Veblen on its quasiquicentennial and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.

STOP CSAM ACT OF 2025

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, child sexual abuse materials are a toxic plague on the internet. Congress should act as soon as possible to give law enforcement officials the resources they need to find and prosecute criminals responsible for exploiting children and spreading vile abuse materials online. In addition, Congress should act as soon as possible to provide robust resources that help prevent children from becoming victims in the first place.

However, instead of focusing on stopping online predators, S. 1829, the STOP CSAM Act, weakens the single strongest technology protecting children and families online: strong encryption. The bill explicitly allows courts to punish companies that offer strong encryption. It will make it easier to punish sites that use encryption to secure private conversations and personal devices. It will also encourage scanning of content on users' phones or computers, before information is sent over the internet, which has the same consequences as breaking encryption.

Weakening encryption is probably the best gift you could give to the predators and creeps who want to stalk and spy on children. Sexual predators will have a far easier time stealing and extorting photographs of children, tracking their phones, and spying on their private messages once encryption is breached. Doing so threatens the privacy and security of every single law-abiding American.

Last Congress, I made progress with the bill's sponsors to address some of these concerns. Indeed, I compromised on a version of this bill and had agreed to remove my hold to let that version

pass by unanimous consent. It is unfortunate that the sponsors have chosen to abandon those efforts and instead advance a dangerous bill that makes internet users unsafe. However, I remain open to revisiting those conversations.

For these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to take up or pass the STOP CSAM Act of 2025.

TRIBUTE TO RICK BOZICH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as sports lovers, we all have our local columnists who are the go-to source for the ins and outs of our favorite sports teams. In my hometown of Louisville, KY, Rick Bozich, is one of my favorite go-to guys. For 50 years, the Hall of Fame journalist reported on local and national sports in Kentucky and Indiana, 47 of those years covering sports in Louisville. But on July 1, 2025, Rick will be retiring following a long and accomplished career in sports media. And for us sports fans, it is like losing our favorite player. He will be missed.

Rick began his career in Gary, IN, delivering the newspaper to households in his neighborhood. He attended Indiana University, earning a journalism degree in 1975. Following graduation, he worked for a few years at local papers in Indiana, before moving to the Louisville Courier-Journal and Louisville Times. He must have realized quickly that, for a career in sports journalism, few places offer such enthusiastic fans or such deep-seated rivalries as Louisville, KY.

After 34 years at the Courier-Journal, Rick decided to make the jump to television, joining WDRB-TV in 2012. At the TV station, he, alongside his friend and former Courier-Journal colleague Eric Crawford, helped expand the on-air sports department. Every time there was a major sports story, Rick was there, writing about the University of Louisville Cardinals, the University of Kentucky Wildcats, and of course, the greatest 2 minutes in sports: the Kentucky Derby. He has also covered many of the hottest sporting events across the country, including NCAA Final Fours, Super Bowls, World Series, NBA Finals, and the Summer Olympics.

During his long career, he earned honors and awards from national and State press associations. This includes Hall of Fame recognitions by the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame, the U.S. Basketball Writers Association, and the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association. He was also awarded the Red Smith Award for Kentucky Derby coverage and won an Emmy Award for his sports commentating at WDRB-TV. His work has appeared on ESPN, Sports Illustrated, and the New York Times, just to name a few.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all his viewers and readers in honoring Rick and congratulating him on his retirement. While he plans to keep a

close eye on all things sports, I am sure he is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Rhonda and his children and grandkids.

TRIBUTE TO TOM JURICH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as a University of Louisville sports fan, Saturday, June 28, 2025, is going to be a memorable day for me. My friend and Louisville legend Tom Jurich is receiving a long-overdue honor from the University he helped build into a national sports powerhouse.

From 1997 to 2017, Tom served as athletic director for UofL, my alma mater. During those 20 years, I witnessed firsthand his work to build an athletic department that is one of the best in the country. And on Saturday, he will make his first visit back to campus for a celebration on the street lined by sports facilities that he made possible, Floyd Street.

The University of Louisville, Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg, and many of Tom's family and friends will commemorate him by renaming a portion of Floyd Street as Tom Jurich Way. I wish I could be there in person to celebrate my friend, but I know that he and his family and all those that love him will cherish the memories that he helped create at the University of Louisville.

As Tom told a local Louisville reporter in 2023, "I just wanted Louisville to become a destination . . . not a place you passed through—but one people aimed for." Well, Tom got his wish, and now, that destination takes us to Tom Jurich Way.

Mr. President, the WDRB-TV sports journalist Eric Crawford paid tribute to Tom Jurich in a recent article. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

[From WDRB-TV (FOX) Louisville, June 24, 2025]

JURICH'S FIRST RETURN TO UOFL SINCE 2017
WILL BRING EMOTION AND A NEW STREET
NAME

(By Eric Crawford)

Tom Jurich has made the drive back to Louisville plenty of times. His children live here. So do his grandchildren. And his 96-year-old mother still calls it home.

But on Tuesday, winding through the mountains of Eastern Kentucky—detouring around closed highways and old memories—Jurich acknowledged that this trip was different.

This time, he's coming back to be honored. A portion of Floyd Street, the road that runs through the heart of the University of Louisville's athletic complex, will be renamed "Tom Jurich Way."

And Jurich, who spent 20 years transforming Louisville's athletic department and campus, will set foot on campus for the first time since the day he was voted out by the university's board of trustees.

"This will be my first," Jurich said. "So that . . . that will be emotional."

Saturday's 10 a.m. public ceremony on campus is happening because longtime

friends and colleagues—particularly John Ramsey and Kenny Klein—kept the effort alive. And because Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg made it a priority, working with university officials to see it through.

"I'm so appreciative to everybody," Jurich said. "Craig did a wonderful job. A lot of people, I know, got involved and worked hard. It's really special to me, and my family. We have such great memories of our time in Louisville, all the friends we made and tremendous people we worked with. And that's what this is all about."

It's fitting. The stretch of Floyd Street that will bear his name runs past a procession of facilities Jurich helped bring to life—a kind of living résumé cast in steel and concrete: Cardinal Park for track and field. The softball stadium. The natatorium. Field hockey and lacrosse stadiums. Football practice fields. The indoor practice facility. The soccer stadium. The basketball practice center. The baseball stadium across the street.

Jurich had time to think on the drive in. And with his wife Terrilyn beside him, the road brought back good memories.

"We spent 20 years in Louisville," he said. "It's the longest we've lived anywhere. We raised our kids there. To see Mark and Brian, and then the twins, all graduate from Louisville—and then all four of them got master's degrees—it worked out great for us. We loved every minute of it."

What he gave in return reshaped the university.

He remembered the Sugar Bowl—when Louisville, a 13.5-point underdog, stunned Florida and its fans turned the Superdome into a sea of red.

"Paul Houlihan, who was the president of the Sugar Bowl, made his way around to our suite, and he pulled me aside and said, 'Let me just tell you something. Without red, we are dead.' That meant so much to me."

He remembered the 2007 Orange Bowl—and the sight of Muhammad Ali and Arnold Palmer meeting as honorary captains. When Palmer saw Ali, he glanced over and said, "This is not a fair fight."

There were Final Fours. A Heisman Trophy. Volleyball crowds that outgrew the new arena almost as soon as it opened. There was an NCAA championship. And teams—so many of them—that found a national stage.

One of the most emotional moments I saw from Jurich came after Jeff Walz and the Louisville women's basketball team upset Maryland to reach the Final Four. He choked up in a postgame interview. It meant that much.

"People say, 'You did this, you did that,'" Jurich said. "But it was always 'we.' We had incredible coaches, incredible athletes, a passionate fan base. We did it together."

He's proudest, perhaps, of the growth in women's sports. He added four women's programs and pushed hard for Title IX compliance—not just to meet legal standards, but, as he said, "because it was the right thing to do."

"I faced a lot of resistance on that because, from a financial standpoint, there was no return on investment," Jurich said. "I told the board at the time, the return will come 20 years from now, when these fantastic women are running companies and they're going to be the ones making decisions on donations. . . . I give Julie Hermann so much credit. She worked really hard to get all of that going."

Jurich remains a Louisville sports fan. He watched all of the volleyball team's NCAA runs. He followed baseball's College World Series push and still talks to coach Dan McDonnell regularly.

"What a phenomenal job Pat Kelsey did with basketball. He has that ready to take off," Jurich said. "And you know Jeff

(Brohm) is always going to have football in a great place. I think Louisville is in a very good position. I think the ACC has done wonders for our opportunities for the future. And obviously, Adidas helped pave the way for a lot of it financially. Keeping those two together is extremely important—that gives you a foot up on a lot of schools. But the key is our fan base. Our support is known all over the country. It makes this place special."

And on Saturday morning, Jurich will come back and will get to see some of that fan base for the first time since he left.

He'll return not as a former AD, but as an honoree of the city and university. And he'll walk that old street again, now bearing a meaningful new name.

"I loved every minute of it," Jurich said of his time at Louisville. "I can't say I was too excited about the way it ended. But you know, it was a great run. The beauty of the city of Louisville, the reason any of it happened, is the people. They put all of our teams on their shoulders. And we all had a great, great time. That meant the world to me. It still does."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LYNETTE KAICHEN

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Lynette Kaichen of Effingham as June's Granite Stater of the Month. Lynette founded an organization that provides clothing to children being placed in emergency foster care.

Ten years ago, Lynette and her husband became foster parents for children in emergency cases. In an emergency removal, kids going into foster care have little time to pack a bag with personal items or clothes, which means that most kids show up to their foster home with nothing of their own. Lynette was frustrated by the lack of support for these children, who are already going through a traumatic experience and have often lost everything, and by the fact that they have to move into a new and unfamiliar situation without any possessions. She knew that emergency foster parents would likely have some toiletries and toys or books ready, but the main problem that she ran into was not being able to plan ahead and have the correct size of clothing on hand. Lynette realized that if an organization could have every size of clothing ready ahead of time, every child in a foster home could have the clothes that they need.

Lynette decided to take action. She started The Pass Along Project from her kitchen table, putting together kits full of over a week's worth of clothing and shoes in every possible size from newborn to adult, ready to be delivered on short notice to a foster parent giving a child a home. Over the past 8 years, the organization has grown to include a warehouse in Pembroke, and The Pass Along Project now serves more than 500 children across New Hampshire each year. Lynette's goal is to be able to provide kits for all children in our State in foster care and also those who have entered the care of their relatives under similar circumstances.

Lynette's dedication to supporting to children that are going through a difficult time is an outstanding example of the Granite State spirit of stepping up to help those in need. Her compassion and attentiveness to children entering foster care is why I am proud to name her June's Granite Stater of the Month.●

TRIBUTE TO ROY DRINKARD

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, folks often say that a life well lived isn't about how long you live, but how many lives you touch along the way. If that is true—and I believe it is—then Mr. Roy Drinkard of Cullman, AL, has lived one of the richest lives imaginable. On July 12, he will celebrate his 105th birthday, and it is a privilege to recognize him here today.

Roy was born in Falkville, AL, in Morgan County back in 1920, and he has witnessed more American history than most of us will ever read about. When World War II broke out, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served with distinction in the Pacific Theater under General Dwight D. Eisenhower. He earned the rank of private first class and carried himself with honor. Today, he is known as the oldest living Marine in the United States, a title that represents far more than just a number. It stands for a life defined by courage, sacrifice, and steadfast patriotism.

After the war, Roy returned home and rolled up his sleeves to help his community grow. He was part of the "Flying Fifty," a group that brought new industry to north Alabama. He founded Drinkard Chevrolet and later led Drinkard Development, helping shape Cullman into the thriving community it is today. In 2019, the Cullman Times named him Distinguished Citizen of the Century; and it is hard to think of anyone more deserving.

Roy is also a proud Troy University graduate and now trustee. He still attends every home football game and cheers on the Trojans like a fan half his age.

He is a man of deep faith and a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Cullman, where he has been a steady presence for decades.

If you happen to stop by 412 Public House in downtown Cullman, there is a good chance you will run into him. He is always ready with a handshake, a good story, and one of his famous \$2 bills with his own face on it. It has become his trademark—something between a business card and a souvenir—and it fits him perfectly.

Even now, at 105, Roy isn't slowing down. He still hosts events, supports local causes, organizes a vendor convention out in Las Vegas, and keeps on building the community in every way he can.

Mr. Drinkard's life is a story of service—to his country, his church, his university, and his neighbors. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him a happy 105th birthday and in thanking him for more than a century of leadership, character, and commitment to the people of Alabama.●

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-1191. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pepino Mosaic virus, Strain LP, Isolate VX1 and Pepino Mosaic Virus, Strain CH2, Isolate VC1; Exemptions from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 12767-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1192. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's proposed fiscal year 2026 Budget and Performance Plan received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1193. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's annual report for calendar year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1194. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tarboro, NC; CORRECTION" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1980)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1195. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D Airspace; Bedford, MA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-1171)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1196. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23058" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0343)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1197. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type

Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.); Amendment 39-23057" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0336)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1198. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments, Amendment No. 4170" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31610)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1199. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 41769" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31609)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1200. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Inc. Airplanes; Amendment 39-23059" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0477)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 23, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the term of five years.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with John C. Adams and ending with Judson B. Wheeler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 22, 2025.

