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## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
July 22, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY FINE 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.

### FEDERAL RESERVE INDEPENDENCE

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of one of the bedrock principles of our economy: the independence of the Federal Reserve Board.

For more than a century, the Federal Reserve has served as a cornerstone of the economic system of our country, tasked with safeguarding price stability, maximizing employment, and

preserving the health of our economy, independent from political pressure, insulated from partisanship, and rooted in data and discipline.

When I first came to Congress, Mr. Speaker, I was a member of what was then called the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, now the Financial Services Committee. At that committee, as it is today under the new name, we heard from the Chair of the Fed on the specific amount of time required by Congress on two subjects. According to the Humphrey-Hawkins law, they would report to us on inflation and employment/unemployment, and that was part of the purview in their communication with Congress that was required on a regular basis.

I heard one of the Chairs of the Fed say unemployment is dangerously low. It scared me to death. How could it be? He was reporting as to its impact on inflation. That was when I was a new Member.

When I was Speaker, our Members said frequently: Why don't we have the Fed be more accountable to us?

I said: It has to be independent. They have their own funding. They don't have to depend on us for that because their independence is essential.

Any of us who had economics in college or beyond knows that independence of the Fed is essential to the respect that our country commands in terms of our own economy throughout the world. The Chairman of the Fed is the Chair of the central bank and serves as the Chair of the central banks globally. It can't be a party hack. It can't be somebody who is there because the President wants to create interest rates. That is not what the President's job is, to create interest rates. It is the Federal Reserve Board that does that. It is really important.

I come to you on this day to say this because of the rumors that we hear of the flirtation with making the Fed just a handmaiden of the Presidency. It

would be wrong to do. It would be wrong to do, and we would be viewed disrespectfully if we were ever to go down that path.

Now, this comes at a time when we are observing the 15th anniversary of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. As some of us here know who served with Barney Frank, he was the chair of the then Financial Services Committee and a master of his agenda there. Senator Dodd from Connecticut was on the Senate side with that.

It was necessary, Mr. Speaker, because of what was happening in the financial community. I mean, it was awful. It was horrible. We all know that in September of 2008, we were told that our financial system was melting down. It was doing so because of—well, I have written about it in my book, and I won't go through the whole thing right now—what was happening terribly in the financial system by the banks and financial institutions.

What happened? Millions of people lost money, trillions of dollars from the wealth of the country. Millions of people losing their jobs, so many losing their homes, losing their savings, and the rest. Therefore, this bill was necessary.

Of course, after the bill was passed and to this day, still the banks and other financial institutions try to undermine it and weaken it. The Volcker Rule, named for a former Chair of the Fed, was a provision in Dodd-Frank relating to the security of our economic system.

These notions that they are putting forth of making the Fed Chair a party hack is just so very wrong. I will just say this, again: In school you probably learned of fiscal policy, and that is what the Congress of the United States does. We create the budget of the United States. Fiscal policy is here, and monetary policy is at the Fed, establishing the rates in terms of relating to inflation.

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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Let's rid ourselves, disabuse ourselves of notions. Instead, we need serious ideas about how to make our economy work for the American people.

#### HONORING MARTIN L. GRABER

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS of Iowa was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce I am introducing legislation to designate the United States Postal Service facility located at 1019 Avenue H in Fort Madison, Iowa, as the Martin L. Graber Post Office.

Martin served our country for 32 years in the Iowa National Guard. He was a devoted public servant, a principled legislator, and a man of deep faith who lived to serve others. He always put southeast Iowa first and made everyone around him feel seen, heard, and valued.

Alongside his beloved wife, Coni, Martin helped lead one of Fort Madison's most iconic traditions and events, the Tri-City Rodeo. Together, they were the heart and soul of that event, which draws visitors from not only across the region and the tri-state area, but across the country, and it showcases the best of our community.

Their dedication to the rodeo reflects the same commitment they brought to everything they touched—family, service, and community.

I thank Coni, their daughters, and granddaughters for sharing Martin with all of us. His legacy of service and leadership in Lee County, and in Fort Madison in particular, has left a mark that won't fade. Naming the Fort Madison Post Office in his honor is a small but lasting tribute to a man who gave so much to the place he loved.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say happy birthday to Blake Dickerson and wish him a very wonderful day. Happy birthday, Blake.

#### HONORING U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST JAVIER VILLANUEVA

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of U.S. Army Specialist Javier Villanueva, a patriot, a son, a husband, a father, and an American hero.

Javier Villanueva lived a life defined by character, integrity, and selflessness. These values were instilled in him from an early age, especially by his father, U.S. Army veteran Wilfredo Rivera.

During a recent visit to Puerto Rico, I had the honor of meeting with Wilfredo, and we spoke about the extraordinary young man Javier was. We talked about his moral compass, his commitment to service, and the strength that shaped his life and sacrifice.

In 2003, Javier followed in his father's footsteps and joined the Army where he served with distinction in Company H, 2nd Battalion, 11th Infantry. He was later deployed to Iraq where he served with honor until his life was tragically cut short on November 24, 2005.

□ 1010

Mr. Speaker, Javier embodied the very best of who we are as a nation. His sacrifice is a solemn reminder that the freedoms we hold dear come at an immense cost. He gave everything for people he would never meet and for ideals we must never take for granted.

Javier is survived by his wife, Felicia; daughter, Taliyah; his parents, Christine and Wilfredo; his brothers, Command Sergeant Major Wilfredo Rivera and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Carlos Rivera.

As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I carry stories like Javier's with me every day. They remind me of the sacred obligation we have to support every veteran who comes home and honor every fallen hero with the dignity that they have earned.

Specialist Villanueva's courage, leadership, and selflessness will never be forgotten. May Javier Villanueva rest in peace. May God protect his family. May God bless the United States of America.

#### HONORING JAMES M. KAPSIAK

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of James M. Kapsiak, a proud Buffalonian, a devoted educator, and a beloved pillar of our community, whose life was defined by service.

Jim was the embodiment of selflessness, whether in the classroom, on the basketball court, or in the pews of his church. After earning his master's degree from the University of Buffalo, Jim dedicated 33 years to Emerson Vocational High School where he taught physical education, health, and computer technology.

Outside the classroom, Jim was a leader on the court and the field, coaching numerous sports at Emerson and leaving a lasting legacy as a proud coach of the girls' basketball team.

With every student, he brought patience and compassion, meeting them where they were and helping them to grow. His passion reflected a deep commitment to helping young people build confidence, discipline, and a belief in themselves that would carry them through life.

Jim's service didn't stop at the school doors. He served with distinction as a representative for the Buffalo Teachers Federation and remained active in civic life through his work at the Erie County Voter Registration Office.

As a deacon, mentor, coach, and friend, Jim gave his time and heart generously to those around him. Above all else, he was a family man. He is survived by his devoted wife, Mary Ruth;

his children, Jennifer and Bradford; and his grandsons, Noah, Aiden, and Blake. Each are a testament to his love and his legacy.

Jim's decades of service were rooted in love for his community, and his impact will be felt for generations. On behalf of our entire western New York community and a grateful nation, may Jim Kapsiak rest in peace.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SARAH DOXEY

(Mr. BAUMGARTNER of Washington was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sarah Doxey, a devoted wife, mother, and respected healthcare leader in Spokane, whose life was tragically taken last week while out for her morning jog.

Sarah served as chief operating officer of CHAS Health and spent her career lifting up others. From her work at Providence to CHAS and beyond, she led with vision, compassion, and a deep commitment to her community. She made a lasting impact on healthcare in eastern Washington.

Sarah is survived by her husband, Erick, and her two teenage children. Their loss is unimaginable. It is a loss felt deeply by the entire Spokane community. May her memory live on in the lives she touched.

#### FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the privilege of meeting with a group of outstanding students from the Washington Future Farmers of America.

These young leaders come from diverse agricultural backgrounds: one from a grain farming family, one a dedicated cattle showman, and one an experienced horse rider. All are deeply rooted in rural Washington.

Our conversation highlighted how growing up in farming communities shapes their values. With hard work, responsibility, and a strong connection to the land, their experiences keep them grounded and committed to preserving the future of agriculture.

The Future Farmers of America plays a critical role in educating and inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders. It was inspiring to hear firsthand how these students are embracing that responsibility with humility, passion, and purpose.

I truly valued our conversation and look forward to strengthening this connection and championing the FFA's mission to inspire and empower the next generation of agricultural leaders.

#### HONORING BRYAN BRAMAN

Mr. BAUMGARTNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Bryan Braman, a true Spokane legend, whose life was as inspiring as it was beautiful. It was a long way from his tough upbringing in eastern Washington.

Bryan was born in Spokane's Hillyard neighborhood. Along with his sisters, he was raised alone by their mother, Tina Braman-Fields, after their father abandoned them.

His childhood in Hillyard, Cheney, and north Spokane was marked by instability and hardship including periods of homelessness. Despite these challenges, Bryan's deep Spokane roots and the strength of his family shaped a resilient young man determined to rise above adversity. That determination would go on to define his life and his career.

Bryan attended Shadle Park High School where he was an outstanding track and field athlete before deciding to join the football team. With exceptional athletic talent and unwavering resilience, he conquered every obstacle in his life, ultimately rising to prominence as an NFL linebacker and earning a Superbowl ring with the Philadelphia Eagles in 2018.

Known for his relentless spirit and generosity, even in his final days, Bryan rallied family and friends for a joyful ice cream night during the final stages of his battle with cancer.

His spirit was and remains unbreakable. Bryan passed away last week, but his legacy lives on in his daughters, Blakely and Marlowe; his family; and all who were fortunate to know him.

Spokane is proud to call Bryan Braman one of its own, and his beautiful life will continue to inspire us all.

#### AND STILL I RISE

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise today to speak truth to power, as well as speak truth about power. I rise to speak truth about what is happening to the Palestinians in Gaza.

I rise to ask: What do we call it when we have a group of people who are being denied food and denied the very essence and necessities of life? What do we call it when their homes are being destroyed, when their schools are being destroyed, and when their churches and their infrastructure are being destroyed? What do we call it when we do this to them as a group? We call it collective punishment. It is called collective punishment, Mr. Speaker.

What do we call it when we have a group of people who are being pushed around, pushed from one end of Gaza to the other? What do we call it when they are literally being slaughtered as they are seeking food? What do we call it when people say that they ought to be removed from their land? We call it ethnic cleansing, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, what do we call when it appears to me that there is a deliberate and systemic effort to destroy in whole or in part the Palestinian people? What do we call it when we destroy them in whole or in part?

We are witnessing before our very eyes, Mr. Speaker, genocide in Gaza, and we say nothing.

I am amazed at how this country that stands for liberty and justice for all, this country that has a Statue of Liberty, how this country can see what is happening in Gaza and not call it what it is.

There is a fear among us. We refuse to speak truth to power. We refuse to speak truth about power. Today, I am going to do it. I am doing it because these are precious babies that are being slaughtered.

We see the bodies. We see the homes. We see the infrastructure. We say nothing. Who are we? What is wrong with us? What is going on? Here is what is going on.

□ 1020

We have an authoritarian leader who is supporting another authoritarian leader. Our President and the Prime Minister of Israel are working together, and they are doing this. Our President said there would be hell to pay if they did not move or if they did not surrender—not in those exact words, but that was his intentionality. He is talking about the people of Gaza.

I am not talking about Hamas. They did a dastardly deed. What Hamas did can never be justified. They were wrong, but you can't justify what is happening in Israel right now. It is collective punishment. It is ethnic cleansing, and it is genocide.

Mr. President, Donald John Trump, I say to you, Mr. President, you have been trying to hide from this, but, Mr. President, you can't hide. I charge you with genocide.

Mr. Netanyahu, you are the perpetrator. I charge you with genocide.

Also, I want this Congress to know that, yes, I voted against sending any additional munitions to Israel for munitions. I voted against it. This genocide is going to continue until we have the courage to say no more—no more money to kill babies, no more money to say you are going to move people and create some sort of riviera on the Mediterranean, no more.

I will not vote for any more money. I stand where I stand. I said what I said, and I mean what I mean.

We cannot, as a great nation, continue to stand silent as we see collective punishment, ethnic cleansing, and genocide in Gaza committed against people and children.

We can't stand silent. History will not be kind to us.

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

#### HONORING DAWSON THOMPSON

(Mr. EZELL of Mississippi was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, if you have ever played the game of golf in the Mississippi heat, you know the game gives nothing away. The course doesn't care about your story, but every now

and then, someone comes along who plays the game with so much heart, so much resolve, it demands our respect.

Dawson Thompson is one of those people. Raised in Pascagoula and born with achondroplasia, Dawson never asked for shortcuts. Even after surgeries, even when given permission to ride a cart, he walked every hole every round because that is what his competitors were doing and because that is who Dawson is.

Earlier this month, Dawson competed in the U.S. Adaptive Open, one of the most competitive and inspiring stages in golf. He carried not just his clubs but the hopes of a town, a State, and anyone who has ever been told a dream was out of reach.

Mr. Speaker, Dawson Thompson didn't just represent Pascagoula, Mississippi, with pride. He showed the Nation what quiet strength and true perseverance look like.

I am proud to congratulate Dawson on his remarkable achievement, and I know the entire Fourth District joins me in celebrating his journey and hoping this is just the beginning.

#### COMMEMORATING SIX TRIPLE EIGHT

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commemorate the extraordinary service and enduring legacy of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, known with pride and reverence as the Six Triple Eight.

Formed in 1944 during World War II, the Six Triple Eight was the first and only all-Black, all-female battalion deployed overseas in United States military history. Comprising over 850 courageous women from the Women's Army Corps, the WAC, the unit represented 32 States across our Nation. Many trained at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, a rare opportunity afforded to African-American women at the time.

These women answered the call to serve their country despite the dual burdens of racism and sexism, which too often obscured their contributions. Yet, their mission was essential.

Deployed to England and later France, the Six Triple Eight was tasked with clearing an enormous backlog of more than 17 million pieces of undelivered mail, reconnecting American troops with their loved ones.

Operating in grueling conditions in cold, dark, and often dangerous warehouses, they worked around the clock in three shifts, accomplishing in just 3 months what had been projected to take 6 months. Their guiding motto: No Mail, Low Moral. It was more than a slogan. It was a lifeline.

By restoring vital communication between soldiers and their families, they uplifted the spirit of the Armed Forces and strengthened the emotional backbone of a nation at war.

Despite their unprecedented success, the women of the Six Triple Eight returned home to a country that failed to

properly recognize their valor. For decades, their contributions were left out of the mainstream military narrative.

That silence began to break, though, in 2022 when Congress passed and the President signed the Six Triple Eight Congressional Gold Medal Act, affirming that these women's sacrifice and excellence are integral to our national story.

Let the record show, let the record reflect, the Six Triple Eight was not merely a military unit. It was a living testament to discipline, resilience, and the unyielding patriotism of Black women in service to a country that had yet to fully serve them in return.

As we enter this legacy into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, I call upon my colleagues and future generations to honor the Six Triple Eight, not only in commemoration but in our ongoing pursuit of justice, equity, and historical truth.

It is recognized that August 10, 2025, is Six Triple Eight Day in Illinois.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, I urge all residents across the Nation to honor the service, sacrifice, and legacy of the women of the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. The women who served in the 6888th battalion from Illinois are listed in this communique.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their service and dedication.

#### PAYING RESPECTS TO SENATOR BRUCE ANDERSON

(Mrs. FISCHBACH of Minnesota was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to say that I rise today to pay respects to my friend, a colleague, a man I served with for many years in the Minnesota legislature, and a kind and good man, Senator Bruce Anderson.

He passed away unexpectedly leaving Minnesota and his family to mourn the loss of a great man.

A Navy veteran of the Vietnam war, he was an advocate for veterans and for rural communities and a man I was honored to serve with. He will be deeply missed by so many of us, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and all of those who knew him. I will keep them all and him in my prayers.

EXTENDING SYMPATHY TO THE WELU FAMILY OF MILROY

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend my sympathy to the Welu family of Milroy following the tragic loss of Melvin in a farming accident.

Melvin was born and raised in Milroy, a third-generation farmer, a lifelong active member of St. Michael's Catholic Church, and an amateur historian. He loved his Milroy community, reviving the Milroy Fun Fest and following the local sports teams closely.

He loved spending time with his children and taking his grandchildren on tractor rides around the farm. He loved his wife, Bev, and their Saturday night dates.

I send my deepest condolences to the Welu family as they navigate through this difficult time. I will be keeping Melvin, his family, and the community of Milroy in my prayers.

#### RECOGNIZING ARTHUR COIA OF RHODE ISLAND

(Mr. AMO of Rhode Island was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a recently passed giant of the labor movement in Rhode Island and around the country, Arthur Coia.

Labor was the heart and soul of Arthur Armand Coia. He was born into a family of labor leaders. As a member of Local 271 in Providence since his teenage years, he worked in construction while going to Providence College and attending law school. He was always close to his union roots.

A union man through and through, he dedicated his life to expanding workers' organizing rights. He fought for the right to earn a fair paycheck and have dignity and safety on the job.

He started out as the business manager of the Rhode Island Laborers' District Council and rose to become the general president of LiUNA and vice president of the AFL-CIO.

Arthur worked tirelessly to make life better for the working men and women of our country. He helped found the Laborers' Health & Safety Fund of North America, transforming job-site safety, and the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust, helping union labor train workers and expand market share.

There is no doubt that his work saved lives, prevented accidents, and helped union labor gain new opportunities in the 21st century.

Arthur was not only a labor leader, he was also a dedicated father, grandfather, husband, and friend. My thoughts are with his family at this incredibly difficult time.

I hope they, as I do, take heart in his service to the movement and to others. His contributions will not be forgotten.

#### RECOGNIZING ALAN HASSENFIELD OF RHODE ISLAND

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, Alan Hassenfeld, another titan in Rhode Island, spent his life bettering the lives of countless individuals in our country and around the world.

Born in Providence in 1948, Alan dedicated his professional life to bringing joy to generations of children as the CEO of his family's company, Hasbro Toys.

Alan helped the company acquire quintessential children's brands like Play-Doh, Monopoly, and Nerf, and took their iconic tuber, Mr. Potato Head, to new heights in the Hollywood film "Toy Story."

Growing up in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, I have fond memories of Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head statues popping up across Rhode Island. Under Alan's guidance, Hasbro teamed up with the

State of Rhode Island for a tourism campaign featuring the whimsical statues of the spud made by local artists highlighting the Ocean State's role as the birthplace of fun.

However, it was outside the toy chest that Alan's incredible civic spirit and unmatched generosity shone. His contributions to Rhode Island's civic life were numerous and impactful.

Alan spearheaded a political ethics reform movement, pioneered concepts of social responsibility at the corporate level, and worked to end the use of child labor in toy production supply chains. He invested in generations of public sector leaders. He founded the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute at Brown University to improve family mental health and created RI For Gun Safety to promote commonsense gun reform.

Perhaps most notably, he provided the vision and the founding donation for Hasbro Children's hospital in Providence.

Thanks to Alan, Rhode Island is home to a world-class pediatric healthcare facility providing for the specialty and emergency needs of the littlest New Englanders.

Alan was a philanthropist, businessman, and reformer, but, most important, he was a dear friend, husband, stepfather, uncle, and granddad.

Before taking this office, and once sworn in, Alan provided me wise counsel sharing pragmatic, solutions-oriented advice on how to be of service and make change.

Alan exemplified community spirit and dedication to others, business acumen, incredible generosity, friendship, and, of course, leadership. He represented the best of Rhode Island, and he will be truly and deeply missed.

#### JULY 24TH, UTAH'S STATE HOLIDAY

(Mr. KENNEDY of Utah was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, on February 25, 1846, beleaguered residents of Nauvoo, Illinois, began leaving their homes and farms behind, crossing the frozen Mississippi River by ferry and wagon to escape persecution. Only the sickest and poorest remained behind, and even they were finally forced out by mob action. All crossed Iowa to Nebraska, just north of Omaha, their winter quarters on the Missouri River.

Why do I bring up these sad memories from long ago?

Utah still celebrates the day when they finally arrived at a place of safety, the valley of the Great Salt Lake, on July 24, 1847. July 24 is a State holiday for Utahns. Those hardy, resilient pioneers, carrying with them the sick and desperately poor from burning Nauvoo, found temporary refuge among the kind members of the Omaha Tribe.

They made an agreement with the Omaha through their Chief, Big Elk, who welcomed the pioneers, understanding the trouble they had recently

escaped. The pioneers would stay in residence, building houses, planting gardens and fields, and then move on after 2 years to ensure all of their number had enough time and resources to make the trip West. Afterwards, the improvements would belong to the Omaha.

This vanguard party of 148 pioneers, who had been on the road for 111 days, followed Brigham Young down Emigration Canyon into the Salt Lake Valley.

They immediately began organizing a community, diverting water for irrigation, plowing fields, and planning their first city, Salt Lake City, our State's capital. Salt Lake was founded that very day. Denver wasn't founded until 1858 and so was Carson City. Phoenix was founded in 1867, Boise in 1863, and Helena in 1864. Of all Western States' capital cities, only New Mexico's, Albuquerque, is older than Salt Lake.

From that small beginning of 148 souls, a city and metro-area population of over 1.2 million and a State population of over 3.5 million have grown. From that small beginning, a mighty State has grown with an annual GDP of over \$234 billion. Utah has three research universities, four regional universities, and other great institutions of higher education. Utahns value education, and we are good at it.

The Salt Lake City metro area has professional sports teams competing at the highest level, with basketball, the Utah Jazz; soccer, Real Salt Lake; and hockey, the Utah Mammoth. They have already hosted the Winter Olympic Games and are set to host another in 2034.

If you travel across the State, Mr. Speaker, you will find communities with baseball fields, football fields, soccer fields, pickleball courts, tennis courts, swimming pools, ski resorts, and golf courses. Utahns value sports, and we are good at them.

Utah is an international center for technology, including space tech. Just south of Salt Lake City is a business park called Silicon Slopes. About 100 miles north of Salt Lake City is the Space Dynamics Laboratory. Utahns value technology and research, and we are good at them.

Utahns may leave Utah, but they take Utah with them wherever they go. The football coach who takes the job in the Big Ten, the medical school graduate who interns at Brigham and Women's, the ROTC grad who learns to fly in Enid, Oklahoma, and the mother of five who gets that promotion and follows her work to Seattle, all of them take a piece of Utah with them.

□ 1040

On July 24, you may just see every one of them pulling kids in a wagon in a neighborhood parade or hear them singing a pioneer song or making the trek downtown to the shelter to drop off bedding and clothing. Each in his own way honors July 24, and I ask you today to honor those long-dead pio-

neers as well as those whose hearts hold Utah close.

This place west of the Great Divide and east of Salt Flats, north of the Grand Canyon and south of the lava flows and potato fields of Idaho is my home. I wasn't born in Utah. In fact, my father wasn't even born in this country. I am a pioneer like my brother and sister Utahns. Just like those 148 brave and desperate souls, I have made this place my home.

I, like Brigham Young and those other 3.5 million souls, came to this place, saw that it was good and said: "This is the right place. Drive on."

#### SUPPORTING OUR COAST GUARD

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House of Representatives will be taking up H.R. 4275, the Coast Guard Reauthorization Act of 2025. That is legislation that updates and codifies changes and reforms to America's oldest continuous maritime service, the Coast Guard. It is actually called the first fleet because technically, actually the Coast Guard is older than the U.S. Navy.

This bill contains many good, bipartisan provisions that are addressing many of the challenges that the Coast Guard faces every day, whether it is drug interdiction, obviously doing the work in terms of our coastal, littoral regions of the country, and making sure we have safe passage of commercial and civilian maritime activity.

Included in this bill is a provision to reach out to our great ally Finland to update and modernize our icebreaker fleet. Our *Polar Star* large icebreaker is now 50 years old, and it is long past due, particularly with the challenges in the Arctic with Russia and China, to make sure we update and modernize our Coast Guard and icebreaking fleet.

This bill also contains a long overdue provision to reform the Coast Guard statutes regarding protecting victims of sexual assault and harassment both within the Coast Guard service and also the Coast Guard Academy. I represent New London, Connecticut, which is home to the Coast Guard Academy that is an outstanding institution that builds future leaders for the Coast Guard. It actually has a large international contingent of allies such as Iceland and Pacific Island nations that come to learn at the cutting edge institution in terms of coastal activities that are there.

Like all the military academies, there has been a shadow of, unfortunately, activity regarding female cadets over the years that have had to put up with totally unacceptable conduct and forcing them into almost an impossible position in terms of reporting this activity over the years.

The bill includes a safe-to-report policy, which will protect members reporting sexual assault. Again, some-

times incidents occur where there may be minor misconduct issues where both the victim and the perpetrator are involved, and that risk of being punished for those minor misconduct has really inhibited people to come forward and report sexual assault. This is an issue which was the subject of exhaustive hearings at the Oversight and Government Reform Committee over the last 8 years. Our dear, late Congressman Elijah Cummings conducted many of those hearings. There were brave whistleblowers that came forth, such as Dr. Kim Young-McLear who is now a retired commander from the Coast Guard. She testified before that committee and talked about, again, some of the hard experiences that she went through.

Other military academies, such as West Point and Annapolis, have actually adopted safe-to-report policies, and tomorrow's bill will get the Coast Guard Academy in line with those institutions.

This bill also extends the safe-to-report policy to the entire Coast Guard personnel, the entire service. That was done administratively by the last Commandant of the Coast Guard, Linda Fagan, who, again, I think was very focused in terms of making sure that the safe-to-report policy was going to be in place to eradicate activities that really harm the readiness and effectiveness of the Coast Guard.

Women Coast Guard officers are some of the finest, most talented people who are doing the important work of the Coast Guard, and we need to make sure that there is a statutory structure in place to make sure that with this type of activity, people will be able to report it and get a remedy and a response, in some cases punishment to, again, make sure people are not hindered because of this unacceptable conduct.

Tomorrow when we take up this bill, those brave women who came forward to testify and report their experience—and sometimes watched their dreams and their careers end because of the fact that they were subjected to unacceptable pressure and retaliation for reporting—will see that by law that is now going to be a thing of the past. It is long overdue, and, again, I just want to take a moment to publicly thank Commander Young-McLear and her colleagues for having the courage to step forward and make sure that the Congress is aware of this situation and will end it in the passage of tomorrow's bill.

#### WITHHELD EDUCATION FUNDS

(Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand answers, answers from the Department of Education and the Office of Management and Budget. Today, it is July 22, and the Trump administration continues to withhold

more than \$5 billion in critical K-12 and adult education funding that should have been released by the July 1 deadline.

More than 150 Democratic Members of the House of Representatives joined a group of 42 Senators, including 10 Republican Senators, in calling on Secretary McMahon and Director Vought to release the funds by July 15. That date has obviously passed, but we have received no answers.

Although the administration did release the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants yesterday, they are a small percentage of the outstanding funding, and there is still no word on any of the other grants.

School districts across the country are scrambling to make decisions, but they have unclear information and severely constrained budgets. Many districts have already been forced to lay off educators and staff who will not be paid without the Federal funding.

For many students across the country, the new school year starts in a few weeks, and schools are now in an all-out crisis. As one administrator told me, it is a “five-alarm fire.”

Funds authorized under the Every Student Succeeds Act are not a luxury. They are part of what closes opportunity gaps. They are a critical part of our effort to provide students across the country, regardless of income or ZIP Code, with a world-class education. Yes, this is about civil rights. Every single dollar is a good investment in students and in our future.

State administered title I, part C grants, which have been around since the 1960s, support migrant students. These grants help children of mobile farmworkers and fishers, people who are harvesting our crops and putting food on our tables, meet academic standards and graduate from high school, preparing them to become responsible citizens and productive employees.

Title II grants provide essential support to recruit, prepare, and retain high-quality teachers and school leaders. These grants address the growing educator workforce shortage and provide professional development for educators to improve teaching and student outcomes.

Title III grants provide English language learners with the integrated academic support they need to learn English and meet State standards.

Title IV, part A grants are designed to give students access to a well-rounded education. That is what students need: to improve school safety and to create better conditions for student learning and engagement. These grants fund critical music and arts programs and integrate technology into the classrooms so students can develop digital literacy skills.

Finally, Adult Basic and Literacy Education grants help provide integrated education and training services that promote essential skills for the 21st century workforce.

These are all programs that Congress authorized. Again, these are programs that Congress authorized, yet the Trump administration is refusing to release the funds.

Mr. Speaker, 10 Republican Senators were brave enough and principled enough to request with the Democrats that the administration release these funds for their intended purposes, yet we have heard nothing, nothing, from House Republicans about the illegal and unconstitutional withholding of these congressionally appropriated dollars.

Is there a fear of President Trump keeping them from their commitment to the millions of students in the school districts that they were elected to represent?

I tell my colleagues that everyone can show that they care about the kids in their districts, that they care about education. Everyone should join us in demanding answers.

Secretary McMahon and Director Vought must release these funds immediately. This is about our Nation's children, our students, and our future leaders. They deserve better.

□ 1050

#### RECOGNIZING CORNWALL CLEANUP CREW

(Mr. RYAN of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Cornwall Cleanup Crew for their commitment to environmental preservation and education in the town of Cornwall and across the Hudson Valley of New York State.

Since 2023, this grassroots group has worked with community members to clean up litter and illegal dumping around the town and educate the public on the importance of conservation and environmental protection.

Started by a high school student and a group of community members, within its first year, the organization amassed a team of more than 1,500 volunteers, managing to clear over 10,000 tons of litter and illegally dumped material in Cornwall.

Cornwall Cleanup Crew has become a popular community service opportunity for students, including at The Storm King School and Cornwall High School, whose students both contribute to the cleanup efforts and learn about the importance of environmental protection.

Finally, after a multiyear, lengthy process, the Cornwall Cleanup Crew has earned their official 501(c)(3) nonprofit certification, allowing them to expand their important environmental work into other communities in Orange County and across the Hudson Valley.

I have been out there with this crew and seen them work in the cold and the heat. Their relentless efforts to combat littering and to really bring our community together in a positive way

while doing so is a truly commendable pillar of selfless service.

On behalf of our entire community, I thank them and join in celebrating this certification that will allow them to continue to expand on their important work.

#### CONGRATULATING ZOE MESUCH

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate recent Wallkill High School graduate Zoe Mesuch on concluding a truly remarkable high school basketball career and on her appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where she is now undergoing her summer training.

I was proud to nominate Zoe to represent the Hudson Valley at the Naval Academy in this year's newest class. With more than 2,000 career points, Zoe has been named Daily Freeman Player of the Year 3 years in a row, a record for the award.

This year, Zoe was also named Player of the Year by the New York Basketball Coaches Association and was selected as a top player in the Mid-Hudson Athletic League's American Conference by all the league's coaches.

Zoe is known by her teammates, coaches, teachers, and family as an exceptionally hard worker and team player. These are assets that will be of great service to her and our country as she now serves in the military.

Zoe plans to continue her basketball career at the Naval Academy, where she will also study oceanography in pursuit of becoming a surface warfare officer.

I must tell Zoe, as I think she knows, that I am an Army fan, so I can't say that I will be rooting for her team in the Patriot League this year. Yet, our entire Hudson Valley is rooting for her, and we cannot wait to see all that she will accomplish.

#### RECOGNIZING ELDER JIM CHILDS

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elder Jim Childs, a pillar of our Kingston community, for his decades of service to St. Clara's Church, to his and my home city of Kingston, and to families across the Hudson Valley.

Elder Childs was born and raised in Kingston, New York, the very community that he continues to serve to this day. He graduated from Kingston High School, my alma mater, before beginning his career working for IBM. He worked initially as a mail clerk and took every opportunity to advance his education and training, further his knowledge, and move up within the company.

Additionally, a fellow Army veteran, Elder Childs served his country in uniform while also deepening his faith and love of fellow man, a lesson that would stay with him throughout his life.

When Elder Childs was first appointed pastor of St. Clara's Church of God in Christ in Kingston in 1969, he admitted that he didn't know if he was ready. Yet, he was called to serve his community, which he has done faithfully for the past 56 years.

In 1961, he married Dorothy Neal, and the two of them welcomed four children, Paula, Cynthia, James, and Timothy, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

This year, Elder Childs was rightfully promoted to superintendent, and he will continue to serve the Kingston community in an even greater capacity than before.

I thank Elder Childs for his continued dedication to and love of our neighbors and neighborhoods. I thank him personally for his mentorship and advice to me in serving in this position. I congratulate him on his recent promotion and a lifetime of service to our community.

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO STAY IN PLACE FOR DISABLED WORKERS

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank President Trump and his Department of Labor for stopping an administrative rule that was going to get rid of 14(c) certificates, which are so vital for the lives of our disabled citizens as they pursue good lives of work and self-esteem.

Mr. Speaker, 14(c) certificates are used by people who work in work centers. They may have spina bifida. They may have Down syndrome. That doesn't mean that they can't lead productive lives doing packaging and light manufacturing. I have several facilities in my district, such as Green Valley Enterprises in Beaver Dam and RCS Empowers in Sheboygan, that provide these opportunities for people with different abilities.

Not only does this give them an opportunity to interact with other people who have disabilities, but it also provides them with a little extra money to supplement their SSI income, from which they can buy clothes, buy gifts, and go out to eat from time to time.

In order to allow these folks to work, some of them have to be paid less than minimum wage. Mr. Speaker, if you have never seen one of these work centers, I encourage you to go to the work centers, where you will see people with different abilities at work.

Everybody who works there that I can see is happy to be there and is working there because it is their choice. Nevertheless, I think arrogant people in the Biden Department of Labor had decided that they would get rid of the 14(c) certificates and tell these people, in essence, that they no longer can work, that they can go to a day center and watch television, but they are not allowed to work like their siblings work. They would not be allowed to get out and about in the community where they would get to know people other than their immediate relatives.

Fortunately, Trump's Department of Labor stepped up and said that they are not going to change the rules and

continue to allow work centers to exist. Maybe they are making \$4 or \$5 an hour to supplement their SSI, but if they want to choose, they can still work there. Hopefully, we will expand the use of work centers so that people begin to work there when they are 18 or 19 years old, like they used to.

One of the great things, like I said, about work centers is that not only do they give disabled Americans a little bit more independence, but they give them the ability to form a lot more friendships, both with other people whose abilities are similar to their own and the management staff at these facilities.

The Democratic Party has tried to prevent people from working there, saying that they are being taken advantage of, which is preposterous. Anybody who looks at these packaging or light manufacturing facilities will see immediately why you have to pay some people under minimum wage.

Secondly, my Democratic colleagues claim that people are being isolated among other people with different abilities. Again, there are people with a wide variety of abilities in these places.

There is an opportunity to form lifetime bonds with people in these facilities. I think of The Threshold in West Bend, RCS Empowers in Sheboygan, Green Valley in Beaver Dam, and Ascend Services in Manitowoc.

□ 1100

I think of the lifelong friends that these people form when their parents and guardians frequently worry after the parents are no longer here, what will these people do for socialization? Where will these people find friends? They find friends in the work centers, and it is horrific for the Biden Department of Labor to try to shut these places down.

In any event, one more time: I thank President Trump for preserving the work centers. I hope his Department of Labor continues to look for more opportunities in these facilities for people at a younger and younger age, reminding you all that this is only if these folks choose to work in the work centers. Everybody else can work wherever they want, but they want these folks stuck perhaps in a place where they are just watching TV or playing games all day.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to tour the work centers. If they do tour the work centers, I think they, too, will become fans of them.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHAD KAMPBELL

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

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Chad Campbell.

Chad wasn't just a devoted father, devoted husband, and an admired commu-

nity leader, he was the cornerstone of the Santa Clarita Valley. He and his wife, Michelle, who have been close friends for several years, were deeply involved in our community.

Chad was a former president of the Democratic Alliance for Action of Santa Clarita, an active member of the Santa Clarita Valley Democrats, and someone whose commitment to service ran deep.

One of his friends described Chad perfectly: He was someone who truly grounded those around him, the kind of person who would help you cut through the noise, find your center, and remember why you did the work in the first place. That was Chad, a source of wisdom and calm, always there when you needed him.

He lived in Stevenson Ranch with his wife, Michelle, and their daughter, Bridgette. While no words can ease the pain of their loss, I hope his family knows how deeply loved and appreciated Chad was.

Chad was the kind of guy who would get there early to help set up an event and then stay late breaking down the tables and chairs afterwards. He was a talented designer and photographer. He knew how to communicate, and he used that skill for the benefit of businesses and causes close to his heart.

He was known for his booming voice. For many new activists getting involved, their introduction to civic engagement was seeing Chad kick off a meeting or a rally before taking the time to greet them and every other person there, always with a big smile and an infectious grin. He embodied the truth that the greatest title of responsibility in any democracy is that of citizen.

Chad was a rock of principle. He was committed to making his community, his State, and his country better. Month after month, year after year, he did the work. He and Michelle profoundly changed the Santa Clarita Valley for the better and his impact will never be forgotten.

Chad gave so much of himself to this community because he believed in people and the power of showing up. His absence leaves a real void, but his spirit lives on in the work he championed and the friendships he built.

May we honor him not just in words but in how we carry ourselves with compassion, with humility, and a commitment to something greater than ourselves.

#### THANKING MY SUMMER INTERNS

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, I close by thanking my summer interns, some of whom are here today. You cannot help but be inspired about the future of our country if you spend some time with the many great young people who work here on Capitol Hill. They work hard. They do crucial work interacting with our constituents, and their passion and inspiration must be recognized.

As a new Member, I am deeply inspired by the idea that people would

come and work with us in our office. I am so grateful to our team, and I wish them the very best for their futures.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF REPRESENTATIVE JACK CERA

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart but with extreme honor to recognize the life of a colleague, a mentor, and a dear friend, former Ohio State Representative Jack Cera, who passed away on July 13 after a courageous 2½-year battle with cancer. My sincere and deepest sympathy goes out to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him.

Jack was a proud son of Bellaire, Ohio, a man who never forgot where he came from and who fought every day to serve the people of eastern Ohio.

Jack was a true statesman, someone who listened more than he spoke, sought common ground without compromising his values, and worked tirelessly to deliver for the communities he loved. Jack served in the Ohio House of Representatives across three decades, from 1983 to 1996, and again from 2011 to 2020.

He represented families in Belmont, Monroe, Noble, Jefferson, and Washington Counties with distinction.

His colleagues across the political spectrum respected him. His constituents trusted him, and those of us who had the privilege of working alongside him admired him deeply.

I had the honor of working alongside Jack in the Ohio House where I witnessed firsthand his commitment to the people of eastern Ohio. Jack and I served in leadership together, and when I was elected as the minority leader, I tapped him to serve as the ranking member of the Ohio House Finance and Appropriations Committee.

Whether it was fighting for infrastructure investment, preserving the local government fund, or advocating for economic development in Appalachia, Jack never wavered in his commitment to public service.

Jack was a Brown University graduate, and he was sent to Rhode Island on a football scholarship. He would often joke that he was in the first class of football players to ever wear helmets, leather helmets at that.

Although, he was an Ivy Leaguer, he didn't have an ounce of superiority nor was there anything pretentious about him. He was just Jack, and that is what made him so special and so nice to work with.

He didn't take himself seriously, but he certainly took the work of the people very seriously. I would argue that you didn't really know Jack if he didn't teach you how to properly pronounce Bellaire, share some music, or advocate for the people of eastern Ohio.

Most importantly, Jack was smart, dedicated, and a trusted legislator who exemplified the very best of public service. He was sought after for advice

and leadership on difficult issues as he was always committed to the purpose of representing his hometown and the people of Ohio with integrity.

Without a doubt, Jack left a mark on the State of Ohio, and his legacy of service will not soon be forgotten.

Jack will be remembered by his wife, Becky; his beloved daughters, Jaclyn and Bethany; granddaughters, Scarlett, Lena, and Finley; and the countless people whose lives he made better.

This past weekend, my husband, Kevin, and I joined the Bellaire community, former legislators, colleagues, friends, and family to pay our final respects to Jack.

It was clear that the community loved and cared about him as was evidenced by the Jack Cera for Ohio House signs in yards leading the way to the church and the many people who were gathered at the church.

The eulogist and the pastor asked those present to think about the dash in between the dates that Jack was born and the date that he was returned home to the Lord.

As people stood up to share their experiences and to expand upon the dash, I wanted to be able to add my tribute to him but here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

The eulogists also reminded us that Jack had a motto of ensuring that he left things better than he found them. I encourage and call upon all of my colleagues here in Congress to leave a place better than you found it in honor and memory of Jack Cera.

Though his presence will be missed, I am confident his memory will live on through the people he influenced and the family he deeply loved. For a moment, I will just acknowledge his daughters, again, Jaclyn and Bethany, and his wife of over 40 years, Becky, and say thank you for sharing Jack with us. I know it was hard to see him leave for Columbus many times over the 30 years, but we are so grateful for your sacrifice. We will keep you lifted up in our prayers.

Thus with deepest sympathy, I mourn the loss and pay tribute to a truly phenomenal individual. May his memory be a blessing.

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□ 1110

#### DON'T CALL IT BEAUTIFUL

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

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of every senior citizen in Texas and across America. Unfortunately, it is not with celebration, but with outrage and disgust.

I am here to shed continued light to the damage this institution has caused seniors by the recent passage of this big, beautiful bill, which was anything but. It is the most significant betrayal of our senior citizens yet, a betrayal of our values and our Nation's promise.

Let's not be fooled by the branding. This bill wasn't beautiful. It was brutal. It slashed Medicare funding under the guise of reform. It wrapped its cruelty in buzz words like "efficiency," "modernization," and "fiscal responsibility." However, beneath the surface, it is a cold and calculated attempt to strip millions of Americans of the dignity they have earned over a lifetime of work.

This bill tells our parents and grandparents: Thank you for building this country, now go fend for yourself. It says to the most vulnerable: Healthcare is a luxury in this country, not a right. They dare to call that beautiful.

Let's be clear: Medicare is not a handout. It is a sacred promise paid for by workers every day of their entire lives, and it is a lifeline for seniors choosing between food and prescriptions, for families relying on home healthcare, for Americans who believe that aging should not come with abandonment. Cutting Medicare was not fiscally responsible. It was a moral failure.

All of this was done at the behest of their master, their master who wants tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy billionaires and multinational corporations, with empty slogans for the rest of Americans. It sacrificed the well-being of American retirees on the altar of political theater.

In fact, they were so diabolical about it that they purposely set a start date for these policies, December 2026, right after midterm elections, trying to poke seniors' eyes. They want to fool voting senior citizens by making these painful policies kick in right after the November elections. They are not fooling anyone. Americans are smarter than this.

We need healthcare policies that uplift older Americans, not undermine them; that care for them, not cast them aside; that honor our social contract to American senior citizens.

To those who voted for this bill, don't call it beautiful. Own what it is: a betrayal to older Americans who helped build this country.

To every senior who is watching today, to every caregiver, to every grandchild and child caring for an older American, to every worker in Texas and across this great Nation who hopes to retire with peace and dignity: We see you. We hear you, and we will not stop fighting.

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#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

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

## PRAYER

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

Holy God, may the words of our mouths—those we speak, those we write, the ones we use to influence, and those we wield to disagree—and the meditations of our hearts—the thoughts we have toward others, the ideas we conjure, the self-reflection within our own souls, and the intentions we pursue—may all of these be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord.

From the same mouths that we use to praise You, may nothing come that disparages those with whom we serve, for each is made in Your image.

Within our hearts are our deepest desires and our truest opinions. Stand watch over the innermost corners of our souls and guard us from allowing animosity to take the place of generosity, malice over mercy, and grudges over grace.

You, O Lord, are our rock and our redeemer. Speak through our words and reside in our hearts this day, that in all that we think, that we do, and that we say, we would bring glory to You.

In Your eternal and merciful name, we pray.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

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

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CISNEROS 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.

## ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 600

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the fol-

lowing standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Fine.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY: Mr. Garbarino, Chair.

Mr. HERN of Oklahoma (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## 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.

## RECOGNIZING USCG PETTY OFFICER SCOTT RUSKAN

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

Mr. KEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Scott Ruskan, a native of Oxford, New Jersey, who displayed extraordinary bravery during the devastating flooding in Kerr County, Texas.

On his very first rescue mission, Petty Officer Ruskan saved 165 people, many of them children, including campers and staff from Camp Mystic. Serving as the only triage coordinator on the scene, he played a critical role in one of the largest rescue efforts in recent Coast Guard history.

Scott grew up in Warren County, attended Rider University, and answered the call to serve by enlisting in the U.S. Coast Guard, where he trained as a rescue swimmer before deploying into action with courage far beyond his experience.

I am grateful to the first responders and to volunteers, especially heroes like Petty Officer Ruskan, who risk their lives to protect others in need. I thank them for their service and for their sacrifice.

## INCINERATING 500 TONS OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Madam Speaker, I rise for the 32nd time to call on the Trump administration to restore life-saving food aid for malnourished children.

Last week, it was reported that the Trump administration is incinerating 500 tons of emergency food aid because it expired while sitting in a warehouse. This is food that had already been paid

for, had already been produced, and was just waiting to be shipped to starving people who needed it to survive. Instead, it is being incinerated.

In my district in Rhode Island, 87,000 boxes of lifesaving nutrition are sitting in Edesia Nutrition's warehouse. It is already paid for, already produced, and waiting to be shipped. This is food aid that is designed to treat starving children whose organs have shut down to the point where they cannot process normal food.

Madam Speaker, what are we doing here? This is food that is already paid for, already produced, and sitting in warehouses while kids starve.

I am going to stand on this floor every day until the administration honors its word and restores lifesaving food aid.

## RECOGNIZING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(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. Madam Speaker, 6 months have passed since Donald Trump received the mandate of the people to fulfill his promises with extraordinary accomplishments.

Among the accomplishments by President Donald Trump are the following:

Illegal alien border crossings are at historic lows, and border wall construction has resumed.

Costs for everyday goods are near their lowest in 4 years, and wage growth has seen the largest increase in 60 years.

Oil and natural gas production have surged, and gas prices are at their lowest level in 4 years.

Trump tax cuts have been extended, creating jobs.

The President is promoting peace through strength and modernizing American military forces with cutting-edge technology, ensuring that our troops are the best equipped in history.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength, revealing that war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump, mocking Trump, and murdering Ukrainian civilians with rocket attacks as he conducts lovely conversations.

Madam Speaker, I wish a happy birthday to Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman David Wright.

## RECOGNIZING EMILY GREEN

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

Ms. McBRIDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of Ms. Emily Green, a

teacher in the POLYTECH School District in Woodside, Delaware.

Through her participation in National History Day, Ms. Green has worked with her students to preserve the stories of Delaware's silent heroes, everyday individuals who answered the call to serve our Nation.

This past school year, Ms. Green and her students chose to research two Korean war veterans. They researched the lives that these veterans led before their service, the communities they returned to, and the legacies they left behind not only as servicemembers but as local leaders.

Ms. Green and her students visited cemeteries across Delaware where they honored these veterans by writing and delivering eulogies, ensuring that their stories, sacrifices, and names are remembered.

This project reflects the very best of Delaware. I am grateful to Ms. Green for teaching her students our Nation's history and respect for our silent heroes.

#### HONORING BRADLEY MICHAEL LINK

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

Mr. FINE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize a hero who tragically lost his life in the line of duty.

Bradley Michael Link, age 28, was a beloved figure of the Lake County area. At a young age, he was committed to serving his community.

Bradley started as an Explorer, which is a Boy Scout program, with the Lake County Sheriff's Office as a teenager. That motivated him to join the Polk County Sheriff's Office for 2 years and then, later, the Lake County Sheriff's Office for 4½ years.

On Friday, August 2, 2024, almost 1 year ago, Bradley and his fellow deputies responded to a disturbance at a home on Brookside Drive in Eustis, where he was shot. He later died the next morning.

Master Deputy Sheriff Bradley Link embodied what it means to give. We must always remind ourselves that our men and women in blue are someone's loved ones. They are fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters—people who are willing to give up their time and peace to serve and protect.

Bradley was one of those people, and he left behind his wife, his mom and dad, and his brother.

I recognize the Link family and continue to remember Bradley. May God bless the Link family, and may God bless all of our officers in blue.

□ 1210

#### CONGRATULATING LESLIE ROOK

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Leslie Rook of Monrovia, California.

Earlier this year, Leslie completed a truly impressive feat of running 50 marathons in all 50 States with an average of three marathons each year.

Over the past 14 years of this challenge, Leslie ran more than 1,300 miles during these marathons alone, but thousands more to train for this incredible accomplishment.

Leslie balanced her love of running with her already busy life as an occupational therapist, wife, and mother of two. I am truly amazed by Leslie's dedication, stamina, and drive.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Leslie on this remarkable achievement. She has made our district proud.

#### CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL IS OFF THE RAILS

(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, I heartily applaud Secretary Duffy's decision the other day to repeal and rescind the \$4 billion that the Federal Government has put in at the end of the Biden administration for the high-speed rail in California. Indeed, it has been a clown show. The thing is off the rails with any kind of goal it was ever going to meet.

It was supposed to have been completed by 2020, and at best now it would be completed by 2040, 2045, with just one segment between Bakersfield and Merced completed by 2033 they hope.

Instead, let's move that \$4 billion to something useful such as expanding State Route 99 in California, I-15, I-5, Interstate 395, Interstate 80. That money could be used to repair roadways designated as farm-to-market roads or State Route 152. By raising it a little bit, we would be able to add more water supply to the San Luis Reservoir or the bridge over I-5 over the Shasta Lake. In doing so, that would allow us to raise the level of that lake and provide much more water for the State of California in order to grow crops which would bring inflation down on the food prices by rechanneling money into something useful instead of something useless like this clown show that is the high-speed rail for 20 years.

#### RECOGNIZING BROWNTOWN IN GREENE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Browntown in Greene County, North Carolina.

The community dates back more than two centuries, and it has a rich history. Browntown embodies the enduring contributions of African Ameri-

cans, indigenous people, and European families who built and sustained it through many generations.

The land belonged to the Tuscarora Nation and later became a refuge for blended families who worked the land, worshiped together, and educated their children despite obstacles.

Many will unite in August for the Browntown Community Day which brings neighbors and descendants together to honor their ancestors, preserve their traditions, and inspire future generations.

Madam Speaker, I am glad to celebrate this community as a part of the American story and commend their contributions to Greene County, our State, and our Nation.

#### COST OF AMERICA LAST TRADE POLICIES

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, for decades, Washington, D.C., has allowed international trade organizations to put our competitors ahead of the American people. Groups like the World Trade Organization allow China to exploit trade loopholes while claiming to be a developing nation, stealing our intellectual property, and manipulating their own currency.

Under these America last trade policies, Ohio has lost a third of its manufacturing jobs. Between 2000 and 2010, Hamilton County in the Eighth District lost 66,000 good-paying, high-skilled jobs. My district heard the giant sucking sound of American industry fleeing overseas.

These jobs drove innovation and productivity, and they built our middle class. America last trade policies not only exported jobs and outsourced our defense industrial base, but they exported much of our future. Our trade policy ought to put American industry and American citizens first.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CHRISTINA MARIE HENDERSON BLAKE

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Christina Marie Henderson Blake, known to all of us as Tina, who entered her heavenly home on July 3, 2025, after a courageous battle with glioblastoma.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, and raised in Galveston, Tina graduated University of Texas at Austin, where she formed lifelong friendships through her beloved Kappa Kappa Gamma. She married the love of her life, Bruce, and together they raised two children, Jessica and Alex, first in Midland and later in southeast Texas in my district.

Tina was a pillar of every community that she called home, leading in the

Junior League, the American Cancer Society, and the Midland Symphony Guild. She helped grow her family's land in Liberty County, Texas, into a successful cattle ranching business and was a very respected leader in agriculture.

Her greatest joy was her family, especially her four grandchildren. Tina brought warmth, strength, and grace to everything that she did. Roxanne and I are honored to have called her our friend.

Madam Speaker, her legacy will live on in the countless lives that she touched. May God bless her family and her loved ones.

#### RECOGNIZING COY JAMES AND DAVIE COUNTY'S BASEBALL LEGACY

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

Mr. McDOWELL. Madam Speaker, today, I recognize one of North Carolina's brightest young athletes, Coy James of Davie County, who now joins the ranks of great ballplayers from the Tar Heel State.

Coy was selected by the Washington Nationals in the fifth round of the 2025 MLB Draft. Known across North Carolina for his power at the plate and his elite play at shortstop, Coy is a force.

He follows in the footsteps of other Davie County stars, including Carson Whisenhunt, drafted a few years ago out of East Carolina by the San Francisco Giants and three-time MLB All-Star Whit Merrifield, who just retired after nine seasons in the majors.

These men are a testament to the deep love Davie County has for the game of baseball. We are proud to have them representing our community on diamonds across the country, and we wish them all the best as they take on their next chapter.

#### HONORING COLONEL CRAIG FOURNIER

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

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Madam Speaker, today, I honor Colonel Craig Fournier for his 34 years of distinguished service in the United States Army and the Florida National Guard. He is this month's Brevard County Veteran of the Month.

Throughout his career, Colonel Fournier held several crucial roles, including Executive Officer of the 2nd Battalion and project manager for the Missile Defense Agency. He earned numerous awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star, and Combat Action Badge for his role in the global war on terror.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank Colonel Fournier for his outstanding service to the citizens of the

United States and for his dedication to our country, its values, and our State of Florida.

#### 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 12 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### WABENO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3937) to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended.

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

H.R. 3937

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Wabeno Economic Development Act".*

#### SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND IN THE CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST TO TONY'S WABENO REDI-MIX, LLC.

(a) CONVEYANCE REQUIRED.—*If, during the 180-day period beginning on the date of Federal approval of the appraisal under subsection (d), Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC submits to the Secretary an offer to acquire the property described in subsection (b) for market value, as determined by such appraisal, the Secretary shall, not later than 180 days after receiving such offer, convey to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC all right, title, and interest of the United States, including mineral rights, in and to the property described in subsection (b).*

#### (b) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*The property referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of real property, including all land and improvements, generally depicted as "Federal Parcel to be Conveyed" on the Map, consisting of approximately 14 acres of National Forest System land located in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin.*

#### (2) MAP.—

(A) MINOR ERRORS.—*The Secretary may correct minor errors in the Map.*

(B) AVAILABILITY.—*A copy of the Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Forest Service.*

(3) SURVEY.—*The exact acreage and legal description of the National Forest System land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.*

#### (c) TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONVEYANCE.

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—*The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—*

(A) *subject to valid existing rights;*

(B) *made by quitclaim deed; and*

(C) *subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary considers to be appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.*

(2) COSTS.—*As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC shall pay to the Secretary—*

(A) *an amount equal to the market value of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a), as determined by the appraisal under subsection (d); and*

(B) *all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—*

(i) *a survey, if necessary, under subsection (b)(3);*

(ii) *conducting the appraisal under subsection (d); and*

(iii) *any environmental analysis or resource survey required under Federal law.*

#### (d) APPRAISAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—*Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an appraisal to determine the market value of the land to be conveyed under subsection (a).*

(2) STANDARDS.—*The appraisal under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with—*

(A) *the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and*

(B) *the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.*

#### (e) DEFINITIONS.—*In this section:*

(1) MAP.—*The term "Map" means the map entitled "Conveyance of Federal Parcel Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest" and dated September 27, 2023.*

(2) SECRETARY.—*The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.*

#### SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF FEDERAL PERMITTING PROCESSES FOR STONE, SAND, AND GRAVEL DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) REVIEW.—*The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, industry stakeholders, and State permitting authorities, shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Federal permitting processes for the development of stone, sand, and gravel on Federal lands.*

(b) REPORT.—*Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the entities referred to in subsection (a), shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and make publicly available on the website of the Department of the Interior a report that includes—*

(1) *a detailed description of the current Federal permitting process for stone, sand, and gravel development, including average timelines from initial application to final approval;*

(2) *an analysis identifying potential inefficiencies and duplicative steps in such permitting process and the impact of such inefficiencies and duplicative steps on project timelines;*

(3) *the Secretary's recommendations for legislative or administrative actions to streamline such permitting process; and*

(4) *a summary of the economic impacts associated with current permitting timelines under such permitting process, specifically focusing on the stone, sand, and gravel sectors.*

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

Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3937, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Wabeno Economic Development Act. This bill will expedite the conveyance of 14 acres from the Forest Service to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC, for fair market value.

Tony's is a small ready-mix company that has supplied the surrounding community with concrete for more than 25 years. The company's concrete has been used to build homes, fire and rescue buildings, shops, offices, and even barns for local farmers.

Tony's first began working with the Forest Service on a land exchange proposal more than 8 years ago. However, the agency made it clear the project was not a priority and lacked the resources to complete it.

Wabeno is located in Forest County, where roughly 50 percent of the land is federally owned and only about 10 percent of the land is fully taxable, so there is limited private land available for small business expansion.

We often talk up here about how important infrastructure is. Here is a small business that helps infrastructure projects throughout northern Wisconsin. This is a prime example of a business that helps build America. Without this parcel, Tony's Redi-Mix will run out of the necessary aggregates it needs to produce concrete in about the next 2 years.

This bill will keep this important business in operation and, with it, the 17 hardworking people it currently employs.

Wabeno is a small town with a population of just over 1,100 people. Mr. Speaker, 17 jobs may not seem like a big deal to people from the big cities, but I can assure my colleagues the jobs and economic benefits provided by this small business are critically important to this rural community.

This important conveyance will provide much-needed economic growth and jobs for people in Wabeno and Forest County. It has strong local support, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" to make sure Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix stays in business for years to come.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, July 17, 2025.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 3937, the "Wabeno Economic Development Act." Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees, should it become necessary, and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 3937 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,  
GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, July 17, 2025.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 3937, the Wabeno Economic Development Act, which was ordered report by the Committee on Natural Resources.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 3937 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,  
BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3937, legislation introduced by my colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

This bill would authorize the conveyance of 14 acres of National Forest System land to Tony's Wabeno Redi-Mix, LLC, a concrete company based in northern Wisconsin.

The land is located in a national forest, and the Forest Service determined that the land is suitable for conveyance to private ownership. The costs associated with the conveyance will be covered by the company, and the property will be conveyed at market value as determined by Federal appraisal.

In addition to the conveyance, the bill would require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct and publish a com-

prehensive review of the Federal permitting process for the development of stone, sand, and gravel on Federal lands.

This review will include descriptions of the Federal permitting process for stone, sand, and gravel development. It will also include an analysis of potential inefficiencies and recommendations for administrative or legislative action, as well as a summary of economic impacts associated with the current permitting process.

Although the Committee on Natural Resources has not held a hearing on this bill in the 119th Congress, a hearing was held last year, providing the Forest Service with an opportunity to comment on and evaluate the proposal.

This is a critical component of the legislative process that ensures decisions about the administration of our national forests and public lands are made out in the open. These shared resources belong to all Americans, and regular order ensures transparency, something which all of our constituents deserve.

I know that as chair of the Federal Lands Subcommittee, Representative TIFFANY understands and embraces this sentiment. I thank and congratulate him on continuing to move this bill forward in an open and objective manner.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) for her support in regard to this for the last two sessions of the Natural Resources Committee and getting this to the floor and for her help in accomplishing this.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a straightforward bill that supports rural jobs, strengthens local economies, and improves how we manage our Federal lands.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3937 today. Again, I hope the Senate moves quickly to advance this important piece of legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3937, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

### GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM ACT OF 2025

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1917) to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1917

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the Great Lakes have experienced rapid changes in recent years due to—

- (A) the introduction of multiple aquatic invasive species;
- (B) alterations in the food web; and
- (C) decreases in the abundance of prey species;

(2) due to rapid biological change in the Great Lakes, the Great Lakes need a collaborative, science-based program to assist in making management actions regarding fish stocking rates, the rehabilitation of important fish species, and habitat restoration;

(3) the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Wisconsin and Indian Tribes in those States, working through the Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, have identified that mass marking is—

(A) a precise tool to keep hatchery-produced fish in balance with wild fish; and

(B) essential to achieving fishery management and research objectives through producing a better understanding of—

(i) the quantity of hatchery produced fish compared to wild fish in the Great Lakes;

(ii) the effectiveness of hatchery operations; and

(iii) the effectiveness of fishery management actions;

(4) the mass marking program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the Great Lakes—

(A) was initiated in 2010 on a limited scale;

(B) annually tags approximately 9,000,000 to 11,000,000 of the hatchery-produced fish stocked in the Great Lakes;

(C) is a basinwide cooperative effort among the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Indian Tribes, and State management agencies; and

(D) produces data used by State and Tribal fish management agencies to make management decisions regarding Great Lakes fisheries;

(5) annually, Federal, State, and Tribal agencies stock approximately 21,000,000 hatchery-produced fish in the Great Lakes to support—

(A) native species recovery; and

(B) recreational and commercial fishing;

(6) mass marking of hatchery-produced fish, using automated technology, is an efficient method of implementing a collaborative, science-based fishery program; and

(7) the Great Lakes are an important and valued resource that—

(A) supports a robust regional economy valued at more than \$7,000,000,000; and

(B) provides stability to the economy of the United States.

#### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

(2) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program established by section 4(a).

#### SEC. 4. GREAT LAKES MASS MARKING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in determining the effectiveness of hatchery operations and fisheries management actions and to support Great Lakes fisheries, there is established within the United States Fish and Wildlife Service a program for the mass marking of hatchery-produced fish in the Great Lakes basin, to be known as the “Great Lakes Mass Marking Program”.

(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIONS.—In carrying out the Program, the Director may—

(1) purchase capital and expendable equipment, fish tags, and other items necessary to support and carry out tagging and tag recovery operations, including data processing and data dissemination relating to those operations; and

(2) hire additional personnel, as necessary.

(c) REQUIRED COLLABORATION.—In carrying out the Program, the Director shall collaborate with applicable Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies, the Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and signatories to the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.

(d) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The Director shall make the data collected under the Program available to applicable Federal, State, and Tribal fish management agencies—

(1) to increase the understanding of the outcomes of management action;

(2) to assist in meeting the restoration objectives of the Great Lakes, including the fish community objectives and fish management plans described in the Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries;

(3) to assist in balancing predators and prey;

(4) to support and improve the economic status of Tribal, recreational, and commercial fisheries; and

(5) to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of habitat restoration efforts in the Great Lakes.

#### SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program \$2,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1917, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1917, the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025, sponsored by my colleague from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL).

According to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries in the five Great Lakes are home to 177 species of fish, including 139 native species.

□ 1610

These Tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries have an annual economic value exceeding \$7 billion and support over 75,000 jobs.

One of the greatest challenges facing the Great Lakes is the threat of invasive species, such as the sea lamprey and Asian carp. To counter these invasive species, Tribal, Federal, and State agencies introduce hatchery-raised fish to encourage the recovery of native species. For example, in 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s 10 hatcheries that support the Great Lakes region introduced more than 4.7 million hatchery fish into the five Great Lakes.

To gather data on the success of hatchery fish, wildlife managers tag large numbers of these fish through a practice known as mass marking. This practice enables them to easily distinguish between hatchery fish and wild fish populations.

In addition to tagging hatchery fish, this program also plays a vital role in aiding cooperative fisheries management decisions with States and Tribes by producing data on the health of the fishery.

The Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act was administratively established in 2010 and continues to receive appropriations despite never being authorized by Congress. H.R. 1917 would provide formal congressional authorization for this existing program, thereby increasing the opportunity for congressional oversight over the program. Importantly, by providing a statutory authorization, it would better enable the Committee on Natural Resources to make substantive changes to how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the program, should changes be necessary.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for considering my important legislation, the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act, today.

I thank my friends, Representatives HUIZENGA and WALBERG, for their bipartisan support and partnership on this bill. I also thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member HUFFMAN for their support.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes States and Tribes, along with the Fish and Wildlife Service, annually stock millions of salmon and trout to restore native fish populations, diversify sport fisheries, and control invasive forage fishes within the Great Lakes. However, little is known about how well these fish survive, contribute to the fisheries, and reproduce in the wild. This is where mass marking comes into play.

Mass marking is the practice of tagging large numbers of hatchery-raised fish so we can easily distinguish them from the wild fish population.

The planned method within the Great Lakes is to clip the adipose fin, the small fin on the dorsal side near the tail, combined with a coded wire tag, or CWT. A CWT is a 1.1 millimeter-long, tiny stainless steel wire marked with serial numbers denoting a specific group of fish.

This tag can be extracted after recapture, which will provide biologists with key population characteristics, such as survival, movement, contribution to fisheries, growth, and their levels of natural reproduction.

This legislation would enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to mark all hatchery-produced fish within the Great Lakes. Currently, we tag only around 9 to 11 million of the 21 million fish stocked in the Great Lakes each year.

Marking all hatchery fish will drastically improve data collection, enabling better analysis of the health of wild fish stocks. This information will provide valuable insights to help develop a science-based, collaborative fishery management program. This legislation also ensures that the collected data will be shared with all relevant fishery management agencies.

We have seen the effectiveness of these types of programs in the Pacific Northwest for salmon and steelhead management. With the Great Lakes fishing economy, which is valued at about \$5.5 billion, it is time we invest in this proven data-driven approach that would significantly enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of hatchery operations and fisheries management.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues again for considering this important legislation today, and I encourage my colleagues to support its final passage. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG).

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, to Michiganders, the Great Lakes are more than just a natural resource. They are a source of pride for our State, a cornerstone of our identity, and a home to our world-class fisheries.

From Lake Michigan to Lake Erie, generations of anglers have cast their lines into these great waters, and families like mine have taken their children and grandchildren to make their first catch, creating meaningful and lasting memories.

These fisheries are also a lifeline for our local economy. Taken together, the Great Lakes commercial, recreational, and Tribal fisheries generate over \$7 billion annually and support over 75,000 jobs.

That is why I am proud to join Representatives DEBBIE DINGELL and BILL HUIZENGA on the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act, which will build on the success of the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program to implement the large-scale marking of fish in all hatcheries.

In 2023, an angler from Sheboygan caught a 35-inch lake trout—I am jealous—which was marked as part of the program. Its coded tag revealed that the trout hatched in 1984 and was raised at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery before being stocked on Sheboygan Reef in 1985.

Data like this allows us to better understand migratory patterns and population changes. By expanding the program to all Great Lakes hatcheries, we can improve fishing practices, increase efficiencies, and save resources wherever possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act so that we can preserve our fisheries and be better stewards of this great national treasure.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I will note that I have no further requests for time. I thank my colleague from Michigan (Mr. TIFFANY) for supporting this bill.

I invite all of my colleagues to join me fishing on the Great Lakes. It might be good therapy for this institution.

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, the Great Lakes are both an ecological and economic engine for our Nation. It is our duty as Members of Congress to safeguard them for future generations, and H.R. 1917 is a step forward in that process.

I thank Representatives DINGELL, WALBERG, and HUIZENGA for their efforts on this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1917, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1620

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 3937; and,  
H.R. 1917.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant

to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

#### WABENO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3937) to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 1, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 215]		
YEAS—410		
Adams	Cloud	Frankel, Lois
Aderholt	Clyburn	Franklin, Scott
Aguilar	Clyde	Friedman
Alford	Cohen	Frost
Allen	Cole	Fry
Amo	Collins	Fulcher
Amodei (NV)	Comer	Garamendi
Ansari	Conaway	Garbarino
Auchincloss	Correa	Garcia (CA)
Babin	Costa	Garcia (IL)
Bacon	Courtney	Garcia (TX)
Baird	Craig	Gill (TX)
Balderson	Crane	Gillen
Balint	Crank	Gimenez
Barr	Crawford	Golden (ME)
Barragán	Crenshaw	Goldman (NY)
Barrett	Crow	Goldman (TX)
Baumgartner	Cuellar	Gomez
Bean (FL)	Davids (KS)	Gonzales, Tony
Beatty	Davidson	Gonzalez, V.
Begin	Davis (IL)	Gooden
Bell	Davis (NC)	Goodlander
Bentz	De La Cruz	Gosar
Bera	Dean (PA)	Gottheimer
Bergman	DeGette	Gray
Beyer	DeLauro	Green, Al (TX)
Bice	DelBene	Greene (GA)
Biggs (AZ)	Deluzio	Griffith
Biggs (SC)	DeSaulnier	Grothman
Bilirakis	DesJarlais	Guest
Bishop	Dexter	Guthrie
Bonamici	Diaz-Balart	Hamadeh (AZ)
Bost	Dingell	Harder (CA)
Boyle (PA)	Doggett	Haridopolos
Brecheen	Donalds	Harrigan
Bresnahan	Downing	Harris (MD)
Brown	Dunn (FL)	Harris (NC)
Brownley	Edwards	Hayes
Buchanan	Elfreth	Hern (OK)
Budzinski	Ellzey	Hill (AR)
Burchett	Emmerson	Himes
Burlison	Escobar	Hinson
Bynum	Espaillet	Horsford
Calvert	Estes	Houchin
Cammack	Evans (CO)	Houlahan
Carbajal	Evans (PA)	Hoyer
Carey	Ezell	Hoyle (OR)
Carson	Fallon	Hudson
Carter (LA)	Fedorchak	Huizenga
Carter (TX)	Feenstra	Hunt
Casar	Fields	Hurd (CO)
Case	Figures	Issa
Casten	Fine	Ivey
Castor (FL)	Finstad	Jack
Castro (TX)	Fischbach	Jackson (IL)
Cherifius	Fitzgerald	Jackson (TX)
McCormick	Fitzpatrick	Jacobs
Chu	Fleischmann	James
Ciscomani	Fletcher	Jayapal
Cisneros	Flood	Jeffries
Clark (MA)	Fong	Johnson (GA)
Clarke (NY)	Foster	Johnson (SD)
Cleaver	Foushee	Johnson (TX)
Cline	Foxx	Jordan



## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I missed a series of votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 215 and YEA on Roll Call No. 216.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 215 and YEA on Roll Call No. 216.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE  
CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR  
OF H.R. 1522

Ms. RANDALL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1522, a bill originally introduced by Representative CONNOLLY of Virginia, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER  
AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 3941

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 3941.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

□ 1700

WEST END FAIR CELEBRATING  
100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the West End Fair in Union County, Pennsylvania.

The West End Fair started as a homecoming picnic for the residents of Laurelton and has always been held during the first week of August so sweet corn could be served.

Originally known as the Corn Festival, the fair evolved into the agricultural fair that it is today and remains the only fair in Union County.

This weeklong celebration encompasses the very best of our rural communities, from tractor pulls to fair rides and animal exhibits to car shows. The excitement, nostalgia, and community bond is everywhere.

This year, the Union County West End Fair Association is partnering with the Union County Historical Society to promote a book and exhibit that showcase the importance of agriculture in central Pennsylvania and the development of the fair over the last 100 years.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Union County West End Fair Association and all the dedicated volunteers

on this milestone anniversary and their commitment to preserving the spirit of this wonderful event.

TERMINATING TOMATO  
SUSPENSION AGREEMENT

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

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the Department of Commerce's decision to terminate the Tomato Suspension Agreement and slap a 20 percent tariff on tomatoes imported from Mexico.

This is a political choice that directly raises prices on American families and hurts American workers and businesses. It hits Arizona's economy especially hard. Nearly half of all tomatoes imported from Mexico come through our State.

This industry supports more than 22,000 jobs in Arizona, 50,000 nationally, and Trump's tomato tax puts \$8.3 billion in economic activity at risk. In fact, 136 Arizona businesses have formally urged the Department of Commerce to preserve the Tomato Suspension Agreement: restaurants, retailers, trucking companies, and chambers of commerce.

This is all to overturn an effective and enforceable agreement that has been in place for almost 30 years, and it drives us away from Mexico at a time when we should be expanding our relationship with Arizona's and America's largest trading partner.

Ending the Tomato Suspension Agreement will lead to higher tomato prices and shortages around the country. I urge the Commerce Department to reverse course.

HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
DARLENE MARCELLE

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

Mr. WIED. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and legacy of Darlene Marcelle, a devoted public servant, community leader, and cherished member of the Green Bay community.

Born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Darlene dedicated her life to serving her community with unwavering commitment and grace. A proud graduate of Cooks High School and, later, beauty college in Green Bay, she built a distinguished career as a beautician, teacher's assistant, and as Brown County Clerk, winning the November 1996 election and serving 16 years until her retirement in 2012. Her tenure was marked by integrity, efficiency, and a deep commitment to the residents of Brown County.

Darlene's impact extended far beyond her professional role. She was a pillar of community engagement, actively participating in numerous organiza-

tions that strengthened the fabric of Brown County. As a member of Management Women, Inc., she served on the membership committee, fostering professional growth and empowerment. Her involvement with the Starlite Neighborhood Association as a board member and part of the beautification committee reflected her passion for enhancing her community's quality of life. At St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, Darlene was a devoted member, contributing to the Christmas at Riverside committee, finance committee, and altar society, where her faith and service inspired those around her. Since 1997, she served on the public policy committee of Aspiro, advocating for individuals with disabilities and promoting inclusive policies.

Darlene's leadership was characterized by her ability to bring people together, whether through her work in government or her volunteer efforts. Her dedication to public service earned her the respect and admiration of colleagues, neighbors, and friends. She was known for her warmth, her tireless work ethic, and her ability to make everyone feel valued.

Madam Speaker, may her memory be a blessing.

## HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA

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

Mr. TRAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my horror at the reports coming from Gaza of hundreds of innocent civilians being killed or maimed while they are seeking humanitarian assistance. This is a humanitarian crisis.

Congress and the Trump administration must take action to put an end to the violence. Killing those seeking food is incompatible with the pursuit of peace.