*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. WYDEN:

S. 2159. A bill to establish a pilot program to address technology-related abuse in domestic violence cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 2160. A bill to reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationships of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan as a federally recognized Indian Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 2161. A bill to establish an Office of Public Engagement and Participation within the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2162. A bill to prohibit certain activities involving kangaroos and kangaroo products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

S. 2163. A bill to amend the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 with respect to waving the polygraph examination requirement for former Federal law enforcement officers seeking employment with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 2164. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to require impact assessments of automated decision systems and augmented critical decision processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2165. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the distribution of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. KAINE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 2166. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include child development and early learning as community services under the Federal work-study program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2167. A bill to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to furnish necessary services, appliances, and supplies to individuals receiving medical benefits for illnesses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2168. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to in-

crease the rate of duty on unmanned aircraft imported from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2169. A bill to require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 2170. A bill to prohibit United States assistance to foreign countries that oppose the position of the United States in the United Nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2171. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit smoking on the premises of any facility of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 2172. A bill to prohibit fetal remains in publicly owned water systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 2173. A bill to require the Administrator of General Services to sell certain Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 2174. A bill to require the President to give notice of denunciation of the North Atlantic Treaty for purposes of withdrawing the United States from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 2175. A bill to establish requirements and limitations regarding the use of automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast data, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 2176. A bill to require a report on future activities and resources for the delivery of specialized infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2177. A bill to protect the United States Government from foreign adversary AI and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. Res. 302. A resolution designating June 30, 2025 as "Asteroid Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. Res. 303. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 17, 2025, as "DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day" to raise awareness of, and encourage research on, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors and pediatric cancers in general; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 304. A resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and reaffirming the critical importance of maintaining military readiness in defense of the United States and its allies; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. Res. 305. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the nomination of President Donald John Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 133

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to modify the fire management assistance cost share, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) 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. 278

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 278, a bill to prohibit users who are under age 13 from accessing social media platforms, to prohibit the use of personalized recommendation systems on individuals under age 17, and limit the use of social media in schools.

S. 349

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to permit removal of trees around electrical lines on National Forest System land without conducting a timber sale, and for other purposes.

S. 453

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 453, a bill to establish a Wildfire Intelligence Center, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) 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. 624

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 624, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil

Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 807, a bill to provide for the crediting of funds received by the National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1318, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the exception for de minimis payments by third party settlement organizations with respect to returns relating to payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, as in effect prior to the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGOS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1874, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain nursing workforce development programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2153

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2153, a bill to promote competition and reduce gatekeeper power in the app economy, increase choice, improve quality, and reduce costs for consumers.

S. RES. 283

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 283, a resolution commemorating the 90th birthday of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on July 6, 2025, as "A Day of Compassion" and expressing support for the human rights and distinct religious, cultural, linguistic, and historical identity of the Tibetan people.

S. RES. 288

At the request of Mr. McCORMICK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 288, a resolution condemning the rise in ideologically motivated attacks on Jewish individuals in the United States, including the recent violent assault in Boulder, Colorado, and reaffirming the commitment of the Senate to combating antisemitism and politically motivated violence.

S. RES. 295

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 295, a resolution supporting the designation of the week of June 23 through June 29, 2025, as "National Women's Sports Week" to celebrate the anniversary of the enactment of title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the growth of women's sports.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2171. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit smoking on the premises of any facility of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. 2171

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

SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON SMOKING IN FACILITIES OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1715 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration

"(a) PROHIBITION.—No person (including any veteran, patient, resident, employee of the Department, contractor, or visitor) may smoke on the premises of any facility of the Veterans Health Administration.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) The term 'facility of the Veterans Health Administration' means any land or building (including any medical center, nursing home, domiciliary facility, outpatient clinic, or center that provides readjustment counseling) that is—

"(A) under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

"(B) under the control of the Veterans Health Administration; and

"(C) not under the control of the General Services Administration.

"(2) The term 'smoke' includes—

"(A) the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and any other combustion or heating of tobacco; and

"(B) the use of any electronic nicotine delivery system, including electronic or e-cigarettes, vape pens, and e-cigarettes."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of

such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1715 and inserting the following new item:

"1715. Prohibition on smoking in facilities of the Veterans Health Administration."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 526 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585; 38 U.S.C. 1715 note) is repealed.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 302—DESIGNATING JUNE 30, 2025 AS "ASTEROID DAY"

Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 302

Whereas asteroids pose both a potential threat and a valuable resource for scientific exploration and future space endeavors;

Whereas Asteroid Day, observed annually on June 30th, serves as a global awareness campaign to educate the public about asteroids, their potential impact, and the importance of planetary defense;

Whereas, on February 15, 2013, the Chelyabinsk asteroid entered Earth's atmosphere undetected and exploded in a meteor air burst over central Russia, releasing as much energy as 30 atomic bombs, and seriously injuring 1,491 people;

Whereas, following the Chelyabinsk incident, Asteroid Day was first officially celebrated in 2015, marking the beginning of a dedicated global effort to increase public understanding of asteroids and the risks near-Earth asteroids can pose;

Whereas the Association of Space Explorers, an international organization of astronauts and cosmonauts, has demonstrated exceptional leadership in advocating for global awareness of asteroid impact hazards through initiatives such as the International Asteroid Warning Network and the Space Missions Planning Advisory Group;

Whereas Asteroid Day was first recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016, underscoring the global significance of this educational initiative; and

Whereas the year 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the official celebration of Asteroid Day, providing a significant occasion to reflect on the progress made in asteroid awareness and planetary defense over the past decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 30, 2025 as "Asteroid Day"; and

(2) encourages increased public awareness about the risks posed by asteroids and promotes understanding of the importance of asteroid research and planetary defense.

SENATE RESOLUTION 303—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 17, 2025, AS "DIPG PEDIATRIC BRAIN CANCER AWARENESS DAY" TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND ENCOURAGE RESEARCH ON, DIFFUSE INTRINSIC PONTINE GLIOMA TUMORS AND PEDIATRIC CANCERS IN GENERAL

Mr. REED (for himself and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 303

Whereas diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (referred to in this preamble as “DIPG”) tumors regularly affect 200 to 300 children in the United States each year;

Whereas brain tumors are the leading cause of cancer-related death among children;

Whereas DIPG tumors are the leading cause of pediatric brain cancer deaths;

Whereas, with respect to a child who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor and receives treatment for a DIPG tumor, the median amount of time that the child survives after diagnosis is approximately 11 months;

Whereas, with respect to an individual who is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor, the rate of survival 5 years after diagnosis is approximately 2 percent;

Whereas the average age at which a child is diagnosed with a DIPG tumor is between 5 and 10 years, resulting in a life expectancy approximately 70 years shorter than the average life expectancy in the United States; and

Whereas the prognosis for children diagnosed with DIPG tumors has not meaningfully improved during the past 50 years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports designating May 17, 2025, as “DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day”;

(2) supports efforts—

(A) to better understand diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (referred to in this resolution as “DIPG”) tumors;

(B) to develop effective treatments for DIPG tumors; and

(C) to provide comprehensive care for children with DIPG tumors and their families; and

(3) encourages all individuals in the United States to become more informed about—

(A) DIPG tumors;

(B) pediatric brain cancer in general; and

(C) challenges relating to research on pediatric cancers and ways to advance that research.

SENATE RESOLUTION 304—COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE KOREAN WAR AND REAFFIRMING THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MILITARY READINESS IN DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 304

Whereas June 25, 2025, marks the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the brutal three-year conflict known as the Korean War, which began when the armed forces of North Korea launched a full-scale invasion of the Republic of Korea;

Whereas the United States, under resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, responded to that unprovoked aggression and mobilized more than 1,700,000 United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, and led a unified United Nations Command to fight in defense of freedom and security on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas more than 103,000 Americans were wounded, and 36,574 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives defending the security of the Republic of Korea, while more than 7,500 remain unaccounted for;

Whereas the Korean War has long been referred to as the “Forgotten War,” which fails

to recognize the significance of this noble chapter in American history, as well as the sacrifice and valor of American service members;

Whereas the defense of the Republic of Korea by United States and allied forces allowed for the development of the modern Republic of Korea into a robust market economy, a vibrant democracy, a strong ally of the United States, and a bedrock contributor to regional stability and the global community;

Whereas the Republic of Korea endured immense hardship during the war, suffering 137,899 soldiers killed, 450,742 injured, and more than 30,000 missing or captured, in addition to almost 1,000,000 civilian casualties, yet demonstrated extraordinary resilience and resolve in the face of destruction and invasion;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance, formed with the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea on October 1, 1953, is a mutual commitment to the other's defense, in accordance with constitutional processes, in the event of an armed attack in the Pacific area on either of the parties;

Whereas the hard-learned lessons of the Korean War underscore the ongoing need for strategic, operational, and tactical readiness across all branches of the military in an increasingly dangerous global environment; and

Whereas the words engraved on the Korean War Veterans Memorial—“Freedom is not free”—remain a solemn reminder of the cost of liberty and the importance of military preparedness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and honors the bravery, sacrifice, and service of the United States Armed Forces and allies who fought to defend the people of the Republic of Korea from being conquered by the communists of North Korea, the People's Republic of China, and the Soviet Union;

(2) recognizes the Republic of Korea as a vital treaty ally and linchpin of peace, security, trade, and democratic values for Northeast Asia and the Indo-Pacific region;

(3) acknowledges the enduring legacy of the Korean War in shaping United States defense policy and alliances in the Indo-Pacific region;

(4) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to maintaining a strong, modern, and fully prepared military force capable of deterring aggression and defending national security interests;

(5) urges continued investment in training, equipment, and support for members of the United States Armed Forces to ensure military readiness across all domains, including land, sea, air, space, and cyber; and

(6) calls upon all people of the United States to remember the Korean War not as the “Forgotten War,” but as the “Noble War,” an endeavor that preserved freedom for millions and exemplified the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of the United States Armed Forces.

SENATE RESOLUTION 305—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING THE NOMINATION OF PRESIDENT DONALD JOHN TRUMP FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Mr. MORENO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

S. RES. 305

Whereas the will of businessman and entrepreneur Alfred Nobel stated that the Nobel Prizes should be awarded to those “who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind”;

Whereas Alfred Nobel's will further stated that the Peace Prize should be awarded to the person “who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses”;

Whereas President Barack Hussein Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October 2009 for his alleged “extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples”;

Whereas President Obama authorized 2 drone strikes on January 23, 2009, his 3rd day as President, that killed as many as 20 civilians;

Whereas President Obama authorized an additional 541 drone strikes;

Whereas the additional drone strikes authorized by President Obama killed an estimated 3,797 people, including 324 civilians;

Whereas President Obama reportedly told members of his senior staff, “Turns out I'm really good at killing people. Didn't know that was gonna be a strong suit of mine.”;

Whereas killing hundreds of civilians should disqualify someone from receiving the Nobel Peace Prize;

Whereas President Obama forced regime change in a sovereign nation;

Whereas President Obama admitted that “failing to plan for the day after” regime change was the “worst mistake” of his presidency;

Whereas the forced regime change imposed by President Obama contributed to the terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya, which resulted in the death of 4 people of the United States, including the United States Ambassador;

Whereas there has been no attempt to revoke the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to President Obama;

Whereas President Obama championed an agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran to purportedly place restrictions on the nuclear program of Iran in exchange for sanctions relief;

Whereas this so-called agreement unfroze approximately \$100,000,000,000 worth of frozen assets;

Whereas this bad deal did not stop Iran from continuing to pursue its malign nuclear ambitions;

Whereas Iran continued to pose a threat to Israel, the United States, and all peace-loving nations after President Obama allowed Iran to take advantage of the United States through the nuclear agreement;

Whereas President Donald John Trump made a good faith attempt at diplomatic negotiations to end the Iranian threat after assuming office in 2025;

Whereas Iran refused to negotiate on its nuclear program in good faith;

Whereas the greatest ally of the United States, Israel, was left with no choice but to unilaterally end the Iranian nuclear threat;

Whereas the only action ordered by President Trump was a precision strike on 3 nuclear sites in Iran;

Whereas those strikes resulted in no casualties;

Whereas those strikes further brought about ceasefire between Israel and Iran;

Whereas the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the organization Nihon Hidankyo of Japan for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and for demonstrating through witness testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again;

Whereas President Trump successfully ended the nuclear weapons program of Iran;

Whereas the end to the Iranian nuclear program achieved by President Trump came without military personnel on the ground; and

Whereas President Trump has shown the world that peace through strength is the antidote to forever wars: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls on the Norwegian Nobel Committee to award President Donald John Trump the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize;

(2) urges all peace-loving nations to join in that call; and

(3) expresses its deepest appreciation to President Trump for bringing an end both to the nuclear program of Iran and hostilities related thereto in only 12 days.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2357. Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. KIM, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 59, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2357. Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. KIM, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the joint resolution S.J. Res. 59, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations; as follows:

On page 3, strike lines 19 through 21 and insert the following:

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from—

(1) defending against an attack on the United States or its personnel or facilities in other nations;

(2) collecting, analyzing, or sharing intelligence, including with the State of Israel and other nations and international organizations as appropriate, related to threats from the Islamic Republic of Iran or its proxies; or

(3) assisting the State of Israel and other nations—

(A) in taking defensive measures to protect their territory from retaliatory attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran or its proxies; or

(B) by providing defensive materiel support for such defensive measures.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to S. 1829, a bill to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry, dated June 25, 2025.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I have 10 requests for committees to

meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive session.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 3:30 p.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 Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in open session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following

interns in my office be granted floor privileges until June 26, 2025: Zachary Fitzgerald and Caroline Martel.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING JUNE 19, 2025, AS JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 290.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 290) commemorating June 19, 2025, as "Juneteenth National Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 290) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 18, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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. 303 and S. Res. 304.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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 (Legislative Day of June 24, 2025) under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in recess until 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two

leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 93, Kenneth Kies; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order, following the remarks of my Democratic colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, over the decades, there is a lot of conversation here in the Senate about deficits and debt. And every now and then, there is a significant bipartisan effort to take on that challenge in a responsible way. But the biggest historic bipartisan effort occurred in 1974, just over a half century ago.