The choice by Israeli leadership to engage in military actions at aid sites endangers all innocent Palestinians and Israelis who deserve to live with dignity.

I am the child of refugees. My parents were forced to flee because they feared for their own lives in their home country.

The United States must ensure that the Palestinian people can live their lives in peace without the fear that they will be killed in line for food.

## RECOGNIZING MARK OTTEN

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

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize an extraordinary Utah educator, Mr. Mark Otten, a teacher at Gunnison Valley High School in South Sanpete School District.

Mark has been teaching for 40 years at the same high school he once attended. He teaches 11th grade math and

college algebra with one goal in mind: to help his students surpass him, and they do.

One of his students just ranked number one in Utah and number two in the Nation in the Trig-Star exam, beating Mr. Otten's own timed score.

Some of Mark's former students are now his doctor, dentist, and even his mechanic. That is the kind of legacy every teacher hopes for.

Mr. Otten says he is not ready to retire, and I hope he doesn't because Utah needs more educators like him: humble, committed, with passion for and belief in the next generation.

#### BRING MEANINGFUL RELIEF FOR CONSTITUENTS

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

Mr. OLSZEWSKI. Madam Speaker, it is now the fourth time I have come to this floor with a poster to count the days. We are now 200 days into this session of Congress and, sadly, I return with the same message. I wish it weren't so.

I have scoured our voting record, trying in vain to find one vote, just one, that would lower costs for American families. The closest I found was a bill that would improve price transparency for concert tickets, but nothing to actually address price gouging.

When it comes to the most basic of necessities, there hasn't been one serious effort from House leadership to lower costs. Instead, President Trump and this GOP majority are doing the opposite, driving up costs through tariffs. The big, ugly budget makes things even worse by ending food programs and causing both healthcare costs and utility bills to skyrocket.

I again call on House leadership to bring legislation to this floor that delivers meaningful relief to all our constituents.

□ 1710

#### HONORING VIRGINIA BEACH LIFESAVING SERVICE

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, the Virginia Beach Lifesaving Service started in 1930, and it is the largest and oldest beach lifesaving service in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Over their almost 90-year existence, thousands of lifeguards have come through this program and provided critical services to the millions of visitors who travel to Virginia Beach annually.

Virginia Beach Lifesaving Service employs around 200 lifeguards each summer to guard and patrol more than 5 miles of public oceanfront beaches.

This was on full display for the Fourth of July holiday shown here.

Virginia Beach Lifesaving personnel are trained in surf lifesaving surveillance and rescue techniques, as well as emergency medical response.

Under the leadership of Tom Gill, the Virginia Beach Lifesaving Service also hosts and participates in local, regional, and national competitions to motivate guards to train harder and better work together to protect the citizens and visitors of the oceanfront.

Madam Speaker, I offer my sincere appreciation to the Virginia Beach Lifesaving Service for providing the highest level of care to the citizens and visitors that enjoy our beautiful beaches.

#### HONORING ARCHBOLD BUCKEYE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the Archbold Buckeye. This community newspaper published its final edition on June 25, after 120 years of unwavering service to Archbold, Pettisville, and greater Fulton County, Ohio.

The Archbold Buckeye held value as a small-town newspaper that has been far more than print and ink. It was part of the beating heart that is our northwest Ohio community. It has been upfront and present.

I have had the honor of meeting with the Buckeye's devoted team that included Mary Huber, David Pugh, and generations of the Taylor family. They saw and reported firsthand their commitment to truth, neighbors, and to the stories that shape small-town life in America.

From town council meetings to birth and death announcements, the Buckeye chronicled life with dignity and care. It won dozens of awards but, more importantly, earned the trust of its readers.

As local newspapers sadly vanish across our country, we must remember democracy cannot thrive without informed and engaged citizens. On behalf of myself and our northwest Ohio community, I thank the Archbold Buckeye for 120 years of leadership and service. We are flying a flag of gratitude over our capital to honor their generations of patriotic- and community-minded publishers and reporters.

Let us hope that the future will produce leaders like these to keep America informed and engaged.

#### RECOGNIZING MAYOR MARILYN HATLEY

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

Mr. FRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible public servant and a great friend, Mayor

Marilyn Hatley of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, who is retiring after two decades of public service.

Marilyn has been a constant force for many years, leading with strength, dedication, and a genuine heart for the people of North Myrtle Beach.

She is a pioneer. She has worked harder than anyone. In fact, she is one of the hardest-working women that I know to make North Myrtle Beach not just a premier tourist destination but a place we are all proud to call home.

She has championed beach renourishment, expanded recreational opportunities, and helped build major infrastructure, all while keeping North Myrtle Beach on budget with some of the lowest taxes and crime rates in South Carolina.

The entire city is proud of the lasting impact Marilyn has made on North Myrtle Beach. I know she will enjoy this next chapter. She has earned it.

#### HONORING CONSTITUENT OF THE WEEK DALE SISSON

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my constituent of the week, Dale Sisson, on his retirement from the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division.

A native of King George, Mr. Sisson has dedicated his career to his community. In addition to his membership in the Senior Executive Service, Mr. Sisson has a career at Dahlgren that spans 21 years. He has a variety of responsibilities, working his way up to the position of technical director where he has managed over 5,000 workers and a multibillion-dollar portfolio.

Much of that work that Mr. Sisson does is classified and, therefore, cannot be publicly recognized. As a 25-year veteran, I know Mr. Sisson's work has safeguarded our country and service-members.

Public servants like Mr. Sisson have always had the backs of our communities, and I am committed to paying this forward in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Sisson for his service to our country and wish him well on his next chapter.

#### CELEBRATING THE 154TH BIRTHDAY OF THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

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

Mr. CRANK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 154th birthday of the city of Colorado Springs.

Founded in 1871 by General William Jackson Palmer, Colorado Springs is now home to hundreds of thousands of people nestled in the shadow of the majestic Pikes Peak which inspired Katharine Lee Bates to write the great song, "America the Beautiful."

I have been proud to work for the people of Colorado Springs for over 30 years, and I have seen it grow from a thriving city to an emerging economic titan in Colorado and in the West.

Home to several military installations, Colorado Springs has always been a haven for Active-Duty service-members and our honorable veterans.

In 1870, General Palmer said this about Colorado Springs after seeing the area for the first time. He said: "Could one live in constant view of these grand mountains without being elevated by them into a lofty plane of thought and purpose?"

Madam Speaker, it is this thought and purpose that has driven Colorado Springs to be a world-leading city, and I look forward the city's continued growth.

#### CBP TURNS HOUSTON AIRPORT INTO TRAP

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

Ms. BALINT. Madam Speaker, I take to the floor today because I am angry and so are Vermonters. We are furious because of what happened yesterday to a Vermonter, a U.S. citizen, as he attempted to return home.

Wilmer Chavarria is a community leader. He is a school superintendent in my State. He was held and interrogated for hours yesterday in the Houston airport by CBP agents and given no reason for his detainment. Wilmer called this experience psychological terror.

Again, we are talking about a U.S. citizen here. When we say this can happen to any of us, this is what we are talking about. This kind of violation of our constitutional rights is how leaders use terror to intimidate us into silence.

I don't want to hear about how everyone is going after the violent criminals in this country and trying to get violent criminals off the streets, when community leaders and school superintendents are being detained because of the color of their skin and the sound of their last name.

Madam Speaker, we need to hold onto our collective outrage. We do not need to accept this. This is not what Americans want.

#### RECOGNIZING CANTON REPOSITORY REPORTERS

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

Mrs. SYKES. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize five exceptional journalists from the Canton Repository, one of Ohio's most important publications, as this Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Grace Springer received second place in the Best Government/Political Reporting category.

Charita Goshay received second place in the Best Religion Reporting category.

Nancy Molnar received first place in the Justice Reporting category.

Finally, for the Best of Show in Ohio category, Tim Botos received second place, and Kelli Weir took home first in this category.

I congratulate these outstanding journalists and thank them. I thank them for keeping readers across Canton Ohio's 13th Congressional District in northeast Ohio region informed.

These five journalists earned top honors in the 2025 Ohio's Best Journalism contest sponsored by the Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Their work at the Canton Repository is truly exceptional, and I am proud to represent a district that is kept informed by their outstanding reporting.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in saying congratulations to our fourth branch of government and these exceptional reporters as we recognize them as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

#### CELEBRATING RACER TRUST

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

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate RACER Trust based in Detroit for its extraordinary work turning abandoned industrial sites into engines of economic growth across Michigan and this country.

Following the Great Recession, the RACER Trust was established to clean up and redevelop over 7,000 acres of shuttered properties. In fact, it was created by the team that I had the privilege of working on in the Obama administration, the U.S. Auto Rescue Task Force.

RACER Trust has reimagined the process to meet challenges facing long-held industrial sites. I have also gotten a chance to visit many of these sites through my Manufacturing Monday program.

They include Williams International, United Wholesale Mortgage, Challenge Manufacturing, and the M1 Concourse featured here, all of which are located in Pontiac, Michigan. These were shuttered industrial plants that are now beacons of light in our community, and we should celebrate their success.

□ 1720

#### RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF BEAVERTON AND MAYOR LACEY BEATY

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

Ms. SALINAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the city of Beaverton and Mayor Lacey Beaty for being selected as 1 of 50 finalists in the 2025 Bloomberg Mayors Challenge.

Selected from over 630 global applicants, Beaverton's bold initiative reimagines housing through community-

led, intergenerational models that put homeownership within reach for more Oregonians.

Imagine a walkable neighborhood with vibrant shops, restaurants, and community-led events for all residents, a neighborhood that sets up families with the resources and support they need to own a home, a neighborhood where sustainability and accessibility are priorities.

This is Beaverton's dream, and they are making it a reality. At a time when too many families are priced out, this idea addresses unnecessary barriers, high costs, zoning limits, and a lack of housing options through a new and innovative plan to create more starter housing.

I congratulate Mayor Beaty and the entire city of Beaverton for this remarkable achievement and for showing the world what is possible.

#### FEMA CUTS AND HURRICANE SEASON

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

Mr. LATIMER. Madam Speaker, the harrowing videos and stories out of Texas earlier this month are another reminder of how unpredictable and dangerous weather has become. Climate change is fueling more frequent and extreme weather events, and the Federal Government has a duty to be ready to respond quickly.

What happened in Texas shows we need to strengthen FEMA, not weaken it. That means making sure the agency is fully staffed and fully funded. That means answering the phones.

Unfortunately, the administration is doing the opposite, gutting our Nation's largest emergency management agency.

As a New Yorker, I saw the flooding in Texas and immediately thought of hurricane season on the East Coast. It has been a few years since a major storm hit our region. We are due. Local and State agencies are preparing, but this year they are doing so without the help of FEMA's predisaster mitigation grants because the administration canceled the program.

Cutting emergency preparedness funding doesn't prevent disasters. It just makes them harder to handle. Once again, it is Americans who will pay the price.

#### CLIMATE CRISIS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

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

Ms. DEXTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare that climate crisis is a public health emergency, and the Federal Government must treat it as such.

In the last decade, more than half of the 120 public health emergency declarations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services were a result of climate-related events: extreme heat, wildfire smoke, hurricanes, floods, and the spread of disease.

Last week, I introduced the Climate Health Emergency Act to address this reality head-on. It directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to declare the climate crisis a public health emergency.

This declaration will unlock emergency powers and coordination to allow an effective response to the rapidly escalating public health threat posed by climate change. Enabling interagency coordination, this bill will break down silos, maximizing our ability to effectively and efficiently respond.

As a lung and critical care physician, I have seen the direct harm climate change has on our patients: organs shutting down from heat exposure and lungs failing from smoke inhalation. I will not stand by silently as our government continues to fail to meet this crisis with the urgency it so demands.

Madam Speaker, I urge your support. Our children deserve a healthy future. Our job is to fight for it.

#### CELEBRATING NORTH AMERICAN FILM ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate North American Film Association, NAFA, an organization dedicated to promoting Marathi cinema and culture in North America. By making Marathi cinema more accessible, NAFA aims to preserve Maharashtra's rich cultural heritage, bridge cultural boundaries, and create a more diverse arts and culture space.

NAFA is having a film festival of Marathi films in San Jose, California, on July 25 through 27, 2026, and I wish to convey my best wishes to NAFA.

I also want to recognize Mr. Abhi Gholap, an accomplished filmmaker and founder of NAFA. Abhi Gholap is also deeply committed to service, supporting children with leukemia in rural India through the Jiji-Bhau Cancer Foundation.

"Best wishes to NAFA from this Marathi-speaking Congressman";

"Tumchya Marathi bolnaryya Congresssadaashyakadun uttam shubhechha."

#### SAFE KITS

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

Ms. ELFRETH. Madam Speaker, on March 13, the Department of Defense issued new guidance: Military health clinics overseas would no longer pro-

vide rape test kits to American civilian workers and contractors serving alongside our servicemembers abroad. These are our intelligence analysts, our teachers, our doctors, and our support staff performing critical roles all in support of our national security. We broke a fundamental promise with them, that when you serve your country in the most dangerous of places, your country will have your back.

I have spent my time on this House floor urging for the reversal of harmful cuts just like these, and I spend my time in committee questioning Secretary Hegseth as to why this policy was ever changed in the first place. Today, I am glad to report that 8 days after the hearing with Secretary Hegseth, that policy has been reversed.

It is proof that when the general public leans in and engages their government, and when Members of Congress amplify their voices, we can make meaningful change.

I will continue to call out the cuts of this Trump administration because the cost to all of us is far too great. There is too much at risk when this administration blindly takes a sledgehammer to the Federal Government and the services Americans deserve.

I urge my colleagues to follow this example.

□ 1730

#### VISION BENEFIT MANAGERS

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

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for a crackdown on vision benefit managers, or VBM, and their exploitative industry that exists only to profit from the eyeglass frames and lenses they make, the labs they own and operate, and the patient data gathering and mass retail operations built around them.

VBM not only undermine healthcare access and quality, but threaten the existence of independent eye care practices nationwide.

VBM contracting abuses are already rampant, and their control over the independent eye care practice is only growing.

We cannot turn a blind eye, pun intended, to the serious conflict of interest concerns when a plan becomes both a healthcare provider and payer.

We cannot ignore the consequences of this unacceptable status quo, which has arbitrarily limited treatment options to those which are profitable for the VBM instead of effective for the patient.

#### PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the girls and women in my district who just lost access to their healthcare because of this budget bill.

Just weeks after this bill passed, two Planned Parenthood clinics in southwest Ohio are closing. These are clinics thousands of girls and women rely on for things like cancer screenings and contraceptive care, their basic healthcare.

It is a direct attack on women, and it is just the start. Millions and millions of Americans will lose their healthcare. In the end, more than 15 million people could be left without care, all to pay for tax cuts for millionaires, billionaires, and big corporations.

All it takes is a Congress that it is willing to make the wealthiest in America pay their taxes like the rest of us and give those 15 million Americans their healthcare back. It is that simple.

#### BUDGET BETRAYAL

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, Republicans rammed through Trump's big budget betrayal with the largest cut to healthcare in American history. It will cut Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act by over \$1.1 trillion.

In Michigan, in my State alone, over 450,000 people are now at risk of losing their healthcare coverage, including children, seniors, and people with disabilities in our district.

These cuts will also impact EMS and ambulance services across our Nation. This budget will shrink the funds available to these departments and make it impossible for them to keep operating.

The impact will also be felt in rural areas where hospitals and community health centers will close because they rely heavily on Medicaid reimbursements.

We all know we have sick care in our country, and Medicaid is the only Band-aid right now to keep it all together. This bill is a death sentence, and over 50,000 people will die as a result of it.

Madam Speaker, you will see. Republicans gave away trillions of dollars to the richest people on the planet and are letting our children and seniors die from the lack of healthcare coverage.

They should be ashamed.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION CHAOS

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today frustrated by the chaos and harm that is being caused by House Republicans under the direction of the Trump administration. This week, the

House is coming to a standstill because Republicans refuse to address the Epstein files despite Trump's repeated commitments to the American people to do so.

However, their inability to deliver on their promises runs much deeper. Trump promised to end inflation and make America affordable again, yet inflation rose 2.7 percent in June, and the majority of Americans rightfully blame the White House for driving up the prices of food and groceries.

Trump said his mass deportation agenda would only target violent criminals, but over 90 percent of detainees being held in New Jersey have no criminal conviction.

Trump said he would improve the Affordable Care Act, yet he just signed a bill into law that cuts over \$1 trillion from healthcare and will cause an average ACA premium increase of over \$1,200 for people in our district.

Amidst the chaos, the inaction, and the harm that is being caused in communities nationwide, Democrats will continue to do everything we can to protect and uplift those whom we represent. We will continue to present an alternative pathway forward, one that fulfills the promises of this country and delivers the results that all Americans deserve.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT LEGRAND

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert "Bob" LeGrand, a pioneering figure in Texas basketball who passed away on July 19.

From 1976 to 1987, Coach LeGrand, also known as "Snake," led the UTA men's basketball team, guiding them to their first 20-win season and a historic NIT berth in 1981.

Snake was known for his energy, his drive, his showmanship, and his humor. His legacy goes far beyond the wins. He helped the University of Texas-Arlington Movin' Mavs wheelchair basketball program start, and he was also very active in the Fort Worth chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi. Coach LeGrand, or Snake, as everybody affectionately called him, was someone everyone loved.

Madam Speaker, you would see him in downtown Fort Worth, and you would see him in Arlington holding court with his sense of humor. Regardless of your background, Snake was someone whom you embraced. He is going to be missed. He was figuratively and literally speaking a towering figure in our community. He will be greatly missed.

I send my condolences to his wife, Gloria, his children, and his grandchildren.

#### CELEBRATING THE 102ND BIRTHDAY OF PHILLIP RAMOS, SR.

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 102nd birthday of a World War II veteran, Phillip Ramos. He is part of the Greatest Generation.

He served in the U.S. Army Corps from 1942 to 1945. Then he returned home and served on local nonprofits. He served on the L.A. United Way and the Cal State University advisory board. He then served as a council member, planning commissioner, and treasurer for the city of Montebello.

Phillip shows what it is to be part of the Greatest Generation. He fought World War II with honor and then returned home to build this great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I wish Phil Ramos a happy birthday and many more.

#### THIS CONGRESS DESERVES AN "F"

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, we are going to adjourn and not do the people's business because we, thus far, have gotten an "F", an "F" for the work for the people of this Congress.

We have taken healthcare away from hundreds of thousands of people. We have taken SNAP payments and nutritional sustenance away from tens of hundreds of thousands of people. We have made injuries to the Earth, God's Earth, which we are here to preserve and we only use.

We have taken away women's rights to go to Planned Parenthood to have the healthcare that they need, important healthcare about their bodies.

We have taken away protections for clean energy, to change the rate of growth of global warming that affects our planet and affects our future with hotter and hotter summers and more and more problems: flash floods, fires, and disasters.

This Congress has earned an "F." We do not deserve any more.

I am ashamed to be a part of this Congress, but I will be because people need to stand up, speak the truth, and stand up for things that the American people have stood for for a long time like justice, due process, fairness, caring about the little guy, and caring about giving people something who have not enough but not something to people who have too much: millionaires and billionaires.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow,

Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1490. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's "Major" interim final rule — Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B); Extension of Compliance Dates [Docket No.: CFPB-2025-0017] (RIN: 3170-AB40) received July 9, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1491. A letter from the Acting Director, Directorate of Construction, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Construction Standards—Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health [Docket No.: OSHA-2025-0040] (RIN: 1218-AD72) received July 7, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

EC-1492. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standard CIP-015-1—Cyber Security—Internal Network Security Monitoring [Docket No.: RM24-7-000; Order No.: 907] received July 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1493. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination under section 7034(k)(5) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024, pursuant to Public Law 118-83, div. A, Sec. 101(11); (138 Stat. 1524); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1494. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTG 23-066; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1495. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTG 24-095; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1496. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTG 25-030; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-1497. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting five (5) notifications of a nomination, and action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1498. A letter from the Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting three (3) notifications of a vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, action on nomination, and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

EC-1499. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Architect of the Capitol, transmitting the semiannual report of disbursements

for the operations of the Architect of the Capitol for the period of January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1868a(a); Public Law 113-76, div. I, title I, Sec. 1301(a); (128 Stat. 428) (H. Doc. No. 119-77); to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

EC-1500. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 220223-0084; RTID 0648-XC487] received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1501. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 220223-0054] (RTID: 0648-XC277) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1502. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Several Groundfish Species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 220223-0054; RTID: 0648-XC510] received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1503. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Bluefish Fishery; Quota Transfers From ME to RI [Docket No.: 220126-0034] (RTID: 0648-XC554) received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1504. A letter from the Acting Branch Chief, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Greater Atlantic, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Closure of the Closed Area I Scallop Access Area to General Category Individual Fishing Quota Scallop Vessels [Docket No.: 220325-0078; RTID: 0648-XC494] received July 21, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1505. A letter from the Regional Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustments [Docket ID: OSM 2025-0001; S1D1SS08011000 SX064A000 256S180110; S2D2SSS08011000 SX064A00 25XS501520] (RIN: 1029-AC87) received July 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1506. A letter from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Withholding and Reporting With Respect to Uncashed Retire-

ment Plan Distribution Checks (and Subsequent Checks) (Rev. Rul. 2025-15) received July 17, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-1507. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Economic Development Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Environment Regulation [Docket No.: 250626-0114] (RIN: 0610-AA87) received July 7, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Financial Services and Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1508. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Elimination of Supplementary Grant Regulation [Docket No.: 250623-0111] (RIN: 0610-AA77) received July 7, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Financial Services.

#### 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. GRAVES: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 4275. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, to establish the Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 119-214). 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. MATSUI (for herself, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TONKO, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. FROST, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H.R. 4581. A bill to ensure the accessibility of drugs furnished through the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BACON (for himself and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 4582. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, to clarify that organ donation surgery qualifies as a serious health condition; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, 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. BACON (for himself and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 4583. A bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BAUMGARTNER:

H.R. 4584. A bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to cer-

tain provisions which were formerly classified to chapters 14 and 19 of title 25, United States Code, and to correct related technical errors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mr. RILEY of New York, Mr. MANN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. HURD of Colorado, and Mr. ONDER):

H.R. 4585. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an agricultural and rural road improvement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK (for herself and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois):

H.R. 4586. A bill to establish a comprehensive strategy to support African and Caribbean diaspora engagement in development through reduced remittance costs, investment incentives, and institutional partnerships; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4587. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require a judge on the appropriate court of appeals of the United States to appoint certain acting Inspectors General in the event of a vacancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself and Mr. BRESNAHAN):

H.R. 4588. A bill to authorize funding to expand and support enrollment at institutions of higher education that sponsor construction and manufacturing-oriented registered apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. EZELL (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 4589. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to incentivize the domestic production of port cranes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 4590. A bill to codify Executive Order 14305 (relating to restoring American aerospace sovereignty); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 4591. A bill to establish grant programs to sustain populations of species of migratory waterfowl through the deployment of tools and practices that complement habitat conservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FROST (for himself and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK):

H.R. 4592. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to revise section 61.206 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, to approve certain distribution or use of phosphogypsum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 4593. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to revise the definition of showerhead; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. GOODLANDER (for herself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 4594. A bill to authorize the use of veterans' educational assistance for examinations and assessments to receive credit toward degrees awarded by institutions of higher learning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon):

H.R. 4595. A bill to provide authority for small cultivators of cannabis and small manufacturers of cannabis products to ship cannabis and cannabis products using the mail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Oversight and Government Reform, 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 Mr. KENNEDY of New York (for himself, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. SIMPSON):

H.R. 4596. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the right of members of a federally recognized Indian Tribe in the United States and First Nations individuals in Canada to cross the borders of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 4597. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate a single, unique ZIP Code for Pingree Grove, Illinois; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 4598. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the Navajo Nation Water Resources Development Trust Fund, to amend the Claims Resolution Act of 2010 to make technical corrections to the Taos Pueblo Water Development Fund and Aamodt Settlement Pueblos' Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 4599. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require public companies to provide sexual harassment claim disclosures in certain reports, to require public companies to implement mandatory sexual harassment training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 4600. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to increase the penalties related to intentional disclosure of nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. ESTES, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. ROSE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 4601. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue certain regulations to amend certain regulations with respect to farm-related service industry restricted commercial driver's licenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. MCBAATH (for herself, Mr. McCaul, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SES-

SIONS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. KUSTOFF):

H.R. 4602. A bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCGUIRE:

H.R. 4603. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to prohibit State regulatory authorities from approving rates charged by electric utilities that engage in certain diversity, equity, or inclusion practices, or that consider environmental, social, or governance factors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOORE of West Virginia (for himself and Mr. ZINKE):

H.R. 4604. A bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Ms. DEXTER):

H.R. 4605. A bill to ban drug manufacturers from using direct-to-consumer advertising, including social media, to promote their products; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H.R. 4606. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require coverage of hearing devices and systems in certain private health insurance plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. BACON, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. TENNEY):

H.R. 4607. A bill to provide protections from prosecution for drug possession to individuals who seek medical assistance when witnessing or experiencing an overdose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. CARSON):

H.R. 4608. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove or permanently conceal the name of Francis Newlands on the grounds of the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 4609. A bill to extend the authority to carry out the Defense Production Act of 1950; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 4610. A bill to require the Secretary of State to develop a strategy and convene a

summit regarding technological and business development in Africa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. FROST, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CROW, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIGURES, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MANNION, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBAATH, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McGARVEY, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. RANDALL, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. RIVAS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHOLten, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WHITESIDES, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. JOHN-SON of Texas, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 4611. A bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Natural Resources, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, the Judiciary, Oversight and Government Reform, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mr. GARCIA of California):

H.R. 4612. A bill to amend chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, relative to the powers of the Department of Justice Inspector General; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4613. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove the differentiation between mead and low alcohol by volume wine for purposes of the tax imposed on wines; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 4614. A bill to provide a private right of action for persons harmed by violations of the Franchise Rule of the Federal Trade Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 4615. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to provide interim partial payment to small business contractors that request an equitable adjustment due to a change in the terms of a construction contract, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 4616. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to provide for disclosure regarding foreign jurisdictions that hinder inspections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 4617. A bill to monitor United States investments in entities that are controlled by foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 4618. A bill to establish a Federal tort against pediatric gender clinics and other entities pushing gender-transition procedures that cause bodily injury to children or harm the mental health of children; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4619. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself and Mr. NEHLS):

H.R. 4620. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to include rioting in the definition of racketeering activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 4621. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 320th Barrage Balloon Battalion, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions during the D-Day invasion, and their significant contributions to the success of the Allied forces during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. WIED:

H.R. 4622. A bill to provide for eligibility for veterans of Operation End Sweep for the Vietnam Service Medal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. BACON, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. STEIL):

H.R. 4623. A bill to require direct-to-consumer advertisements for prescription drugs and biological products to include truthful and not misleading pricing information; 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. MORELLE (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAUR, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LATIMER, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MANNION, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN,

Ms. RIVAS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SIMON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. STANTON, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.J. Res. 108. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing that there is no immunity from criminal prosecution for an act on the grounds that such act was within the constitutional authority or official duties of an individual, and providing that the President may not grant a pardon to himself or herself; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HERN of Oklahoma:

H. Res. 600. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

## 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. MATSUI:

H.R. 4581. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 4582. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 4583. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BAUMGARTNER:

H.R. 4584. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art 1, Sec 8

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 4585. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 4586. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4587. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clauses 1, 14 and 18 of section 8 of Article I.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 4588. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. EZELL:

H.R. 4589.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

By Mr. FINSTAD:

H.R. 4590.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 4591.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 4592.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 4593.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Ms. GOODLANDER:

H.R. 4594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 4595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States, but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. KENNEDY of New York:

H.R. 4596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3, Section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 4597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States, but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 4598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 4599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 4600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 4601.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mrs. MCBATH:

H.R. 4602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make

rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. MCGUIRE:

H.R. 4603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I section 8 clause 3

By Mr. MOORE of West Virginia:

H.R. 4604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 4605.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 4606.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 4607.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4608.

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. PALMER:

H.R. 4609.

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. PANETTA:

H.R. 4610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 4611.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 4612.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 CL. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 4613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 4614.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.R. 4615.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the

United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the ability to enact legislation necessary and proper to effectuate its purposes in taxing and spending.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 4616.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 4617.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 4618.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4619.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 4620.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 4621.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 & 13 (Military Powers)

To raise and support Armies" and "To provide and maintain a Navy"

Supports honoring military service members and units

By Mr. WIED:

H.R. 4622.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 4623.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 18

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.J. Res. 108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the power granted Congress by Article V of the Constitution.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 138: Mrs. KIM.

H.R. 227: Mr. CAREY.

H.R. 301: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 336: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 383: Ms. ANSARI.

H.R. 390: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 429: Ms. ANSARI.

H.R. 433: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.

H.R. 539: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 668: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 715: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 793: Ms. ANSARI.

H.R. 842: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. POU, Ms. GILLEN, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 902: Mr. BRECHEEN and Mr. FINE.

H.R. 909: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 929: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 979: Mrs. TORRES of California.

H.R. 1004: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. GILLEN.

H.R. 1007: Mr. HILL of Arkansas.

H.R. 1013: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 1046: Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. SHREVE, and Mr. ALFORD.  
 H.R. 1047: Mr. ONDER.  
 H.R. 1094: Mr. BRESNAHAN.  
 H.R. 1107: Ms. McDONALD RIVET.  
 H.R. 1144: Mr. SHERMAN.  
 H.R. 1171: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. SHREVE.  
 H.R. 1189: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
 H.R. 1229: Mr. FRY and Mr. IVEY.  
 H.R. 1236: Mr. CALVERT.  
 H.R. 1262: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 1410: Ms. ELFRETH, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 1422: Mr. IVEY, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.  
 H.R. 1496: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
 H.R. 1502: Mr. VEASEY.  
 H.R. 1517: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
 H.R. 1582: Mrs. FISCHBACH.  
 H.R. 1657: Mr. HERNANDEZ.  
 H.R. 1659: Ms. POU.  
 H.R. 1661: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 1695: Mr. CASE, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 1835: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 1933: Mr. VEASEY.  
 H.R. 1949: Mr. ONDER.  
 H.R. 1987: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 2055: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 2092: Ms. ANSARI.  
 H.R. 2095: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 2102: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ and Mr. MOORE of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 2168: Mr. BACON.  
 H.R. 2189: Mr. KNOTT.  
 H.R. 2253: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Ms. ELFRETH.  
 H.R. 2270: Mr. ONDER.  
 H.R. 2290: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
 H.R. 2381: Ms. ADAMS.  
 H.R. 2398: Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.  
 H.R. 2466: Mr. CASTEN and Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 2497: Ms. SIMON and Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
 H.R. 2505: Mr. SHERMAN.  
 H.R. 2510: Ms. GILLEN.  
 H.R. 2555: Mr. FRY.  
 H.R. 2559: Mr. MENENDEZ.  
 H.R. 2591: Mr. WIED and Ms. LOFGREN.  
 H.R. 2598: Mr. KEATING.  
 H.R. 2599: Mr. TIMMONS.  
 H.R. 2636: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 2731: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.  
 H.R. 2756: Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
 H.R. 2757: Mr. LATIMER.  
 H.R. 2821: Mr. CALVERT.  
 H.R. 2830: Mr. BELL and Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 2840: Mr. SOTO and Mr. SIMPSON.  
 H.R. 2850: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 2853: Mr. McCORMICK and Mr. KEAN.  
 H.R. 2854: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 2904: Ms. CROCKETT and Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
 H.R. 2934: Mr. MAST.  
 H.R. 2947: Mr. MORELLE.  
 H.R. 3006: Mr. MANN.  
 H.R. 3009: Ms. MCBRIDE.  
 H.R. 3045: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DELUZIO, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 3049: Mrs. FOUSHÉE.  
 H.R. 3105: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania and Ms. BROWNLEY.  
 H.R. 3112: Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H.R. 3174: Mr. SCHMIDT.  
 H.R. 3194: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 3199: Ms. ESCOBAR.  
 H.R. 3207: Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 3226: Mr. CUELLAR.  
 H.R. 3277: Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. RASKIN.  
 H.R. 3335: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
 H.R. 3400: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.  
 H.R. 3417: Mr. LANDSMAN.  
 H.R. 3429: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.  
 H.R. 3449: Ms. GILLEN.  
 H.R. 3514: Mr. COLE, Mrs. FOUSHÉE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. MORELLE.  
 H.R. 3546: Ms. ANSARI.  
 H.R. 3563: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
 H.R. 3616: Mr. ONDER.  
 H.R. 3684: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
 H.R. 3694: Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H.R. 3696: Mr. CARBAJAL and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.  
 H.R. 3699: Mr. KEAN.  
 H.R. 3725: Mr. FRY.  
 H.R. 3740: Mr. HIMES.  
 H.R. 3757: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. FOSTER.  
 H.R. 3779: Mr. LATIMER.  
 H.R. 3866: Mr. VAN DREW.  
 H.R. 3876: Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY and Mr. DELUZIO.  
 H.R. 3906: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.  
 H.R. 3917: Mr. STRONG.  
 H.R. 3941: Mr. CARSON.  
 H.R. 3946: Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VINDMAN, and Mr. RASKIN.  
 H.R. 3988: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 4069: Ms. ANSARI.  
 H.R. 4076: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Ms. PETTERSEN.  
 H.R. 4100: Ms. ANSARI.  
 H.R. 4104: Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 4140: Mr. SHERMAN.  
 H.R. 4159: Ms. MCBRIDE.  
 H.R. 4169: Mr. DELUZIO.  
 H.R. 4176: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
 H.R. 4179: Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H.R. 4182: Ms. SIMON.  
 H.R. 4231: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
 H.R. 4233: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
 H.R. 4234: Mr. FRY.  
 H.R. 4242: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 4253: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM.  
 H.R. 4294: Mr. MFUME.  
 H.R. 4305: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. SCHMIDT.  
 H.R. 4312: Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.R. 4335: Mr. HILL of Arkansas and Mr. FLOOD.  
 H.R. 4336: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.  
 H.R. 4350: Ms. SCHOLten.  
 H.R. 4363: Mr. CALVERT.  
 H.R. 4367: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 4390: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas.  
 H.R. 4398: Mr. HURD of Colorado.  
 H.R. 4405: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. MOULTON.  
 H.R. 4406: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 4461: Ms. SCANLON.  
 H.R. 4464: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 4474: Mr. ZINKE and Mr. ROSE.  
 H.R. 4482: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
 H.R. 4517: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. OLSZEWSKI.  
 H.R. 4542: Ms. NORTON and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
 H.R. 4543: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.  
 H.R. 4545: Mr. HERNÁNDEZ.  
 H.R. 4565: Mr. ONDER.  
 H.R. 4568: Mr. GARCIA of California and Mr. LUCAS.  
 H.R. 4575: Mr. LAWLER.  
 H.J. Res. 12: Mrs. HOUCIN.  
 H. Res. 94: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
 H. Res. 473: Mr. CISNEROS.  
 H. Res. 539: Mr. CRANE.  
 H. Res. 547: Ms. MCBRIDE.  
 H. Res. 551: Ms. ELFRETH and Mr. BERGMAN.  
 H. Res. 581: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PELOSI, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.  
 H. Res. 588: Mr. CLYDE and Mrs. HINSON.

#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 3941: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025

No. 125

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, thank You for the continuous blessings of Your handiwork, from the first blush of dawn to the wonders of the starry heavens, we are daily made aware of Your creative might. Lord, bless our Senators to see the wonder of Your presence on Capitol Hill today. In the hands of the many workers, may our lawmakers see the importance of teamwork.

Help our legislators to catch a glimpse of the unity and cooperation You desire for them. Make them willing to both receive and give forgiveness as they manifest Your spirit in deeds of kindness. As our lives intertwine through common tasks, remind us that ultimately we are accountable to You. Guide our thinking, speaking, and decisions that we may live worthy of Your great love. We pray in Your marvelous 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. HUSTED). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3944, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, a bill 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### TRIBUTE TO BECKY KOENIG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to recognize an Iowa teacher who this very week is making the last trip of her almost 40-year teaching career bringing students to Washington, DC.

Becky Koenig has been an exceptional educator, coach, and mentor, as well as being very beloved by her students. Becky has made a lasting impact on students and their families in the communities of Sumner, IA; Forest City, IA; Lake Park, IA; and Spencer, IA.

Becky's contributions to the lives of so many Iowans will be remembered and felt long after her well-deserved retirement.

Outside of school hours, Becky has devoted 38 years to coaching speech. In fact, she has played a very major role in a remarkable Iowa record. The large-group speech program at Spencer has been able to send at least one group to the Iowa All-State Festival every single year of the competition's 50-year existence.

Although Becky will leave the classroom behind, the deep connections she

has built with her students will leave a lasting legacy in each of their lives.

Through her passion and energy, she has shaped the minds of many students. Iowa has been lucky to have an educator like Becky.

Most of us remember at least one teacher that inspired us to get where we are today. Becky has been that teacher for countless Iowa students.