And in that effort, Democrats and Republicans together said: Let's start using honest numbers when we are engaged in spending and revenue raising so we will quit having smoke and mirrors, quit pretending things are not what they are, quit selling—if you will—lipstick on a pig.

Well, that effort created the Congressional Budget Office to get nonpartisan estimates. That effort created a strategy of saying we will have a regular budgeting process; and for reducing the deficits, we will have a special process called reconciliation only for reducing the deficit. And that special process had three very significant components.

One was reconciliation would not be used to create any deficits in the budget window that is in the 10-year window. The second is that it would not create any deficits in any single title in any single year any year after the first 10 years. And the third was that they would use—all of us would use—the nonpartisan numbers delivered to us on revenue through the Joint Committee on Taxation and on programs through the Congressional Budget Office.

What an idea: We are going to be honest with ourselves, and we are going to be honest with the American people about what our decisions cost.

But along the way, my Republican colleagues preached fiscal responsibility, but became the masters—the Kings—of fiscal irresponsibility. Let's look at the ways that they ran up deficit and debt here in the United States of America.

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq: \$8 trillion—not to mention the incredible

loss of lives: some 7,000 servicemembers, more than 50,000 servicemembers with serious injuries.

And continuing on their deficit- and debt-creating rampage, there was the Bush tax cuts in 2001, and the second Bush tax cuts of 2003, and the Trump tax cuts of 2017, all creating an ocean of red ink compromising the opportunity for us to do right by American families in healthcare, housing, education, great investments in technology and job creation, because there is no government program that is better than a good-paying job.

All of it compromised from the Republicans' ocean of red ink.

But just making program decisions that created red ink wasn't enough for my colleagues across the aisle. No. They decided to tear down the 1974 structure for fiscal responsibility.

In 1996, they proceeded to say: You know what, we want to do a tax bill that will vastly lower taxes on the richest Americans, and we know it will create a mountain of deficit and debt. Democrats aren't going to vote for that, they said—and they were right.

They said: Let's get a ruling. Let's get a ruling that allows us to do deficit creation with reconciliation, even though all 100 Senators voted for reconciliation as a special filibuster-free pathway only for deficit reduction.

It was really a dark moment for the Senate. The majority brought in a new Parliamentarian to get a ruling that reversed what everyone had understood in the 1974 law. And then they proceeded to use it three times already in 2001, 2003, 2017. And now they are doing it a fourth time—more red ink.

That amount is about \$3.4 trillion. And over 30 years, the debt they are creating as compared to current law is over \$30 trillion of additional debt—\$30 trillion.

So, please, don't come to this floor—I say to my colleagues across the aisle—and preach fiscal responsibility. If you can't walk the walk, don't talk the talk.

There is one way to be fiscally responsible, and that is not to vote for a bill that creates \$3.4 trillion in debt over 10 years and more than \$30 trillion in debt over the next 30 years.

That is the way you have fiscal responsibility. You do it with action, because actions speak louder than words.

It is part of what makes Americans so cynical to hear speeches about fiscal responsibility and then see the actions are the exact opposite.

But there is a sense of embarrassment among many of my colleagues across the aisle because they have given speeches back home about fiscal responsibility. So they don't like the idea of voting for a bill that creates \$3.4 trillion in debt over 10 years as compared to current law or more than \$30 trillion in debt over 30 years as compared to current law.

So they said: Let's create a magic math baseline that pretends these provisions don't create debt. That is just a

horrific strategy—to lie to ourselves, to lie to the American people about what this bill costs.

This little myth being hoisted on this Chamber and the American people, they put a fancy name on it. They called it current policy baseline.

So let's revisit what has happened to the 1974 law. It said: No deficit creation in a 10-year period, and Republicans tore that down in 1996 and used it now three times, and now today a fourth time this week to create an ocean of red ink.

Second of all, that 1974 agreement was that there be no deficit created in any title in any year after that 10-year window.

This reconciliation bill is tearing that down right now, the second main pillar being devastated because they are making the tax cuts permanent and then creating a phony baseline to say it doesn't really create additional deficits far into the future. But everybody in America knows it does. Everybody in America knows that they are creating a phony baseline, doing exactly what was done before 1974, taking us to the same place where we are deceiving ourselves or attempting to or deceiving the American people.

Third of all is that they are tearing down the integrity of using honest numbers.

So they tore down the 10-year agreement—no deficits in the first 10 years. Now they are tearing down the second pillar—no deficits in any title in any year after the first 10 years. Now they are also tearing down the third pillar—be honest about the numbers.

Now, this strategy—my colleagues across the aisle will say: Well, there is this provision in the budgeting law called section 312, and it gives the Budget Committee the power to resolve technical difficulties when we come to costing out programs.

But what I am conveying to you right now is that this is not in the section of the law that deals with reconciliation. Section 310 deals with reconciliation, section 313 deals with reconciliation, but section 312—no.

So here is what we have. This provision the Republicans are saying they want to use to give the Budget chairman the power to create an artificial baseline to pretend this bill doesn't cost and to be able to extend debts far into the future or deficits far into the future, creating more debt—it has never been used in a partisan manner before.

Here are the times it has been used in all these different ways: Crime Victims Fund, Power Marketing Administrations, preventing double counting of a dairy program, adjustments to the Fiscal Responsibility Act—every single time a technical difficulty worked out in a bipartisan fashion. But I can assure you, there is nothing bipartisan now about trying to use this in reconciliation.

This provision from 312—has it ever been used in this broad fashion, even

on a regular budget bill in a broad fashion? No. It has been used on very narrow issues time after time in a bipartisan fashion. But that is being violated here.

Has it been used not to resolve an ambiguity but to hide trillions of dollars of costs? No. It has always been used in that bipartisan, on a narrow issue, to resolve an ambiguity in costing out a program—until now.

To my core point, this power doesn't exist in the section of the budget bill that addresses reconciliation. Again, there is a regular budget process, and there is a reconciliation process. So it has never been used in reconciliation.

The last point I will make on this is that because it has been narrow, because it has been resolving technical ambiguities, it has also addressed much more modest amounts of numbers—normally in the millions; one time, \$2.8 billion. But now it is being used to hide the \$37 trillion score of this bill over 30 years. What a difference in every possible way.

So I say to my colleagues, don't tear down honesty and integrity in accounting for provisions.

You know, section 313—if you go through it, it has different clauses. It says: Establish the impact on outlays or revenue for each provision.

Now, what that means is you take that provision that is in the bill and you say: If it is in the bill, what is the impact on program costs and revenue? But if it is not in the bill, what is the impact, and how does that compare? That is what costing out each provision means. It is inherently a comparison to existing law.

Now, there are some inherent inconsistencies that accentuate the point I am making. If one uses this magic math to say that you are going to assume that every tax provision that was in 2017 would have been automatically extended, so it costs nothing, then you would have to also assume that every tax provision that is ended in this reconciliation bill after a couple years would also continue forever. But that is not the way the Republicans ask that it be costed out. So they are having it both ways.

An existing provision that they want to extend, they say: Well, it would have been extended anyway, so it costs nothing. A provision that they are ending, they are saying: Reduce the cost of this bill because we are ending the provision, and we are assuming no one would ever dare to extend it. That is just totally inconsistent, and it explains clearly that this is a gimmick. Gimmick. Capital G-I-M-M-I-C-K—gimmick. A gimmick. Smoke and mirrors to deceive ourselves and the American people.

Or let's take this: In that same reconciliation bill, there is a provision to lift the debt limit by some \$5 trillion. The Senate Republicans increased it from the House, which wanted to increase it by \$4 trillion, and they are saying that this is enough to cover the

next 2 years because we are going to increase the debt so much, we need to have a \$5 trillion cover.

Well, if their story about the baseline, meaning that we are telling the people that this bill doesn't cost any more or costs very little compared to the Congressional Budget Office score of \$3.4 trillion—they wouldn't need to increase the debt ceiling on top of what the House has already increased it.

So let's come back to the core here. A hundred Senators came together and created a responsible framework to bring control over deficits. No deficits in a 10-year period under reconciliation—Republicans broke it. No deficits in a single title in a single year after 10 years—Republicans are breaking it with this bill. Using honest numbers—Republicans are breaking it in this bill.

Let's not break it. Let's say no. Every single colleague who has talked about fiscal responsibility, walk the walk. Tell your leadership we are not going to have this situation where we are voting for a bill that creates deficits decades into the future.

The only reason that score isn't higher than \$37 trillion of additional debt over current law is because CBO cut off the accounting after three decades.

So, colleagues, we are going to be voting on this bill probably Friday night. Maybe it is going to be 3 a.m. Saturday morning. Maybe it is going to be later on Saturday. But this bill doesn't deserve to go out of the Senate. This bill absolutely shatters the remaining provisions for fiscal accountability in terms of the structure that was worked out in 1974, and it creates massive debt over a 10-year period as compared to current law.

Here is the rub: It creates this debt primarily to give tax breaks to the richest Americans. It cuts healthcare for 16 million Americans to give tax breaks to the richest Americans. It leaves 4 million children hungry to give tax breaks to the richest Americans. It runs up \$3.4 trillion in debt over 10 years to give tax breaks to the richest Americans.

This is, families lose, billionaires win. That is a terrible strategy for America, so simply say no.

Oh, I know how much the tribal bonds are within the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, but it is our responsibility here on the floor to listen to each other and to vote honestly about the impact of this bill. This impact—hurting families, helping billionaires—is simply the wrong direction for the United States of America.

Let's vote it down and work together for a vision in which families thrive and billionaires—they pay their fair share.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues, my

Republican colleagues, to reverse course on their proposal that would take affordable healthcare away from the many patients across the United States who will suffer, I believe, financial strain and the financial strain will be put on the rest of us in our healthcare system.

Despite the talking points that you hear from our colleagues, they do propose on Medicaid to really make cuts that will hurt us. This isn't about waste, fraud, and abuse. Their plan is to allow enhanced premium tax credits to expire. That has really nothing to do with lowering costs on average Americans. And this whole idea, in my mind, is a veiled attempt to repeal the expanded coverage that we saw for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Why is that important?

Well, it is critically important because Medicaid has been the cornerstone of, in the Affordable Care Act, expanding care to working families that could not find an affordable insurance policy. Medicaid gave them that coverage.

And now, with the proposal by our Republican colleagues, they are going to cut Medicaid and thus cut families who need the assistance to cover insurance to get the coverage they deserve. The result will be that Medicaid is stripped away. Coverage in the ACA marketplace will become more unaffordable, and premiums for even employer-based insurance will go up. But that is what happens when you take dollars out of the system. In fact, we are already seeing some of these prices start to go up.

Our healthcare system relies on people being insured so that they can pay for care, and when you dismantle that, the medical costs for everybody goes up. It only makes sense. Uncompensated care gets cost into the system that is passed on to the rest of us.

Earlier this month, the Congressional Budget Office confirmed that the House's reconciliation bill, if enacted, would cause 16 million people to become uninsured—so that is the Congressional Budget Office—so again, 16 million people currently insured. Now, all of a sudden, uninsured, means cost to the system, to say nothing of the cost to these individuals. Just as eye-popping is the projection that this proposal will drive up premiums and out-of-pocket spending for millions of people struggling to afford private insurance plans through the ACA marketplace or those with employer provided coverage.

A new analysis by the Center for American Progress proves that working-class families and people with all types of insurance will have to foot the bill for these harmful policies. For Medicaid, a family of four making \$33,000 per year could see additional costs and copayments up to \$1,600 in annual out-of-pocket spending. I guarantee you, these are people that already have had a tough time finding affordable insurance.

For an ACA market plan, a 60-year-old couple making \$85,000 a year who want to keep the same plan could see their annual premiums increase—and these are numbers according to the Center for American Progress—and you could even see the cost of an annual premium increase by as much as \$15,000 a year. So these are all costs that we don't need to see increased. But if you are taking people who have affordable insurance and displacing them, according to CBO, 16 million of them, I guarantee you that cost will be absorbed by the rest of us. For Medicare, which President Trump pledged not to cut, low-income seniors who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid will see their out-of-pocket expenses rise.

For example, an older couple on Medicare, living on an annual income of \$21,000 could face an additional \$8,340 in annual healthcare costs. So this just shows that cutting almost \$1 trillion in healthcare from funding and making millions of people be uninsured does not save the money. It basically gets into the system, and other people are paying the cost. The Affordable Care Act lowered the individual uninsured rate from 17.8 percent in 2010 to a historic low of 9.5 percent in 2024. So we significantly decreased the number of uninsured. This drop in uninsured Americans improved people's health. Saved money for individuals, saved money for families. It helped States. It even helped our State government.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, thanks to improved access to general health services, cancer screenings, and other forms of preventative care, Medicaid expansion alone lowered health-related mortality rates by 3.6 percent. So funding available insurance under the Affordable Care Act drove down the mortality rate and helped substantially save money. By contributing to a more robust economy, better societal well-being, lower mortality rates, it also helps States generate more than \$20 billion in increased tax revenue and welfare savings.

So covering people—I like the best example of this, is the former Vice President of the United States. As a Congressman, Mike Pence didn't vote for the Affordable Care Act, but when he became Governor of Indiana, everybody in Indiana, the healthcare providers and others convinced him—oh, it is a good idea, you should get people covered in your State. And they did. So this is about a smart way of providing healthcare, and we have done it.

So States who were smart about this realized that their economy was better, their access to affordable insurance was better, that revenue stimulating the economy was better. They knew that the Medicaid expansion literally kept people alive. We should not reverse that. We have made great progress in the past 15 years to keep Americans healthier and financially secure. Allowing 16 million people, including 306,000 people from the State of

Washington, to become uninsured is a bad idea.

Without any alternatives, this will be a shock to our healthcare system. It will bring it to the breaking point and threaten the very lives of our constituents. I would like to take a moment to read a letter from my constituent highlighting the concerns and fears about the impacts of the budget reconciliation bill.

Britton Winterrose from Richland, WA, is father to a joyful 5-year-old girl named Leda. He said he wrote to me because “Without Medicaid, my daughter's next nap could be her last.”

So now I want to read a letter from the Winterrose family:

Leda entered the world at the height of the pandemic and spent the first 45 days of her life in the NICU. Doctors finally identified a rare form of congenital central sleep apnea.

If she falls asleep without oxygen, she simply stops breathing, and will die.

The only path out of the hospital was a Medicaid waiver that paid for in-home nursing and life-support equipment.

Medicaid gave us the opportunity to bring her home, surrounded by her siblings, surrounded by the normalcy and safety of parents that love her.

Since that day Medicaid has kept up with Leda's needs as she has grown. A toddler who once needed a walker now sprints across the yard because the program funded the therapy and walker that strengthened her legs.

It's provided her with a bed, that keeps her secure so her equipment stays connected and we can sleep at night.

Each stage of development adds new hardware, new supplies, and new specialists. Feeding supplies, feeding pumps, G-tubes, sensors, diapers, respite care, and an AEC device to help my non-verbal autistic daughter communicate.

Private insurance, even the platinum plan that comes with my job, rarely covers it.

There is not a private health insurance on the planet that covers the edge cases of human existence for somebody with medical complexities like Leda.

Tonight, like every night, my wife and I will hook our daughter to an oxygen concentrator and a pulse oximeter, then we will lie down and “say no to death.”

The only reason we can sleep at all is because Medicaid has provided the durable medical equipment and supplies needed to support her.

From the days at the NICU until now, one thing has become obvious: the last question on anybody's mind when they are trying to keep their child or loved one from dying should be, How can we afford these things?

I do not speak only for Leda. The bill before Congress would strike thousands of Washingtonians from the rolls, and when that happens clinics and long-term-care facilities collapse.

That blow lands on veterans, on cancer patients, and on newborns in rural counties as surely as it lands on my family.

No one wakes up and decides, “Oh, I want to be disabled today.” Everyone's health is a roll of the dice; Medicaid is how we make sure the roll is not fatal.

I still lose sleep over what will happen when I am gone. As a tired Dad, help me rest.

Please defend and strengthen Medicaid so that Leda, and every child like her and those who are rightfully dependent on this system can live and thrive.

That is the end of the letter from my constituent from Richland, WA. What an incredible story of how a family has depended on Medicaid.

Today, I met with an organization and individuals from it, MomsRising, where families from Washington State and all over the country came to protest the cuts to Medicaid and SNAP. I heard myself countless examples of how these programs are critical to families, to their well-being, and how this program, if cut, would be devastating.

There is a common theme on all these stories; these families are scared they will not be able to afford or get the care that their family really relies on. They are also concerned that there is nowhere to turn, even if the coverage is taken away. Does this mean these patients will no longer need care, or their illnesses will just magically go away? We all know that doesn't happen. This means that uninsured patients will wait to see a doctor until they are so sick they have to go to the ER, which costs more. This will lead to increased costs across the board.

Specifically, it is estimated that 5.4 million Americans will incur medical debt because they will become uninsured, and the total medical debt that Americans owe will increase by \$50 billion. I think this is numbers from The Third Way. Hospital providers will have to shoulder an additional \$36 billion in uncompensated care costs, and a portion of the costs will be recouped by increased premiums on employment-based insurance coverage. As a result, people with employment-based insurance will also see an additional anywhere from \$182 to \$485 in annual cost increases.

That is what happens when you increase the cost of uncompensated care, and the system has to make up for it somewhere; you increase everyone's cost.

This is particularly damaging in the area of certified community behavioral health. I am sure the President knows that behavioral health—very tough challenge, particularly with the fentanyl epidemic in our country.

I met with representatives of Peninsula Behavioral Health in Port Angeles, WA, and Sound Health in King County, who told me that clinics are already operating on narrow margins and have already sustained a 1-percent budget cut this year at the State level. If Congress passes the budget reconciliation bill and enacts policies like the suggestion on the State Directed Payment Caps, they will have to reduce their budget by 20 percent, meaning they will have to cut staff and lay off people.

As a result, patients who rely on them for substance abuse treatment will be left out in the cold. We literally will see an increase in overdose deaths, law enforcement run-ins, and incarceration rates. Where do you think these people go when they don't have behavioral health treatment for fentanyl?

All this costs taxpayers more, actually, a lot more, a lot more than just covering Medicaid. It would be better if we just kept the Medicaid Program and funded patients so they could get the

care when they needed it. My Republican colleagues know that this bill will cause harm; hospitals and physicians and various leaders across the industry are at their doorsteps, telling them not to hollow out our healthcare system.

But I beg my colleagues to drill down and listen to the fact that the revenue that rural hospitals particularly live on are huge Medicaid, Medicare budgets. That means there is no margin to have a 20-percent decrease in funds. Spending money to fix a problem caused by not spending money doesn't seem the smart thing to do; the logic doesn't make sense. In fact, it sounds to me like waste and fraud to say to people that you are going to somehow make this a better system, when in reality, you are going to cut care and increase costs on all of us.

Passing this bill and enacting these policies will only hurt working-class and middle-class Americans. Americans are still reeling from the effects of inflation, to say nothing about the tariffs. This is not the time to be taking away healthcare coverage or increasing premiums on anyone. We have already seen enough inflation. For most families, any extra money from a tax cut will be swallowed up by these higher healthcare costs. And every time a new report or analysis is done on this bill, the outlook gets more challenging for people at home.

If we really had this serious of a waste, fraud, and abuse problem in Medicaid, why haven't we had hearings on it? Why haven't we had legislation trying to fix it? Why haven't we had communication that this is a real issue? Because it is not a real issue. What is a real issue is Congress has been trying to fix the uninsured problem by passing the Affordable Care Act. It has worked successfully, and now our colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to try to repeal it.

I hope that my colleagues will realize the only thing that you can know for sure about this proposal that cuts Medicaid—the only thing we know for sure is that thousands of Americans will become sicker and will become poorer because, without the access to care, that is exactly what is going to happen.

I urge my colleagues to really understand the harmful effects of this legislation, understand the harmful health effects on the citizens of our country, and I ask them to reject these Medicaid cuts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, the so-called reconciliation bill or Mr. Trump's Big Beautiful Bill that the Republican leadership is now attempting to rush through the Senate is a rather extraordinary piece of legislation. In many respects, given the crises facing our country, this legislation does ex-

actly the opposite of what should be done.

Whether you are a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent, you know—no one has any doubt about it—that our current healthcare system is broken. It is dysfunctional. It is a cruel system, and it is wildly expensive. We spend over \$14,500 per person on healthcare, double what most countries around the world pay per person.

And despite all of that spending, some 85 million Americans today are uninsured or underinsured. And we remain the only major country on Earth not to guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right. And one out of four people who go into a pharmacy to get their prescription drugs can't afford that medicine because of the outrageously high prices.

So now, given that reality, how does this reconciliation bill address the horrific healthcare crisis that our country is experiencing?

What one might think is that given 85 million people being uninsured or underinsured, this bill would lower that number. It would provide healthcare to more Americans. Given the fact that we are spending twice as much per capita on healthcare as any other nation, one might think that this legislation would lower the cost of healthcare. Given the fact that the insurance companies and the drug companies rip us off every day and make huge profits out of the system, one might think that this legislation would take on the greed of the pharmaceutical industry and the insurance companies.

Well, if that is what you think rational legislation should do, understand that this bill does none of that—in fact, does exactly the opposite.

This legislation, if enacted, would make the largest cut to healthcare in our Nation's history in order to pay for the largest tax breaks for the rich that we have ever, ever seen—massive cuts to healthcare in order to provide tax breaks for billionaires.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this legislation would cut Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act by over \$1 trillion. Those cuts, along with ending the enhanced premium credits for the ACA, will lead to 16 million people losing their health insurance.

That is not what BERNIE SANDERS has said; that is what the director of the Congressional Budget Office has told us. That is the nonpartisan group that works with Congress.

Mr. President, this bill, further, for the first time, forces millions of Medicaid recipients who make as little as \$16,000 a year to pay a \$35 copayment every time they visit a doctor. So 16 million people are thrown off of healthcare. Low-income, working-class people are now forced to pay a \$35 copayment.

What is the impact of all of that? Well, it will not surprise anybody, if people don't have access to healthcare,

if they can't get to a doctor when they are sick, people will suffer, and tens of thousands of them will die.

The Yale University School of Public Health and the University of Pennsylvania estimated in a recent study that if the reconciliation bill is enacted, over 50,000 Americans will die unnecessarily every year. That is what we are talking about—50,000 Americans dying unnecessarily because they are thrown off of healthcare; they can't afford to see a doctor each and every year.

What is the reason for that? What is the motivation for that horrific action? It is to give massive tax breaks to the very wealthiest people in this country, people who do not need them. Not only would millions of Americans lose their health insurance and tens of thousands of our constituents needlessly die if this legislation is enacted, rural hospitals all over this country—rural hospitals that are already struggling—would be forced to shut down, lay off workers, or substantially reduce the services they provide. In other words, at a time when rural America is struggling—and I come from one of the most rural States in America, that is what Vermont is—this bill would be a disaster for rural America.

Further, when Trump and the Republicans in Congress make massive cuts to Medicaid, they are not just attacking individuals, they are also going after and negatively impacting community health centers, which provide primary healthcare to 32 million lower income and working-class Americans in every State in this country. Community health centers rely on Medicaid for 43 percent of their revenue. And when you cut hundreds of billions of dollars in Medicaid, you are significantly cutting back on the access that millions of Americans will have to the primary healthcare they desperately need.

At a time when the healthcare system in America is broken, when primary healthcare is even in worse shape, this will make access to primary healthcare even more difficult.

Some 22 percent of our seniors in this, the richest country on Earth, are trying to survive on less than \$15,000 a year. This legislation will make it harder for seniors and people with disabilities to receive the care they desperately need in nursing homes. Nursing homes in Vermont—and I expect in every State in this country—are struggling. They are understaffed. Workers there are underpaid. The quality, in many cases, is not as good as it should be. But when Medicaid now provides 60 percent of the revenue nursing homes rely on, slashing Medicaid will make a disastrous situation even worse for some of the most vulnerable people in our country.

Let us be clear. Let us not run away from it. Let us not double-talk this issue and come up with all kinds of absurd rationalizations. This legislation coming before the Senate this week is the most significant attack on the

healthcare needs of the American people in the modern history of our country.

And once again—once again—we are throwing millions of people off the healthcare that they depend upon to stay alive in order to give tax breaks to billionaires who have more wealth today than they will need for a hundred lifetimes. And yet, oddly enough, despite the enormity of what this legislation is about, not a single committee in the Senate has held a single hearing on the impact this legislation will have. In my view, really, this is absolutely irresponsible.

I am not quite sure why we continue to even have committees if the Health and Labor Committee, of which I am ranking member, does not hold a hearing on the most important piece of health legislation in the modern history of this country. That is why this morning, I released, as leader of the minority on the committee, a report discussing the impact that this legislation would have on our Nation's healthcare system. I did that by doing something pretty radical, I guess. We actually reached out to healthcare providers all over the country.

If you are going to decimate American healthcare, you may want to talk to the doctors and the nurses and the healthcare organizations around America. I think that is kind of a common-sense thing to do.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the over 750 healthcare providers from 47 States who responded to my request. I want to thank them sincerely for their thoughtful responses. We basically said: What is this legislation going to do in your State? And we got hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of responses.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this report be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS COMMITTEE

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: WHAT DOCTORS, NURSES, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER PROVIDERS THINK ABOUT REPUBLICAN CUTS TO HEALTH CARE

I. Executive Summary

The Senate is rushing to pass the largest cuts to federal health care programs in the history of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Republican budget bill, which passed the House by only a single vote, would slash federal health care programs by over \$1 trillion. These cuts, along with the elimination of tax credits for ACA coverage, will take health care away from 16 million people. In some states, such as Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, and Washington, the Republican budget bill will nearly double the number of people without insurance.

Remarkably, despite the major changes the Republican budget bill would make to our health care system, the Senate is moving towards passing the bill without a single hearing or vote in Committee. No doctor, nurse, hospital, community health center, or nursing home has been formally consulted to help explain to the American people what these proposed changes would actually mean.

This month, Senator BERNIE SANDERS (I-Vt.), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), asked health care providers across the country what this bill would mean for their patients. Over 750 health care providers from 47 states and the District of Columbia shared their serious concerns.

HELP Minority Staff reviewed these submissions from health care providers, as well as health policy research and other publicly available information, to document how the Republican budget bill would turn the crisis in American health care into a national emergency.

Health care providers expressed deep concerns that the bill would lead to more patients getting sick and dying; higher health care costs as patients delayed preventative care and visited more emergency rooms; and more hours spent on paperwork. Taken together, higher costs and lower reimbursement would cause providers to cut health services, lay off clinical staff, and close facilities entirely. This would impact everyone—not just those receiving health coverage through Medicaid and ACA.