I am pleased to join her fellow teachers, students, and all Iowans to say thank you to Becky Koenig for her exceptional career.

We wish you all the very best in retirement, and, of course, we thank you for your service.

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.

#### GENIUS ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Friday, President Trump signed the first major digital assets bill in American history into law. The GENIUS Act opens the door for digital assets to come into the mainstream, and it sets us up for sustained American leadership and financial innovation. Thanks to the work of Senators LUMMIS and HAGERTY and Chairman TIM SCOTT, the GENIUS Act will help, as President Trump said, make America the crypto capital of the world.

The GENIUS Act creates a first of its kind regulatory framework for stablecoins, an important part of the digital asset ecosystem. Now, \$250 billion in stablecoins is in circulation today, up 22 percent just this year. On an average day, around \$100 billion in transactions is executed using

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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stablecoins, and the vast majority of those stablecoins are backed by the U.S. dollar.

Stablecoins have an important role to play in payments. While digital asset advocates generally believe in holding Bitcoin because of its price fluctuations and growth in value over the last several years, stablecoins offer both the speed and security of the blockchain and the stability and usability of a dollar bill.

And since most stablecoins are backed by the dollar, this represents an opportunity to strengthen the dollar and, by extension, the economy.

When it comes to digital assets, in many ways, the future is already here. The question is whether we welcome that future. The GENIUS Act offers an emphatic “yes” to that question.

After years of stablecoins operating in a legal gray zone, the GENIUS Act finally lays out a clear regulatory framework. That includes consumer protections so Americans can trust who they are doing business with when they purchase stablecoins. The bill’s light touch and tailored standards will provide consumers with confidence, while promoting continued innovation right here in the United States. And its enforcement provisions offer clarity to stablecoin issuers and ensure accountability for violations.

The GENIUS Act also protects against bad actors using stablecoins for malicious purposes. It holds stablecoin issuers to the same standard as other financial institutions, subject to the Bank Secrecy Act. That means issuers will need to monitor and report suspicious activity, comply with U.S. sanctions, and block transactions that violate State and Federal law.

What is at stake here became clear last week when the Wall Street Journal reported that China seems to be concerned about stablecoin solidifying dollar dominance in the global financial system, spurred in no small part by the GENIUS Act. It is clear that the GENIUS Act is already helping our country secure American leadership in this important space. We want stablecoins to be made in America. We want digital assets to take root and to flourish in our country. We want America to lead in financial innovation, and the GENIUS Act will help us get there.

It won’t be the last word on digital assets, though. There is still much more work to be done in this space, including on market structure. Senators LUMMIS, HAGERTY, and SCOTT are once again leading on this issue, releasing the Senate’s market structure framework today, and I thank them for their important work.

And I want to say that the next steps on digital assets should look to the GENIUS Act as a model, both for its light touch and pro-innovation approach and for the bipartisanship that characterized the process.

Digital assets are the future, and we are going to continue working to make sure that that future is American made.

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will take a procedural vote on the MILCON-VA funding bill. The Senate version of this legislation took some important steps to reverse a number of the awful cuts posed by DOGE and Russell Vought, particularly cuts against our Nation’s veterans—people who served us, who risked their lives for us—and they want to cut their healthcare and cut what the VA does for them. That is a bad thing, and I am glad this bill undoes a lot of that.

It is also, for now, a positive thing that the Senate version’s funding number is significantly higher than the House’s. That is thanks to the push Democrats made in committee, and I thank my colleagues for their work to date.

But we will see how the floor process evolves here on the floor. Given Republicans’ recent actions undermining bipartisan appropriations, nothing is guaranteed. Senate Democrats will meet today at our weekly caucus lunch to discuss today’s vote.

As recently as yesterday, though, I heard my friend the Republican leader come to the floor and talk about the need for bipartisanship in appropriations, and I heard him take issue with Democratic criticisms against the approach Republicans have taken over the last few months.

Look, we all would like to see bipartisanship. It has been a tradition in this Senate until that evaporated over the last decade. But Leader THUNE is sort of talking out of both sides of his mouth. On the one hand, THUNE says he wants bipartisanship. On the other, he is pushing rescissions packages here on the floor. He is allowing party-line votes to reverse bipartisan funding agreements.

Well, you can’t have it both ways. What he is doing with rescissions is the opposite of bipartisanship because rescissions packages totally renege on agreements both sides reached on funding.

When Donald Trump and Russell Vought insist on rescissions, and an obeisant Republican Congress goes along, even though many of them know it is wrong, it makes the spending process totally partisan.

So the leader’s words and his actions are a complete contradiction. He can’t have it both ways.

If Leader THUNE hopes to see bipartisanship, he should tend to his own gar-

den first and convince his Republican colleagues and the White House that bipartisanship is the way to go to do what is best for the American people.

Republicans sold their rescissions package as cutting wasteful spending, but we all know that it is not that at all; that it was about giving Donald Trump what he wanted and using partisan means to get it all done.

Meanwhile, we know that Russell Vought and Donald Trump want Congress to green-light yet another rescissions package for the near future. Russell Vought even says—openly—that the appropriation process should be “less bipartisan.”

Frankly, right now, the biggest obstacle to a good-faith, bipartisan funding process is coming from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue and from Republicans all too eager to give Donald Trump and Russell Vought whatever they want.

And, of course, Republicans, not even a month ago, pushed Trump’s “Big Ugly Betrayal” on a completely partisan vote, passing devastating cuts to Medicaid, to healthcare, to good-paying jobs, especially in rural communities, all to fund tax breaks for billionaires. And they did it by breaking the norms of the Senate, by inventing fake math, by defying the concerns of even their own Members to get it done. That kind of legislative stunt only makes it harder—harder—for bipartisanship to take root.

We will see how our Republican colleagues choose to proceed this week. They can either keep doing Donald Trump and Russell Vought’s bidding or work with Democrats on funding priorities that will serve the American people well. They can’t do both. They can’t have it both ways.

#### NOMINATION OF EMIL J. BOVE III

Mr. President, now, on Mr. Bove, we all know that Donald Trump has a history of pushing shockingly unqualified and politically motivated nominees to the Federal bench. But, today, Leader THUNE will seek to file cloture on perhaps Donald Trump’s worst—worst—judicial nominee to date, Emil Bove.

One look at Mr. Bove and you know he is bad, bad news. He is someone hostile to the rule of law, hostile to democratic norms, but religiously obedient to Donald Trump.

And Republicans aren’t applying so much as a whisper of scrutiny. The Republican chair of the Judiciary Committee, in fact, cut off debate on Mr. Bove and refused to let Democrats speak or ask questions during Mr. Bove’s hearing.

Let me take a moment to explain why this nominee is uniquely unfit, which the American people must hear, even though the Republican Judiciary Committee didn’t want them to.

Mr. Bove’s entire career has been built on one thing—one thing: fealty to Donald Trump. He made his name handling Donald Trump’s dirty laundry. He handled Donald Trump’s dirty laundry, first, as his personal attorney and,

then, as his hit man at the Justice Department. He defended Donald Trump when he was charged with inciting an insurrection on January 6, on mishandling classified documents and on falsifying business records, and more.

That got him a promotion to a senior role at DOJ. There, Mr. Bove weaponized the Department to carry out political retributions against people Donald Trump considered his enemies, with a complete disregard for free speech and due process. He punished FBI agents investigating the January 6 insurrection and fired prosecutors working on criminal charges for the January 6 rioters. He reportedly told DOJ lawyers to ignore court orders and even deliberately mislead judges.

Let me say that again. Bove, a man seeking to become a circuit court judge, himself, has reportedly told DOJ lawyers to deliberately mislead judges. That, if true, is disqualifying—end of story. Nobody who is ever suspected of misleading judges should even be considered for judgeships themselves, without first getting to the facts. Yet Republicans are trying to rush him through the process.

It is no wonder that over 75 former State and Federal judges, nominated by Democratic and Republican Presidents, joined together—joined together, Democrats and Republicans—to oppose Mr. Bove's nomination.

If Senate Republicans allow Mr. Bove to pass through this Chamber without a thorough examination, they will cause profound damage to this institution as a check on the executive.

Our judges should always be held to the highest ethical standards and should be individuals that can be trusted to apply the law impartially, even if we may not all agree on every one of their opinions.

Mr. Bove, however, is the extreme of the extreme of the extreme. He is not a jurist but, rather, a Trumpian henchman. His past shows he seeks not to be impartial but rather to settle scores. All of the accusations against him suggest he holds deep hostility against the very bench he will soon be considered for. To even consider someone like this for the circuit court is a dark, disturbing proposition.

I very strongly oppose his nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. LUMMIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today, I come to the floor to tell the body that, for the first time in years, the Senate is going to begin the appropriations process in the right way. The

right way is on time. The right way is here in public. And the right way is with bipartisan support.

Now, that may seem routine, and it would be expected to be routine. But here in the U.S. Senate, that hasn't been routine for a long time because, for years, the appropriations process has been broken.

We just heard the minority leader, Senator SCHUMER, come to the floor and say this process has become more partisan, as he said, only in the recent weeks. Let me remind the minority leader of his own actions to undermine the appropriations process.

Last year, 11 of 12 funding bills passed the Senate Appropriations Committee. They were passed through regular order in the committee. They had strong bipartisan support. Many actually were unanimous. Yet not a single one of the appropriations bills that were overwhelmingly agreed upon reached this floor of the U.S. Senate—not a one. Why? Because the minority leader, CHUCK SCHUMER, blocked each and every one of them from coming to this floor. He let these 11 bipartisan appropriation bills die at that desk right there.

As the majority leader at the time, Senator SCHUMER had the power to bring each and every one of these bills to the floor of the U.S. Senate, and he refused. Day after day—for 100 days, over 200 days—he absolutely refused. He unilaterally shut down the appropriations process, and now he and other Democrats are threatening to shut down the government of the country.

Both Republicans and Democrats are fully aware of how broken the appropriations process has become. The Senate is meant to be, as has been described, the greatest deliberative body in the world. Yet over the last 4 years, the Senate had become a graveyard for consensus during the Biden administration and with CHUCK SCHUMER as majority leader. The Senate Republicans are now here to correct that.

The Republicans believe in a Senate that debates and amends and then votes. We believe in regular order, not top-down control. That is why, today, Republicans are bringing our first appropriations bill to the floor. The bill funds veterans' healthcare. It strengthens military readiness. It improves housing for servicemembers as well as for their families. The bill went through the committee process. It passed 26 to 3. That is overwhelmingly bipartisan. This is one of several funding bills that earned nearly unanimous support in the Appropriations Committee. Now it deserves bipartisan support on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

This bill to fund veterans' healthcare and military readiness and housing should unite us. It shouldn't divide us. This is an opportunity to return to real governing after years of Democrat-imposed dysfunction. This is how we restore the trust in this institution and the faith in the work that we do here. When the Senate does its job, the

American people are better off. The appropriations process is how Congress fulfills our basic everyday legislative duty—the duty of controlling the power of the purse. It forces accountability, and it forces transparency that had been blocked in the past by the minority leader. It requires Congress to look closely at every taxpayer dollar being spent, and we should. We have an opportunity and an obligation to do that.

This process helps Congress fund what really matters to the American people. It means securing the border; it means strengthening our national security; and it means protecting the most vulnerable among us. It is the best tool that Congress has to rein in reckless, runaway Washington spending. That is what Republicans are doing—accountability, transparency, openness, letting people see the truth.

If Democrats walk away from this process again—and it sounds like CHUCK SCHUMER is trying to decide if he is going to allow his Members to even vote on some of these things—and if they want to do it simply to protect wasteful Washington spending, they will be the ones sabotaging the Senate and shutting down the government.

It won't be the first time. It will be another Schumer shutdown. A Schumer shutdown would punish hard-working families. A Schumer shutdown certainly hurts seniors who rely on Social Security. A Schumer shutdown hurts our military and the families who live paycheck to paycheck. And a Schumer shutdown forces Border Patrol agents to work without pay. The American people should not be forced to pay the price for the games of the Democrat Party.

To my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee who worked in good faith this last year only to see their hard work buried by petty politics, this is an opportunity for us to do better.

Republicans are committed to restoring regular order, transparency, and trust. We are doing the work of the American people here, and the question is: Will Senate Democrats join us, or will they once again drag this country into another Schumer shutdown?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to complete my remarks before we proceed to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, today, the Senate has the opportunity to begin the consideration of an appropriations bill that is vital to those now

serving in our military as well as those who have served—our veterans.

I urge my colleagues to support cloture on the motion to proceed to the fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill when we vote this afternoon. This bill addresses key military infrastructure needs, including housing improvements for military families, and it takes care of our Nation's veterans, to whom we owe an enormous debt—a debt that can never be fully repaid.

I am the daughter of a World War II veteran, who was wounded twice in the Battle of the Bulge and who earned two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. I know, from my father's service and from his example, how deep our gratitude should be to our veterans.

I want to commend the subcommittee chairman Senator BOOZMAN and the ranking member Senator OSSOFF for their cooperative work on this important bill.

In a moment, I will describe some of the major aspects of this appropriations bill, but, first, I would like to share a few thoughts on how we have arrived at this point.

When Vice Chair MURRAY and I took the helm of the Appropriations Committee last Congress, we committed to working together to get our committee back to the business of writing bills and advancing them through regular order so that each and every Senator could have a voice on the Senate floor in offering amendments, debating the bills, and voting on them. This is a fundamental responsibility of Congress.

I want to express my gratitude to the Senate majority leader Senator THUNE for giving us the opportunity to bring the first of the fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills to the Senate floor.

I would note that this is something that did not happen last year under Democratic control of the Senate despite our Appropriations Committee working so hard and reporting 11 of the 12 fiscal year 2025 appropriations bills; but not a single one was brought to the Senate floor by the Democratic leader.

Now, there is no doubt that this is a challenging legislative environment. We are currently operating under a yearlong continuing resolution. The delays in completing the fiscal year 2025 process and the fact that we are in the first year of a new administration has contributed to a late and incomplete budget request from OMB. In the face of these challenges, the members of the Appropriations Committee have worked so hard—for months—in analyzing the President's budget request, holding dozens of hearings, reviewing the enormous number of requests and inputs from other Senators, getting input from outside groups that were affected, and drafting legislation. So far, our committee has reported 4 of the 12 annual appropriations bills, and we have another two on the agenda for this Thursday.

I would point out to the Presiding Officer and to everyone who is listening

that each of these bills reported to date has been approved by overwhelming bipartisan support, reflecting the collaborative approach taken by the Appropriations Committee.

Turning now to the bill at hand, last week, our committee reported, by a vote of 26 to 3, the House-passed Military Construction and Veterans Affairs funding bill with a Senate substitute amendment. The Senate's version includes vital resources to support our servicemembers. It also invests in critical military infrastructure. For example, it includes funding for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME—a pillar of our defense infrastructure that maintains and modernizes our Navy's submarine fleet. It invests in the Air National Guard's air refueling wing in Bangor, ME, known as the MAINEiacs, which delivers essential aerial refueling support to military operations around the globe. These are just two of the many examples of how this bill helps to sustain key defense installations in Maine and across the country.

The bill also includes funding to ensure that our veterans receive the care and the benefits that they have earned through their service to our country. Millions of Americans wear the honorable title of "veteran," and I am proud that our great State of Maine has one of the highest percentages of veterans in the entire country. This bill includes funding for the VA healthcare system, including Maine's only VA hospital, Togus. It includes investments to improve mental health care, such as veterans' suicide and homelessness prevention programs. It includes support for family caregivers—something that former Senator Elizabeth Dole has worked so hard on—and it expands care for rural veterans.

I am also proud that my hometown of Caribou, ME, was the location of the VA's very first community-based outpatient clinic, known as a CBOC, allowing veterans to receive care much closer to their homes. This model was so successful that today the VA operates more than 750 of these CBOCs across the country. The Senate measure also funds important veterans' benefits, such as disability pensions, the GI bill, and employment training programs.

I know from my colleagues that the Senate's substitute amendment was put together with input from 89 Senators who submitted a total of 989 requests.

I see my colleague the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee on the Senate floor. I am sure he can relate to these numbers.

My point is, this is not a bill that simply reflects the views of the members of the Appropriations Committee. The members of this committee went through 989 requests from 89 Senators in drafting this legislation. So it clearly reflects the input of our colleagues, just as it should.

Before I close, I would like to thank Vice Chair MURRAY for her leadership

and commitment to an appropriations process that works.

I am hopeful that cloture will be invoked today to allow us to proceed to consideration of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs funding bill. Discussions are underway on whether to add to this vehicle the Legislative Branch appropriations bill, which was approved with only one dissenting vote, and the Agriculture, FDA, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, which received unanimous support when our committee reported those bills earlier this month. I will have comments on those other bills at a later time. Another possible addition is the Commerce-Justice-Science bill, which was also reported last week from our committee.

Finally, I would note that the responsibility of the purse is vested in Congress through article I, section 9, clause 7 of our great Constitution. That clause dictates that "no Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." The appropriations process is one of the key ways—it is the key way that Congress carries out this significant constitutional responsibility. We must not abdicate our constitutional responsibility for the purse.

I ask my colleagues for their support. I yield the floor.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

#### VOTE ON COLE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cole nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 419 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Banks	Budd	Cotton
Barrasso	Capito	Cramer
Blackburn	Cassidy	Crapo
Boozman	Collins	Cruz
Britt	Cornyn	Curtis

Daines	Lankford	Rounds
Ernst	Lee	Schmitt
Fischer	Lummis	Scott (FL)
Graham	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Grassley	McCormick	Sheehy
Hagerty	Moody	Sullivan
Hawley	Moran	Thune
Hoover	Moreno	Tillis
Husted	Murkowski	Tuberville
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Wicker
Johnson	Ricketts	Young
Justice	Risch	

## NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—3

Kennedy	Mullin
McConnell	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority whip.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess following disposition of the Stevens nomination until 2:15 to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on behalf of the leaders, I ask that the Senate execute the order of July 17 with respect to the Divine and Stevens nomination in the order listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Divine nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

## VOTE ON DIVINE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Divine nomination?

Mr. ROUNDS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 420 Ex.]

## YEAS—51

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoover	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young

## NAYS—47

Budd	Hoeven	Risch
Casper	Rounds	
Crapo	Lummis	
Cruz	Marshall	
Curtis	McCormick	
Daines	Moody	
Ernst	Moran	

[Rollcall Vote No. 421 Ex.]

## YEAS—50

Banks	Fischer	Moreno
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoover	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young

## NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

Kennedy	McConnell	Mullin
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## NOT VOTING—3

Kennedy	McConnell	Mullin
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Stevens nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

## VOTE ON STEVENS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stevens nomination?

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:09 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BUDD).

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, 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.

(Mrs. BRITT assumed the Chair.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The orders from July 17 in executive session having been executed, the Senate resumes legislative session.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 292.

## VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. THUNE. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 422 Leg.]

## YEAS—50

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoover	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	Mccormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	

## NAYS—48

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Luján	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Markey	Smith
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murkowski	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Gallego	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—2

McConnell	Mullin
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The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Emil J. Bove III, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 292, Emil J. Bove III, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Rick Scott of Florida, Chuck Grassley, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Cornyn, Kevin Cramer, Ron Johnson, Ashley B. Moody, Mike Lee, Josh Hawley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

H.R. 3944

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote for cloture on the motion to proceed on the bipartisan fiscal year 2026 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

I want to thank the majority leader for bringing this important legislation to the Senate floor.

This bill would address key military infrastructure needs, including housing improvements for military families, and would provide the funding to ensure that veterans receive the care and benefits they have earned through their service to our country.

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported this measure in an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 26 to 3.

I ask my colleagues to support the motion to allow the Senate to begin to work its will on this important funding bill and to fulfill our constitutional responsibility.

I yield the floor.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the Senate execute the order of July 21 in relation to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, and that the mandatory quorum be waived; further, that following the cloture vote, the Senate execute the order of July 17 in relation to the Lukas and Hansell nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, a bill 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.

John Thune, David McCormick, Marsha Blackburn, James E. Risch, Jon A. Husted, Jim Banks, Tom Cotton, Steve Daines, Ashley B. Moody, Cynthia M.

Lummis, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, Roger Marshall, James Lankford, Todd Young, Mike Rounds, Dan Sullivan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, a bill 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, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 91, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 423 Ex.]

## YEAS—91

Alsobrooks	Gillibrand	Ossoff
Baldwin	Graham	Paul
Banks	Grassley	Peters
Barrasso	Hagerty	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hawley	Risch
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Blunt Rochester	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Boozman	Hoover	Schmitt
Britt	Husted	Schumer
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Justice	Sheaheen
Cassidy	Kaine	Slotkin
Collins	Kelly	Smith
Coons	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	King	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Tuberville
Cramer	Lankford	Van Hollen
Crapo	Luján	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Welch
Gallego	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Young
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

## NAYS—7

Lee	Padilla	Warren
Markey	Sanders	
Murphy	Schiff	

## NOT VOTING—2

McConnell	Mullin
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 91, the nays are 7.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

## CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, on roll-call vote No. 423, I voted no. It was my intention to vote yea. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote since it will not affect the outcome.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

## VOTE ON LUKAS NOMINATION

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lukas nomination?

Mr. LUJAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 424 Ex.]

## YEAS—51

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Murkowski
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeven	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young

## NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Luján	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gallego	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

## NOT VOTING—3

Gillibrand	McConnell	Mullin
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The nomination was confirmed.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session and will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

## VOTE ON HANSELL NOMINATION

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hansell nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 35, as follows:

## [Rollcall Vote No. 425 Ex.]

## YEAS—61

Baldwin	Grassley	Murkowski
Banks	Hagerty	Paul
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Blackburn	Hawley	Ricketts
Boozman	Boozman	Risch
Britt	Husted	Rosen
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Capito	Schmitt
Cassidy	Cassidy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Collins	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Coons	Kaine
Cotton	Cornyn	Kelly
Cramer	Cotton	Shaheen
Crapo	Cramer	Sheehy
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Curtis	Crapo	Thune
Daines	Lee	Tuberville
Ernst	Cruz	Warner
	Lummis	Marshall
	Tillis	McCormick
	Tuberville	Moody
	Wick	Daines
	Young	Fetterman
		Ernst
		Hickenlooper

## NAYS—35

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kaine	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Luján	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gallego	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

## NOT VOTING—4

Graham	Mullin
McConnell	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.  
(Mr. HUSTED assumed the Chair.)

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER** (Mr. CURTIS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Ohio.

## ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the facts about the

One Big Beautiful Bill Act. That was my first reconciliation process as a new U.S. Senator. It was a great experience. I very much enjoyed the 36 hours straight of no sleep. I think that was a record for me. But we got a lot accomplished.

I want to share with you and the people of Ohio about why I believe it is a good bill and I supported it, because the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, as it is known, is uniquely tailored to support Ohio workers and families. I really believe that it serves them well. And the facts support it.

First of all, I think it is important to reflect on why it was necessary. The budget law that we passed extended the 2017 tax cuts, which were going to expire. They needed to be renewed. It also made important investments in national defense and border security. But if we failed to pass it, we would have seen a \$4 trillion tax hike on the American people, something that would have been devastating to their pocketbooks and our economy.

I believe that people and States do a good job spending the money that they have. I believe that people will spend smarter when they have more money in their pockets rather than putting that money in the control of the Federal Government. I come to this conclusion based on both my life experiences and 25 years of State government in Ohio. It is from that perspective I want to focus on what I believe the One Big Beautiful Bill means in real-world terms for Ohio families, workers, and taxpayers.

The BBB results in more take-home pay for Ohioans, more money in their pockets. More take-home pay means independence. Government dependency means less independence. That is why this bill focuses on really allowing workers to keep more of the money they earn.

Let's dig into this a bit. The tax cuts that were cemented for workers and job creators will leave the average Ohio household with an estimated \$7,000 more in take-home pay. And more specifically, the Council of Economic Advisers estimates the bill will increase take-home pay for the average family with two kids in Ohio between \$6,900 a family up to \$11,700 per family. That is more aftertax wages—taxes going down, wages going up, more money in your pockets. That is what it means.

We made no taxes on tips and no taxes on overtime a reality. Ohioans work hard, and that is a change that they can feel legitimately in their pockets.

I was on a telephone townhall last night. One of the ladies who called in said: Hey, I want you to know my husband is a line worker. He works a lot of overtime for the utility company, and that eliminating tax on overtime pay will mean a lot to our family—more take-home pay.

I understood that. It is another aspect of the bill that is very important for working people.

We increased the child tax credit up to \$2,200 per child. If we had failed to do this, it would have dropped down to \$1,000. It is now up to \$2,200 per child. That benefit alone will serve 1.3 million Ohio families. It is good for them. It is good for families with children who are trying to make ends meet. It is just another part of this bill that makes life easier for them.

We also made the standard deduction permanent—\$31,500 for couples and \$15,700 for single filers. Who does that affect? Just 5.3 million Ohioans who will benefit from that increase.

We also remembered Ohio's seniors by expanding their annual deduction to \$6,000. I know I heard from many Ohio seniors, as this bill was traveling through the process, who said: Hey, do this for us.

It is tough for many seniors who are on fixed incomes who trying to make ends meet and pay property taxes. Every little bit helps, and we helped those senior citizens by increasing their annual deduction.

We need to remember what would have happened to workers and families if we had failed. It is always the other side of every piece of legislation: OK. What is in it? Well, what would happen if we didn't get the job done? Well, that would have meant, for the average American family of four earning \$80,000 a year, that they would have owed an additional \$1,700 in taxes. The savings delivered for the Ohio household—an average Ohio household—is even bigger. For Ohioans, it will be \$2,140. It is a big flip between what you would have lost and what you are now getting in return, what you are saving.

Our work is creating more Ohio jobs. It is always on the top of my mind. I have always believed that if you have a good job and if you have a good economy, you can pay your mortgage, buy a car, and save for your future. Frankly, that is just part of the American dream. So when we are creating jobs, we are creating opportunity. We are creating that pathway for the American dream, and we do this in the bill.

I am going to brag about Ohio for a minute, if the Presiding Officer would allow me, because recently we were named the fifth best State in the country to do business. I know we compete against States around this country and around the world, and Ohio has come a long way from the 39th worst State to the 5th best in the Nation. I was very proud to take part of that when I was Lieutenant Governor and speaker of the house.

That is good for our State, but what about our entire country? How do we make it so that businesses are going to perform better? Particularly for small businesses, what did we do in the bill? A 20-percent small business tax deduction.

It all adds up. Small businesses have to make tough choices, and when you have this predictability—when you know you are going to get, instead of a tax increase, a tax cut—then you start

to think: OK. I don't have to close the doors. I might be able to hire a new person. Those benefits that I was worried about, as to whether I could provide healthcare or not, I can do that now.

All of that benefits them when businesses have the predictability and they know that their tax bills are not going to go up but that they are going to go down.

Almost all of Ohio's businesses are organized as small businesses, and they will be able to get access to this. That is 842,000 Ohio job creators who would have lost that deduction if we had not passed the bill.

It is estimated that the One Big Beautiful Bill alone is projected to create 1.2 million new U.S. jobs a year over the next decade. Those numbers can fluctuate, but the bottom line is that it is good for job creation, it is good for America, it is good for the American workforce, and it is good for the American worker.

I want to talk about manufacturing for a minute. We talk about "made in America" and that we want to do more "made in America." Well, I always said this about Ohio: You can't do "made in America" without doing "made in Ohio" because we are literally part of the American supply chain. So what is good for manufacturing is good for the State of Ohio.

To that end, we made sure that this legislation gave job creators the freedom to immediately expense investments in new factories, capital investments in machinery and equipment and in research and development. No, that is not something the average person sees directly, but it is something that the employer does; it is something that the employer knows—that they now have predictability in how to allocate their capital, that they can afford to invest in new machinery and equipment.

When you invest in new machinery and equipment, what does it do? It makes you more competitive on a global stage. It puts you in a position that you can hire people, compete, open new markets, and improve the quality of the product you have so that you not only can outcompete your competitors but you can win and create jobs. This is a big boon for States like Ohio. It helps our manufacturing culture, and it is important.

Another piece of this, another piece of the Big Beautiful Bill that a lot of people might not know about is something that I care a lot about.

For decades of my life, I have been working on issues surrounding workforce development. How do we help people get the skills they need to compete for the jobs of today and tomorrow to earn higher pay? to have job security? In many cases, we want to do this without having the cost of going to college. We want to help people earn the credentials that lead to jobs without their having the cost or the debt that oftentimes college creates. Well,

in this bill, we allow for Pell grants to be used for workforce credentials to land good jobs.

I know I have something here that I received from the Ohio Association of Community Colleges and some college trustees or some community college trustees who talk about how it will help them expand workforce programs to the people of our State. It is a good, positive change that we made in allowing Pell grants to be used for workforce credentials, not just for college.

It also will help families from an educational point at the K-through-12 level. We talked about Pell grants at the postsecondary level; let's talk about the K-through-12 level. One of the things I did when I was the speaker of the house in Ohio is to create the EdChoice Scholarship. At the time, it was 4,000 students. Now it is over 100,000 students who can go to schools of their choice using that program. But I know it is still not enough. We can still do more to support families who want, with their own wisdom and freedom, to be able to choose a place to send their children because, frankly, there is not a decision that you make as a parent or as a guardian about the future of your child, frankly, that may be more important than the school they attend. It may be for an academic reason, it may be for a workforce reason, but it could be for a values reason that you want your child to attend a particular school. It could be for a safety reason. This creates a school choice tax credit that will help create more scholarship opportunities for parents and children to attend the school of their choice.

Then, finally—something that is very near and dear to me—the Big Beautiful Bill supports Ohio families and vulnerable children by making the adoption tax credit partially refundable up to \$5,000. As an adoptee, as somebody who started my life in a foster home, this is important to me. For a child who is looking for the support of a forever family—now we have made it just a little bit easier for them to find that family and to support that family. It is a really important component of the bill. Every little bit helps when you are trying to support a family.

Now I want to talk a little bit about things that are being said about the bill that just aren't true as it relates to my State. I want to start with Medicaid.

There are some whoppers of a lie being told about Medicaid right now. Frankly, it is bothersome because I believe, in many cases, these lies are being used to scare some of the most vulnerable people in our society—pregnant mothers, children living in poverty, people with disabilities, the elderly.

I want you to know you are protected. You are protected. This bill supports strengthening Medicaid to make sure those services are there for you—the people the program was originally designed to serve.

I want you to know that Ohioans will have access to more healthcare resources because of the Big Beautiful Bill than ever before. Let me explain this because there is a lot of misinformation out there. Some people are scared, and they deserve to know the truth about it.

This package is sending more Medicaid dollars and more support to rural hospitals in Ohio than ever before. That is a fact. Ohio has historically been one of the more responsible States in its approach to Medicaid. We haven't maxed out some of the tools that States have available to them to draw down funding on Medicaid. That means that Ohio taxpayers have been subsidizing States like California, which has been drawing down the maximum amount of Federal dollars and, frankly, has been using them to pay for healthcare for people who aren't even citizens of the United States—in many cases, even for illegal immigrants. That should not be the priority of the American taxpayer and certainly not the priority for the Ohio taxpayer, and this budget bill levels the playing field in that respect.

I am going to give you a little more detail on it because I think this is important. Not only do I want to share with you the facts about how Medicaid is being supported but how.

First, in Ohio, the State government—the Governor and the legislature—raised the provider tax, which they were allowed to do under this bill. In doing so, they are going to be able to draw down 60 percent more Medicaid funding as a result of that provision. What does that mean practically for Ohio hospitals? It means, for most hospitals in Ohio, they will receive 24 percent more reimbursement than they did the previous year. As a result, Ohio will be, frankly, taking in more Medicaid money than ever to serve those populations. Those are facts.

I have received numerous pieces of communications from hospitals around the State of Ohio. This is one from four rural hospitals thanking Senator MORENO and myself for what is in the bill, what is in the Big Beautiful Bill, because it is helping them in those rural hospitals make ends meet.

That doesn't even include the third priority that we worked on, which is a rural health transformation fund that makes available \$50 billion over the next 5 years to support rural hospitals. Ohio is going to receive its first windfall from that amount of money—\$1.3 billion—for our rural hospitals, and it is going to help because I know they struggle from time to time. Sometimes their business model does not work as well as it does in a more heavily populated area.

But it is important that we know those facts to be true and that the scare tactics are wrong. People who have depended on Medicaid should know it is going to be there for them.

Nationally, even though Ohio will be getting an additional amount of fund-

ing for Medicaid, the whole country—every State—will be receiving additional funding because the Medicaid budget increases by 3 percent a year long into the future.

Changes like these are significant. But I want Ohioans to know that they are protected and that their hard-earned money that they have been using to fund Medicaid will no longer go to things that I know they don't approve of, which is paying for healthcare services for people who are in this country illegally.

I know that according to CMS, of all the projected Federal taxpayer losses under the provider tax that happen across the country, 95 percent of those losses come from four States: California, Michigan, Massachusetts, and New York, which have been maxing out the credit card of this country through the way that they operate their Medicaid Programs.

Every State does it differently. Some States are more responsible than others. We need to have a system that protects the long-term interests of our Medicaid Program. Ohio shouldn't be punished for their bad policies, and this bill levels that playing field.

I want to reemphasize that Medicaid for children living in poverty, those with disabilities, caretakers, and elderly Ohioans is protected. Don't be scared by the lies. The truth is that no one that Medicaid was designed to serve will see benefit cuts.

You may have heard people say: Well, some folks are going to lose their benefits.

I want to share some facts on this. It was in the Wall Street Journal, I believe, today. It shows that we have 2.8 million people—2.8 million people—in this country who are dually enrolled in Medicaid; meaning, they are in one State and another, which means: What are we doing? We are paying Medicaid premiums for the same individual in multiple States. It is a waste of money. Frankly, it is hard to believe that this has not been cracked down on before, because this money that we are talking about is hard-earned tax dollars in a country that has a \$37 trillion national debt, and here we see it wasted in this program. Not to mention that there is a high number of people on the program who are not even eligible, further jeopardizing the long-term sustainability of the program.

Then, finally, I want to talk about something I have been working on for quite a while. I know when the Federal Government, under ObamaCare, put in place the Medicaid expansion provision, it provided free healthcare, provided free benefits, generously provided by the hard-working people of this Nation, for healthy adults who are able-bodied who didn't have children. This bill says that if you are a healthy adult who is able-bodied, without young children, that now you are going to have to work 20 hours a week in return for your benefits. That seems to be a pretty reasonable request. It is part of the social

contract that if you can contribute to your own success in life, that you should do that.

People of this country are generous and good-hearted and they want to make sure that people in need have access to healthcare. But if you are capable of working, and you just refuse to do so, now, you are going to have to start doing something in return for those benefits. And that means you can get an education, committing 20 hours a week to your education. You can volunteer at the library, cleaning up trash in your local park; or you can get a job and start to build your career and start to contribute to your own independence in life.

That is a simple request that most people in this country support. I know Ohioans support it—that if you are going to receive generous, free healthcare from your neighbor, that you should do something in return if you are capable of doing it. In this Big Beautiful Bill we now have that standard in place for the people of this country.

I also want to add that in the bill we made communities across this country and Ohio much safer by securing the border—big investments in making sure that we secure the southern border, we don't let drugs and people who are not legally allowed to be in this country come across.

But we also did it at the northern border. Ohio has a northern border, Lake Erie. There is money in there to prevent some of the things that we have seen even at our northern border.

But this failure at our southern border has led to millions of people coming into this country illegally, people like Luis Naula-Candelario. Earlier this year, he was arrested in Ohio. He was a criminal alien from Ecuador. He was not legally allowed to be in this country. He was wanted in his home country for murder. He was living in Pickerington, OH, not far from the city of Columbus.

We have people all across this country who are here illegally, and there is money in this bill to find them, arrest them, and deport them, particularly those who have committed crimes either in their home country or in ours.

And this will help support law enforcement to protect more communities around our Nation and, certainly, in our State.

The Big Beautiful Bill keeps America strong by investing hundreds of millions of dollars in Ohio manufacturers that produce the next generation of weapons.

Also, our national security is supported in this bill. Our defense industry has done its part throughout the course of American history to defeat enemies around the globe, but every generation faces a new threat. We face threats from China, Iran, Russia, and North Korea.

Ohio is a manufacturing State. We are the heart of it all, but we are the heart of defense manufacturing in

many ways. This bill will help our State defend America and defend American interests.

I actually toured, recently, a company in Ohio, late last year, that makes the bunker-busting bombs that were dropped in the very successful endeavor into Iran recently by our brave Air Force pilots and crew. That 30,000-pound bunker-busting bomb, along with many other weapons, is manufactured in our State. We are very proud to have a State that makes so many things that help preserve and maintain our freedom.