TABLE 1—HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS RAISE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE CUTS

Concern	Provider Response
More patients will get sick and die.	"If Medicaid is cut, my patients will die. I realize I am being dramatic. It is a dramatic situation." Dr. Helen Pope, Louisiana. "[T]hey are humans who are doing their best. Please don't allow them to suffer more." "Patients will fall through the cracks, not because they're unwilling to care for themselves, but because we've made the system too complicated, too conditional, and too punitive. In rural communities like mine, people already struggle with trust, stigma, and access. This bill risks making all three worse." Bradley, Medical Student, Kentucky "Plainly said, children will die as a result of these cuts. Hospitals will cut back on ICU doctors, doctors will leave because of salary cuts, critical ancillary services will be reduced, more medical students will avoid going into pediatric residencies." Dr. Farhan Malik, Florida "The proposed cuts to Medicaid will cause untold hardship and deaths among my patients. DON'T DO THIS! You don't want the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans on your hands." Dr. Sanjay Chaube, Louisiana "Outcomes are worse when care is less accessible. Few doctors, hospitals, clinics mean more visits to the emergency room with worse presentation and ultimately is more expensive." Dr. Bonnie Sand, Maine "The provisions would ultimately make healthcare more expensive and less accessible while paradoxically making Medicaid unsustainable. When patients lose access to preventive care, they rely on emergency services and dangerous self-treatment, both driving up costs for everyone. Medicaid allows us to treat and prevent disabling conditions like diabetes and hypertension—without it, these become irreversible." Dr. Nikhil Kurapati, Ohio "If the proposed bill is passed and [my patients'] Medicaid insurance is cut, it doesn't mean their asthma will go away. It will mean that in most cases they will not receive preventative care, and as a result, their asthma will worsen. . . . Worse yet, they would be seen in the emergency room more often and admitted to the hospital. This care is more expensive, and less effective, than preventative care, and some children will die of their asthma." Dr. Gregory Omlor, Akron Children's Hospital, Ohio "Our care managers and front-desk staff would likely spend an additional 10–15 hours per week assisting patients with insurance-related forms. . . . In small clinics, that's the equivalent of losing nearly half a staff member's availability for patient support." Trent Bourland, Regional VP of Rural Health, SSM Health Oklahoma "These changes would dramatically increase the administrative burden on our care team. We would likely need to hire at least 1–2 full-time administrative staff just to track patient eligibility, navigate complex documentation requirements, and assist families with enrollment or appeals. This would divert already limited funding away from clinical care and impose new costs on our department." Ashley, Social Worker, South Carolina
Costs will increase as sick patients delay care and visit emergency rooms.	
Providers will need to spend hours more to handle extra paperwork, including by hiring more staff.	

TABLE 1—HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS RAISE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT REPUBLICAN HEALTH CARE CUTS—Continued

Concern	Provider Response
Facing higher costs and lower reimbursement, providers will be forced to cut health services, layoff staff, and even close facilities entirely.	"These harmful proposals will impact access to all patients who are served by our nation's hospitals and health systems. These cuts will strain emergency departments as they become the family doctor to millions of newly uninsured people. Finally, the providers will force hospitals to reconsider services or potentially close, particularly in rural areas." Rick Pollack, President and CEO, American Hospital Association "Louisiana's rural hospitals and healthcare providers are already operating on razor-thin margins, struggling to keep their doors open while serving some of our most medically vulnerable communities. In Louisiana, 38% of hospitals operate on negative margins and 27% are currently vulnerable to closure. Medicaid cuts would worsen these losses, putting more hospitals at risk of shutting down entirely." Louisiana Rural Health Association "If our patients lose Medicaid coverage, they will still need our care and our hospital will provide it. But this will mean more uncompensated care and even worse bottom lines. The city will need to pull funding from elsewhere to help the hospital keep running as is, or we will be forced to cut staffing or services in order to stay open." Dr. Katrina Marie Green, Tennessee "These cuts will cause rural hospitals in Texas to close entirely. As a neurologist, I am terrified that the closest hospital for many rural folks may then be hours away. During an ischemic stroke, there is only 3 hours of precious time . . . the increased travel time may cause unnecessary cases of paralysis and death." Dr. Audrey Nath, Texas "The proposed cuts would require our organization to cut back on the number of clinical staff that serve our residents. It would also cause [us] to stop our plan to improve the physical plant improvements for our skilled nursing center that are designed to bring greater dignity, safety, and clinical effectiveness to our residents." President & CEO of a provider organization, Kentucky "Our margin last year was –31%, burning through cash to see patients, the majority of whom are on Medicare or Medicaid. If they lose Medicaid, we'll still take care of them because that's what we do, but the bills won't get paid." Tom Reinhardt, CEO, Cascade Medical Center, Cascade, Idaho "With significant cuts to Medicaid (and any cuts to HRSA or other grant funding for FQHCs), we may not be able to keep the doors open. We would potentially have to stop caring for many of our patients." Dr. Mia Henderson, Missouri.

The responses included in the report represent a mere fraction of the responses reviewed by HELP Minority Staff raising concerns about the Republican health care cuts. Taken together, doctors, nurses, hospitals, and providers are clear about the immense harm the Republican health care cuts pose to their patients. The consequences also extend well beyond Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. As one California doctor described it, "If Medicaid collapses, the entire health care system collapses."

The American people should not be forced to lose their health insurance—or pay higher premiums, higher copays, and higher costs at the pharmacy counter—so that Republicans can pay for tax breaks for the wealthy. Consider, for example, that the one trillion-dollar cuts to health care in the bill are nearly equivalent to the \$1.1 trillion in tax breaks that households above \$500,000 will receive from the legislation. Or that the bill provides tax breaks to more than 800,000 millionaire households, while ripping health insurance away from 16 million people—a ratio of over 19 to 1.

When all the spending and tax cuts are put together, the Penn Wharton Budget Model finds that the 40 percent of Americans making \$51,000 or less would see their taxes go up in 2026 by hundreds of dollars, while those making at least \$4.3 million would see a tax cut of \$390,000.

As one doctor from Maine notes: "We have an existential choice to make. The very wealthy want to steal from the less wealthy

and poor Americans. We cannot allow that to happen. This legislation must not pass.

APPENDIX

HELP Minority Staff used KFF data to estimate the increase in the uninsured rate from 2023 to 2034 as a result of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. A 100 percent increase means the number of uninsured doubled.

REPUBLICAN BILL WILL LEAD TO A MASSIVE INCREASE IN AMERICANS LOSING HEALTH INSURANCE

State	2023 Uninsured Rate	2034 Uninsured Rate	Percent Increase
Alabama	8.2%	11.6%	46%
Alaska	10.0%	13.3%	35%
Arizona	9.6%	13.4%	50%
Arkansas	8.9%	13.1%	48%
California	6.2%	10.2%	74%
Colorado	6.5%	8.6%	50%
Connecticut	5.4%	9.6%	77%
Delaware	6.6%	10.0%	60%
District of Columbia	2.6%	7.3%	229%
Florida	10.4%	18.8%	98%
Georgia	11.1%	16.7%	61%
Hawaii	2.7%	4.9%	99%
Idaho	8.8%	10.2%	28%
Illinois	6.0%	10.4%	74%
Indiana	6.6%	10.0%	55%
Iowa	4.9%	7.6%	61%
Kansas	8.1%	10.5%	32%
Kentucky	5.5%	9.7%	81%
Louisiana	6.7%	12.4%	91%
Maine	5.9%	8.8%	49%
Maryland	6.2%	8.7%	50%
Massachusetts	2.5%	5.6%	135%
Michigan	4.3%	7.6%	78%
Minnesota	3.9%	6.8%	84%
Mississippi	10.1%	15.7%	54%
Missouri	7.3%	10.6%	47%
Montana	8.3%	11.7%	48%
Nebraska	6.2%	8.4%	44%
Nevada	10.5%	11.9%	27%
New Hampshire	4.4%	6.4%	47%
New Jersey	7.0%	10.9%	63%
New Mexico	8.7%	13.0%	51%
New York	4.7%	8.8%	100%
North Carolina	8.9%	13.0%	54%
North Dakota	4.0%	6.0%	73%
Ohio	5.9%	9.5%	63%
Oklahoma	11.0%	14.8%	38%
Oregon	5.3%	9.5%	97%
Pennsylvania	5.2%	8.2%	59%
Rhode Island	4.3%	8.2%	98%
South Carolina	8.7%	13.1%	58%
South Dakota	8.3%	10.0%	26%
Tennessee	9.0%	12.5%	45%
Texas	16.0%	20.0%	39%
Utah	7.6%	11.3%	69%
Vermont	3.3%	6.0%	85%
Virginia	6.2%	9.0%	56%
Washington	6.2%	11.0%	102%
West Virginia	5.8%	10.0%	68%
Wisconsin	4.8%	6.3%	34%
Wyoming	10.2%	12.2%	20%

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, let me just summarize and quote a small number of the responses that we got. If this legislation were to be signed into law, it would drive up the number of uninsured Americans in every single State in this country.

For example, if this legislation was signed into law, the uninsured rate in my State of Vermont would go from 3.3 percent to 6 percent. In Louisiana, the uninsured rate would go from 6.7 percent to 12.4 percent. In the State of Washington, the uninsured rate would go up from 6.2 to 11 percent. In Florida, the uninsured rate would go up from 10.4 percent to 18.8 percent, almost 19 percent of people in Florida will be uninsured if this bill goes through. And this is true for every State in the country—in many cases, almost doubling the number of uninsured.

Let me just quote for you what healthcare providers and State organizations around the country are saying as to the horrific impact that this legislation would have. I know many of my Republican colleagues get up and say it is not true; it is this, that, and

the other thing. Listen to the doctors, listen to the organizations, the healthcare providers in your own State.

Let me just begin with Texas, a Dr. Audrey Nath, where the uninsured rate will reach 20 percent. Anybody from Texas watching this, you are going to be—if this bill goes through, you might want to say hello to your Senators here. Your uninsured rate is going to go up to 20 percent.

This is what Dr. Audrey Nath wrote:

These cuts will cause rural hospitals in Texas to close entirely. As a neurologist, I am terrified that the closest hospital for many rural folks may then be hours away. During an ischemic stroke, there is only 3 hours of precious time—

If you have a stroke, you have to get care very quickly. She writes that “the ‘increased travel time may cause unnecessary cases of paralysis and death.’”

That is obviously what happens, not only with a stroke but for many other illnesses if you don't have a hospital nearby.

Dr. Farhan Malik from Florida, where the uninsured rate will surge to almost 19 percent, wrote:

Plainly said, children will die as a result of these cuts. Hospitals will cut back on ICU doctors, doctors will leave because of salary cuts, critical ancillary services will be reduced and more medical students will avoid going into pediatric residencies.

Dr. Mia Henderson, who works at a community health center in Missouri, wrote that the cuts to Medicaid contained in this legislation would mean that “we may not be able to keep the doors open”—of the community health center. “We would potentially have to stop caring for many of our patients.”

The Louisiana Rural Health Association wrote:

Louisiana's rural hospitals and healthcare providers are already operating on razor-thin margins, struggling to keep their doors open while serving some of our most medically vulnerable communities. In Louisiana, 38 percent of hospitals operate on negative margins and 27 percent are currently vulnerable to closure. Medicaid cuts would worsen these losses, putting more hospitals at risk of shutting down entirely.

Dr. Sanjay Chaube, a doctor from Louisiana, told the HELP Committee:

The proposed cuts to Medicaid will cause untold hardship and deaths among my patients. DON'T DO THIS!

He puts that in capital letters.

You don't want the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans on your hands.

That is Dr. Chaube from Louisiana.

Dr. Gregory Omlor from Akron's Children's Hospital in Ohio told us:

If the proposed bill is passed and [my patients'] Medicaid insurance is cut, it doesn't mean their asthma will go away. It will mean that in most cases they will not receive preventive care . . . [and][s]ome children will die of their asthma.

And here is what another doctor from Ohio said:

Implementing work requirements into Ohio Medicaid will threaten my patients' gains. Most of my patients WANT to work—

they are desperate to. There just aren't jobs available for folks with very low skills and health conditions that could cause them to miss work unexpectedly. The jobs that are available do not pay enough for an adult to survive, and they certainly don't offer health insurance. My patients who rely on Medicaid have frequently been born into generational poverty, have only had access to poor quality schools, and live in neighborhoods where their health suffers.

And by the way, this Dr. Omlor talks about work requirements. Let us understand that every single year millions and millions and millions of Americans lose their jobs not through any fault of their own. The company shuts down, company goes bankrupt, whatever it may be, they lose their jobs. They don't have a job. How are they going to get healthcare? We have taken healthcare away from them because they are not working.

The Vermont Association of Hospitals—my own State—the Association of Hospitals and Health Systems wrote that this bill “reduces coverage and access, particularly in rural areas such as Vermont where hospitals and other health care providers are already financially fragile” and that it will force hospitals in Vermont to “cut back on clinical staff, services and care delivery.” I can tell you hospitals in Vermont are struggling. This will make a very, very difficult situation even worse.

Now, I have got a radical idea, probably one that, I would say, 70 or 80 percent of the American people agree with, and that is maybe, just maybe, instead of throwing 16 million people off of healthcare, instead of creating a situation where 50,000 Americans die unnecessarily, why don't we do what every other major country on Earth does and guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right.

What about that?

Instead of throwing 16 million people off so we have almost 100 million uninsured, hey, why don't we do what Canada does, what the UK does, what Spain does, what Finland does, what Holland does, what every other major country on Earth does—guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right.

But the problem there is it is easier to throw working people off of their health insurance around here than to take on the Big Money interests who run the insurance industry and the pharmaceutical industry. That is what this is about.

In many respects, this bill represents exactly why many Americans are giving up on democracy and have such contempt for Congress and for the Democratic Party and for the Republican Party. At a time when the richest people have never ever had it so good, they now see Republican leadership working overtime to make the billionaire class even wealthier. At a time when the 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.