Last but not least, we are also safeguarding our future by making sure that we are lowering our deficit. I will say, I was concerned, as the bill moved through the process, about what was being said about it, about how it was going to exacerbate and add to our deficit, because we were hearing a lot of people quoting the Congressional Budget Office, saying that it was going to add \$3.4 trillion to the national debt. But when it was all said and done and the Congressional Budget Office reviewed the law, the final assessment is that it actually reduces the deficit by \$366 billion—good news.

Right now, the U.S. taxpayer is shelling out \$1 trillion a year to pay interest on our debt, which also drives up our inflation. To help pay for our current debt and the benefits we protect, we need laws, we need legislators, we need leaders who are going to make sure that this is top of mind. I have been and intend to be someone who thinks about those issues.

So while it is good news that we did not increase the deficit and that we brought it down mildly, modestly, there is still more work to do. I don't want to leave by saying that this is good enough. There is more work to do to preserve the future for our children and grandchildren by acting in a fiscally responsible way.

Ohio's interests drove my work and support for this bill from start to finish, and it is clear that it will lead to more jobs, lower taxes, higher wages, and more freedom and prosperity for Ohioans, and that means that they can live their lives with more confidence and certainty for everyone who calls our State home.

I know my colleagues will have many different takes on this bill, but this is what it does for my State. It is a good bill that supports Ohio workers. It is pro-growth, it is pro-family, and it is pro-Ohio. I know that the working people of our State will benefit from what we accomplished in the passage of this legislation.

I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### TRIBUTE TO BROGAN BYRAM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Brogan for

his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Brogan is from Buffalo, WY. Brogan is currently enrolled at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in energy resource management. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Brogan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO LUCAS HOFFMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Lucas for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Lucas is originally from Westborough, MA, but now calls Wilson, WY, home. Lucas is a rising senior at Davidson College in Davidson, NC, where he is pursuing a bachelor's degree in politics, philosophy, and economics. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Lucas for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHARLOTTE HOLDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Charlotte for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Charlotte is originally from Salt Lake City, UT, but now lives in Jackson, WY. Charlotte attends Santa Clara University where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology and minoring in biotechnology. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Charlotte for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS UNDER RULE XLIV OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I certify that the information required by Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate related to congressionally directed spending items for H.R. 3944, as reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee, has been available on a publicly accessible congressional website since approximately 10 am Eastern Time on July 18, 2025.

#### UNESCO

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, of all the uninformed, ill-conceived, and self-inflicted errors of this administration, the just-announced decision to withdraw from UNESCO stands out.

The justification given by the State Department spokeswoman was a recitation of outdated, vague, and inaccurate criticisms of an organization that has seen dramatic reforms over the past 7 years under the outstanding leadership of Director General Audrey Azoulay. Since her initial appointment in 2017, Director General Azoulay has made numerous trips to Washington to meet with leaders in the Congress and the administration. I have heard consistently positive reactions to her leadership of UNESCO by Republicans and Democrats alike, including regarding UNESCO's efforts to address anti-semitism.

Given Director General Azoulay's success in focusing UNESCO on its mission of promoting international cooperation and peace in a manner consistent with democratic values and human rights and dignity, one can only conclude that the administration officials behind this short-sighted decision never bothered to do their homework—or they were guided purely by Project 2025's mindless opposition to multilateralism, regardless of the facts. As far as I am aware, they did not bother to consult anyone in Congress, including those who have regularly engaged with Director General Azoulay and her professional staff.

Most Republicans and Democrats have long recognized that it is far better for the United States to be in the room, rather than remain outside and cede our influence to those who don't share our interests or values. The Chinese Government is looking for any opportunity to expand its influence in the United Nations, and UNESCO is no exception. We rejoined UNESCO in 2023 after a 5-year absence, and now, we are withdrawing again. It sends a terrible message that the United States can no longer be counted on. It is a message the Chinese will applaud.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. President, I missed the following votes, but had I

been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 378, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 58, William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 416, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 91, Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

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#### HONORING DEPUTY BRANDON GAEDE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory and mourn the tragic passing of a young Kansan, Phillips County Sheriff's Deputy Brandon Gaede.

On Friday, June 27, Kansas lost one of its finest in the line of duty. Responding to a call in Phillipsburg, Deputy Brandon Gaede arrived promptly at the scene, and as he was attempting to make an arrest, the suspect revealed a concealed handgun and opened fire. Despite being struck several times, Brandon returned fire, neutralizing the assailant in order to protect innocent bystanders and prevent any further harm to his fellow officers. First responders and EMS quickly arrived at the scene to perform lifesaving efforts, but sadly, Brandon did not survive.

I am heartbroken by this tragedy. Words cannot describe the devastating loss felt by Brandon's family, friends, and loved ones. Brandon is survived by his wife Karlye and their three young children. This senseless act of violence has forever robbed the Gaede family of their father and husband and the Phillips County community of a dedicated public servant.

When we lose someone in a Kansas community, it is not simply just another name. It is someone we have seen at our children's school activities, stood beside at community gatherings, and gotten to know as a neighbor and friend.

Brandon's life was an example of what it means to truly serve, and I have come to learn there are many examples of Brandon's selflessness. I attended Brandon's funeral in Phillipsburg. The outpouring of love and support I saw for Brandon was incredible. Over 100 law enforcement agencies traveled to northwest Kansas to show their support for their brother in blue.

In addition to this support, law enforcement has a tradition of escorting a fallen officer to their place of rest, and as the motorcade was headed from Wichita to Phillipsburg, it passed through my hometown of Plainville. The videos I saw showed hundreds of first responders and community members lining the streets, waving American flags and saluting a fallen hero. This moment serves as a reminder to all of us that we more in common than we have apart.

Our men and women of law enforcement, officers like Brandon, put their lives on the line every day in dedication to serving their community. They selflessly stand between those they have sworn to protect and those that wish to do them harm, sacrificing much for the sake of their families, friends, and communities. While we can never repay the sacrifice of Brandon, we have a responsibility to honor his memory and make certain his sacrifice is never forgotten.

To Brandon's family, friends and loved ones: I am sorry for your loss. May God comfort you during your time of grief and be a source of strength during this difficult time.

Brandon served his community with integrity, honor, and respect. May we never forget his memory and his service, and may we each strive to live up to the values he swore to protect.

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#### REMEMBERING LINO GUTIERREZ

Mr. KAINES. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the remarkable life and career of Ambassador Lino Gutierrez, a dedicated public servant whose decades of diplomacy helped shape U.S. engagement across the Western Hemisphere. He passed away on May 3, 2025, leaving behind a legacy defined by service and impact.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Ambassador Gutierrez came to the United States as a young boy, fleeing Castro's regime and beginning a journey that would see him rise to some of the highest ranks of American diplomacy. Gutierrez served in the Foreign Service under five Presidents and 11 Secretaries of State, including as U.S. Ambassador to both Nicaragua and Argentina.

In those roles, Ambassador Gutierrez led and oversaw a number of significant achievements. During his tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, the United States and Argentina signed agreements on counterterrorism and counternarcotics cooperation and container security. As Acting Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Gutierrez led the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs on September 11, 2001, and beyond. He accompanied Secretary of State Colin Powell to Lima, Peru, for the signing of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and returned with the Secretary's party to the United States on September 11, 2001. During his tenure in Nicaragua, Gutierrez oversaw efforts to demobilize and reintegrate the Contra fighters into civil society, strengthen the country's newly established democratic government after years of authoritarian rule, and coordinated the U.S. relief effort following the deadly devastation of Hurricane Mitch.

After retiring from the State Department, Ambassador Gutierrez remained deeply committed to strengthening the Foreign Service. As executive director of the Una Chapman Cox Foundation, he championed initiatives to enhance recruitment, professional development,

and public understanding of diplomacy. He also taught as an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities, served on the board of Georgetown's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, was appointed by Secretary of State John Kerry to the Foreign Service Grievance Board, and provided expert guidance to DACOR on fostering strong U.S.-Latin America relations. Through these endeavors, Ambassador Gutierrez leaves behind a remarkable legacy which will continue to shape the next generation of U.S. diplomatic and foreign policy leaders.

Ambassador Gutierrez embodied the American ideal of public service. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife Miriam, their three daughters, and six grandchildren. May his example continue to inspire all who believe in diplomacy as a force for peace, security, and opportunity.

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#### TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDRICK "SKIP" BURKLE

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, Dr. Fredrick "Skip" Burkle, Jr., is a distinguished veteran, physician, and humanitarian whose service to our Nation exemplifies the highest ideals of courage and compassion. Throughout his career, Dr. Burkle has selflessly dedicated his life to graciously serve not only the American people, but countless others who his influence and expertise extended to.

Dr. Burkle was drafted into the U.S. Navy at the height of the Vietnam war as a military physician at Delta Med, a Forward Casualty Receiving Facility for the 3rd Marine Division near the Demilitarized Zone. Under relentless mortar fire and nightly combat, Dr. Burkle provided lifesaving care to wounded marines, civilians, and enemy combatants alike. While serving at Delta Med, Dr. Burkle came under an incoming enemy attack which caused him to collide into the wall of a bunker, resulting in a traumatic brain injury. However, Dr. Burkle did not let this injury stop him from continuing his career of service.

His valor and dedication earned him the Bronze Star with Combat V, a testament to his extraordinary service in an extremely dangerous engagement of the war. In 1975, Dr. Burkle returned to Vietnam to serve as the medical director for Operation Babylift, a daring humanitarian mission that evacuated thousands of orphans from Saigon in the final days of the war. His leadership during this operation saved countless lives and demonstrated the enduring commitment of American compassion in times of crisis. During the Persian Gulf War, Dr. Burkle served as senior medical officer at Al Khanjar Navy-Marine Trauma Center, one of the largest field hospitals in the Marine Corps' history.

Dr. Burkle retired as a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve, but his commitment to public service did not end there. He went on to become one of the

world's experts in disaster response, global health, and humanitarian assistance. Dr. Burkle further offered his expertise in disaster and emergency medicine by serving as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Global Health at the U.S. Agency for International Development, where he was notably tasked to organize preparations for postconflict humanitarian assistance following the U.S. invasion of Iraq. His work has spanned continents and crises, earning him well-deserved recognition.

Dr. Burkle's life is a testament to the values we hold dear: service above self, healing in the face of destruction, and unwavering dedication to the betterment of humankind. I commend Dr. Burkle for his service to this country; we are a nation forever in gratitude for his accomplishments. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Fredrick "Skip" Burkle for his military service, his humanitarian legacy, and his enduring impact on global health and diplomacy.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING SPONHEIM SALES AND SERVICES

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Sponheim Sales and Services of Nora Springs, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Founded in 2015 by Dean Sponheim, a fourth-generation Mitchell County farmer, Sponheim Sales and Services is the culmination of decades of agricultural innovation and a deep commitment to soil health and sustainability. Dean, along with his son Josh and long-time colleague Rachel Amundson, launched the acclaimed one-stop shop to provide cover crop seed, aerial application, custom seeding services, and more. What began as an effort to improve farming practices beyond conservation evolved into a full-service operation supporting farmers across Iowa.

Dean's journey began in the late 1990s, when he started strip-tilling and providing custom strip-till services. By 2012, Dean was aerially applying cover crops. With the official establishment of Sponheim Sales and Services a few years later, the team expanded to offer cover crop seed sales, custom seed cleaning, drilling, interseeding, and contracting with local oat and rye growers. Recently, they have partnered with Continuum Ag to help farmers participate in sustainability-driven markets while reducing their environmental footprint.

Today, Sponheim Sales and Services continues to operate out of Nora Springs, IA, serving farmers across the

region, while carrying forward the family's Century Farm legacy. The business remains highly involved within the community, actively participating with organizations such as the Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. Dean also serves on the Rock Creek Watershed Advisory Board and contributes to national conservation efforts through the National Strip-Till Conference. In 2014, Dean was recognized with the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award, a testament to his commitment and ongoing pursuit of sustainable farming. In addition to these leadership roles, Sponheim Sales and Services is dedicated to supporting its local community, sponsoring many schools and county fairs. The team is a trusted resource for farmers seeking professional guidance, offering skills and knowledge drawn from years of firsthand experience and continuous learning.

Last year, I witnessed the entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to land stewardship demonstrated by Sponheim Sales and Services firsthand. As a trusted partner to local farmers and a leader in conservation agriculture, this family-owned business continues to make a positive impact across our State and region. I want to congratulate Dean, Josh, Rachel, and the entire Sponheim Sales and Services team for their outstanding work, and I look forward to their continued success supporting Iowa's agricultural future.●

##### RECOGNIZING PRESTON, IDAHO

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, I rise with my colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Congressman MIKE SIMPSON to celebrate the 125th birthday of Preston, ID. From the famous Preston Night Rodeo to the historic brick-and-mortar businesses along State Street, Preston has both a deep history and bright future to be celebrated.

The first settlers arrived in the Preston area in 1888, establishing a small agricultural town in the fertile Cache Valley of southeastern Idaho, which they called "Worm Creek." The community, shaped by faith, family, hard work, and resilience, was officially incorporated on July 25, 1900. The newly formed city was named Preston in honor of William B. Preston, the fourth Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Preston quickly became known for its strong agricultural foundation, primarily in dairy, sugar beet, and grain farming, which still influence the economy today. In 1904, the Oregon Short Line Railroad connected Preston to larger nearby markets, spurring growth in commerce, education, and the community in Franklin County. Preston High School was built shortly thereafter, in 1908. In the more than 100 years since, the school has gained recognition not only for its academic achievements but also for the 2004 pop culture sensation "Napoleon Dyna-

mite." This iconic film captured the sincerity and quiet charm that Preston has displayed since its founding.

The city of Preston is a true testament to Western American heritage. These values are evident in the kindness of the community, rich agricultural roots, and the Famous Preston Night Rodeo. Since 1934, the award-winning Preston Rodeo has attracted world-champion cowboys and cowgirls, stimulated economic development, and inspired generations of family fun.

For 125 years, Preston has demonstrated that hard work, responsible stewardship of the land, and commitment to community create a lasting impact. Today, we proudly recognize more than a century of this small town's strong families, agricultural innovations, and notable small businesses that will continue to shape its future.●

#### RECOGNIZING THOMAS MERCANTILE

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Thomas Mercantile as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for July 2025.

Thomas Mercantile opened in Swan Lake in 1909 when Samuel Thomas bought the store. Alongside his brothers Chauncey and Moroni, the family operated the local post office, grocery store, and a harness and saddle business.

During its 108 years of operation, the Thomas Mercantile was known as the "hub" of the Swan Lake community. From its early days as a dancehall and barbershop to becoming home to the first television in east Idaho, the shop was a favorite spot for town meetings and camaraderie. Three generations of Thomases ran the business, overcoming the Great Depression, World War II, tragedy, and triumph, before closing the mercantile in 2017.

In the spring of 2021, Idaho native Kaarin Engelman took on the challenge of reopening the store. After a lengthy restoration process, during which Kaarin worked extensively to preserve the business's history, charm, and beloved radiators, the Thomas Mercantile reopened its doors in May of 2023.

Today, Kaarin continues the legacy of the Thomas Mercantile by hosting community events, such as board gaming afternoons, Music at the Merc, and Swan Lake Market Day. The shop also supports local producers, sourcing its baked goods, eggs, pork, and beef from vendors in the Swan Lake region.

Congratulations to Kaarin, the Thomas family, and all the employees at Thomas Mercantile on being selected as the Idaho Small Business of

the Month for July 2025. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 131. An act to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado.

H.R. 183. An act to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters.

H.R. 672. An act to establish new ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1043. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1450. An act to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms' investigations, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1469. An act to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors.

H.R. 1716. An act to deter Chinese aggression towards Taiwan by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to publish a report on financial institutions and accounts connected to senior officials of the People's Republic of China, to restrict financial services for certain immediate family of such officials, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1764. An act to accord securities issued by the International Development Association the same exemption from the securities laws that applies to the securities of other multilateral development banks in which the United States is a member.

H.R. 2170. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community based outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey, the Leonard G. 'Bud' Lomell, VA Clinic, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2384. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2625. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment.

H.R. 3095. An act to direct the United States Postal Services to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3339. An act to require certification examinations for accredited investors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3343. An act to amend the Federal securities laws to specify the periods for which financial statements are required to be provided by an emerging growth company, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3351. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify that actions of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act.

H.R. 3382. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term "small entity" under the securities

laws for purposes of chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3395. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study of the costs associated with small- and medium-sized companies to undertake initial public offerings.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 131. An act to make certain modifications to the repayment for the Arkansas Valley Conduit in the State of Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 183. An act to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for a free annual National Parks and Federal Recreational lands Pass for law enforcement officers and firefighters; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 672. An act to establish new ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 1043. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1450. An act to require the Office of Foreign Assets Control to develop a program under which private sector firms may receive a license to conduct nominal financial transactions in furtherance of the firms' investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 1469. An act to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1716. An act to deter Chinese aggression towards Taiwan by requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to publish a report on financial institutions and accounts connected to senior officials of the People's Republic of China, to restrict financial services for certain immediate family of such officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1764. An act to accord securities issued by the International Development Association the same exemption from the securities laws that applies to the securities of other multilateral development banks in which the United States is a member; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2170. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Toms River, New Jersey, the Leonard G. 'Bud' Lomell, VA Clinic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2384. An act to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2625. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3095. An act to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 3339. An act to require certification examinations for accredited investors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3343. An act to amend the Federal securities laws to specify the periods for which financial statements are required to be provided by an emerging growth company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3351. An act to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify that actions of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation are not a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3382. An act to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term "small entity" under the securities laws for purposes of chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3395. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study of the costs associated with small- and medium-sized companies to undertake initial public offerings; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-1336. A communication from the Chief Executive Officer of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 769. A bill to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to clarify the definition of foreign country for purposes of malign foreign talent recruitment restriction, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-45).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO for the Committee on Finance.

\*Joseph Barloon, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador.

\*Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

\*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. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 2369. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove or permanently conceal the name of Francis Newlands on the grounds of the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 2370. A bill to provide for eligibility for veterans of Operation End Sweep for the Vietnam Service Medal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 2371. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the impacts of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, and lead in infant formula on infant health and establish standards for regulating the content of such substances in infant formula; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2372. A bill to ensure accessibility of drugs furnished through the drug discount program under section 340B of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ALSO BROOKS (for herself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 2373. A bill to amend section 485 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require certain institutions of higher education to develop and implement a venue-specific heat-related illnesses emergency action plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2374. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2375. A bill to require a report on the threats to the national security of the United States posed by the national debt and net interest payments on that debt; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CORNIN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. 2376. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to include rioting in the definition of racketeering activity; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. COONS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GALLEG, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KIM, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2377. A bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2378. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish funds for investments in aviation security checkpoint technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CORNIN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 2379. A bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 2380. A bill to direct the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, to seek to establish an Economic Security Working Group within the Quad; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNIN (for himself and Mr. KIM):

S. 2381. A bill to require the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop a framework for detecting, removing, and reporting child pornography in datasets used to train artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2382. A bill to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to provide for disclosure regarding foreign jurisdictions that hinder inspections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KAYNE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLENS, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2383. A bill to exempt goods imported by or for the use of small business concerns from the duties imposed by the national emergency declared on February 1, 2025 by the President; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2384. A bill to monitor United States investments in entities that are controlled by foreign adversaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 2385. A bill to codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2386. A bill to limit the use of Federal law enforcement officers for crowd control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S.J. Res. 63. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Central Yukon Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S.J. Res. 64. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection

Agency relating to "Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; Regional Haze State Implementation Plan for the Second Implementation Period"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S.J. Res. 65. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Air Plan Approval; Florida; Revisions to Stationary Sources-Removal of Clean Air Interstate Rule Provisions"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S.J. Res. 66. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Coke Ovens: Pushing, Quenching, and Battery Stacks, and Coke Oven Batteries; Residual Risk and Technology Review, and Periodic Technology Review"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S.J. Res. 67. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Integrated Iron and Steel Manufacturing Facilities Technology Review: Interim Final Rule"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KAYNE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 331. A resolution calling upon the Senate to give its advice and consent to the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNIN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 332. A resolution designating July 26, 2025, as "National Day of the American Cowboy"; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors 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. 355

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 355, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to publish a final rule relating to nonclinical testing methods.

S. 545

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to prohibit certain uses of xylazine, and for other purposes.

S. 752

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 752, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines.

S. 1232

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to modernize the business of selling firearms.

S. 1296

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1296, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to strengthen disclosure requirements relating to foreign gifts and contracts, to prohibit contracts between institutions of higher education and certain foreign entities and countries of concern, and for other purposes.

S. 1370

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1370, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1374

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit machinegun conversion devices and illegal modifications of semiautomatic firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to ensure consumers have access to data relating to their motor vehicles, critical repair information, and tools, and to provide them choices for the maintenance, service, and repair of their motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1404

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi

(Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1404, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods and cargo for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 1441

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1441, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1454

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1454, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) 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. 1809

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1809, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking or transmitting video of defense information, and for other purposes.

S. 2106

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2106, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet certain eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2169

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2169, a bill to require the development of a comprehensive rural hospital cybersecurity workforce development strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 2245

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2245, a bill to amend the Digital Coast Act to improve the acquisition, integration, and accessibility of data of

the Digital Coast program and to extend the program.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2266, a bill to provide for automatic renewal protections, and for other purposes.

S. 2293

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2293, a bill to require the President to designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a foreign terrorist organization, to direct the Secretary of State to submit a report to Congress regarding such designation, and for other purposes.

S. 2294

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2294, a bill to reauthorize the Kay Hagan Tick Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2350

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2350, a bill to provide for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests for deferred action under the deferred action for childhood arrivals program, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2374. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2374

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Climate Change Resiliency Fund for America Act of 2025”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

### TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sec. 101. Establishment of Climate Change Advisory Commission.

Sec. 102. Duties.

Sec. 103. Commission personnel matters.

Sec. 104. Funding.

Sec. 105. Termination.

## TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

Sec. 201. Climate Change Resiliency Fund.  
Sec. 202. Compliance with Davis-Bacon Act.  
Sec. 203. Funding.

## TITLE III—REVENUE

Sec. 301. Climate Change Obligations.  
Sec. 302. Promotion.

## SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Climate Change Advisory Commission established by section 101(a).

(2) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term “community of color” means a geographically distinct area in which the population of any of the following categories of individuals is higher than the national average populations of that category:

(A) Black.  
(B) African American.

(C) Asian.

(D) Pacific Islander.

(E) Other non-White race.

(F) Hispanic.

(G) Latino.

(H) Native American.

(I) Linguistically isolated.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” includes—

(A) a Federal agency;

(B) a State or group of States;

(C) a unit of local government or a group of local governments;

(D) a utility district;

(E) a Tribal government or a consortium of Tribal governments;

(F) a State or regional transit agency or a group of State or regional transit agencies;

(G) a nonprofit organization;

(H) a special purpose district or public authority, including a port authority; and

(I) any other entity, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—The term “environmental justice community” means a community with significant representation of communities of color or low-income communities that experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects.

(5) FRONTLINE COMMUNITY.—The term “frontline community” means a low-income community or a community of color that is disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change, industrial pollution (including historic pollution), or a phenomenon associated with climate change, including such a community that was or is at risk of being disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change, industrial pollution (including historic pollution), or a phenomenon associated with climate change earlier than other such communities.

(6) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Climate Change Resiliency Fund established by section 201(a)(1).

(7) LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.—The term “low-income community” means any census block group in which 30 percent or more of the population are individuals with an annual household income equal to, or less than, the greater of—

(A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the median household income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

(8) PROJECT.—The term “project” means a project for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose performed by an eligible entity under section 201(b).

(9) QUALIFIED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PURPOSE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “qualified climate change adaptation purpose” means an

objective with a demonstrated intent to reduce the economic, social, and environmental impact of the adverse effects of climate change.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “qualified climate change adaptation purpose” includes infrastructure resiliency and mitigation, improved disaster response, and ecosystem protection, which may be accomplished through activities or projects with objectives such as—

(i) reducing risks or enhancing resilience to sea level rise, extreme weather events, fires, drought, flooding, heat island impacts, or worsened indoor or outdoor air quality;

(ii) protecting farms and the food and water supply from climate impacts;

(iii) reducing risks of food insecurity that would otherwise result from climate change;

(iv) ensuring that disaster and public health plans account for more severe weather;

(v) reducing risks from geographical change to disease vectors, pathogens, invasive species, and the distribution of pests; and

(vi) other projects or activities, as determined to be appropriate by the Commission.

(10) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(11) STATE.—The term “State” means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

## TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

## SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a commission to be known as the “Climate Change Advisory Commission”.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members—

(1) who shall be selected from the public and private sectors and institutions of higher education with a demonstrated expertise in climate mitigation solutions and commitment to the implementation of those solutions; and

(2) of whom—

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the National Climate Task Force;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(D) 2 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(E) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(c) TERMS.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for a 5-year term.

(d) INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall—

(1) virtually hold the initial meeting of the Commission; and

(2) at that initial meeting, determine the regular location of meetings of the Commission.

(g) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet—

(1) at the call of the Chairperson; or

(2) by a call of a simple majority of the membership of the Commission.

(h) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(i) CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

## SEC. 102. DUTIES.

The Commission shall—

(1) establish and, as necessary, update recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for a Federal investment program funded by revenue from climate change obligations issued under section 301 for eligible entities that—

(A) improve and adapt energy, transportation, water, and general infrastructure impacted or expected to be impacted due to climate variability; and

(B) integrate best available science, data, standards, models, and trends that improve the resiliency of infrastructure systems described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) identify and, as necessary, update categories of the most cost-effective investments and projects that emphasize multiple benefits to human health, commerce, and ecosystems while ensuring that the Commission engages in early, meaningful, and culturally and linguistically appropriate community stakeholder involvement opportunities during the development of the recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines established under paragraph (1).

## SEC. 103. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission, or a simple majority of the membership of the Commission, may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate such personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

**SEC. 104. FUNDING.**

The Commission shall use amounts in the Fund to pay for all administrative expenses of the Commission, not to exceed 3 percent of the amounts made available for projects for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose from the Fund during the applicable calendar year.

**SEC. 105. TERMINATION.**

The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 20 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

**TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND****SEC. 201. CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND.**

## (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States the “Climate Change Resiliency Fund”.

## (2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not less than 40 percent of the amounts in the Fund to fund projects that benefit communities that experience disproportionate impacts from climate change and climate change-causing pollution, including environmental justice communities, frontline communities, and low-income communities.

(B) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—All amounts deposited in the Fund in accordance with section 301(a) shall only be used—

(i) to fund new projects in accordance with this section; and

(ii) for administrative expenses of the Commission authorized under section 104.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall take such action as the Secretary determines necessary to assist in implementing the Fund in accordance with this section, which shall include consulting with relevant Federal agencies.

(b) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, shall carry out a program to provide funds to eligible entities to carry out projects for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose.

## (c) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring funds under subsection (b) shall, with respect to a project, submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by an eligible entity under this subsection shall include data relating to any benefits the eligible entity expects the project to provide to the community in which the applicable project is performed, such as—

- (A) an economic impact;
- (B) improvements to public health; or
- (C) permanent environmental preservation or restoration.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall offer technical assistance to eligible entities preparing applications under this subsection.

## (d) SELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select eligible entities to receive funds to carry out projects under this section based on criteria and guidelines determined and published by the Commission under section 102.

(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities planning to perform projects that will serve areas with the greatest need.

## (e) NON-FEDERAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), in order to receive funds under this section, an eligible entity shall provide funds for a project in an amount that is equal to not less than 25 percent of the amount of funds provided under this section.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement under

paragraph (1) for an eligible entity, especially an eligible entity performing a project benefitting a low-income community, frontline community, or an environmental justice community, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) there are no reasonable means available through which the eligible entity can meet the matching requirement; or

(B) the probable benefit of the project outweighs the public interest of the matching requirement.

## (3) NO-MATCH PROJECTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award not less than 10 percent and not more than 40 percent of the total funds awarded under this section to eligible entities to which the matching requirement under paragraph (1) shall not apply.

(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority for funding under subparagraph (A) to an eligible entity performing a project in a community experiencing a disproportionate impact of climate change, including—

- (i) an environmental justice community;
- (ii) a low-income community;
- (iii) a community of color; or
- (iv) a frontline community.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL LAW.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to waive the requirements of any Federal law or regulation that would otherwise apply to a project that receives funds under this section.

**SEC. 202. COMPLIANCE WITH DAVIS-BACON ACT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by, or assisted in whole or in part by and through, the Fund shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of part A of title 40, United States Code.

(b) LABOR STANDARDS.—With respect to the labor standards described in this section, the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

**SEC. 203. FUNDING.**

To carry out the program under section 201(b), the Secretary, in addition to amounts in the Fund, may use amounts that have been made available to the Secretary and are not otherwise obligated.

**TITLE III—REVENUE****SEC. 301. CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate (referred to in this title as the “Secretary”) shall issue obligations under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code (referred to in this title as “climate change obligations”), the proceeds from which shall be deposited in the Fund.

(b) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—Payment of interest and principal with respect to any climate change obligation issued under this section shall be made from the general fund of the Treasury of the United States and shall be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM LOCAL TAXATION.—All climate change obligations issued by the Secretary, and the interest on or credits with respect to such obligations, shall not be subject to taxation by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority.

## (d) AMOUNT OF CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the aggregate face amount of

the climate change obligations issued annually under this section shall be \$200,000,000.

(2) ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—For any calendar year in which all of the obligations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) have been purchased, the Secretary may issue additional climate change obligations during such calendar year, provided that the aggregate face amount of such additional obligations does not exceed \$800,000,000.

(e) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available to the Secretary and not otherwise obligated to carry out the purposes of this section.

**SEC. 302. PROMOTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promote the purchase of climate change obligations through such means as are determined appropriate by the Secretary, with the amount expended for such promotion not to exceed \$10,000,000 for any fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

(b) DONATED ADVERTISING.—In addition to any advertising paid for with funds made available under subsection (c), the Secretary shall solicit and may accept the donation of advertising relating to the sale of climate change obligations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2026 through 2030, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this section.

**SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS****SENATE RESOLUTION 331—CALLING UPON THE SENATE TO GIVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KAINES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

**S. RES. 331**

Whereas the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in December 1982 and entered into force in November 1994 to establish a treaty regime to govern activities on, over, and under the world's oceans;

Whereas the UNCLOS builds on four 1958 Law of the Sea conventions to which the United States is a party, namely the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, the Convention on the High Seas, the Convention on the Continental Shelf, and the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas, all done at Geneva April 29, 1958;

Whereas the UNCLOS and an associated 1994 agreement relating to implementation of the treaty were transmitted to the Senate on October 6, 1994, and, in the absence of Senate advice and consent to ratification, the United States is not a party to the treaty or the associated 1994 agreement;

Whereas, as of January 2025, 170 parties have ratified UNCLOS, including 166 United Nations member states, but not the United States;

Whereas the United States, like most other countries, maintains that coastal States under the UNCLOS have the right to regulate economic activities in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), but do not have the right to regulate foreign military activities in their EEZs;

Whereas the treaty's provisions relating to navigational rights, including navigational rights in EEZs, reflect the diplomatic position of the United States on the issue dating back to the adoption of the UNCLOS in 1982;

Whereas becoming a party to the treaty would codify the United States' current position of recognizing the provisions within the UNCLOS as customary international law;

Whereas becoming a party to the treaty would give the United States standing to participate in discussions relating to the treaty and thereby improve the ability of the United States to intervene as a full party to disputes relating to navigational rights and to defend United States interpretations of the treaty's provisions, including those relating to whether coastal states have a right under the UNCLOS to regulate foreign military activities in their EEZs;

Whereas becoming a party to the treaty would allow the United States to be a member of the International Seabed Authority and thereby participate directly in setting and voting on the policies organizing and controlling mineral-related activities in the international seabed area as global demand for critical minerals increases;

Whereas more than 97 percent of the global internet traffic relies on infrastructure located on the seabed of the world's oceans compared to space-based infrastructure;

Whereas lack of full-party membership to UNCLOS limits the access and influence of the United States to critical territorial dispute management, including matters involving pursuit and competition of extended outer continental shelf submissions, facilitated primarily by Article 76, which represents the main tool assisting sovereign authority delimitation agreements;

Whereas relying on customary international norms to defend United States interests in those issues is not sufficient, because customary international law is not universally accepted and is subject to change over time based on state practice;

Whereas relying on other countries to assert claims on behalf of the United States at the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague is woefully insufficient to defend and uphold United States sovereign rights and interests;

Whereas the Permanent Court of Arbitration, in the July 12, 2016, ruling on the case In the Matter of the South China Sea Arbitration, stated that "the Tribunal communicated to the Parties and the U.S. Embassy that it had decided that 'only interested States pallies to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea will be admitted as observers' and thus could not accede to the U.S. request" to "send a representative to observe the hearing";

Whereas, on November 25, 2018, the Russian Federation violated international norms and binding agreements, including the UNCLOS, in firing upon, ramming, and seizing Ukrainian vessels and crews attempting to pass through the Kerch Strait;

Whereas, on May 25, 2019, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea ruled in a vote of 19 to 1 that "[t]he Russian Federation shall immediately release the Ukrainian naval vessels Berdyansk, Nikopol and Yani Kapu, and return them to the custody of Ukraine" and that "[t]he Russian Federation shall immediately release the 24 detained Ukrainian servicemen and allow them to return to Ukraine", demonstrating the Tribunal's rejection of the Russian Federation's arguments in that matter in relation to the Law of the Sea;

Whereas, despite the Tribunal's ruling aligning with the position of the United States Government on the November 25, 2018, incident, the continued nonparticipation of the United States in the UNCLOS limits the

ability of the United States to effectively respond to the Russian Federation's actions and to any potential future violations by the Russian Federation and any other signatory of UNCLOS;

Whereas the past Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Lloyd Austin, stated that "the United States has long treated the UNCLOS's provisions related to navigation and overflight as reflective of longstanding and customary international law. Our military already acts in a manner consistent with these rights and freedoms, so accession to the Convention will not impact the manner in which we conduct our operations," in response to a question for the record from Senator Mazie Hirono on January 21, 2021;

Whereas the past Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Lisa Franchetti, stated that "the United States played a major role in drafting the Convention, and it is favorable to U.S. interests on all significant issues as a result. Further, our Navy already acts in a manner consistent with the Convention's navigational and overflight provisions. Accession would not impose any additional constraints on the Navy's ability to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows", in response to advance policy questions on September 14, 2023, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Lisa Franchetti, further stated that "the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea would give our objections to excessive maritime claims a stronger legal foundation that does not rely exclusively on customary international law. When protesting excessive maritime claims asserted by the People's Republic of China in the South China Sea, the Russian Federation in the Arctic region, and others, the United States would come from a position of increased authority and influence," in response to advance policy questions on September 14, 2023, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, General Gregory M. Guillot, stated, "I support U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS). UNCLOS provides a comprehensive regime for the governance of the world's oceans, including the Arctic, and U.S. accession would further demonstrate our commitment to an international rules-based order. Acceding to the treaty would enable U.S. representation during critical international negotiations that impact the maritime domain, provide an additional mechanism to counter countries like Russia and China that continue to exploit our absence from key ocean governance diplomatic forums, and ultimately help protect our nation's rights and interests in this critical sphere of operations," in response to advance policy questions on July 23, 2023, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, General Gregory M. Guillot, further stated in regard to United States ratification of the UNCLOS, "I believe accession to the Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) would help the U.S. protect its interests in the Arctic: Accession would demonstrate our commitment to a rules-based order, ensure our best interests are represented during international negotiations regarding territorial disputes and challenges to longstanding maritime customs and practices, and improve our ability to advocate for our ocean governance interests around the globe, including in the Arctic. Engagement through UNCLOS is particularly critical today as multiple nations vie for access and control in the Arctic and

seek to modify international norms to accommodate expansionist ambitions around the globe in general, and in the Arctic in particular. Finally, accession would preclude Russia and China from exploiting U.S. absence in forums," in response to advance policy questions on July 23, 2023, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Secretary of the Navy, Honorable Carlos Del Toro, stated that "accession would 'lock in' the customary rights and freedoms reflected in the UNCLOS, and would give the U.S. a seat at the table to set the course for future law of the sea discussions on a coequal level with member states like China and Russia. China continues a more aggressive posture in the South China Sea. As widely reported, Chinese warships, law enforcement vessels, and other PRC-flagged vessels have failed to respect the rights of maritime nations under the Convention. As a party to the Convention, U.S. objections to these violations would have more force and credibility, and would enhance its ability to respond to excessive maritime claims, land reclamation, and militarization efforts by China in the South China Sea," in response to a question for the record from Senator Hirono on July 13, 2021;

Whereas the past Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command, Admiral John C. Aquilino, stated that "there's really two main reasons [to ratify the UNCLOS]: as the group gets together, it would be certainly beneficial if we had a seat at the table when there were discussions occurring as it applied to potential adjustments and the interpretations of those international laws and the second reason is it puts us in an increased position of credibility. . . we adhere to the UNCLOS treaty in our operations, and it would make our position much stronger if we were signatories," on March 23, 2021, at his nomination hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command, retired Admiral Philip S. Davidson, stated that "our accession to the UNCLOS would help our position legally across the globe and would do nothing to limit our military operations in the manner in which we're conducting them now," on April 17, 2018, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Pacific Command, retired Admiral Harry B. Harris, stated "I believe that UNCLOS gives Russia the potential to, quote, unquote 'own' almost half of the Arctic Circle, and we will not have that opportunity because of, we're not a signatory to UNCLOS", on March 15, 2018, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commander of United States Pacific Command, retired Admiral Harry B. Harris, stated, "I think that by not signing onto it that we lose the credibility for the very same thing that we're arguing for," and "which is the following-accepting rules and norms in the international arena. The United States is a beacon—we're a beacon on a hill but I think that light is brighter if we sign on to UNCLOS," on February 23, 2016, at a hearing before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past Chairman of the Joints Chief of Staff, retired General Joseph F. Dunford, stated that "by remaining outside the Convention, the United States remains in scarce company with Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, and Syria" and "by failing to join the Convention, some countries may come to doubt our commitment to act in accordance with international law," on July 9, 2015, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

Whereas the past President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Chamber

of Commerce, Thomas J. Donahue, stated that "we support joining the Convention because it is in our national interest-both in our national security and our economic interests," "becoming a party to the Treaty benefits the U.S. economically by providing American companies the legal certainty and stability they need to hire and invest," and "companies will be hesitant to take on the investment risk and cost to explore and develop the resources of the sea-particularly on the extended continental shelf (ECS)-without the legal certainty and stability accession to LOS provides," on June 28, 2012, before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

Whereas the past President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Thomas J. Donahue, further stated that "the benefits of joining cut across many important industries including telecommunications, mining, shipping, and oil and natural gas", and "joining the Convention will provide the U.S. a critical voice on maritime issues-from mineral claims in the Arctic to how International Seabed Authority (ISA) funds are distributed," on June 28, 2012, before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

Whereas the past Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, retired Admiral Paul Zukunft, stated on February 12, 2016, "With the receding of the icepack, the Arctic Ocean has become the focus of international interest", "All Arctic states agree that the Law of the Sea Convention is the governing legal regime for the Arctic Ocean. . . yet, we remain the only Arctic nation that has not ratified the very instrument that provides this accepted legal framework governing the Arctic Ocean and its seabed.", and "Ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention supports our economic interests, environmental protection, and safety of life at sea, especially in the Arctic Ocean. . .";

Whereas the past Chief of Naval Operations, retired Admiral Michael Gilday, stated that "acceding to the Convention would strengthen our strategic position on issues pertaining to the [South China Sea and the Arctic]. The United States would have increased credibility when responding to excessive maritime claims and militarization efforts in the South China Sea. With respect to the Arctic, becoming a party to the Convention would allow the U.S. to position itself to safeguard access for the purposes of maritime traffic, resource exploitation, and other human activities, while ensuring other states comply with the law of the sea," in response to advance policy questions on July 30, 2019, before the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

Whereas the past United States Special Representative of State for the Arctic and former Commandant of the Coast Guard, retired Admiral Robert Papp, Jr., stated that "as a non party to the Law of the Sea Convention, the U.S. is at a significant disadvantage relative to the other Arctic Ocean coastal States," "those States are parties to the Convention, and are well along the path to obtaining legal certainty and international recognition of their Arctic extended continental shelf," and "becoming a Party to the Law of the Sea Convention would allow the United States to fully secure its rights to the continental shelf off the coast of Alaska, which is likely to extend out to more than 600 nautical miles," on December 10, 2014, before the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that it is in the national interest for the United States to become a formal signatory of the United Nations Convention

on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), done at Montego Bay December 10, 1982;

(2) urges the United States Senate to give its advice and consent to the ratification of the UNCLOS; and

(3) recommends the ratification of the UNCLOS remain a top priority for the Federal Government, the importance of which was most recently underscored by the strategic challenges the United States faces in the Indo-Pacific, the Arctic, and the Black Sea regions.

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**SENATE RESOLUTION 332—DESIGNATING JULY 26, 2025, AS "NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY"**

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HOEVEN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 332

Whereas pioneering men and women, recognized as "cowboys", helped to establish the American West;

Whereas the cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion, respect, a strong work ethic, and patriotism;

Whereas the cowboy spirit exemplifies strength of character, sound family values, and good common sense;

Whereas the cowboy archetype transcends ethnicity, gender, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations;

Whereas the cowboy, who lives off the land and works to protect and enhance the environment, is an excellent steward of the land and its creatures;

Whereas cowboy traditions have been a part of American culture for generations;

Whereas the cowboy continues to be an important part of the economy through the work of many thousands of ranchers across the United States who contribute to the economic well-being of every State;

Whereas millions of fans watch professional and working ranch rodeo events annually, making rodeo one of the most-watched sports in the United States;

Whereas membership and participation in rodeo and other organizations that promote and encompass the livelihood of cowboys span every generation and transcend race and gender;

Whereas the cowboy is a central figure in literature, film, and music and occupies a central place in the public imagination;

Whereas the cowboy is an American icon; and

Whereas the ongoing contributions made by cowboys and cowgirls to their communities should be recognized and encouraged: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 26, 2025, as "National Day of the American Cowboy"; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED**

SA 2963. Mrs. MOODY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military

personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2964. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2965. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2966. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2967. Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2968. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KELLY, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2969. Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2970. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2971. Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2972. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2973. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2974. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2975. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2976. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3944, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2963.** Mrs. MOODY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

**SEC. 1067. TAKING OR TRANSMITTING VIDEO OR DEFENSE INFORMATION PROHIBITED.**

Section 793 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting “video,” after “photographic negative,” each place such term appears.

**SA 2964.** Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. FEASIBILITY STUDY ON REMOVAL OF OIL FROM SUNKEN WORLD WAR II VESSELS IN WATERS NEAR THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND PALAU.**

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is a significant environmental threat posed by World War II-era sunken Japanese warships, including three oil tankers, located in the waters near the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau;

(2) such sunken vessels contain an estimated 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 gallons of oil, or approximately the equivalent of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the *Exxon Valdez* oil tanker spill in 1989; and

(3) as such sunken vessels continue to deteriorate, small amounts of oil are already leaking, threatening to cause an ecological disaster that could negatively impact United States military activities, the marine ecosystem, and surrounding communities.

(b) **STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command and the head of any other relevant Federal department or agency, as appropriate, shall conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility and advisability of removing oil from the WWII-era sunken tankers, including an analysis of the cost, logistical requirements, environmental risks, and potential methods for removing the oil from the tankers.

(2) **REPORT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 1, 2026, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(B) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) An assessment of the operational and environmental risks posed by the oil remain-

ing in the sunken tankers and warships, including current leakage and the potential impacts of a major spill.

(ii) An evaluation of the cost, logistical challenges, and technical approaches for safely extracting or containing oil from the shipwrecks.

(iii) A review of ongoing and planned efforts by the United States and international partners addressing such matter.

(iv) Recommendations on next steps, including resource needs, interagency and international cooperation, and timelines for potential remediation efforts.

**SA 2965.** Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. PREVENTING ELECTED LEADERS FROM OWNING SECURITIES AND INVESTMENTS (PELOSI) ACT.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Preventing Elected Leaders from Owning Securities and Investments (PELOSI) Act”.

(b) **BANNING INSIDER TRADING IN CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“Subchapter IV—Banning Insider Trading in Congress**

**§ 13161. Definitions**

“In this subchapter:

“(1) **COVERED FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term ‘covered financial instrument’ means—

“(i) any investment in—

“(II) a security (as defined in section 3(a) of Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)));

“(III) a security future (as defined in that section); or

“(IV) a commodity (as defined in section 1a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a)); and

“(ii) any economic interest comparable to an interest described in clause (i) that is acquired through synthetic means, such as the use of a derivative, including an option, a warrant, or other similar means.

“(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term ‘covered financial instrument’ does not include—

“(i) a diversified mutual fund;

“(ii) a diversified exchange-traded fund;

“(iii) a United States Treasury bill, note, or bond; or

“(iv) compensation from the primary occupation of a spouse or dependent child of a Member of Congress.

“(2) **DEPENDENT CHILD; MEMBER OF CONGRESS.**—The terms ‘dependent child’ and ‘Member of Congress’ have the meanings given those terms in section 13101.

“(3) **SUPERVISING ETHICS COMMITTEE.**—The term ‘supervising ethics committee’ means, as applicable—

“(A) the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives.

**§ 13162. Prohibition on certain transactions and holdings involving covered financial instruments**

“(a) **PROHIBITION.**—Except as provided in subsection (b), a Member of Congress, or any spouse of a Member of Congress, may not,

during the term of service of the Member of Congress, hold, purchase, or sell any covered financial instrument.

“(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall not apply to a sale by a Member of Congress, or a spouse of a Member of Congress, that is completed by the date that is—

“(1) for a Member of Congress serving on the date of enactment of the Preventing Elected Leaders from Owning Securities and Investments (PELOSI) Act, 180 days after that date of enactment; and

“(2) for any Member of Congress who commences service as a Member of Congress after the date of enactment of the Preventing Elected Leaders from Owning Securities and Investments (PELOSI) Act, 180 days after the first date of the initial term of service.

“(c) **PENALTIES.**—

“(1) **DISGORGEMENT.**—A Member of Congress shall disgorge to the Treasury of the United States any profit from a transaction or holding involving a covered financial instrument that is conducted in violation of this section.

“(2) **FINES.**—A Member of Congress who holds or conducts a transaction involving, or whose spouse holds or conducts a transaction involving, a covered financial instrument in violation of this section may be subject to a civil fine assessed by the applicable supervising ethics committee under section 13164.

**“§ 13163. Certification of compliance**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not less frequently than annually, each Member of Congress shall submit to the applicable supervising ethics committee a written certification that the Member of Congress has achieved compliance with the requirements of this subchapter.

“(b) **PUBLICATION.**—The supervising ethics committees shall publish each certification submitted under subsection (a) on a publicly available website.

**“§ 13164. Authority of supervising ethics committees**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The supervising ethics committees may implement and enforce the requirements of this subchapter, including by—

“(1) issuing—

“(A) for Members of Congress—

“(i) rules governing that implementation; and

“(ii) 1 or more reasonable extensions to achieve compliance with this subchapter, if the applicable supervising ethics committee determines that a Member of Congress is making a good faith effort to divest any covered financial instruments; and

“(B) guidance relating to covered financial instruments;

“(2) publishing on the internet certifications submitted by Members of Congress under section 13163(a); and

“(3) assessing civil fines against any Member of Congress who is in violation of this subchapter, subject to subsection (b).

“(b) **REQUIREMENTS FOR CIVIL FINES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Before imposing a fine pursuant to this section, the applicable supervising ethics committee shall provide to the applicable Member of Congress—

“(A) a written notice describing each covered financial instrument transaction for which a fine will be assessed; and

“(B) an opportunity, with respect to each such covered financial instrument transaction—

“(i) for a hearing; and

“(ii) to achieve compliance with the requirements of this subchapter.

“(2) **ENFORCEMENT.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In the event of continuing noncompliance after issuance of the

notice described in paragraph (1), the applicable supervising ethics committee shall impose a civil penalty, in the amount described in subparagraph (B), on the Member of Congress to whom a notice was provided—

“(i) on the date that is 30 days after the date of provision of the notice; and  
 “(ii) during the period in which such non-compliance continues, not less frequently than once every 30 days thereafter.

“(B) AMOUNT.—The amount of each civil penalty imposed on a Member of Congress pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be an amount equal to 10 percent of the value of each covered financial instrument that was not divested in violation of this subchapter during the period covered by the penalty.

“(3) PUBLICATION.—Each supervising ethics committee shall publish on a publicly available website a description of—

“(A) each fine assessed by the supervising ethics committee pursuant to this section;

“(B) the reasons why each such fine was assessed; and

“(C) the result of each assessment, including any hearing under paragraph (1)(B)(i) relating to the assessment.

“(4) APPEAL.—A Member of Congress may appeal the assessment of a fine under this section to a vote on the floor of the Senate or the House of Representatives, as applicable, as a privileged motion.

#### § 13165. Audit by Government Accountability Office

“Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Preventing Elected Leaders from Owning Securities and Investments (PELOSI) Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

“(1) conduct an audit of the compliance by Members of Congress with the requirements of this subchapter; and

“(2) submit to the supervising ethics committees a report describing the results of the audit conducted under paragraph (1).”

#### (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SUBCHAPTER IV—BANNING INSIDER TRADING IN CONGRESS

“13161. Definitions.

“13162. Prohibition on certain transactions and holdings involving covered financial instruments.

“13163. Certification of compliance.

“13164. Authority of supervising ethics committees.

“13165. Audit by Government Accountability Office.”

(B) PERSONS REQUIRED TO FILE.—Section 13103(f) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

“(i) in paragraph (9), by striking “as defined in section 13101 of this title”; and

“(ii) in paragraph (10), by striking “as defined in section 13101 of this title”; and

“(iii) in paragraph (11), by striking “as defined in section 13101 of this title”; and

“(iv) in paragraph (12), by striking “as defined in section 13101 of this title”. ”

(C) LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995.—Section 3(4)(D) of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1602(4)(D)) is amended by striking “legislative branch employee serving in a position described under section 13101(13) of title 5, United States Code” and inserting “officer or employee of Congress (as defined in section 13101 of title 5, United States Code)”. ”

**SA 2966.** Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After title IV, insert the following:

#### TITLE V—STOP CSAM ACT OF 2025

##### SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children Suffering from Abuse and Maltreatment Act of 2025” or the “STOP CSAM Act of 2025”.

##### SEC. 502. PROTECTING CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN FEDERAL COURT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3509 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “or exploitation” and inserting “exploitation, or kidnapping, including international parental kidnapping”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “physical or mental injury” and inserting “physical injury, psychological abuse”;

(C) by striking paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) and inserting the following:

“(5) the term ‘psychological abuse’ includes—

“(A) a pattern of acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics intended to degrade, humiliate, intimidate, or terrorize a child; and

“(B) the infliction of trauma on a child through—

“(i) isolation;

“(ii) the withholding of food or other necessities in order to control behavior;

“(iii) physical restraint; or

“(iv) the confinement of the child without the child’s consent and in degrading conditions;

“(6) the term ‘exploitation’ means—

“(A) child pornography;

“(B) child sex trafficking; or

“(C) an obscene visual depiction of a child;

“(7) the term ‘multidisciplinary child abuse team’ means a professional unit of individuals working together to investigate child abuse and provide assistance and support to a victim of child abuse, composed of representatives from—

“(A) health, social service, and legal service agencies that represent the child;

“(B) law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial offices; and

“(C) children’s advocacy centers.”;

(D) in paragraph (9)(D)—

(i) by striking “genitals” and inserting “anus, genitals”; and

(ii) by striking “or animal”;

(E) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” at the end;

(F) in paragraph (12)—

(i) by striking “the term ‘child abuse’ does not” and inserting “the terms ‘physical injury’ and ‘psychological abuse’ do not”; and

(ii) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

“(13) the term ‘covered person’ means a person of any age who—

“(A) is or is alleged to be—

“(i) a victim of a crime of physical abuse, sexual abuse, exploitation, or kidnapping, including international parental kidnapping; or

“(ii) a witness to a crime committed against another person; and

“(B) was under the age of 18 when the crime described in subparagraph (A) was committed;

“(14) the term ‘protected information’, with respect to a covered person, includes—

“(A) personally identifiable information of the covered person, including—

“(i) the name of the covered person;

“(ii) an address;

“(iii) a phone number;

“(iv) a user name or identifying information for an online, social media, or email account; and

“(v) any information that can be used to distinguish or trace the identity of the covered person, either alone or when combined with other information that is linked or linkable to the covered person;

“(B) medical, dental, behavioral, psychiatric, or psychological information of the covered person;

“(C) educational or juvenile justice records of the covered person; and

“(D) any other information concerning the covered person that is deemed ‘protected information’ by order of the court under subsection (d)(5);

“(15) the term ‘child pornography’ has the meaning given the term in section 2256(8); and

“(16) the term ‘obscene visual depiction of a child’ means any visual depiction prohibited by section 1466A involving an identifiable minor, as that term is defined in section 2256(9).”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking “minor” and inserting “child”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “VIDEOTAPED” and inserting “RECORDED”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking “that the deposition be recorded and preserved on videotape” and inserting “that a video recording of the deposition be made and preserved”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “that the child’s deposition be taken and preserved by videotape” and inserting “that a video recording of the child’s deposition be made and preserved”;

(II) in clause (iii)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “videotape” and inserting “recorded”; and

(bb) in subclause (IV), by striking “videotape” and inserting “recording”; and

(III) in clause (v)—

(aa) in the heading, by striking “VIDEO TAPE” and inserting “VIDEO RECORDING”;

(bb) in the first sentence, by striking “made and preserved on video tape” and inserting “recorded and preserved”; and

(cc) in the second sentence, by striking “videotape” and inserting “video recording”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking “child’s videotaped” and inserting “video recording of the child’s”;

(v) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by striking “videotaping” and inserting “deposition”; and

(II) by striking “videotaped” and inserting “recorded”;

(vi) in subparagraph (E), by striking “videotaped” and inserting “recorded”; and

(vii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “videotape” each place the term appears and inserting “video recording”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “the name or any other information concerning a child” and inserting “a covered person’s protected information”; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) by striking “documents described in clause (i) or the information in them that concerns a child” and inserting “a covered person’s protected information”; and

(II) by striking “, have reason to know such information” and inserting “(including witnesses or potential witnesses), have reason to know each item of protected information to be disclosed”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “the name of or any other information concerning a child” each place the term appears and inserting “a covered person’s protected information”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(iii) by striking “All papers” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—All papers”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ENFORCEMENT OF VIOLATIONS.—The court may address a violation of subparagraph (A) in the same manner as disobedience or resistance to a lawful court order under section 401(3).”;

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “a child from public disclosure of the name of or any other information concerning the child” and inserting “a covered person’s protected information from public disclosure”; and

(II) by striking “, if the court determines that there is a significant possibility that such disclosure would be detrimental to the child”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “a child witness, and the testimony of any other witness” and inserting “any witness”; and

(bb) by striking “the name of or any other information concerning a child” and inserting “a covered person’s protected information”; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “child” and inserting “covered person”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, there shall be a presumption that public disclosure of a covered person’s protected information would be detrimental to the covered person.

“(ii) The court shall deny a motion for a protective order under subparagraph (A) only if the court finds that the party opposing the motion has rebutted the presumption under clause (i) of this subparagraph.”;

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by striking “This subsection” and inserting the following:

“(A) DISCLOSURE TO CERTAIN PARTIES.—This subsection”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), as so designated—

(I) by striking “the name of or other information concerning a child” and inserting “a covered person’s protected information”; and

(II) by striking “or an adult attendant, or to” and inserting “an adult attendant, a law enforcement agency for any intelligence or investigative purpose, or”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) REQUEST FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.—If any party requests public disclosure of a covered person’s protected information to further a public interest, the court shall deny the request unless the court finds that—

“(i) the party seeking disclosure has established that there is a compelling public interest in publicly disclosing the covered person’s protected information;

“(ii) there is a substantial probability that the public interest would be harmed if the covered person’s protected information is not disclosed;

“(iii) the substantial probability of harm to the public interest outweighs the harm to the covered person from public disclosure of the covered person’s protected information; and

“(iv) there is no alternative to public disclosure of the covered person’s protected information that would adequately protect the public interest.”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) OTHER PROTECTED INFORMATION.—The court may order that information shall be

considered to be ‘protected information’ for purposes of this subsection if the court finds that the information is sufficiently personal, sensitive, or identifying that it should be subject to the protections and presumptions under this subsection.”;

(4) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT.—

“(1) PROBATION OFFICER.—In preparing the presentence report pursuant to rule 32(c) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the probation officer shall request information from the multidisciplinary child abuse team, if applicable, or other appropriate sources to determine the impact of the offense on a child victim and any other children who may have been affected by the offense.

“(2) GUARDIAN AD LITEM.—A guardian ad litem appointed under subsection (h) shall—

“(A) make every effort to obtain and report information that accurately expresses the views of a child victim, and the views of family members as appropriate, concerning the impact of the offense; and

“(B) use forms that permit a child victim to express the child’s views concerning the personal consequences of the offense, at a level and in a form of communication commensurate with the child’s age and ability.”;

(5) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the United States courts to carry out this subsection \$25,000,000 for each fiscal year.

“(B) SUPERVISION OF PAYMENTS.—Payments from appropriations authorized under subparagraph (A) shall be made under the supervision of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.”;

(6) in subsection (i)—

(A) by striking “A child testifying at or attending a judicial proceeding” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A child testifying at a judicial proceeding, including in a manner described in subsection (b).”;

(B) in paragraph (1), as so designated—

(i) in the third sentence, by striking “proceeding” and inserting “testimony”; and

(ii) by striking the fifth sentence; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) RECORDING.—If the adult attendant is in close physical proximity to or in contact with the child while the child testifies—

“(A) at a judicial proceeding, a video recording of the adult attendant shall be made and shall become part of the court record; or

“(B) in a manner described in subsection (b), the adult attendant shall be visible on the closed-circuit television or in the recorded deposition.

“(3) COVERED PERSONS ATTENDING PROCEEDING.—A covered person shall have the right to be accompanied by an adult attendant when attending any judicial proceeding.”;

(7) in subsection (j)—

(A) by striking “child” each place the term appears and inserting “covered person”; and

(B) in the fourth sentence—

(i) by striking “and the potential” and inserting “, the potential”;

(ii) by striking “child’s” and inserting “covered person’s”; and

(iii) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, and the necessity of the continuance to protect the defendant’s rights”;

(8) in subsection (k), by striking “child” each place the term appears and inserting “covered person”;

(9) in subsection (l), by striking “child” each place the term appears and inserting “covered person”; and

(10) in subsection (m)—

(A) by striking “(as defined by section 2256 of this title)” each place it appears;

(B) by inserting “or an obscene visual depiction of a child” after “child pornography” each place it appears except the second instance in paragraph (3);

(C) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and any civil action brought under section 2255 or 2255A” after “any criminal proceeding”;

(D) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

“(C)(i) Notwithstanding rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a court shall deny, in any civil action brought under section 2255 or 2255A, any request by any party to copy, photograph, duplicate, or otherwise reproduce any property or material that constitutes child pornography or an obscene visual depiction of a child.

“(ii) In a civil action brought under section 2255 or 2255A, for purposes of paragraph (1), the court may—

“(I) order the plaintiff or defendant to provide to the court or the Government, as applicable, any equipment necessary to maintain care, custody, and control of such property or material; and

“(II) take reasonable measures, and may order the Government (if such property or material is in the care, custody, and control of the Government) to take reasonable measures, to provide each party to the action, the attorney of each party, and any individual a party may seek to qualify as an expert, with ample opportunity to inspect, view, and examine such property or material at the court or a Government facility, as applicable.”; and

(E) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “and during the 1-year period following the date on which the criminal proceeding becomes final or is terminated” after “any criminal proceeding”;

(ii) by striking “, as defined under section 2256(8).”;

(iii) by inserting “or obscene visual depiction of a child” after “such child pornography”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to conduct that occurs before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 503. FACILITATING PAYMENT OF RESTITUTION; TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO RESTITUTION STATUTES.

Title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1593(c)—

(A) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”;

(B) by striking “chapter, including, in” and inserting the following: “chapter.

“(2) In”; and

(C) in paragraph (2), as so designated, by inserting “may assume the rights of the victim under this section” after “suitable by the court”;

(2) in section 2248(c)—

(A) by striking “For purposes” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes”;

(B) by striking “chapter, including, in” and inserting the following: “chapter.

“(2) ASSUMPTION OF CRIME VICTIM’S RIGHTS.—In”; and

(C) in paragraph (2), as so designated, by inserting “may assume the rights of the victim under this section” after “suitable by the court”;

(3) in section 2259—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3663 or 3663A, and in addition to any other civil or criminal penalty authorized by law, the court shall order restitution for any offense under—

“(1) section 1466A, to the extent the conduct involves a visual depiction of an identifiable minor; or

“(2) this chapter.”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “DIRECTIONS.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the” and inserting “RESTITUTION FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PRODUCTION.—If the defendant was convicted of child pornography production, the”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “\$3,000.” and inserting the following: “—

“(i) \$3,000; or

“(ii) 10 percent of the full amount of the victim’s losses, if the full amount of the victim’s losses is less than \$3,000.”;

(C) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) CHILD PORNOGRAPHY PRODUCTION.—For purposes of this section and section 2259A, the term ‘child pornography production’ means—

“(A) a violation of, attempted violation of, or conspiracy to violate section 1466A(a) to the extent the conduct involves production of a visual depiction of an identifiable minor;

“(B) a violation of, attempted violation of, or conspiracy to violate section 1466A(a) involving possession with intent to distribute, or section 1466A(b), to the extent the conduct involves a visual depiction of an identifiable minor—

“(i) produced by the defendant; or

“(ii) that the defendant attempted or conspired to produce;

“(C) a violation of subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 2251, or an attempt or conspiracy to violate any of those subsections under subsection (e) of that section;

“(D) a violation of section 2251A;

“(E) a violation of section 2252(a)(4) or 2252A(a)(5), or an attempt or conspiracy to violate either of those sections under section 2252(b)(2) or 2252A(b)(2), to the extent such conduct involves child pornography—

“(i) produced by the defendant; or

“(ii) that the defendant attempted or conspired to produce;

“(F) a violation of subsection (a)(7) of section 2252A, or an attempt or conspiracy to violate that subsection under subsection (b)(3) of that section, to the extent the conduct involves production with intent to distribute;

“(G) a violation of section 2252A(g) if the series of felony violations involves not fewer than 1 violation—

“(i) described in subparagraph (A), (B), (E), or (F) of this paragraph;

“(ii) of section 1591; or

“(iii) of section 1201, chapter 109A, or chapter 117, if the victim is a minor;

“(H) a violation of subsection (a) of section 2260, or an attempt or conspiracy to violate that subsection under subsection (c)(1) of that section;

“(I) a violation of section 2260B(a)(2) for promoting or facilitating an offense—

“(i) described in subparagraph (A), (B), (D), or (E) of this paragraph; or

“(ii) under section 2422(b); and

“(J) a violation of chapter 109A or chapter 117, if the offense involves the production or attempted production of, or conspiracy to produce, child pornography.”;

(ii) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) TRAFFICKING IN CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—For purposes of this section and section 2259A, the term ‘trafficking in child pornography’ means—

“(A) a violation of, attempted violation of, or conspiracy to violate section 1466A(a) to the extent the conduct involves distribution or receipt of a visual depiction of an identifiable minor;

“(B) a violation of, attempted violation of, or conspiracy to violate section 1466A(a) involving possession with intent to distribute,

or section 1466A(b), to the extent the conduct involves a visual depiction of an identifiable minor—

“(i) not produced by the defendant; or

“(ii) that the defendant did not attempt or conspire to produce;

“(C) a violation of subsection (d) of section 2251 or an attempt or conspiracy to violate that subsection under subsection (e) of that section;

“(D) a violation of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a) of section 2252, or an attempt or conspiracy to violate any of those paragraphs under subsection (b)(1) of that section;

“(E) a violation of section 2252(a)(4) or 2252A(a)(5), or an attempt or conspiracy to violate either of those sections under section 2252(b)(2) or 2252A(b)(2), to the extent such conduct involves child pornography—

“(i) not produced by the defendant; or

“(ii) that the defendant did not attempt or conspire to produce;

“(F) a violation of paragraph (1), (2), (3), (4), or (6) of subsection (a) of section 2252A, or an attempt or conspiracy to violate any of those paragraphs under subsection (b)(1) of that section;

“(G) a violation of subsection (a)(7) of section 2252A, or an attempt or conspiracy to violate that subsection under subsection (b)(3) of that section, to the extent the conduct involves distribution;

“(H) a violation of section 2252A(g) if the series of felony violations exclusively involves violations described in this paragraph (except subparagraphs (A) and (B));

“(I) a violation of subsection (b) of section 2260, or an attempt or conspiracy to violate that subsection under subsection (c)(2) of that section; and

“(J) a violation of subsection (a)(1) of section 2260B, or a violation of subsection (a)(2) of that section for promoting or facilitating an offense described in this paragraph (except subparagraphs (A) and (B).”;

(iii) in paragraph (4), in the first sentence, by inserting “or an identifiable minor harmed as a result of the commission of a crime under section 1466A” after “under this chapter”;

(4) in section 2259A(a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “under section 2252(a)(4) or 2252A(a)(5)” and inserting “described in subparagraph (B) or (E) of section 2259(c)(3)”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “any other offense for trafficking in child pornography” and inserting “any offense for trafficking in child pornography other than an offense described in subparagraph (B) or (E) of section 2259(c)(3)”;

(5) in section 2429—

(A) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “2259(b)(3)” and inserting “2259(c)(2)”;

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) by inserting “(1)” after “(d)”;

(ii) by striking “chapter, including, in” and inserting the following: “chapter.

“(2) In”; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), as so designated, by inserting “may assume the rights of the victim under this section” after “suitable by the court”; and

(6) in section 3664, by adding at the end the following:

“(q) TRUSTEE OR OTHER FIDUCIARY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE OR OTHER FIDUCIARY.—When the court issues an order of restitution under section 1593, 2248, 2259, 2249, or 3663, or subparagraphs (A)(i) and (B) of section 3663A(c)(1), for a victim described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the court, at its own discretion or upon motion by the Government, may appoint a trustee or other fiduciary to hold any amount paid for restitution in a trust or other official account for the benefit of the victim.

“(B) COVERED VICTIMS.—A victim referred to in subparagraph (A) is a victim who is—

“(i) under the age of 18 at the time of the proceeding;

“(ii) incompetent or incapacitated; or

“(iii) subject to paragraph (3), a foreign citizen or stateless person residing outside the United States.

“(2) ORDER.—When the court appoints a trustee or other fiduciary under paragraph (1), the court shall issue an order specifying—

“(A) the duties of the trustee or other fiduciary, which shall require—

“(i) the administration of the trust or maintaining an official account in the best interests of the victim; and

“(ii) disbursing payments from the trust or account—

“(I) to the victim; or

“(II) to any individual or entity on behalf of the victim;

“(B) that the trustee or other fiduciary—

“(i) shall avoid any conflict of interest;

“(ii) may not profit from the administration of the trust or maintaining an official account for the benefit of the victim other than as specified in the order; and

“(iii) may not delegate administration of the trust or maintaining the official account to any other person;

“(C) if and when the trust or the duties of the other fiduciary will expire; and

“(D) the fees payable to the trustee or other fiduciary to cover expenses of administering the trust or maintaining the official account for the benefit of the victim, and the schedule for payment of those fees.

“(3) FACT-FINDING REGARDING FOREIGN CITIZENS AND STATELESS PERSON.—In the case of a victim who is a foreign citizen or stateless person residing outside the United States and is not under the age of 18 at the time of the proceeding or incompetent or incapacitated, the court may appoint a trustee or other fiduciary under paragraph (1) only if the court finds it necessary to—

“(A) protect the safety or security of the victim; or

“(B) provide a reliable means for the victim to access or benefit from the restitution payments.

“(4) PAYMENT OF FEES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The court may, with respect to the fees of the trustee or other fiduciary—

“(i) pay the fees in whole or in part; or

“(ii) order the defendant to pay the fees in whole or in part.

“(B) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—With respect to a court order under subparagraph (A)(ii) requiring a defendant to pay fees—

“(i) subsection (f)(3) shall apply to the court order in the same manner as that subsection applies to a restitution order;

“(ii) subchapter C of chapter 227 (other than section 3571) shall apply to the court order in the same manner as that subchapter applies to a sentence of a fine; and

“(iii) subchapter B of chapter 229 shall apply to the court order in the same manner as that subchapter applies to the implementation of a sentence of a fine.

“(C) EFFECT ON OTHER PENALTIES.—Imposition of payment under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall not relieve a defendant of, or entitle a defendant to a reduction in the amount of, any special assessment, restitution, other fines, penalties, or costs, or other payments required under the defendant’s sentence.

“(D) SCHEDULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the court orders the defendant to make any payment under subparagraph (A)(ii), the court may provide a payment schedule that is concurrent with

the payment of any other financial obligation described in subparagraph (C).

“(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the United States courts to carry out this subsection \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year.

“(B) SUPERVISION OF PAYMENTS.—Payments from appropriations authorized under subparagraph (A) shall be made under the supervision of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.”.

**SEC. 504. CYBERTIPLINE IMPROVEMENTS, AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY BY THE TECH INDUSTRY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2258A—

(A) by striking subsections (a), (b), and (c) and inserting the following:

“(a) DUTY TO REPORT.—

“(1) DUTY.—In order to reduce the proliferation of online child sexual exploitation and to prevent the online sexual exploitation of children, as soon as reasonably possible after obtaining actual knowledge of any facts or circumstances described in paragraph (2) or any apparent child pornography on the provider’s service, and in any event not later than 60 days after obtaining such knowledge, a provider shall submit to the CyberTipline of NCMEC, or any successor to the CyberTipline operated by NCMEC, a report that—

“(A) shall contain—

“(i) the mailing address, telephone number, facsimile number, electronic mailing address of, and individual point of contact for, such provider; and

“(ii) information or material described in subsection (b)(1)(A) concerning such facts or circumstances or apparent child pornography; and

“(B) may contain information described in subsection (b)(2), including any available information to identify or locate any involved minor.

“(2) FACTS OR CIRCUMSTANCES.—The facts or circumstances described in this paragraph are any facts or circumstances indicating an apparent, planned, or imminent violation of section 1591 (if the violation involves a minor), 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, 2260, or 2422(b).

“(3) COMPLAINANT INFORMATION.—For a report premised on a complaint or notification submitted to a provider by a user of the provider’s product or service, or a parent, guardian, or representative of such user, the provider shall take reasonable measures to determine what information or material in the user’s account shall be included in the report as provided in subsection (b)(1)(A)(vi).

“(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In an effort to prevent the future sexual victimization of children, and to the extent the information is within the custody or control of a provider, each report provided under subsection (a)(1)—

“(A) shall include, to the extent that it is applicable and reasonably available—

“(i) the name, address, electronic mail address, user or account identification, Internet Protocol address, port number, and uniform resource locator of any individual who is a subject of the report;

“(ii) the terms of service in effect at the time of—

“(I) the apparent violation; or

“(II) the detection of apparent child pornography or a planned or imminent violation;

“(iii) a copy of any apparent child pornography that is the subject of the report, or all accessible chats, messages, or text exchanges that are related to the report, that were identified in a publicly available location;

“(iv) for each item of apparent child pornography included in the report under clause (iii) or paragraph (2)(E), information indicating whether—

“(I) the apparent child pornography was publicly available; or

“(II) the provider, in its sole discretion, viewed the apparent child pornography, or any copy thereof, at any point concurrent with or prior to the submission of the report;

“(v) for each item of apparent child pornography that is the subject of the report, an indication as to whether the apparent child pornography—

“(I) is created in whole or in part through the use of software, machine learning, artificial intelligence, or any other computer-generated or technological means, including by adapting, modifying, manipulating, or altering an authentic visual depiction;

“(II) has previously been the subject of a report under subsection (a)(1); or

“(III) is the subject of multiple contemporaneous reports due to rapid and widespread distribution; and

“(vi) any and all information or material (including apparent child pornography, chats, messages, or text exchanges) relating to the subject of the report in the account of a user of the provider’s product or service, if the user, or the parent, guardian, or representative of such user—

“(I) provided the information or material in a notification or complaint to the provider;

“(II) indicates that such information or material should be included in the report; or

“(III) consents to the inclusion of such information or material in the report; and

“(B) may, at the sole discretion of the provider, include the information described in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

“(2) OTHER INFORMATION.—The information referred to in paragraph (1)(B) is the following:

“(A) INFORMATION ABOUT ANY INVOLVED INDIVIDUAL.—Any information relating to the identity or location of any individual who is a subject of the report, including payment or financial information (excluding personally identifiable information) and self-reported identifying or locating information.

“(B) INFORMATION ABOUT ANY INVOLVED MINOR.—Information relating to the identity or location of any involved minor, which may include an address, electronic mail address, Internet Protocol address, port number, uniform resource locator, payment or financial information (excluding personally identifiable information), or any other information that may identify or locate any involved minor, including self-reported identifying or locating information.

“(C) HISTORICAL REFERENCE.—Information relating to when and how a customer or subscriber of a provider uploaded, transmitted, or received content relating to the report or when and how content relating to the report was reported to, or discovered by the provider, including a date and time stamp and time zone.

“(D) GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION INFORMATION.—Information relating to the geographic location of the involved individual or website, which may include the Internet Protocol address, port number, or verified address, or, if not reasonably available, at least one form of geographic identifying information, including area code or ZIP Code, provided by the customer or subscriber, or stored or obtained by the provider.