So I would say that I speak for the overwhelming majority of the American people who think that it is basically insane that we are talking about throwing 16 million people off of the healthcare they have and creating a situation where 50,000 Americans will die unnecessarily each year in order to give hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars to billionaires and the wealthiest people in this

country. This is a disastrous, obscene piece of legislation. It must be defeated.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:17 p.m., recessed until Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

RECESS UNTIL 3:30 P.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 3:30 p.m. tomorrow.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate June 25, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PAUL DABBAR, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING DON HEWITT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Mr. Don Hewitt, a trailblazer in sustainable urban development and a visionary entrepreneur whose work has made a transformative impact on communities throughout Jackson, Mississippi, and beyond.

Mr. Hewitt is the founder and owner of Advanced Technology Building Solutions (ATBS), established in 2004 and headquartered in Jackson. With more than 20 years of experience in real estate development and urban planning, Mr. Hewitt has consistently prioritized community-centered solutions that emphasize walkability, environmental design, and economic opportunity.

Under his leadership, ATBS has emerged as a leader in mixed-use developments that integrate green spaces, affordable housing, retail accessibility, and local business engagement. The company's initiatives frequently involve partnerships with public housing authorities, nonprofit organizations and government entities—leading to the revitalization of underutilized spaces into vibrant, inclusive neighborhoods.

Currently, ATBS is collaborating with the West Jackson Community Development Corporation and the Jackson Medical Mall Foundation to implement an innovative urban streetscape project in West Jackson. This development will offer affordable workspace for local entrepreneurs and startups, fostering economic opportunity and nurturing local talent.

Mr. Hewitt's commitment to sustainability extends beyond physical infrastructure. As a participant in the AI Business Accelerator Cohort, he is integrating artificial intelligence into project planning to optimize sustainability metrics and enhance community engagement. His forward-thinking approach ensures that urban development remains both efficient and equitable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Don Hewitt for his service, leadership, and unwavering dedication to building a stronger, more inclusive Mississippi. His work exemplifies what it means to develop with the community and for the community.

HONORING BARBARA KULIG'S RETIREMENT

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Barbara Kulig as she retires after twenty-six years of service with the

Manchester School District. Barbara has dedicated her time as a Paraprofessional to making a difference in students' education and being involved within the community.

As a lifelong Manchester resident, Barbara dedicated her career to public service and giving back to her community. She has spent twenty-five years teaching at Hillside Middle School, the same institution she attended for middle school, and she spent her final year teaching at Weston Elementary. She also previously served as a school bus driver in Bedford. She has left a lasting impact on the students she has worked with over the years and will be greatly missed by students and staff alike.

Barbara is not only a diligent public servant but also an individual of outstanding character and passion. She committed tireless days to ensuring that the students of the Manchester School District were given the care and resources they needed to thrive and grow into successful young adults.

In all, Barbara Kulig represents the very best of America's public servants—dedicated, thoughtful, and unwavering in her commitment to service to others. On behalf of a grateful district, I want to congratulate Barbara on a well-deserved and restful retirement.

RECOGNIZING MICHELLE NUCKOLS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michelle Nuckols for being named the 2025 Cattlewoman of the Year by the Tulare County Cattlewomen's Association.

Michelle moved to Visalia, California in 1975 with her parents at the age of six. She discovered her love for agriculture in high school through Mt. Whitney High School's FFA program, where she quickly immersed herself. Her involvement in FFA inspired her to pursue a career in agricultural education, leading her to attend the College of the Sequoias and later Fresno State University. While at Fresno State, Michelle met her husband, Justin Nuckols, who came from a farming family in Porterville. The two married in 1995 and made their home near Justin's family farm. Following graduation, Michelle began teaching at Tipton Elementary, where she has now served for over 29 years. In addition to teaching English, she offers an agriculture elective that introduces students to FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. Her class includes hands-on lessons about dairy and beef cattle, visits to local farming operations, and a variety of experiences designed to connect students to agriculture. Michelle also has a deep passion for photography, which has inspired her to preserve the farming traditions of Justin's family farm through the lens of her camera. She captures branding events, assists in tagging calves, and most importantly,

ensures that donuts and cold drinks are available for all who attend.

Since Justin's unexpected passing in 2022, Michelle has taken on a more active role in the family's cattle operation alongside her sons, Tanner and Carson. She also joined Tulare County Cattlewomen, continuing her lifelong support for agricultural education and honoring Justin's legacy through advocacy and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Michelle Nuckols on being awarded Tulare County's 2025 Cattlewoman of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 23, 2025, I was otherwise detained in South Carolina. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 172; YEA on Roll Call No. 173; and YEA on Roll Call No. 174.

RECOGNIZING EPSILON SIGMA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Epsilon Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, based in Prince William County, Virginia. Since its founding on June 13, 2015, Epsilon Sigma Boulé has exemplified the highest standards of leadership, scholarship, and community service.

Sigma Pi Phi, also known as the Boulé, is the oldest Black Greek-letter fraternity, established in 1904 to provide a space for African American men of professional distinction at a time when few such outlets existed. Its legacy includes names etched into the very fabric of American history—W.E.B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Arthur Ashe, Whitney Young, and so many others whose contributions have shaped our Nation. Today, its ranks continue to include influential leaders such as Representatives JAMES CLYBURN, BOBBY SCOTT, EMANUEL CLEAVER, and Senator RAPHAEL WARNOCK.

The Epsilon Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi was established to advance this rich legacy in Northern Virginia. Its members are African American men of accomplishment and service, representing diverse professions and industries. Together, they have embodied the Fraternity's founding mission by working diligently to uplift and empower their communities through servant leadership and civic engagement.

• 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.

Through the Epsilon Sigma Boulé Foundation, the fraternity has invested substantially in initiatives that serve the greater good—mentoring youth, increasing access to STEM education, supporting the performing arts in Title I schools, and providing college scholarships for deserving minority students. These actions reflect a commitment not only to excellence, but to ensuring equity and opportunity for all.

As the Epsilon Sigma Boulé celebrates a decade of excellence, we honor its enduring mission and the transformational impact it continues to have in Prince William County and beyond. They have exemplified principled leadership and civic responsibility, carrying forward the Fraternity's mission with purposeful action and a steadfast dedication to community advancement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the Epsilon Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and in celebrating the tremendous work this organization continues to do to strengthen our communities and shape the future of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to illness and was not able to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 172, 173, 174, 176, 177, and 178. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 172; YEA on Roll Call No. 173; NAY on Roll Call No. 174; YEA on Roll Call No. 176; YEA on Roll Call No. 177; and NAY on Roll Call No. 178.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT KEITH DEUTSCH

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sergeant Keith Deutsch, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Deutsch enlisted in the United States Army in the summer following the attacks of September 11, 2001. He rose through the ranks quickly, earning five promotions and receiving the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart.

In 2003, Keith was wounded by an enemy-fired rocket-propelled grenade while serving as an M249 SAW gunner. His squad leader, Staff Sergeant Mark A. Lawton, was killed in the same attack. Staff Sergeant Lawton died never having lost a Soldier under his command. He ran toward fire, shielded his Soldiers, and led from the front. A proud former Marine, the Army was Staff Sergeant Lawton's retirement position.

After recovering from his injuries, Keith helped pioneer the sport of adaptive snowboarding, competing on the World Cup Tour and in the Winter X Games using prosthetics developed with the Department of Veterans Affairs support.

Keith later returned to New Prague, Minnesota, and reopened his father's business, Ron's Cycle Shop, as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business. Today, it supplies electric bicycles to government agencies under contracts with the State of Minnesota and the Department of Defense. He is also the founder of the New Prague Area Mountain Bike Park.

In October 2025, Keith will run both the Army Ten-Miler and the 50th Marine Corps Marathon as an above-knee amputee in honor of Staff Sergeant Mark A. Lawton.

Sergeant Deutsch's life and career is characterized by great personal sacrifice and exemplary service. He represents the best that this country has to offer. I thank him for his service and dedication to our country.

CELEBRATING THE TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE OBERGEFELL MARRIAGE EQUALITY RULING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of Obergefell v. Hodges, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that affirmed marriage equality nationwide on June 26, 2015. This ruling positively impacted the lives of millions of LGBTQIA+ Americans and serves as a significant milestone toward equal rights for all. I wish to honor the legacies of Jim Obergefell, his late husband John Arthur, and all the couples who brought the battle for marriage equality to the steps of the United States Supreme Court.

Furthermore, I would like to honor the incredible activists—Marsha P. Johnson, Bayard Rustin, Audre Lorde and Harvey Milk—who played instrumental roles in fighting for LGBTQIA+ rights decades before this case reached the Supreme Court. To this day, their legacies inspire Americans to advocate, celebrate, and respect the differences we have as people to promote equal rights. It is fitting that this anniversary falls during Pride Month, a time to recognize the strength and perseverance of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as a call to action for equality.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration and extremist Republicans are attacking LGBTQIA+ rights around the country. These extremists are banning books that feature LGBTQIA+ characters from schools, eliminating the suicide prevention hotline for LGBTQIA+ individuals, rolling back civil rights protections, and undermining the health, military service, and education of LGBTQIA+ Americans. House Republicans recently passed a dangerous bill out of Committee that threatens to jail parents and doctors offering medically-affirming care to trans youth. Policymakers in Washington should not make private health decisions for Americans. LGBTQIA+ individuals are humans and deserve equal civil rights protections under the law, autonomy, and dignity. I reject extremist efforts to promote hate and harm based on who one loves or how they self-identify.

In the face of these intensified efforts to hurt LGBTQIA+ individuals, I promise to continue

to fight for equal rights for LGBTQIA+ Americans. We must protect same-sex marriages and civil rights laws for LGBTQIA+ individuals. We must enact the Equality Act that would amend the Civil Right Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. We must enact my bill—the John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act—that would prohibit any entity that receives federal child welfare funds from discriminating against children, youth, or prospective adoptive or foster parents based on religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. I am committed to continuing to support legislation that protects the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals because everyone deserves the right to be who they are, free from discrimination.

Celebration is an act of resistance. In the face of an administration that wants to reinvigorate injustice and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people, it is essential to celebrate our country's landmark marriage equality ruling and Pride month and to commit ourselves to ensuring that "We the People" includes all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 175 on H. Res. 537, Motion to Table, I mistakenly recorded my vote as no when I should have voted yes.

HONORING MS. JORDANA ZUBKOFF FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jordana Zubkoff for twenty years of outstanding service to this House in several administrative and support roles. She lives in Arlington, VA, and I am proud to represent her here in Congress.

Ms. Zubkoff is retiring after having lent her talents and skills to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for over twenty years. She started in the Immediate Office for the CAO in 2004, and has also worked for the Finance Immediate Office, Budget Planning and Analysis, and finally in the Office of Payroll and Benefits, starting in 2013.

Ms. Zubkoff has provided vast knowledge about payroll calculations and impeccable attention to detail; her reconciliations, tax calculations, and customer service in service to House offices and employees, has helped to ensure that their employees have been paid accurately while adhering to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and U.S. House of Representatives standards. Her expertise, experience, and courteous attentiveness enabled her to be an invaluable asset to the House of Representatives over the years. Ms. Zubkoff is well respected by her coworkers and colleagues.

Ms. Zubkoff is a big fan of traveling; she has gone on many trips over the years including Panama, Australia, and a surprise birthday cruise this year to South America. Her favorite souvenirs from these trips are jewelry made by regional artists with local materials. In her retirement, she plans to travel with her family, including her sister, niece, and nephew.

I congratulate Ms. Zubkoff, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her distinguished service to the House and the Nation it serves. I wish her all the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

HONORING MR. ALNOLDO MOORE

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Arnoldo Moore on his retirement from the Social Security Administration after 30 years of distinguished service.

Mr. Moore began his career in September 1994 as a Service Representative in Grand Rapids, Michigan, followed by assignments as both a Claims Representative and Management Support Specialist. In August 2003, Mr. Moore transitioned to Social Security Headquarters in Washington, D.C. serving as National Public Affairs Specialist, Human Resource Specialist, and Interactive Video Training (IVT) trainer, and Systems Analyst. While at headquarters, Mr. Moore was instrumental in developing and revising scripts for IVT broadcasts aired nationwide. He provided leadership and training to new employees on related programs. During his tenure in this role, Mr. Moore traveled the United States engaging with groups such as disability services organizations and Native American organizations. He prepared meetings for both the Commissioner and Acting Commissioner with White House staff to discuss Social Security Administration initiatives.

From August 2003 through April 2025, Mr. Moore served in the Chattanooga, Tennessee Field Office as a Public Affairs Specialist. In this role, Mr. Moore has served as constituent liaison to my office providing outstanding service and support both to my district staff and to my constituents.

Now, Arnoldo enters a new chapter in his life and is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Yaritza, and his children, Aniza and Alejandro, while continuing to serve in our community.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Arnoldo Moore for his many years of public service to our Nation and our community, and I wish him well in all new endeavors as he begins his retirement.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF COLONEL DEREK C. OAKLEY, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel

Derek C. Oakley on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, concluding an extraordinary career of over two decades in service to our Nation.

Colonel Oakley most recently served as Commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. Under his instrumental leadership, the 28th Bomb Wing, home to the largest operational B-1 combat wing, provided unmatched global strike capabilities and remained a vital part of our national defense.

Since commissioning through Officer Training School in May 2000, Colonel Oakley's record of service has been marked by excellence, professionalism, and an unshakable commitment to duty. Over the course of his distinguished career, he logged more than 3,400 flight hours, including 991 in combat. His career has spanned key leadership roles in operations, training, and strategic development.

He has commanded at multiple levels, served on the Joint Staff, and played a vital role in the development of the B-21 Raider, shaping the future of American airpower. His service has been recognized with many decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and multiple Air Medals.