“(E) APPARENT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—Any apparent child pornography not described in paragraph (1)(A)(iii), or other content related to the subject of the report.

“(F) COMPLETE COMMUNICATION.—The complete communication containing any appar-

ent child pornography or other content, including—

“(i) any data or information regarding the transmission of the communication; and

“(ii) any visual depictions, data, or other digital files contained in, or attached to, the communication.

“(G) TECHNICAL IDENTIFIER.—An industry-standard hash value or other similar industry-standard technical identifier for any reported visual depiction as it existed on the provider’s service.

“(H) DESCRIPTION.—For any item of apparent child pornography that is the subject of the report, an indication of whether—

“(i) the depicted sexually explicit conduct involves—

“(I) genital, oral, or anal sexual intercourse;

“(II) bestiality;

“(III) masturbation;

“(IV) sadistic or masochistic abuse; or

“(V) lascivious exhibition of the anus, genitals, or pubic area of any person; and

“(ii) the depicted minor is—

“(I) an infant or toddler;

“(II) prepubescent;

“(III) pubescent;

“(IV) post-pubescent; or

“(V) of an indeterminate age or developmental stage.

“(I) CHATS, MESSAGES, OR TEXT EXCHANGES.—Chats, messages, or text exchanges that fully provide the context for the report.

“(3) FORMATTING OF REPORTS.—When a provider includes any information described in paragraph (1) or, at its sole discretion, any information described in paragraph (2) in a report to the CyberTipline of NCMEC, or any successor to the CyberTipline operated by NCMEC, the provider shall use best efforts to ensure that the report conforms with the structure of the CyberTipline or the successor, as applicable.

“(c) FORWARDING OF REPORT AND OTHER INFORMATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to its clearinghouse role as a private, nonprofit organization, and at the conclusion of its review in furtherance of its nonprofit mission, NCMEC shall make available each report submitted under subsection (a)(1) to one or more of the following law enforcement agencies:

“(A) Any Federal law enforcement agency that is involved in the investigation of child sexual exploitation, kidnapping, or enticement crimes.

“(B) Any State or local law enforcement agency that is involved in the investigation of child sexual exploitation.

“(C) A foreign law enforcement agency designated by the Attorney General under subsection (d)(3) or a foreign law enforcement agency that has an established relationship with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or INTERPOL, and is involved in the investigation of child sexual exploitation, kidnapping, or enticement crimes.

“(2) TECHNICAL IDENTIFIERS.—If a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) contains an industry-standard hash value or other similar industry-standard technical identifier—

“(A) NCMEC may compare that hash value or identifier with any database or repository of visual depictions owned or operated by NCMEC; and

“(B) if the comparison under subparagraph (A) results in a match, NCMEC may include the matching visual depiction from its database or repository when forwarding the report to an agency described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1).”;

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsection (c)(1)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)(A);”

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (c)(3)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)(C);” and

(II) in subparagraph (C), by striking “subsection (c)(3)” and inserting “subsection (c)(1)(C);” and

(iii) in paragraph (5)(B)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking “forwarded” and inserting “made available”; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “forwarded” and inserting “made available”;

(C) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(e) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—

“(A) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for a provider to knowingly—

(i) fail to submit a report under subsection (a)(1) within the time period required by that subsection; or

(ii) fail to preserve material as required under subsection (h).

“(B) PENALTY.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A provider that violates subparagraph (A) shall be fined—

(I) in the case of an initial violation, not more than—

“(aa) \$850,000 if the provider has not fewer than 100,000,000 monthly active users; or

“(bb) \$600,000 if the provider has fewer than 100,000,000 monthly active users; and

(II) in the case of any second or subsequent violation, not more than—

“(aa) \$1,000,000 if the provider has not fewer than 100,000,000 monthly active users; or

“(bb) \$850,000 if the provider has fewer than 100,000,000 monthly active users.

“(ii) HARM TO INDIVIDUALS.—The maximum fine under clause (i) shall be doubled if an individual is harmed as a direct and proximate result of the applicable violation.

“(2) CIVIL PENALTY.—

“(A) VIOLATIONS RELATING TO CYBERTIPLINE REPORTS AND MATERIAL PRESERVATION.—A provider shall be liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty in an amount of not less than \$50,000 and not more than \$250,000 if the provider knowingly—

(i) fails to submit a report under subsection (a)(1) within the time period required by that subsection;

(ii) fails to preserve material as required under subsection (h); or

(iii) submits a report under subsection (a)(1) that—

(I) contains materially false or fraudulent information; or

(II) omits information described in subsection (b)(1)(A) that is reasonably available.

“(B) ANNUAL REPORT VIOLATIONS.—A provider shall be liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty in an amount of not less than \$100,000 and not more than \$1,000,000 if the provider knowingly—

(i) fails to submit an annual report as required under subsection (i); or

(ii) submits an annual report under subsection (i) that—

(I) contains a materially false, fraudulent, or misleading statement; or

(II) omits information described in subsection (i)(1) that is reasonably available.

“(C) HARM TO INDIVIDUALS.—The amount of a civil penalty under subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be tripled if an individual is harmed as a direct and proximate result of the applicable violation.

“(D) COSTS OF CIVIL ACTIONS.—A provider that commits a violation described in subparagraph (A) or (B) shall be liable to the United States Government for the costs of a

civil action brought to recover a civil penalty under that subparagraph.

“(E) ENFORCEMENT.—This paragraph shall be enforced in accordance with sections 3731, 3732, and 3733 of title 31, except that a civil action to recover a civil penalty under subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph may only be brought by the United States Government.

“(3) DEPOSIT OF FINES AND PENALTIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any criminal fine or civil penalty collected under this subsection shall be deposited into the Child Pornography Victims Reserve as provided in section 2259B.”;

(D) in subsection (f), by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) affirmatively search, screen, or scan for—

“(A) facts or circumstances described in subsection (a)(2);

“(B) information described in subsection (b)(2); or

“(C) any apparent child pornography.”;

(E) in subsection (g)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(I) in clause (iii), by inserting “or personnel at a children’s advocacy center” after “State”; and

(II) in clause (iv), by striking “State or subdivision of a State” and inserting “State, subdivision of a State, or children’s advocacy center”; and

(ii) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1);”

(F) in subsection (h), by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) RELATION TO REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Submission of a report as described in subsection (a)(1) does not satisfy the obligations under this subsection.”; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

“(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 31 of the second year beginning after the date of enactment of the STOP CSAM Act of 2025, and of each year thereafter, a provider that had more than 1,000,000 unique monthly visitors or users during each month of the preceding year and accrued revenue of more than \$50,000,000 during the preceding year shall submit to the Attorney General and the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission a report, disaggregated by subsidiary, that provides the following information for the preceding year to the extent such information is applicable and reasonably available:

“(A) CYBERTIPLINE DATA.—

(i) The total number of reports that the provider submitted under subsection (a)(1).

(ii) Which items of information described in subsection (b)(2) are routinely included in the reports submitted by the provider under subsection (a)(1).

“(B) OTHER REPORTING TO THE PROVIDER.—

(i) The measures the provider has in place to receive other reports concerning child sexual exploitation and abuse using the provider’s product or on the provider’s service.

(ii) The average time for responding to reports described in clause (i).

(iii) The number of reports described in clause (i) that the provider received.

(iv) A summary description of the actions taken upon receipt of the reports described in clause (i).

“(C) POLICIES.—

(i) A description of the policies of the provider with respect to the commission of child sexual exploitation and abuse using the provider’s product or on the provider’s service, including how child sexual exploitation and abuse is defined.

(ii) A description of possible user consequences for violations of the policies described in clause (i).

“(iii) The methods of informing users of the policies described in clause (i).

“(iv) The process for adjudicating potential violations of the policies described in clause (i).

“(D) CULTURE OF SAFETY.—

(i) The measures, tools, and technologies that the provider deploys to—

(I) protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse using the provider’s product or service;

(II) prevent or interdict activity by children related to sexual exploitation and abuse, including the posting or sharing of intimate visual depictions; and

(III) accurately identify adult and minor users.

(ii) The measures, tools, and technologies that the provider deploys to empower parents and guardians to protect their children from sexual exploitation and abuse using the provider’s product or service.

(iii) The measures, tools, and technologies that the provider deploys to prevent the use of the provider’s product or service by individuals seeking to commit child sexual exploitation and abuse.

(iv) With respect to the measures, tools, and technologies described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii)—

(I) an assessment of their efficacy, including any relevant quantitative information indicating when and how often they are used; and

(II) information on any factors that limit their efficacy or create gaps in their protection and efforts by the provider to address those loopholes or gaps.

(v) A description of factors that interfere with the provider’s ability to detect or evaluate instances of child sexual exploitation and abuse and an analysis of the impact of those factors.

(vi) Information shared by the provider with users about the risks to children on the provider’s product or service concerning sexual exploitation and abuse and an assessment of the impact of the information on users, including any relevant quantitative information indicating how often the information is reviewed.

(vii) A description of efforts undertaken by the provider, to the extent appropriate, to allow for independent verification of the information provided pursuant to this subparagraph and of the efficacy of the measures, tools, and technologies described in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), including through the facilitation of independent research.

“(E) SAFETY BY DESIGN.—The measures that the provider takes before launching a new product or service—

(i) to assess—

(I) the safety risks for children with respect to sexual exploitation and abuse; and

(II) whether and how individuals could use the new product or service to commit child sexual exploitation and abuse; and

(ii) to determine—

(I) the appropriate age for users of the new product or service; and

(II) whether the new product or service will be adopted to commit child sexual exploitation and abuse.

“(F) PREVALENCE, TRENDS, AND PATTERNS.—Any information concerning—

(i) the prevalence of child sexual exploitation and abuse on the provider’s product or service, including the volume of child pornography that is available and that is being accessed, distributed, or received; and

(ii) emerging trends, risks, and changing patterns with respect to the commission of online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

“(G) OTHER INFORMATION.—Any other information relevant to child sexual exploitation and abuse on the provider’s product or service.

“(2) AVOIDING DUPLICATION.—Notwithstanding the requirement under the matter preceding paragraph (1) that information be submitted annually, in the case of any report submitted under that paragraph after the initial report, a provider shall submit information described in subparagraphs (C) through (F) of that paragraph not less frequently than once every 3 years or when new information is available, whichever is more frequent.

“(3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall require the disclosure of trade secrets or other proprietary information.

“(4) PUBLICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Attorney General and the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission shall publish the reports received under this subsection.

“(B) REDACTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Whether or not such redaction is requested by the provider, the Attorney General and Chair of the Federal Trade Commission shall redact from a report published under subparagraph (A) any information as necessary to avoid—

“(I) undermining the efficacy of a safety measure described in the report; or

“(II) revealing how a product or service of a provider may be used to commit online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

“(ii) ADDITIONAL REDACTION.—

“(I) REQUEST.—In addition to information redacted under clause (i), a provider may request the redaction, from a report published under subparagraph (A), of any information that is law enforcement sensitive or otherwise not suitable for public distribution.

“(II) AGENCY DISCRETION.—The Attorney General and Chair of the Federal Trade Commission—

“(aa) shall consider a request made under subclause (I); and

“(bb) may, in their discretion, redact from a report published under subparagraph (A) any information pursuant to the request.”;

(2) in section 2258B—

(A) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) LIMITED LIABILITY.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a civil claim or criminal charge described in paragraph (2) may not be brought in any Federal or State court.

“(2) COVERED CLAIMS AND CHARGES.—A civil claim or criminal charge referred to in paragraph (1) is a civil claim or criminal charge against a provider or domain name registrar, including any director, officer, employee, or agent of such provider or domain name registrar, that is directly attributable to—

“(A) the performance of the reporting or preservation responsibilities of such provider or domain name registrar under this section, section 2258A, or section 2258C;

“(B) transmitting, distributing, or mailing child pornography to any Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, or giving such agency access to child pornography, in response to a search warrant, court order, or other legal process issued or obtained by such agency; or

“(C) the use by the provider or domain name registrar of any material being preserved under section 2258A(h) by such provider or registrar for research and the development and training of tools, undertaken voluntarily and in good faith for the sole and exclusive purpose of—

“(i) improving or facilitating reporting under this section, section 2258A, or section 2258C; or

“(ii) stopping the online sexual exploitation of children.”;

(B) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “; or” and inserting “or knowingly failed to comply with a requirement under section 2258A.”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)(C)—

(I) by striking “sections” and inserting “this section or section”; and

(II) by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) for purposes of subsection (a)(2)(C), knowingly distributed or transmitted the material, or made the material available, except as required by law, to—

“(A) any other entity;

“(B) any person not employed by the provider or domain name registrar; or

“(C) any person employed by the provider or domain name registrar who is not conducting any research described in that subsection.”;

(3) in section 2258C—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “the CyberTipline” and inserting “NCMEC”;

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking “ELEMENTS” and inserting “INFORMATION SHARING WITH PROVIDERS AND ENTITIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF PREVENTING AND CURTAILING THE ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN”;

(ii) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “to a provider” and inserting the following: “or submission to the Child Victim Identification Program to—

“(A) a provider”;

(II) in subparagraph (A), as so designated—

(aa) by inserting “use of the provider’s products or services to commit” after “stop the”; and

(bb) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) an entity for the sole and exclusive purpose of preventing and curtailing the online sexual exploitation of children.”;

(iii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in the heading, by striking “INCLUSIONS” and inserting “ELEMENTS”;

(II) by striking “unique identifiers” and inserting “similar technical identifiers”;

(III) by inserting “or content, elements, or reported materials,” after “visual depiction.”;

(IV) by inserting a comma after “location”;

(V) by striking “and any other elements”; and

(VI) by inserting “or submission to the Child Victim Identification Program” after “CyberTipline report”;

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in the heading, by inserting “OR ENTITIES” after “PROVIDERS”;

(ii) by striking “Any provider” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any provider or entity”;

(iii) in paragraph (1), as so designated—

(I) by striking “receives” and inserting “obtains”; and

(II) by inserting “or submission to the Child Victim Identification Program” after “CyberTipline report”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) LIMITATION ON SHARING WITH OTHER ENTITIES.—A provider or entity that obtains elements under subsection (a)(1) may not distribute those elements, or make those elements available, to any other entity, except for the sole and exclusive purpose of curtailing, preventing, or stopping the online sexual exploitation of children.”;

(D) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking “subsections” and inserting “subsection”;

(ii) by striking “providers receiving” and inserting “a provider or entity to obtain”;

(iii) by inserting “or submission to the Child Victim Identification Program” after “CyberTipline report”; and

(iv) by striking “to use the elements to stop the online sexual exploitation of children”; and

(E) in subsection (d), by inserting “or to the Child Victim Identification Program” after “CyberTipline”;

(4) in section 2258E—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “electronic communication service provider” and inserting “electronic communication service”;

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) the term ‘publicly available’, with respect to a visual depiction on a provider’s service, means the visual depiction can be viewed by or is accessible to all users of the service, regardless of the steps, if any, a user must take to create an account or to gain access to the service in order to access or view the visual depiction; and

“(10) the term ‘Child Victim Identification Program’ means the program described in section 404(b)(1)(K)(ii) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11293(b)(1)(K)(ii)).”;

(5) in section 2259B(a), by inserting “, any fine or penalty collected under section 2258A(e),” after “2259A”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

**“§ 2260B. Liability for certain child sexual exploitation offenses”**

“(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for a provider of an interactive computer service, as that term is defined in section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230), that operates through the use of any facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce or in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, through such service to—

“(1) intentionally host or store child pornography or make child pornography available to any person; or

“(2) knowingly promote or facilitate a violation of section 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, or 2422(b).

“(b) PENALTY.—A provider of an interactive computer service that violates subsection (a)—

“(1) subject to paragraph (2), shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000; and

“(2) if the offense involves a conscious or reckless risk of serious personal injury or an individual is harmed as a direct and proximate result of the violation, shall be fined not more than \$5,000,000.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any good faith action by a provider of an interactive computer service that is necessary to comply with a valid court order, subpoena, search warrant, statutory obligation, or preservation request from law enforcement.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“2260B. Liability for certain child sexual exploitation offenses.”**

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE FOR AMENDMENTS TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF PROVIDERS.—The amendments made by subsection (a)(1) of this section shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 505. EXPANDING CIVIL REMEDIES FOR VICTIMS OF ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.**

(a) STATEMENT OF INTENT.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate or

narrow any case law concerning section 2255 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) CIVIL REMEDY FOR PERSONAL INJURIES.—Section 2255(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “IN GENERAL.—Any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of this title and who suffers personal injury as a result of such violation, regardless of whether the injury occurred while such person was a minor, may sue” and inserting the following: “PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (2) who suffers personal injury as a result of a violation described in that subparagraph, regardless of whether the injury occurred while such person was a minor, may bring a civil action”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) ELIGIBLE PERSONS.—Paragraph (1) shall apply to any person—

“(A) who, while a minor, was a victim of—

“(i) a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2260(a), 2421, 2422, or 2423;

“(ii) an attempt to violate section 1589, 1590, or 1591 under section 1594(a);

“(iii) a conspiracy to violate section 1589 or 1590 under section 1594(b); or

“(iv) a conspiracy to violate section 1591 under section 1594(c);

“(B) who—

“(i) is depicted as a minor in child pornography; and

“(ii) is a victim of a violation of 2252, 2252A, or 2260(b) (regardless of when the violation occurs); or

“(C) who—

“(i) is depicted as an identifiable minor in a visual depiction described in section 1466A; and

“(ii) is a victim of a violation of that section (regardless of when the violation occurs).”

(c) CIVIL REMEDY AGAINST ONLINE PLATFORMS AND APP STORES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2255 the following:

**“§ 2255A. Additional remedy for certain victims of child pornography or child sexual exploitation**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) PROMOTION OR AIDING AND ABETTING OF CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.—Any person who is a victim of the intentional, knowing, or reckless promotion, or aiding and abetting, of a violation of section 1591 or 1594(c) (involving a minor), or section 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, or 2422(b), where such promotion, or aiding and abetting, is by a provider of an interactive computer service or an app store, and who suffers personal injury as a result of such promotion or aiding and abetting, regardless of when the injury occurred, may bring a civil action in any appropriate United States District Court for relief set forth in subsection (b).

“(2) ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.—Any person who is a victim of the intentional, knowing, or reckless hosting or storing of child pornography or making child pornography available to any person by a provider of an interactive computer service, and who suffers personal injury as a result of such hosting, storing, or making available, regardless of when the injury occurred, may bring a civil action in any appropriate United States District Court for relief set forth in subsection (b).

“(b) RELIEF.—In a civil action brought by a person under subsection (a)—

“(1) the person shall recover the actual damages the person sustains or liquidated

damages in the amount of \$300,000, and the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney fees and other litigation costs reasonably incurred; and

“(2) the court may, in addition to any other relief available at law, award punitive damages and such other preliminary and equitable relief as the court determines to be appropriate, including a temporary restraining order, a preliminary injunction, or a permanent injunction ordering the defendant to cease the offending conduct.

“(c) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—There shall be no time limit for the filing of a complaint commencing an action under subsection (a).

“(d) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—

“(1) VENUE.—Any action brought under subsection (a) may be brought in the district court of the United States that meets applicable requirements relating to venue under section 1331 of title 28.

“(2) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action brought under subsection (a), process may be served in any district in which the defendant—

“(A) is an inhabitant; or

“(B) may be found.

“(e) RELATION TO SECTION 230 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934.—Nothing in section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230) shall be construed to impair or limit any claim brought under subsection (a).

“(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) APPLICABILITY TO LEGAL PROCESS OR OBLIGATION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any good faith action that is necessary to comply with a valid court order, subpoena, search warrant, statutory obligation, or preservation request from law enforcement.

“(2) APPLICATION OF SECTION 2258B.—A civil action brought under subsection (a) shall be subject to section 2258B.

“(g) ENCRYPTION TECHNOLOGIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—None of the following actions or circumstances shall serve as an independent basis for liability under subsection (a):

“(A) Utilizing full end-to-end encrypted messaging services, device encryption, or other encryption services.

“(B) Not possessing the information necessary to decrypt a communication.

“(C) Failing to take an action that would otherwise undermine the ability to offer full end-to-end encrypted messaging services, device encryption, or other encryption services.

“(2) CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE.—Evidence of actions or circumstances described in paragraph (1) shall be admissible in a civil action brought under subsection (a) if—

“(A) the actions or circumstances are relevant under rules 401 and 402 of the Federal Rules of Evidence to—

“(i) prove motive, intent, preparation, plan, absence of mistake, or lack of accident; or

“(ii) rebut any evidence or factual or legal claim; and

“(B) the actions or circumstances—

“(i) are otherwise admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence; and

“(ii) are not subject to exclusion under rule 403 or any other rule of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

“(3) NO EFFECT ON DISCOVERY.—Nothing in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be construed to create a defense to a discovery request or otherwise limit or affect discovery in any civil action brought under subsection (a).

“(h) DEFENSE.—In a civil action under subsection (a)(2) involving knowing or reckless conduct, it shall be a defense at trial, which the provider of an interactive computer service must establish by a preponderance of the evidence as determined by the finder of fact, that—

“(1) the provider disabled access to or removed the child pornography within a reasonable timeframe, and in any event not later than 48 hours after obtaining knowledge that the child pornography was being hosted, stored, or made available by the provider (or, in the case of a provider that, for the most recent calendar year, averaged fewer than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States, within a reasonable timeframe, and in any event not later than 2 business days after obtaining such knowledge);

“(2) the provider exercised a reasonable, good faith effort to disable access to or remove the child pornography but was unable to do so for reasons outside the provider’s control; or

“(3) it is technologically impossible for the provider to disable access to or remove the child pornography without compromising encryption technologies.

“(i) SANCTIONS FOR REPEATED BAD FAITH CIVIL ACTIONS OR DEFENSES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) BAD FAITH CIVIL ACTION.—The term ‘bad faith civil action’ means a civil action brought under subsection (a) in bad faith where the finder of fact determines that at the time the civil action was filed, the party, attorney, or law firm described in paragraph (2) had actual knowledge that—

“(i) the alleged conduct did not involve any minor; or

“(ii) the alleged child pornography did not depict—

“(I) any minor; or

“(II) sexually explicit conduct, sexual suggestiveness, full or partial nudity, or implied sexual activity.

“(B) BAD FAITH DEFENSE.—The term ‘bad faith defense’ means a defense in a civil action brought under subsection (a) raised in bad faith where the finder of fact determines that at the time the defense was raised, the party, attorney, or law firm described in paragraph (2) had actual knowledge that the defense—

“(i) was made solely for the purpose of delaying the civil action or increasing the costs of the civil action; or

“(ii) was objectively baseless in light of the applicable law or facts at issue.

“(2) BAD FAITH CIVIL ACTION.—In the case of a civil action brought under subsection (a), the court may impose sanctions on—

“(A) the party bringing the civil action if the court finds that the party has brought 2 or more bad faith civil actions (which may include the instant civil action); or

“(B) an attorney or law firm representing the party bringing the civil action if the court finds that the attorney or law firm has represented—

“(i) a party who has brought 2 or more bad faith civil actions (which may include the instant civil action); or

“(ii) 2 or more parties who have each brought a bad faith civil action (which may include the instant civil action).

“(3) BAD FAITH DEFENSE.—In the case of a civil action brought under subsection (a), the court may impose sanctions on—

“(A) the party defending the civil action if the court finds that the party has raised 2 or more bad faith defenses (which may include 1 or more defenses raised in the instant civil action); or

“(B) an attorney or law firm representing the party defending the civil action if the court finds that the attorney or law firm has represented—

“(i) a party who has raised 2 or more bad faith defenses (which may include 1 or more defenses raised in the instant civil action); or

“(ii) 2 or more parties who have each raised a bad faith defense (which may include a defense raised in the instant civil action).

“(4) IMPLEMENTATION.—Rule 11(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall apply to sanctions imposed under this subsection in the same manner as that rule applies to sanctions imposed for a violation of rule 11(b) of those Rules.

“(5) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(A) RULE 11.—This subsection shall not be construed to limit or expand the application of rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

“(B) DEFINITION CHANGE.—Paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall not be construed to apply to a civil action affected by a contemporaneous change in the law with respect to the definition of ‘child pornography’.

“(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APP.—The term ‘app’ means a software application or electronic service that may be run or directed by a user on a computer, a mobile device, or any other general purpose computing device.

“(2) APP STORE.—The term ‘app store’ means a publicly available website, software application, or other electronic service that—

“(A) distributes apps from third-party developers to users of a computer, a mobile device, or any other general purpose computing device; and

“(B) operates—

“(i) through the use of any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce; or

“(ii) in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce.

“(3) INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SERVICE.—The term ‘interactive computer service’ means an interactive computer service, as defined in section 230(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 230(f)), that operates—

“(A) through the use of any means or facility of interstate or foreign commerce; or

“(B) in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce.

“(k) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section, including the defenses under this section, shall be construed to apply to any civil action brought under any other Federal law, rule, or regulation, including any civil action brought against a provider of an interactive computer service or an app store under section 1595 or 2255.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 110 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2255 the following:

“2255A. Additional remedy for certain victims of child pornography or child sexual exploitation.”.

SEC. 506. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title, an amendment made by this title, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and the amendments made by this title, and the application of the provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance, shall not be affected.

SEC. 507. CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND TRIBAL LAW.

(a) FEDERAL LAW.—Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title, nor any rule or regulation issued pursuant to this title or the amendments made by this title, shall affect or diminish any right or remedy for a victim of child pornography or child sexual exploitation under any other Federal law, rule, or regulation, including any claim under section 2255 of title 18, United States Code, with respect to any individual or entity.

(b) STATE OR TRIBAL LAW.—Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title, nor any rule or regulation issued pursuant to this title or the amendments made by this title, shall—

(1) preempt, diminish, or supplant any right or remedy for a victim of child pornography or child sexual exploitation under any State or Tribal common or statutory law; or

(2) prohibit the enforcement of a law governing child pornography or child sexual exploitation that is at least as protective of the rights of a victim as this title and the amendments made by this title.

**SA 2967.** Mr. HAWLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 102, strike lines 21 and 22 and insert the following: “\$328,558,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That \$100,000,000 is used for a Military Housing Privatization Initiative equity investment to replace aging family housing of the Army at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.”.

**SA 2968.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. ALSO BROOKS, Mr. KING, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BENNET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JUSTICE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KELLY, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title VI, add the following:

**SEC. 6. ELIGIBILITY OF DISABILITY RETIREES WITH COMBAT-RELATED DISABILITIES FOR CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND RETIRED PAY.**

(a) CONCURRENT RECEIPT IN CONNECTION WITH CRSC.—Section 1413a(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(b) CONCURRENT RECEIPT GENERALLY.—Section 1414(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(2) COMBAT-RELATED RETIREES.—An eligible combat-related disabled uniformed service retiree (as defined in section 1413a(c) of this title) who is retired under chapter 61 of this title, is entitled to retired pay under chapter 61 of this title for any month, and is also entitled for that month to veterans’ disability compensation under title 38, is entitled to be paid both such retired pay and such veterans’ disability compensation for that month without regard to sections 5304 and 5305 of title 38.

“(3) EXCLUSION OF OTHER RETIREES.—Subsection (a) does not apply to a member re-

tired under chapter 61 of this title if the member is not covered by paragraph (1) or (2).”.

(c) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) AMENDMENTS REFLECTING END OF CURRENT RECEIPT PHASE-IN PERIOD.—Section 1414 of title 10, United States Code, is further amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)—

(i) by striking the second sentence; and

(ii) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(B) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(C) in subsection (d), as redesignated, by striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

(2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such section 1414 is amended to read as follows:

**“§ 1414. Members eligible for retired pay who are also eligible for veterans’ disability compensation: concurrent receipt”.**

(3) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 71 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1414 and inserting the following new item:

**“1414. Members eligible for retired pay who are also eligible for veterans’ disability compensation: concurrent receipt”.**

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1413a(f) of such title is amended by striking “Subsection (d)” and inserting “Subsection (c)”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

**SA 2969.** Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 313 and insert the following:

**SEC. 313. USE OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

(a) EXPEDITIONARY SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may use expeditionary solid waste disposal systems for the destruction of illicit contraband, including seized counterfeit materials, unauthorized military gear, and classified materials.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF SYSTEMS.—The expeditionary solid waste disposal systems units deployed under subsection (a) shall be—

(A) equipped to support operations related to border security and the elimination of contraband; and

(B) made available to military installations, forward operating bases, and partner security forces as needed to assist in countering infiltration and unauthorized use of military assets of the United States.

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF OPEN-AIR BURN PITS TO DISPOSE OF CERTAIN MATERIAL.—The Secretary of Defense may not use open-air burn pits for the disposal of illicit contraband, classified military equipment, or hazardous waste materials.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amount authorized to be appropriated by section 101 for Other Procurement, Army, for Modification of In-Svc Equipment, as specified in the funding table in section 4101, is hereby increased by \$8,950,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for solid waste disposal systems, including expeditionary solid waste disposal systems capable of destroying not only traditional waste but also seized contraband, including illicit drugs, counterfeit United States currency and documents, unauthorized military equipment, and classified materials that pose a security threat.

(2) OFFSET.—The amount authorized to be appropriated by section 301 for Operations and Maintenance, Army, for Additional Activities, as specified in the funding table in section 4301, is hereby reduced by \$8,950,000, with the amount of the reduction to be derived from amounts for the use of open-air burn pits in contingency operations.

**SA 2970.** Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) None of the funds made available in this title 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 title 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.

**SA 2971.** Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title X, add the following:

**SEC. 1038. CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Preventing Child Trafficking Act of 2025”.

(b) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “anti-trafficking recommendations” means the recommendations set forth in the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “Child Trafficking: Addressing Challenges to Public Awareness and Survivor

Support”, which was published on December 11, 2023.

(c) IN GENERAL.—The Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice, in coordination with the Office on Trafficking in Persons of the Administration for Children and Families, shall continue implementing the anti-trafficking recommendations by—

(1) working together, in accordance with the leading collaboration practices referenced in GAO-24-106038, to develop and implement strategies to prevent child trafficking and support child trafficking survivors; and

(2) establishing achievable performance goals and targets for anti-trafficking programs for children that reflect leading practices, such as being objective, measurable, and quantifiable, using baseline data from program grantees.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that explicitly describes the steps taken pursuant to subsection (c).

**SA 2972.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 412, before the period at the end, insert the following: “Provided, That, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish quarterly on a publicly available website of the Department of Veterans Affairs a report on the number of veterans who should have been reported to the national instant criminal background check system established under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901) if such reporting by the Secretary was permitted, and of those veterans, the number of suicides by firearm that occurred in the previous quarter”.

**SA 2973.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. INCREASE IN TRANSFER AND MANUFACTURING TAXES FOR FIREARMS REGULATED UNDER THE NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.**

(a) TRANSFER TAX.—Subsection (a) of section 5811 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 70436(a) of Public Law 119-21, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) RATE.—There shall be levied, collected, and paid on firearms transferred a tax at the rate of \$4,709 for each firearm transferred.”

(b) MAKING TAX.—Section 5821(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by section 70436(b) of Public Law 119-21, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$200” and inserting “\$4,709”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$0” and inserting “\$55”.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4182(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,

as amended by section 70436(c) of Public Law 119-21, is amended by striking the second sentence.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to calendar quarters beginning more than 90 days after the date of the enactment of Public Law 119-21.

**SA 2974.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 412.

**SA 2975.** Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II of division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a)** Amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs in any prior fiscal year for construction at the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Reno, Nevada, may be used only for a project at such medical center.

(b) Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a briefing on the current status, path forward, and timeline to construct a new medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Reno, Nevada.

**SA 2976.** Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, and Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026”.

**SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO ACT.**

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

**SEC. 3. REFERENCES TO REPORT.**

(a) Any reference to a “report accompanying this Act” contained in division A shall be treated as a reference to Senate Report 119-43. The effect of such Report shall be limited to division A and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, division A.

(b) Any reference to a “report accompanying this Act” contained in division B shall be treated as a reference to Senate Report 119-37. The effect of such Report shall be

limited to division B and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, division B.

(c) Any reference to a “report accompanying this Act” contained in division C shall be treated as a reference to Senate Report 119-38. The effect of such Report shall be limited to division C and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, division C.

**DIVISION A—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026**

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, 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, \$2,447,609,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$446,388,000 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, \$268,650,000 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, \$5,906,524,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$613,213,000 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, \$144,390,000 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, including personnel in the Department of the Air Force when designated by the Secretary of Defense to direct and supervise Military Construction projects in accordance with section 2851 of title 10, United States Code, and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$4,090,673,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$718,973,000 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, \$359,200,000 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, \$3,724,301,000, 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 \$211,001,000 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, \$4,000,000 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, 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, \$271,230,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$78,380,000 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: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$112,050,000 shall be for

the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Army National Guard” in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**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, \$292,546,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$73,646,000 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: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$95,900,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading “Military Construction, Air National Guard” in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

**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, \$46,239,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$6,013,000 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, \$4,000,000 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, \$2,255,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$2,255,000 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.

**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, \$116,268,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$6,970,000 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, \$55,810,000 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 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, \$481,832,000, 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), \$410,161,000, 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, \$228,558,000, 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, \$388,418,000.

**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, \$177,597,000, 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, \$384,108,000.

**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, \$274,230,000, 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, \$369,765,000.

**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, \$53,374,000.

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND**

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$8,315,000, 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.

**(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

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.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

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 \$35,000 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.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

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.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

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”, \$45,000,000;  
“Military Construction, Army National Guard”, \$15,500,000;  
“Military Construction, Air National Guard”, \$11,000,000; and  
“Military Construction, Army Reserve”, \$15,000,000:

*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 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 “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$76,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects specified in a National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act: *Provided further*, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, 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. 129. 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 sub-chapters I through III of chapter 37 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, 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 cost 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 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 \$75,000,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$5,845,241.

#### 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, \$3,879,000,000: *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, bioengineering 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, which 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 \$75,039,000,000 to become available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$15,889,000,000 is hereby rescinded: *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) 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, \$38,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, which 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.

##### 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 De-

partment 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, which 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: *Provided further*, That, of the \$12,700,000,000 to become available on October 1, 2025, previously appropriated under this heading in the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 119-4), \$610,000,000 is hereby rescinded.

##### 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 acquisition 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; \$3,000,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2025; and, in addition, \$11,700,000,000, plus reimbursements, which 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.

##### 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; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial 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, \$440,000,000, which shall be for

the offices and in the amounts specified under this heading in the report accompanying this Act, of which not to exceed 10 percent for each such office 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, \$277,000,000, 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, \$5,908,000,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided*, That \$1,418,416,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That \$4,488,829,000 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 \$755,000 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.

#### 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, \$3,488,000,000, 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 providing to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a plan by June 1, 2026, containing the following:

(1) an updated life-cycle cost estimate for the EHRM program based on the Department's acceleration of deployments announced in March 2025;

(2) an updated facility-by-facility deployment schedule for all facilities to receive the EHRM program;

(3) a certification that all VA facilities using the new EHR on or before April 1, 2024, have exceeded or met certain health care performance baseline metrics indicating they have returned to their service delivery levels in place prior to the deployment of the new EHR; and

(4) a description of the projected Federal VA staffing levels, contract support, and other relevant activities required, and the resources required to fund those activities, to meet the deployment goal as outlined in (2), including target Federal and contracted staffing levels at VA Central Office and, each local VA medical center with a slated deployment in 2026 and 2027, as well as contract support to provide technical and other change management support to carry out the deployments.

#### 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. 401 et seq.), \$296,000,000, 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, 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, \$709,000,000, of which \$467,940,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$241,060,000 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.

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 be only 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: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

#### 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 guaranteed 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, \$709,000,000, of which \$467,940,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$241,060,000 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, including the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (Public Law 118-5), \$52,676,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2026 for "Compensation and Pensions", "Re-adjustment 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", "Re-adjustment 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 2026 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 2026 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 \$134,342,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, \$7,607,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and \$7,586,000 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 section 1101(a)(10) of division A of Public Law 119-4, is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

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. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 224. 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. 225. 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. 226. 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 back-

log”, 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. 227. 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. 228. 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. 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 a cumulative \$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, 2027, 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 Affairs 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 Co-

lumbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(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 collecting and 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 A of Public Law 118-42.

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. 401 et seq.), or to prevent or impede the ac-

cess 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. 401 et seq.).

(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 the date of enactment of this Act, 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) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the conduct of research commencing on or after the date of enactment of this Act, 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 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually 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 primate research.

(e) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, 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 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, 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 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

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 2026 and 2027 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 2026, 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”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities”, and “Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund”, accounts, \$1,429,181,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans; \$697,800,000 shall be made available for suicide prevention outreach programs; \$3,500,000,000 shall be made available for the Caregivers program; \$42,000,000 shall be made available for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder; \$70,000,000 shall be made available for the Neurology Centers of Excellence; \$342,455,000 shall be made available for rural health care; and, \$3,459,121,000 shall be made available for veterans’ homelessness programs.