On behalf of a grateful state and Nation, I thank Colonel Oakley for his decades of honorable service. We in South Dakota are proud to call him one of our own, and we wish him and his family all the best as they begin this new chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable career and retirement of Colonel Derek C. Oakley.

HONORING DR. CRAIG
WITHERSPOON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career and lasting contributions of a visionary educator and leader—Dr. Craig Witherspoon. Over nearly four decades in public education, including ten transformative years as Superintendent of Richland County School District One in Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. Witherspoon has been a tireless champion for student achievement, equity, and innovation. His work has elevated not only the schools he served, but the communities they anchor.

Dr. Witherspoon began his career as an instrumental music teacher and steadily rose through the ranks as a principal, instructional leader, and superintendent, with service in four states—Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, and South Carolina. He took the helm of Richland One in 2015, leading a diverse, urban-suburban-rural district serving more than 22,000 students and employing 4,000 educators and staff.

Under his leadership, Richland One became a statewide and national model of innovation. The district launched South Carolina's first Virtual School Program for high school students, as well as the state's first high school commercial driver's license (CDL) training program and firefighter training program. It was also the

first in the state to offer all 16 nationally recognized career clusters and establish a certified pre-apprenticeship program. His focus on early childhood education expanded pre-K access and launched the "ThriveRichland" initiative for school readiness.

Dr. Witherspoon guided the district through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing a comprehensive reopening plan to ensure students could return safely to in-person instruction. Throughout his tenure, the district intensified family engagement, boosted graduation rates beyond the state average, and received system-wide accreditation with top-tier evaluation scores.

He also prioritized summer learning through the district's Summer SOAR program and oversaw over \$30 million in federal magnet school grants, as well as major investments in school facilities—from upgraded athletic stadiums to new academic wings focused on culinary arts, Montessori, and language immersion.

Dr. Witherspoon's leadership was recognized with numerous awards, including 2024 Superintendent of the Year by the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators, 2022 Superintendent of the Year by the S.C. Athletic Administrators Association, and Administrator of the Year by several professional education associations. Under his guidance, the district and its schools received a remarkable list of accolades—from National Blue Ribbon recognition to national awards for health, energy conservation, and inclusive education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the extraordinary service of Dr. Craig Witherspoon. His career exemplifies the power of education to transform lives and communities. He leaves behind a legacy of vision, integrity, and excellence that will continue to shape South Carolina's future for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE
IT'S ABOUT THE KIDS MENTOR
PROGRAM

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in Texas' 30th Congressional District, It's About the Kids Mentor Program, a community organization committed to empowering families and youth in Dallas, Texas. With a mission "to focus on the kids of today, which will strengthen our youth of tomorrow who will become the adults of the future," It's About the Kids provides impactful programs that center around youth mentorship, community service, literacy advancement, professional development, and contributing significantly to the well-being and growth of families in our community. By focusing on these initiatives, participants can develop the necessary skills needed to thrive today.

Founded in 2001 by Baldwin and Crystal Hamilton, It's About the Kids Mentor Program began outreach in Marietta, Georgia, then following the Hamiltons' move to Dallas in 2012, they expanded their reach to Dallas and most recently have expanded to Shreveport in 2024. The Hamiltons have intentionally poured

into the lives of young people by providing mentorship and developing participants' literacy skills and interest in public service. Through programs such as the Little Library Program, they have partnered with educators and libraries to provide resources for over 500 children to develop strong literacy skills. It's About the Kids continues to be an excellent asset to the constituents of TX-30. For the past two years, they have partnered with my office for our annual Fish 'n' Kids and Kids 'n' Kites events, which give kids the opportunity to engage in outdoor activities, build relationships with local law enforcement, and interact with members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work that Baldwin and Crystal Hamilton and It's About the Kids Mentor Program have done in our district and look forward to their continued impact on our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF JOHN BREWSTER "J.B."
HODGDON

HON. DEREK SCHMIDT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of fellow lifelong Kansan, John Brewster "J.B." Hodgdon, who passed away on June 13, 2025. J.B. was born on October 16, 1936, to Bruce and Amy Hodgdon in Kansas City, Kansas. He lived a life full of service, always giving back to his community, and I was proud call him my friend.

While growing up in America's Heartland, J.B. and his brother Bob helped with the family business, which he eventually entered full time in 1959 after graduating from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. J.B.'s father served as an aerial gunnery instructor for the Navy. J.B. recalled that in grade school he and Bob would help their father by loading shot shells at night so their dad could prepare to teach his students the following day. With the grit and determination instilled in them by their parents, J.B. and Bob would grow Hodgdon Powder Company from operating at the family dining room table to the largest U.S. consumer supplier of smokeless and black powder substitute propellants. Hodgdon Powder Company is now a household name within the firearm and ammunition industry and among handloading and muzzleloading enthusiasts.

Passion for hunting and the shooting sports runs deep in the Hodgdon blood. J.B. was an unwavering supporter of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, life benefactor member of the National Rifle Association, life member of the Kansas State Rifle Association, and a member of Safari Club of America, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and the National 4-H Shooting Sports. J.B. enjoyed growing the next generation of hunters and recreational shooters. He especially cherished his time with Philmont Scout Ranch, Scouting America's National High-Adventure Base in Cimarron, New Mexico. Along with his wife Anne and their charitable foundation, J.B. was integral in enhancing Philmont's success in serving our Nation's youth.

For his leadership contributing to the success of the firearm industry, firearm owner-

ship, and enjoyment of hunting and the shooting sports in America, J.B. was inducted into the National Shooting Sports Foundation Hall of Fame. He was also the recipient of the Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence Award, and he and his brother were awarded the NRA's Golden Bullseye Pioneer Award.

J.B. unquestionably touched countless lives and was highly respected, including by those in the firearm industry, on which he has left an indelible mark. He will be remembered for his strong work ethic, love for shooting sports and the outdoors, his utmost appreciation for first responders, passion for youth and scouting, and keen interest in classic cars. He will also be remembered as a man of faith and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. I thank Anne, his beloved wife of 28 years, his four sons, two stepchildren, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, for sharing J.B. with all of us who are blessed to have known him. I hope they find peace and comfort in celebrating a life well-lived.

HONORING COLONEL JAMES R.
BARTRAN, II OF THE UNITED
STATES AIR FORCE

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding military service career of Colonel James R. Bartran, II of the United States Air Force (USAF). Colonel Bartran currently serves as the Deputy Commander of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale Air Force Base in Wheatland, California.

As Deputy Commander of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Colonel Bartran is responsible for approximately 7,000 military, civilian, and contract personnel, and the entire Air Force high altitude reconnaissance fleet of the U-2 Dragon Lady aircraft at the base. Prior to his deployment at Beale AFB, Colonel Bartran was a student at the Army War College.

Colonel Bartran was first commissioned in May of 2001, and since that time he has served dutifully in the USAF defending our Nation's homeland from overseas threats.

Colonel Bartran has logged over 4,800 flight hours in a wide assortment of aircraft including: B-1B, T-38A, T-38C, T-34C, TU-2S, UH-60, TH-57, and others. He has flown 78 combat missions with 700 hours of combat time. His combat experience includes deployments in support of Operations: Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as well as multiple non-combat deployments in support of: US Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), US European Command (USEUCOM), US Africa Command (USAFRICOM), US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), and US Central Command (USCENTCOM) conducting sensitive reconnaissance operations.

During Colonel Bartran's distinguished military career, he would also serve as the Commander of the 5th Reconnaissance Wing in the USINDOPACOM leading 250 personnel and executing manned high altitude reconnaissance missions.

Colonel Bartran earned a BA Degree in Business Management & Finance from Washington State University in 2001, and a Master of Military Operational Art and Science

(MMAS) degree from the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) in 2010. In addition, he has earned numerous awards and decorations such as: Meritorious Service Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Aerial Achievement Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Colonel Bartran lives with his wife Jackie, and their three children Lillian, James, and Joseph. It has been a pleasure to get to know Colonel Bartran in his last few years of service at Beale AFB. I found him to be a man of faith, honor, and integrity. I thank him for the work he has done with myself and my team to protect and expand the Air Force's many missions at Beale AFB.

Colonel Bartran will be retiring from the USAF after 24 years of military service in defense of the United State of America. On behalf of the citizens of Northern California and a grateful Nation, we thank Colonel Bartran for his outstanding military career and service in the defense of freedom around the globe. We wish him all the best in his retirement and hope our paths do continue to cross. I thank him for his service. May God bless him and his family.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 26, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 7

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

SR-232A

JULY 8

9:15 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

SR-232A

9:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SD-G50 10 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SR-232A 10:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Cybersecurity Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the pro-	posed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SR-232A 11 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SR-232A 11:30 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SR-232A 2:30 p.m. Committee on Armed Services Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SR-222	JULY 9 9 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SR-222 JULY 10 9 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SR-222 JULY 11 9 a.m. Committee on Armed Services Closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026. SR-222
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Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

(Legislative Day of Tuesday, June 24, 2025)

Routine Proceedings, pages S3523–S3543

Measures Introduced: Nineteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2159–2177, and S. Res. 302–305. **Page S3533**

Measures Passed:

Juneteenth National Independence Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 290, commemorating June 19, 2025, as “Juneteenth National Independence Day” in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S3536**

DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 303, expressing support for the designation of May 17, 2025, as “DIPG Pediatric Brain Cancer Awareness Day” to raise awareness of, and encourage research on, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma tumors and pediatric cancers in general. **Page S3536**

75th Anniversary of the Outbreak of the Korean War: Senate agreed to S. Res. 304, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and reaffirming the critical importance of maintaining military readiness in defense of the United States and its allies. **Page S3536**

Kies Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S3526–30**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 326), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S3526**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 3:30 p.m., on Thursday, June 26, 2025. **Pages S3536–37**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 56 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 325), Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce. **Pages S3523–25, S3543**

Executive Communications: **Page S3532**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S3532**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3533–34**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3534–36**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3531–32**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S3536**

Notices of Intent: **Page S3536**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3536**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3536**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—326) **Pages S3525–26**

Recess: Senate convened at 3:30 p.m. and recessed at 7:17 p.m., until 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2025. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on pages S3536–37.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from Pamela J. Bondi, Attorney General, Department of Justice.

PRESIDENT’S SPECIAL MESSAGE

Committee on Appropriations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President’s special message of June 3, 2025, after receiving testimony from Senators Schmitt and Schatz; and Russell T. Vought, Director, Office of Management and Budget.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine matters within the jurisdiction of the Assistant Secretaries for Energy, Installation, and Environment in support of the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act, after receiving testimony from Dale R. Marks, Assistant Secretary for Energy, Installations, and Environment, Jeff L. Waksman, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment, Brenda M. Johnson-Turner, performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment, and Michael E. Saunders, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Energy, Installations, and Environment, all of the Department of Defense.

SEMIANNUAL POLICY REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress, after receiving testimony from Jerome H. Powell, Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 233, to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 to modify the authority of the Office of National Drug Control Policy with respect to the World Anti-Doping Agency, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 254, to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and marine mammal ivory products, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 434, to establish the Commercial Space Activity Advisory Committee, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 836, 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, with amendments;

S. 1872, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study on the feasibility of manufacturing in the United States products for critical infrastructure sectors, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

The nominations of Bryan Bedford, of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Usha-Maria Turner, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Susan Monarez, of Wisconsin, to be Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services, after the nominee testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Emil J. Bove III, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, and Edward L. Artau, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, and Kyle Christopher Dudek, Jordan Emery Pratt, and Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe, who were each introduced by Senator Scott (FL), each to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, testified and answered questions on their own behalf.

AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights concluded a hearing to examine China and lawfare against American energy dominance, after receiving testimony from Kris Kobach, Kansas Attorney General, Topeka; and David Arkush, Public Citizen's Climate Program, and Scott Walter, Capital Research Center, both of Washington, D.C.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine correcting mismanagement of the veterans crisis line, after receiving testimony from Brad Combs, former Veterans Crisis Line Lead Auditor, Indianapolis, Indiana, Marcia Blane, former Veterans Crisis Line Responder, Hampton, Georgia, Thomas O'Toole, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, and Christopher Watson, Executive Director, Veterans Crisis Line, all of the Veterans Health Administration, Department of

Veterans Affairs; and Alyssa M. Hundrup, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office.

NOMINATIONS

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of John Dever, of Illinois, to be General Counsel, George Wesley Street, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, and Christopher Fox, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, all of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Matthew Kozma, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis, and Peter

Thomson, of Louisiana, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR SENIORS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine how sports medicine can improve health outcomes for seniors, after receiving testimony from E. Lyle Cain, Jr., Andrews Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center, Birmingham, Alabama; Paul S. Legg, University of Charleston, Charleston, West Virginia; Jennifer Raymond, AgeSpan, Lawrence, Massachusetts; and Matt Hasselbeck, Nashville, Tennessee.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 30 public bills, H.R. 4120, 4122–4150; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 102; and H. Res. 543–546 were introduced. **Pages H2968–70**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2971–72**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3383, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 with respect to the authority of closed-end companies to invest in private funds, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–169);

H.R. 3379, to amend the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Act of 1978 to require the Federal financial institutions regulatory agencies to update the CAMELS Rating System, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–170);

H.R. 2625, to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment (H. Rept. 119–171); and

H.R. 4121, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–172). **Page H2968**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Meuser to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2925**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:23 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H2935**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:34 p.m. and reconvened at 4:15 p.m. **Page H2956**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, June 24th.

Condemning the attacks on Minnesota lawmakers in Brooklyn Park and Champlin, Minnesota, and calling for unity and the rejection of political violence in Minnesota and across the United States: H. Res. 519, amended, condemning the attacks on Minnesota lawmakers in Brooklyn Park and Champlin, Minnesota, and calling for unity and the rejection of political violence in Minnesota and across the United States, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 424 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 179. **Pages H2956–57**

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026: The House passed H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 218 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 182.

Pages H2937–56, H2957–59

Rejected the Kaptur motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations by a yeas-and-nays vote of 208 yeas to 216 nays, Roll No. 181.

Pages H2954, H2958

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 119–5 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Pages H2941–51**

Agreed to:

Carter (TX) amendment en bloc No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 119–167: Boebert (No. 2) that redirects \$2 million

to provide additional resources for medical and prosthetic research to ensure our veterans receive cutting edge medical care from the VA; Boebert (No. 3) that redirects \$2 million to the Office of the Inspector General to combat waste, fraud, and abuse; Boebert (No. 4) that redirects \$2 million to provide additional funding for the construction of new state-extended care facilities; Boebert (No. 5) that redirects \$2 million to fund grants for the construction of veteran's cemetery programs to assist state and tribal governments in providing burial benefits for veterans in rural areas lacking a VA national cemetery; Boebert (No. 6) that redirects \$2 million to the Board of Veterans Appeals to help reduce its backlog so that veteran claims can be adjudicated in a timely manner; Castor (No. 7) that increases and decreases funds of the Military Construction, Defense-Wide account specifically designated for Natural Disaster Recovery Construction for military installations; Goodlander (No. 9) that increases and decreases veterans health funds for the purpose of adding report language emphasizing support for the Department's effort to conduct a feasibility study at the Manchester VA Medical Center and to require the Department to submit to Congress an action plan by November 6, 2025, to expand services for a full-service medical center in New Hampshire so that it is no longer the only state in the contiguous United States without such a center; Gottheimer (No. 10) that increases and decreases funding under the Medical Services account to support the inclusion of a resident advocate at every veterans home; Gottheimer (No. 11) that increases and decreases funding under the Medical Services Account to improve the quality and availability of kosher meals for inpatient residents at VA hospitals, including through exploring partnerships with certified providers that offer fresh or higher-quality options; Gottheimer (No. 12) that increases and decreases funding under the Medical Services account for the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program; Kiggans (VA) (No. 16) that ensures that the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains sufficient medical care for veterans who reside in US Territories and Freely Associated States; Kiggans (VA) (No. 17) that ensures that the Department of Veterans Affairs fully funds and competently executes mental health care programs, with a special emphasis on suicide prevention and associated outreach; Kiggans (VA) (No. 18) that expresses the urgency of expeditiously and efficiently improving base infrastructure and utilizing increased demolition funding on Navy and Marine Corps bases; Kiggans (VA) (No. 20) that encourages the Department of Defense to meet servicemembers' childcare needs by building more child development centers; Moylan (No. 22) that increases and decreases

the General Operating Expenses account for the Veterans Benefits Administration to urge the Secretary to develop a plan to establish a permanent Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office on Guam, replacing the regional office in the Philippines, to ensure continued services for veterans in the Pacific Islands; Ogles (No. 23) that increases and decreases funding for medical services at the Veterans Health Administration for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans; Ogles (No. 24) that increases and decreases funding for the Board of Veterans Appeals to prioritize increasing processing speed for veteran casework; Ogles (No. 26) that increases and decreases funding for grants for construction of State Extended Care Facilities to focus on creating or maintaining nursing homes for America's World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans; Ogles (No. 27) that increases and decreases funding for the Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund for the development of improved informational materials regarding the relative benefits of a VA home loan versus other types of housing loans for different homebuyer profiles; Schweikert (No. 29) that transfers \$1 million in funds to utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) to increase data sharing between the Veteran Electronic Health Record (EHR) and Department of Veteran Affairs to further promote efficiency and high-quality care; Schweikert (No. 30) that increases and decreases funding by \$1 million for the Veterans Benefits Administration to provide support for utilizing Artificial Intelligence (AI) to expedite claims;

Pages H2951–53

Correa amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 119–167) that increases and decreases funding for the Medical and Prosthetic Research account at the Department of Veterans Affairs to direct the Department to evaluate and make recommendations on changes that would need to be made to its existing healthcare infrastructure to integrate approved psychedelic therapies into veterans' care options for conditions such as PTSD and substance use disorders;

Pages H2954–55

Joyce (OH) amendment (No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 119–167) that strikes funding for NATO; and

Carter (TX) amendment en bloc No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 119–167: Arrington (No. 1) that transfers \$4.1 million from the NATO Security Investment Fund to the Air Force Planning and Design Fund to increase base security at locations receiving B–21 bomber aircrafts; Houchin (No. 14) that transfers \$5 million in funding to the medical services account to increase funding for medical care for veterans including memory care services; Kiggans (VA) (No. 15) that encourages the approval and development of

privatized housing for unaccompanied service members; Kiggans (VA) (No. 19) that expresses to the Navy the importance of basing the F-35 at Naval Air Station Oceana, the East Coast Master Jet Base; Ogles (No. 25) that increases and decreases funding for the Veterans Health Administration's medical community care account to increase accessibility for in-home health care services for veterans; Perry (No. 28) that increases and decreases Veterans Health Administration, Medical Services, by \$1 million for furnishing Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) therapy to personnel who elect to receive the treatment; and Shreve (No. 32) that increases and decreases the Army National Guard Military Construction Account to bring attention to the need for the construction of a new aircraft maintenance hanger at the Army National Guard Station in Shelbyville, IN (by a recorded vote of 219 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 180).

Pages H2953–54, H2957

H. Res. 530, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3944), (H.R. 275), (H.R. 875) and the resolution (H. Res. 516) was agreed to yesterday, June 24th.

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Cohen wherein he resigned from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Page H2962

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2956–57, H2957, H2958, and H2958–59.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Committee Meetings

REVERSING THE CURSE: ROOTING OUT WASTE AND FRAUD AND RESTORING THE DIGNITY OF WORK

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Reversing the Curse: Rooting Out Waste and Fraud and Restoring the Dignity of Work”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3453, the “Empower Charter School Educators to Lead Act”; H.R. 2516, the “Accreditation for College Excellence Act of 2025”; H.R. 4054, the “Accreditation Choice and Innovation Act”; H.R. 2528, the “Association Health Plans Act”; H.R. 2571, the “Self-Insurance Protection Act”; H.R. 2988, the “Protecting Prudent Investment of Retirement Savings Act”; and H.R. 3170, the “Improving Access to Workers’ Compensation

for Injured Federal Workers Act”. H.R. 3453, H.R. 2516, H.R. 4054, H.R. 2528, H.R. 2988, H.R. 2571, and H.R. 3170 were ordered reported, as amended.

REASSESSING SARBANE-OXLEY: THE COST OF COMPLIANCE IN TODAY’S CAPITAL MARKETS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Market held a hearing entitled “Reassessing Sarbanes-Oxley: The Cost of Compliance in Today’s Capital Markets”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

SPIES, LIES, AND MISMANAGEMENT: EXAMINING THE U.S. AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA’S DOWNFALL

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Spies, Lies, and Mismanagement: Examining the U.S. Agency for Global Media’s Downfall”. Testimony was heard from Kari Lake, Senior Advisor, U.S. Agency for Global Media.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3965, the “PEARL Act”; H.R. 4057, the “CBP Canine Home Kenneling Pilot Act”; H.R. 4058, the “Enhancing Stakeholder Support and Outreach for Preparedness Grants Act”; H.R. 4070, the “Tren de Aragua Border Security Threat Assessment Act”; and H.R. 4071, the “Combating International Drug Trafficking and Human Smuggling Partnership Act of 2025”. H.R. 3965, H.R. 4057, H.R. 4058, H.R. 4070, and H.R. 4071 were ordered reported, without amendment.

OVERSIGHT OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL: A REVIEW OF THE THIRTEENTH ARCHITECT’S FIRST YEAR

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Architect of the Capitol: A Review of the Thirteenth Architect’s First Year”. Testimony was heard from Thomas E. Austin, Architect of the Capitol.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a markup on A Resolution to Adopt Regulations Regarding Mandatory Completion of Training in Workplace Rights and Responsibilities. A Resolution to Adopt Regulations Regarding Mandatory Completion of Training in Workplace Rights and Responsibilities passed.

THE PROXY ADVISOR DUOPOLY’S ANTICOMPETITIVE CONDUCT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust

held a hearing entitled “The Proxy Advisor Duopoly’s Anticompetitive Conduct”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

RESTORING INTEGRITY AND SECURITY TO THE VISA PROCESS

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Restoring Integrity and Security to the Visa Process”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2556, the “CORE Act of 2025”; H.R. 725, the “Crow Revenue Act”; H.R. 261, the “Undersea Cable Protection Act of 2025”; H.R. 131, the “Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act”; H.R. 183, the “Law Enforcement Officer Recreation Pass Act”; H.R. 655, the “The Dalles Watershed Development Act”; H.R. 1917, the “Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025”; H.R. 2250, the “National Landslide Preparedness Act Reauthorization Act of 2025”; H.R. 3937, the “Wabeno Economic Development Act”; H.R. 410, the “Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans Land Allotment Extension Act of 2025”; H.R. 504, the “Miccosukee Reserved Area Amendments Act”; H.R. 1729, the “Bolts Ditch Act”; H.R. 2316, the “Wetlands Conservation and Access Improvement Act of 2025”; H.R. 2388, the “Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Project Lands Restoration Act”; H.R. 2389, the “Quinault Indian Nation Land Transfer Act”; H.R. 2876, the “University of Utah Research Park Act”; H.R. 3168, the “National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2025”; H.R. 3176, to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System; and H.R. 3179, to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the “Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge”. H.R. 2556, H.R. 725, H.R. 261, H.R. 131, H.R. 183, H.R. 655, H.R. 1917, H.R. 2250, and H.R. 3937 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 410, H.R. 504, H.R. 1729, H.R. 2316, H.R. 2388, H.R. 2389, H.R. 2876, H.R. 3168, H.R. 3176, and H.R. 3179 were ordered reported, without amendment.

SACRIFICING EXCELLENCE FOR IDEOLOGY: THE REAL COST OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services held a hearing entitled “Sacrificing Excellence for

Ideology: The Real Cost of DEI”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE NATIONAL GUARD STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM: STRENGTHENING U.S. SECURITY, ONE PARTNERSHIP AT A TIME

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Military and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled “The National Guard State Partnership Program: Strengthening U.S. Security, One Partnership at a Time”. Testimony was heard from Major General William J. Edwards, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, and International Affairs (NGB J-5), National Guard Bureau; Christopher Mamaux, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Partnerships, Department of Defense; and Major General Robin B. Stilwell, Adjutant General, South Carolina National Guard.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3898, the “Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today Act”. H.R. 3898 was ordered reported, as amended.

HEALTH AT YOUR FINGERTIPS: HARNESSING THE POWER OF DIGITAL HEALTH DATA

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Health at Your Fingertips: Harnessing the Power of Digital Health Data”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HEARING WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY, FRANK J. BISIGNANO

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security; and Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a joint hearing entitled “Hearing with the Commissioner of Social Security, Frank J. Bisignano”. Testimony was heard from Frank J. Bisignano, Commissioner, Social Security Administration.

ALGORITHMS AND AUTHORITARIANS: WHY U.S. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MUST LEAD

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Algorithms and Authoritarians: Why U.S. AI Must Lead”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN PEACE DEAL

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Committee received a briefing on advancing the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace deal from Nerses Kopalyan, University of Nevada; Garo Paylan, former member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey; and Jennifer Wistrand, Kennan Institute.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Air Force and Space Force, 10:30 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Hung Cao, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Navy, Michael Dodd, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary, Jules Hurst III, of Virginia, Brent Ingraham, of Virginia, and William Gillis, of Virginia, each to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Penny Schwinn, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary, and Kimberly Richey, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, both of the Department of Education, and Daniel Aronowitz, of Virginia, and David Keeling, of Kentucky, both to be an Assistant Secretary, Jonathan Berry, of Maryland, to be Solicitor, Andrew Rogers, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Anthony D'Esposito, of New York, to be Inspector General, Andrea Lucas, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training, all of the Department of Labor, and other pending business, 9:30 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Whitney D. Hermendorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Zachary M. Bluestone, Maria A. Lanahan, and Cristian M. Stevens, each to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri, Joshua M. Divine, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern

and Western Districts of Missouri, Bart McKay Davis, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of four years, David Metcalf, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years, and Kurt Wall, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana for the term of four years, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit, hearing entitled "A Review of the U.S. Grain Standards Act", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Full Committee, markup on the Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill FY 2026, and the updated report on the Interim Suballocation of the Budget Allocations for FY 2026, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, hearing entitled "Looking Under the Hood: The State of NHTSA and Motor Vehicle Safety", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled "A Decade Later: A Review of Congressional Action, Environmental Protection Agency Rules, and Beneficial Use Opportunities for Coal Ash", 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "From Watchdog to Attack Dog: Examining the CFPB's Chopra-era Assault on Disfavored Industries", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on South and Central Asia, hearing entitled "Assessing the Terror Threat Landscape in South and Central Asia and Examining Opportunities for Cooperation", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing entitled "Fix Our Forests: Advancing Innovative Technologies to Improve Forest Management and Prevent Wildfires", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled "Justice for Whom? Examining the Justice40 Initiative's Oversight and Implementation", 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the cost of a bad deal in Ukraine, 11 a.m., SR-222.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3:30 p.m., Thursday, June 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Kenneth Kies, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, post-cloture. Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined during Thursday's session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, June 26

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 275—Special Interest Alien Reporting Act. Consideration of H.R. 875—Jeremy and Angel Seay and Sergeant Brandon Mendoza Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act. Consideration of H. Res. 516—Condemning the violent June 2025 riots in Los Angeles, California.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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