SEC. 251. Of the unobligated balances available in fiscal year 2026 in the “Recurring Expenses Transformational Fund” established in section 243 of division J of Public Law 114-113, and in addition to any funds otherwise made available for such purposes in this, prior, or subsequent fiscal years, \$900,000,000 shall be available for constructing, altering, extending, and improving medical facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, including all supporting activities and required contingencies, during the period of availability of the Fund: *Provided*, That prior to obligation of any of the funds provided in this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must provide a plan for the execution of the funds appropriated in this section to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 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. 257. (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:

including, at a minimum, an update on obligations by program, project or activity.

SEC. 254. 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, 2017 and September 30, 2018 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. 255. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities as part of a planned realignment of services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a Department medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care.

SEC. 256. 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. 257. (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 Department of Defense’s Chinese Military Company List;

(2) the Department of the Treasury’s Non-SDN Chinese Military Industrial Complex Companies List;

(3) the Department of Commerce’s Denied Persons List, Entity List, or Military End User List, 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); or

(4) the Department of Homeland Security's Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act Entity List.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO THIRD PARTIES.—The prohibition in subsection (a) also applies in cases in which the Secretary has contracted with a third party for the procurement, purchase, or expenditure of funds on any of the equipment and software described in such subsection.

(c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term “covered information technology equipment” shall mean the following equipment used in an office environment: computers, printers, or interoperable videoconferencing equipment used in or by the Department of Veterans Affairs directly. “Covered information technology equipment” shall not refer to services that use such equipment, including cloud services.

SEC. 258. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractors whose performance has been judged to be below satisfactory, behind schedule, over budget, or has failed to meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program and unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with section 16.401(e)(2) of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

SEC. 259. The Department is directed to maintain staffing levels to facilitate the Department’s own goals, including that benefits claims are adjudicated according to the 125 day goal, and that healthcare appointments and service are provided in the timeframes required by statute and regulation.

SEC. 260. The Department is directed to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the status of implementation of the provisions in Public Law 118-42 related to veterans in the Freely Associated States [FAS] in a way that is consistent with Congressional intent, including engagement with FAS governments, a projected timeline for veterans in the FAS to receive hospital care and medical services, and an estimate of the cost of implementation.

SEC. 261. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used in a manner that would—

(1) interfere with the ability of a veteran to participate in a medicinal marijuana program approved by a State;

(2) deny any services from the Department to a veteran who is participating in such a program; or

(3) limit or interfere with the ability of a health care provider of the Department to make appropriate recommendations, fill out forms, or take steps to comply with such a program.

### 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 re-

quired by law of such countries, \$108,281,000 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, of which \$3,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That \$4,256,000 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, \$118,780,450, 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, \$79,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which \$2,072,000 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, \$27,000,000 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. (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 45 days.

SEC. 407. (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. 408. 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. 409. 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. 410. 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. 411. (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. 412. 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 of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

SEC. 413. (a) Each department or agency funded in this or any other appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026 shall, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate on funds that are allotted and available for obligation as of the end of the reporting period and on obligations as of the end of the reporting period: *Provided*, That such report shall be delineated by: (1) program, project, and activity level; (2) public law making such funds available; and (3) period of availability: *Provided further*, That such reports shall be transmitted to the Committees monthly thereafter, on the fifteenth of each such month, during the period of availability of the relevant funds.

(b) The term “reporting period” as used in this section means the month that precedes the date on which the department or agency transmits the report to the Committees.

This division may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026.”

#### **DIVISION B—AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026**

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

##### **TITLE I**

##### **AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS**

##### **PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING**

##### **OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

##### **(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$51,792,000 of which not to exceed \$7,000,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary, of which \$650,000 shall be for the establishment of a Seafood Industry Liaison; not to exceed \$1,896,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed \$5,190,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations, of which \$1,000,000 shall be to continue a Tribal Public Health Resource Center at a land grant university with existing indigenous public health expertise to expand current partnerships and collaborative efforts with indigenous groups to improve the delivery of public health services and functions in American Indian communities focusing on indigenous food sovereignty; not to exceed \$6,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement,

of which \$1,500,000 shall be for 7 U.S.C. 2279(c)(5); not to exceed \$21,706,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which \$20,000,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed \$4,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch; and not to exceed \$6,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$22,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551–558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency: *Provided further*, That during any 30 day notification period referenced in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form.

##### **EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS**

##### **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, \$30,500,000, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$2,450,000 shall be for an interdisciplinary center based at a land grant university focused on agricultural policy relevant to the Midwest region which will provide private entities, policymakers, and the public with timely insights and targeted economic solutions: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be available to carry out section 224 of subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924), as amended by section 12504 of Public Law 115–334.

##### **OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, \$16,000,000.

##### **OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, \$14,967,000.

##### **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, \$91,000,000, of which not less than \$77,428,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the department.

##### **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, \$6,867,000.

##### **OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, \$1,466,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Civil Rights mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

##### **OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$37,000,000.

##### **AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92–313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegation of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administrator of General Services, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, \$22,603,000, to remain available until expended.

##### **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture, to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be transferred to any agency of the Department for its use in meeting all requirements pursuant to the above Acts on Federal and non-Federal lands.

##### **OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection, \$20,800,000.

##### **OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), \$111,561,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), and including not to exceed \$125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 1337 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–98).

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, \$60,537,000.

## OFFICE OF ETHICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, \$4,500,000.

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, \$1,884,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be made available for the Office of the Chief Scientist.

## ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, \$90,612,000.

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, \$187,513,000, of which up to \$46,000,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: *Provided*, That amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f): *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress in writing at least 30 days prior to discontinuing data collection programs and reports.

## AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100,000 and with prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, \$1,826,778,000: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided, the cost of constructing any one building shall not exceed \$500,000, except for headhouses or greenhouses which shall each be limited to \$1,800,000, except for 10 buildings to be constructed or improved at a cost not to exceed \$1,100,000 each, and except for four buildings to be constructed at a cost not to exceed \$5,000,000 each, and the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building or \$500,000, whichever is greater: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for entering into lease agreements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the lease shall be that any facility shall be owned, operated, and maintained by the non-Federal entity and shall be removed upon the expiration or termination of the lease agreement: *Provided further*, That the limitations on alterations contained in this Act shall not apply to modernization or replacement of existing facilities at Beltsville, Maryland: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: *Provided further*, That the foregoing limitations shall not apply to replacement of buildings needed to carry out the Act of April 24, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 113a): *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by, and acceptable to, the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the easements shall be that upon completion the facility shall be accepted by the Secretary, subject to the availability of funds herein, if the Secretary finds that acceptance of the facility is in the interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds may be received from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of establishing or operating any research facility or research project of the Agricultural Research Service, as authorized by law: *Provided further*, That no later than 60 days from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both House of Congress that outlines the current staffing levels and hiring plans in fiscal year 2026 for each research unit.

## BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture, where not otherwise provided, \$42,650,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Congressionally Directed Spending" in the report accompanying this Act.

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses, \$1,089,510,000, which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities" in the report accompanying this Act, of which \$559,760,000 shall remain available until expended and of which \$2,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, \$13,560,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Congressionally Directed Spending" in the report accompanying this Act, to remain available until expended, which shall not be subject to section 6(c) and section 6(d) of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390d): *Provided further*, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program receives no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be made available to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions with funds awarded equally to each of the States of Alaska and Hawaii: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: *Provided further*, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this or any other Act to carry out the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under 7 U.S.C. 3157 may be retained by the Secretary of Agriculture to

pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out that authority.

## NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103-382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), \$11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

For payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, \$561,700,000 which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities" in the report accompanying this Act, of which \$32,500,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93-471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents.

## INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

For the integrated research, education, and extension grants programs, including necessary administrative expenses, \$41,100,000, which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Activities" in the report accompanying this Act, of which \$8,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program Area grant awarded under the Crop Protection/Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, \$1,617,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

## ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

## SALARIES AND EXPENSES

## (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including up to \$30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), \$1,167,534,000 which shall be for the purposes, in the amounts, and for the periods of availability specified in the table titled "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service" in the report accompanying this Act, of which \$601,551,000 shall remain available until expended, of which \$11,384,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Congressionally Directed Spending" in the report accompanying this Act, to remain available until expended, and of which \$8,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be

available for the purchase, replacement, operation, and maintenance of aircraft: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of the United States, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary must notify the Committees on Appropriations about any transfer of funds in the preceding proviso within 15 days after such transfer being made: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year 2026, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity's liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

#### BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2268a, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

##### MARKETING SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, \$222,887,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the table titled "Agricultural Marketing Service—Marketing Services" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That amounts made available for Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives to carry out section 12513 of Public Law 115-334 (7 U.S.C. 1632d) shall remain available until expended and the Secretary shall take measures to ensure an equal distribution of funds between the three regional innovation initiatives that were first established using funds made available under this heading in Public Law 116-6: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation pursuant to law (81 U.S.C. 9701), except for the cost of activities relating to the development or maintenance of grain stand-

ards under the United States Grain Standards Act, 7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.

#### LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$62,596,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: *Provided*, That if crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### FUND FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.); (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than \$23,880,000 for formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-128).

#### PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

For payments to departments of agriculture, bureaus and departments of markets, and similar agencies for marketing activities under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), \$1,000,000.

#### LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$55,000,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for inspection and weighing services: *Provided*, That if grain export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur, this limitation may be exceeded by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, \$1,117,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food Safety mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

#### FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, including not to exceed \$10,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$1,226,000,000; and in addition, \$1,000,000 may be credited to this account from fees collected for the cost of laboratory accreditation as authorized by section 1327 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 138f): *Provided*, That funds provided for the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no fewer than 148 full-time equivalent positions shall be employed during fiscal year 2026 for purposes dedicated solely to inspections and enforcement related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.): *Provided further*, That the Food Safety and Inspection Service shall continue implementation of section 11016 of Public Law 110-246 as further clarified by the amendments made in section 12106 of Public Law 113-79: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available for any department or agency in this or any other appropriations Acts, including prior year Acts, shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of

That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

#### TITLE II

#### FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

##### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, \$1,527,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

#### FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, \$238,500,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall be for the implementation of section 773 of Public Law 117-328: *Provided*, That \$70,740,000 of amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year pursuant to section 1241(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

#### FARM SERVICE AGENCY

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, \$1,209,307,000, of which not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for the hiring of new employees to fill vacancies and anticipated vacancies at Farm Service Agency county offices and farm loan officers and shall be available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That the agency shall submit a report by the end of the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2026 to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress that identifies for each project/investment that is operational (a) current performance against key indicators of customer satisfaction, (b) current performance of service level agreements or other technical metrics, (c) current performance against a pre-established cost baseline, (d) a detailed breakdown of current and planned spending on operational enhancements or upgrades, and (e) an assessment of whether the investment continues to meet business needs as intended as well as alternatives to the investment: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to use the services, facilities, and authorities (but not the funds) of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make program payments for all programs administered by the Agency: *Provided further*, That other funds made available to the Agency for authorized activities may be advanced to and merged with this account: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$696,594,000 shall be made available to county offices, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, any funds made available to county offices in the current fiscal year that the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency deems to exceed or not meet the amount needed for the county offices may be transferred to or from the Farm Service Agency for necessary expenses: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available for any department or agency in this or any other appropriations Acts, including prior year Acts, shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of

the funds available for any department or agency in this or any other appropriations Acts, including prior year Acts, shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of

the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to permanently relocate county based employees that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101–5106), \$6,500,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may determine that United States territories and Federally recognized Indian tribes are “States” for the purposes of Subtitle A of such Act.

#### GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out well-head or groundwater protection activities under section 1240O of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2), \$7,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106–387, 114 Stat. 1549A–12).

#### GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

For necessary expenses to carry out direct reimbursement payments to geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers under section 1621 of the Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792), \$3,500,000, to remain available until expended.

#### AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed farm ownership (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) and operating (7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.) loans, emergency loans (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.), Indian tribe land acquisition loans (25 U.S.C. 5136), boll weevil loans (7 U.S.C. 1989), guaranteed conservation loans (7 U.S.C. 1924 et seq.), and relending program (7 U.S.C. 1936c), to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund, as follows: \$3,500,000,000 for guaranteed farm ownership loans and \$3,100,000,000 for farm ownership direct loans; \$2,000,000,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans and \$1,633,000,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, \$14,388,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, \$20,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, \$150,000,000; and for boll weevil eradication program loans, \$60,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall deem the pink bollworm to be a boll weevil for the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: \$1,000,000 for emergency loans, to remain available until expended; \$39,370,000 for farm ownership direct loans, and \$84,000 for boll weevil eradication program loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$326,053,000: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$305,803,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for “Farm Service Agency Salaries and Expenses”.

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Ac-

count for farm ownership, operating, conservation, and emergency direct loans and loan guarantees may be transferred among these programs: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

#### RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, \$65,637,000: *Provided*, That \$1,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be available for compliance and integrity activities required under section 516(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1516(b)(2)(C)), and shall be in addition to amounts otherwise provided for such purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1506(i).

#### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a–f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 2268a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, \$895,754,000, which shall be for the purposes and in the amounts specified in the table titled “Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations” in the report accompanying this Act, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed \$250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a.

#### WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses to carry out preventive measures, including but not limited to surveys and investigations, engineering operations, works of improvement, and changes in use of land, in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001–1005 and 1007–1009) and in accordance with the provisions of laws relating to the activities of the Department, \$52,360,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$32,360,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Congressionally Directed Spending” in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That for funds provided by this Act or any other prior Act, the limitation regarding the size of the watershed or subwatershed exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand acres in which such activities can be undertaken shall only apply for activities undertaken for the primary purpose of flood prevention (including structural and land treatment measures): *Provided further*, That of the amounts made

available under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be allocated to multi-benefit irrigation modernization projects and activities that increase fish or wildlife habitat, reduce drought impact, improve water quality or instream flow, or provide off-channel renewable energy production.

#### WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Under the authorities of section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, \$1,000,000 is provided.

#### CORPORATIONS

The following corporations and agencies are hereby authorized to make expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accord with law, and to make contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

#### FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

For payments as authorized by section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516), such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

#### COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

#### REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a–11): *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i) for the conduct of its business with the Foreign Agricultural Service, up to \$5,000,000 may be transferred to and used by the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service that are not related to Commodity Credit Corporation business: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in writing 15 days prior to the obligation or commitment of any emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation or the transfer or cancellation of any previously obligated Commodity Credit Corporation funds: *Provided further*, That such written notification shall include a detailed spend plan for the anticipated uses of such funds and an expected timeline for program execution if such obligation, commitment, transfer, or cancellation exceeds \$100,000,000.

#### HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT (LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

For the current fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall not expend more than \$15,000,000 for site investigation and cleanup expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses to comply with the requirement of section 107(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9607(g)), and section 6001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 9601).

#### TITLE III

#### RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

#### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development, \$1,620,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Rural Development mission area for salaries and

expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of Rural Development programs, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; \$351,087,000: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, no less than \$75,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for information technology expenses: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support Rural Development programs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other funds appropriated for purposes authorized by section 502(i) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(i)), any amounts collected under such section, as amended by this Act, will immediately be credited to this account and will remain available until expended for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program that assists rural hospitals to improve long-term operations and financial health by providing technical assistance through analysis of current hospital management practices.

**RURAL HOUSING SERVICE**

**RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM**

**ACCOUNT**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: \$1,000,000,000 shall be for section 502 direct loans; \$5,000,000 shall be for a Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes; and \$25,000,000,000 shall be for section 502 unsubsidized guaranteed loans; \$25,000,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; \$50,000,000 for section 515 rental housing; \$400,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; \$10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; \$5,000,000 for section 523 self-help housing land development loans; \$5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans; and \$15,000,000 for section 514 direct farm labor housing loans.

For the cost of direct loans, guaranteed loans, and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 502 direct loans, \$130,600,000, of which \$32,650,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027; Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes, \$2,469,000; section 504 housing repair loans, \$4,333,000; repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of section 515 rental housing, \$15,130,000, to remain available until expended; section 523 self-help housing land development loans, \$657,000; section 524 site development loans, \$502,000; section 514 farm labor housing loans, \$4,761,000, to remain available until expended; and farm labor housing grants, as authorized by section 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1486), \$7,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the pro-

visions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: *Provided further*, That applicants in communities that have a current rural area waiver under section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490q) shall be treated as living in a rural area for purposes of section 502 guaranteed loans provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts available under this paragraph for section 502 direct loans, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for direct loans for individuals whose homes will be built pursuant to a program funded with a mutual and self-help housing grant authorized by section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 until June 1, 2026: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the acquisition of Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multifamily housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary, with such incentives to include, but not be limited to, the following: allow such nonprofit entities and public housing authorities to earn a Return on Investment on the owner's initial equity contributions, as defined by the Secretary, invested in the transaction; and allow reimbursement of organizational costs associated with owner's oversight of asset referred to as "Asset Management Fee" of up to \$7,500 per property.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, \$34,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of the sections 514, 515, and 516 multi-family rental housing properties to restructure existing USDA multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the project for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including reducing or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments, subordinating, reducing or re-amortizing loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall, as part of the preservation and revitalization agreement, obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$412,254,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

**RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

For rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to the authority under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D) of the Housing Act of 1949, \$1,715,000,000, and in addition such sums as may be necessary, as authorized by section 521(c) of the Act, to liquidate debt incurred prior to fiscal year 1992 to carry out the rental assistance program under section 521(a)(2) of the Act: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available for renewal of rental assistance agreements for a maximum of 5,000 units where the Secretary determines that a maturing loan for a project cannot reasonably be re-

structured with another USDA loan or modification and the project was operating with rental assistance under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may enter into rental assistance contracts in maturing properties with existing rental assistance agreements notwithstanding any provision of section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949, for a term of at least 10 years but not more than 20 years: *Provided further*, That any agreement to enter into a rental assistance contract under section 521 of the Housing Act of 1949 for a maturing property shall obligate the owner to continue to maintain the project as decent, safe, and sanitary housing and to operate the development in accordance with the Housing Act of 1949, except that rents shall be based on current Fair Market Rents as established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development pursuant to 24 CFR 888 Subpart A, 42 U.S.C. 1437f and 3535d, to determine the maximum initial rent and adjusted annually by the Operating Cost Adjustment Factor pursuant to 24 CFR 888 Subpart B, unless the Agency determines that the project's budget-based needs require a higher rent, in which case the Agency may approve a budget-based rent level: *Provided further*, That rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed during the current fiscal year shall be funded for a one year period: *Provided further*, That upon request by an owner under section 514 or 515 of the Act, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance agreement for a period of 20 years or until the term of such loan has expired, subject to annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That any unexpended balances remaining at the end of such one-year agreements may be transferred and used for purposes of any debt reduction, maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of any existing projects; preservation; and rental assistance activities authorized under title V of the Act: *Provided further*, That rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2026 for a farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act may not be recaptured for use in another project until such assistance has remained unused for a period of twelve consecutive months, if such project has a waiting list of tenants seeking such assistance or the project has rental assistance eligible tenants who are not receiving such assistance: *Provided further*, That such recaptured rental assistance shall, to the extent practicable, be applied to another farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the eighth proviso under this heading and notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the Secretary may recapture rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2026 for a project that the Secretary determines no longer needs rental assistance and use such recaptured funds for current needs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for information technology improvements under this heading.

**RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER ACCOUNT**

For the rural housing voucher program as authorized under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, but notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, \$48,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the funds made available under this heading shall be available for rural housing vouchers to any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a section 515 loan which has been prepaid or otherwise

paid off after September 30, 2005, and is not receiving stand-alone section 521 rental assistance: *Provided further*, That the amount of such voucher shall be the difference between comparable market rent for the section 515 unit and the tenant paid rent for such unit: *Provided further*, That funds made available for such vouchers shall be subject to the availability of annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, administer such vouchers with current regulations and administrative guidance applicable to section 8 housing vouchers administered by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

#### MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

For grants and contracts pursuant to section 523(b)(1)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c), \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for very low-income housing repair and rural housing preservation made by the Rural Housing Service, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1474, and 1490m, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM

##### ACCOUNT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$1,250,000,000 for direct loans and \$650,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$217,436,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$199,436,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts specified in the table titled "Congressionally Directed Spending" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading for the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including amounts deobligated or cancelled, may be made available to cover the subsidy costs for direct loans, loan guarantees and or grants under this heading in this fiscal year: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made

available pursuant to the preceding proviso 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: *Provided further*, That amounts specified in the tables titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statements accompanying prior year Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Acts, as described in section 4 in the matter preceding division A of such Acts, may not be made available pursuant to the fifth proviso until at least three fiscal years after the fiscal year in which such funds were originally made available: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the preceding proviso without prior notification and approval of the Committees of Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That \$13,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for community facilities grants, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which \$8,000,000 shall be for grants to tribal colleges as authorized by section 306(a)(25) of such Act: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

#### RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

##### RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For gross obligations for the principal amount of guaranteed loans as authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)), \$1,750,000.

For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B and described in subsections (a), (c), (f) and (g) of section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$55,575,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$15,575,000 shall be for business and industry guaranteed loans: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$26,000,000 shall be for rural business development grants as authorized by section 310B(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not to exceed \$500,000 shall be made available for one grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.), the Southwest Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15301 et seq.), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) for any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 381E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including \$250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development:

*Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

#### INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), \$13,000,000.

For the cost of direct loans, \$2,954,000, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which \$295,000 shall be available through June 30, 2026, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which \$591,000 shall be available through June 30, 2026, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100-460): *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.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$4,468,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

#### RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, \$50,000,000.

The cost of grants authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

#### RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), \$24,800,000, of which \$3,500,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; and of which \$12,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market development grants, as authorized by section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, of which \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized pursuant to section 6402 of Public Law 107-171.

#### RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For the principal amount of direct loans as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s), \$19,515,000.

For the cost of loans and grants, \$5,000,000 under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

#### RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

For the principal amount of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), \$100,000,000.

#### HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE

For the cost of loans and grants that is consistent with section 243 of subtitle D of

title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6953), as added by section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, for necessary expenses of the Secretary to support projects that provide access to healthy food in underserved areas, to create and preserve quality jobs, and to revitalize low-income communities, \$500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs of loans, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE  
RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM  
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as follows: \$1,015,000,000 for direct loans; and \$50,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$443,776,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That \$51,476,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for direct loans, of which no less than \$3,876,000 shall be available for water and waste direct one percent loans for distressed communities as the Secretary deems appropriate: *Provided further*, That \$1,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(B) of such Act: *Provided further*, That \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act: *Provided further*, That \$10,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act in addition to funding authorized by section 306A(i)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That \$65,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306C(a)(2)(B) and section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes authorized by 306C(a)(1) of such Act, and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (of the State of Hawaii): *Provided further*, That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be provided to a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83 for training and technical assistance programs: *Provided further*, That \$35,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water and waste systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need, of which \$9,000,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified nonprofit multi-State regional

technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which no less than \$800,000 shall be for a qualified national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: *Provided further*, That \$23,900,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for solid waste management grants: *Provided further*, That \$240,400,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for grants pursuant to section 306(a)(2)(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That \$8,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service, High Energy Cost Grants Account to provide grants authorized under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 918a): *Provided further*, That if any funds made available for the direct loan subsidy costs under this heading remain unobligated after July 31, 2026, such unobligated balances may be used for grant programs funded under this heading: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading for the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including amounts deobligated or cancelled, may be made available to cover the subsidy costs for direct loans, loan guarantees and or grants under this heading in this fiscal year: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the two preceding provisos 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: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The principal amount of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by sections 4, 305, 306, 313A, and 317 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 904, 935, 936, 940c-1, and 940g) shall be made as follows: guaranteed rural electric loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, \$2,667,000,000; cost of money direct loans made pursuant to sections 4, notwithstanding the one-eighth of one percent in 4(c)(2), and 317, notwithstanding 317(c), of that Act, \$4,333,000,000; guaranteed underwriting loans pursuant to section 313A of that Act, \$900,000,000; for cost-of-money rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 305(d)(2) of that Act, \$350,000,000; and for guaranteed rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, \$200,000,000: *Provided*, That up to \$2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, design, engineering or improvement of fossil-fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon subsurface utilization and storage systems.

For the cost of direct loans as authorized by section 305(d)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935(d)(2)), including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act

of 1974, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, \$3,570,000.

In addition, \$4,200,000 to remain available until expended, to carry out section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a): *Provided*, That the energy efficiency measures supported by the funding in this paragraph shall contribute in a demonstrable way to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$33,270,000, which shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., \$40,610,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$610,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Congressionally Directed Spending" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That \$3,000,000 shall be made available for grants authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided under this heading for grants under section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may only be provided to entities that meet all of the eligibility criteria for a consortium as established by this section.

For the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may award grants described in section 601(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 950bb(a)) for the purposes of carrying out such pilot program: *Provided further*, That the cost of direct loans shall be defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That at least 90 percent of the households to be served by a project receiving a loan or grant under the pilot program shall be in a rural area without sufficient access to broadband: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such pilot program, a rural area without sufficient access to broadband shall be defined as twenty-five megabits per second downstream and three megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That to the extent possible, projects receiving funds provided under the pilot program must build out service to at least one hundred megabits per second downstream, and twenty megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That an entity to which a loan or grant is made under the pilot program shall not use the loan or grant to overbuild or duplicate broadband service in a service area by any entity that has received a broadband loan from the Rural Utilities Service unless such service is not provided sufficient access to broadband at the minimum service threshold: *Provided further*, That not more than four percent of the funds made available in this paragraph can be used for administrative costs to carry out the pilot program and up to three percent of funds made available in this paragraph may be available for technical assistance and pre-development planning activities to support the most rural communities: *Provided further*, That the Rural Utilities Service is directed to expedite program delivery methods that would implement this paragraph: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall adhere to the notice, reporting and service area assessment

requirements set forth in section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 950cc).

In addition, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Community Connect Grant Program authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950bb-3.

#### TITLE IV

##### DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

###### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, \$1,127,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

###### FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

###### CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; \$36,285,902,000 to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, \$18,004,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$21,918,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 18(g)(3)(C) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(3)(C)), the total grant amount provided to a farm to school grant recipient in fiscal year 2026 shall not exceed \$500,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$10,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$1,500,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out activities authorized under subsections (a)(2) and (e)(2) of section 21 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b-1(a)(2) and (e)(2)): *Provided further*, That section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2010 through 2026” and inserting “2010 through 2027”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “For fiscal year 2025” and inserting “For fiscal year 2026”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “For fiscal year 2025” and inserting “For fiscal year 2026”.

###### SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as

authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$8,200,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), not less than \$90,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, and \$14,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, including investments to develop strategies to improve timely program data collection and reporting: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to award grants and cooperative agreements to State agencies or other entities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use funds made available under this heading to maintain the amount for the cash-value voucher for women and children participants at an amount recommended by the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine and adjusted for inflation: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency.

###### SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), \$118,139,341,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, shall be used to carry out section 4003(b) of Public Law 115-334 relating to demonstration projects for tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 4208 of Public Law 115-334: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1), section 4(b), and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183A): *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

###### COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster and commodity assistance, \$516,070,000, to remain available through September 30, 2027, of which \$425,000,000 shall be for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note), \$80,000,000 shall be for the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, \$1,070,000 shall be for assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188), and \$10,000,000 shall be for the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2026 to support the Seniors Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 20 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

###### NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, \$177,348,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107-171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110-246.

#### TITLE V

##### FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

###### OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, \$932,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

###### OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Codex Alimentarius, \$4,922,000, including not to exceed \$40,000 for official reception and representation expenses.

###### FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service, including not to exceed \$250,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$227,330,000, of which no more than 6 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2027, for overseas operations to include the payment of locally employed staff: *Provided*, That the Service may utilize advances of funds, or reimburse this appropriation for expenditures made on behalf of Federal agencies, public and private organizations and institutions under agreements executed pursuant to the agricultural food production assistance programs (7 U.S.C. 1737) and the foreign assistance programs of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$5,000,000,

to remain available until expended, shall be for the Cochran Fellowship Program, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3293, \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship program, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 3319j, and up to \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations in international currency exchange rates, subject to documentation by the Foreign Agricultural Service.

#### FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

For expenses during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$1,500,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$1,000,000, shall be for the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of State and heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies as applicable, to conduct an interagency review and, within 60 days of enactment of this Act, provide a detailed report outlining the process and agency needs to support a transfer of the Food for Peace program from the U.S. Agency for International Development to the Foreign Agricultural Service within the Department of Agriculture: *Provided further*, That such report shall include the requirements outlined in the section entitled "Food for Peace Interagency Review and Report" in the report accompanying this Act and shall also address any other needs that the Department of Agriculture believes will be required to support successful implementation of such program transfer.

#### MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1), \$240,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to provide the services, facilities, and authorities for the purpose of implementing such section, subject to reimbursement from amounts provided herein: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not more than 10 percent, but not less than \$24,000,000, shall remain available until expended to purchase agricultural commodities as described in subsection 3107(a)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1(a)(2)).

#### COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT (LOANS) CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Guarantee Program, GSM 102 and GSM 103, \$6,063,000, to cover common overhead expenses as permitted by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, which shall be paid to the appropriation for "Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses".

#### TITLE VI

#### RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

##### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

###### FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and pur-

chase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administration which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; for miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107-188; \$7,015,038,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,543,226,000 shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$445,808,000 shall be derived from medical device user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$665,438,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$55,731,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$34,142,000 shall be derived from animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$26,503,000 shall be derived from generic new animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$712,000,000 shall be derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That in addition to and notwithstanding any other provision under this heading, amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, human generic drug user fees, biosimilar biological product user fees, animal drug user fees, and generic new animal drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2026 limitations are appropriated and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, human generic drug, biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and generic new animal drug assessments for fiscal year 2026, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2026 but credited for fiscal year 2026, shall be subject to the fiscal year 2026 limitations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2026 of user fees specified under this heading and authorized for fiscal year 2027, prior to the due date for such fees, and that amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2027 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2026 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used to develop, establish, or operate any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated: (1) \$1,171,319,000 shall be for the Human Foods Program and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Human Foods Program, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist, of which no less than \$15,000,000 shall be used for inspections of foreign seafood manufacturers and field examinations of imported seafood; (2) \$2,497,463,000 shall be for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist, of which no less than \$10,000,000 shall be for pilots to increase unannounced foreign inspections and shall remain available until expended; (3) \$625,756,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (4) \$286,442,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (5) \$863,358,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (6) \$77,740,000 shall be for the National Center for Toxicological Research; (7) \$689,258,000 shall be for the Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities, including inspections, investigations, and import operations, conducted by the Center, the Office of Inspections and Investigations, or the Office of the Chief Scientist; (8) \$434,455,000 shall be for Rent and Related activities, of which \$55,112,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the amounts paid to the General Services Administration for rent; (9) \$219,639,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and (10) \$369,267,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of the Chief Scientist, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, and central services for these offices: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: *Provided further*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to, and for the administration of, section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379dd(n)) shall only be from amounts made available under this heading for other activities and shall not exceed \$2,000,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts that are made available under this heading for "other activities", and that are not derived from user fees, \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General" for oversight of the programs and operations of the Food and Drug Administration and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available for oversight of the Food and Drug Administration: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

In addition, mammography user fees authorized by 42 U.S.C. 263b, export certification user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 381, priority review user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, food and feed recall fees, food reinspection fees, and voluntary qualified importer program fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, outsourcing facility fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, prescription drug wholesale distributor licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), third-party logistics provider licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), third-party auditor fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), medical countermeasure priority review voucher user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a, and fees relating to over-the-counter monograph drugs authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-72 shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

## BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For plans, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, demolition, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities of or used by the Food and Drug Administration, where not otherwise provided, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### INDEPENDENT AGENCY

## FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

#### LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$106,500,000 (from assessments collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receivingships: *Provided further*, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the purposes of section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)), the Farm Credit Administration may exempt, an amount in its sole discretion, from the application of the limitation provided in that clause of export loans described in the clause guaranteed or insured in a manner other than described in subclause (II) of the clause.

## TITLE VII

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF  
FUNDS)

SEC. 701. The Secretary may use any appropriations made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act to purchase new passenger motor vehicles, in addition to specific appropriations for this purpose, so long as the total number of vehicles purchased in fiscal year 2026 does not exceed the number of vehicles owned or leased in fiscal year 2018: *Provided*, That, prior to purchasing additional motor vehicles, the Secretary must determine that such vehicles are necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may not increase the Department of Agriculture's fleet above the 2018 level unless the Secretary notifies in writing, and receives approval from, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of the notification.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Department financial, and administrative information technology services, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations.

tions of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the requirements of section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the National Finance Center Information Technology Services Division personnel and data center management responsibilities, and control of any functions, missions, and systems for current and future human resources management and integrated personnel and payroll systems (PPS) and functions provided by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer shall remain in the National Finance Center and under the management responsibility and administrative control of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture and the offices of the Chief Financial Officer shall actively market to existing and new Departments and other government agencies National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: *Provided further*, That of annual income amounts in the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture attributable to the amounts in excess of the true costs of the shared services provided by the National Finance Center and budgeted for the National Finance Center, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the limitations on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: The Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 11319 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over \$25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: *Provided further*, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds without written approval from the Chief Information Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements up to \$250,000 based upon the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113-235.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former Rural Utilities Service borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313B(a) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not more than \$20,000,000 in unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, 2027, for information technology expenses.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) or by a successor to that Act, other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or programs for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be

carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

(1) such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

(2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than \$2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

SEC. 713. (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. 714. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 14222 of Public Law 110-246 (7 U.S.C. 612c-6; in this section referred to as “section 14222”), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c; in this section referred to as “section 32”) in excess of \$1,574,028,000 (exclusive of carryover appropriations from prior fiscal years), as follows: Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities—\$485,000,000; State Option Contracts—\$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities—\$1,660,000; Administration of section 32 Commodity Purchases—\$37,178,000: *Provided*, That, of the total funds made available in the matter preceding this proviso that remain unobligated on October 1, 2026, such unobligated balances shall carryover into fiscal year 2027 and shall remain available until expended for any of the purposes of section 32, except that any such carryover funds used in accordance with clause (3) of section 32 may not exceed \$350,000,000 and may not be obligated until the Secretary of Agriculture provides written notification of the expenditures to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least two weeks in advance: *Provided further*, That, with the exception of any available carryover funds authorized in any prior appropriations Act to be used for the purposes of clause (3) of section 32, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32.

SEC. 715. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President’s budget submission to the Congress for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budg-

et unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2026 appropriations Act.

SEC. 716. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economy Act, or in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89-106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(1) creates new programs;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;

(5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities; or

(6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming or use of the authorities referred to in subsection (a) involving funds in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

(1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;

(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress; unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before implementing any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(d) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure

in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for—

(1) modifying major capital investments funding levels, including information technology systems, that involves increasing or decreasing funds in the current fiscal year for the individual investment in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent of the total cost, whichever is less;

(2) realigning or reorganizing new, current, or vacant positions or agency activities or functions to establish a center, office, branch, or similar entity with five or more personnel; or

(3) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request; unless the agencies funded by this Act notify, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.

(e) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services receives from the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

SEC. 717. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. 718. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available reports, questions, or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee.

SEC. 719. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

SEC. 720. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days in a fiscal year unless the individual’s employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.

SEC. 721. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a detailed obligation plan delineated by program, project, and activity, as defined in the report accompanying this Act, for all amounts made available by this Act and prior appropriations Acts that remain available for obligation, including appropriated user fees and loan authorizations: *Provided*, That such obligation plan shall include breakdowns of estimated obligations for each such program, project, or activity

by fiscal quarter, source appropriation, and the number of full-time equivalent positions supported: *Provided further*, That such obligation plan shall serve as the baseline for re-programming notifications for the purposes of section 716 of this Act.

SEC. 722. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, promulgate, or implement any rule, or take any other action with respect to, allowing or requiring information intended for a prescribing health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 503(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)), to be distributed to such professional electronically (in lieu of in paper form) unless and until a Federal law is enacted to allow or require such distribution.

SEC. 723. For the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Housing Service programs the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations.

SEC. 724. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: *Provided*, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. 725. None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107-76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to, and the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided*, That the refunds or rebates so transferred shall be available for obligation only for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Departmental financial management, information technology, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 726. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the “variety” requirements of the final rule entitled “Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 15, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 90675) until the Secretary of Agriculture amends the definition of the term “variety” as defined in section 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, and “variety” as applied in the definition of the term “staple food” as defined in section 271.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to increase the number of items that qualify as acceptable varieties in each staple food category so that the total number of such items in each staple food category exceeds the number of such items in each staple food category included in the final rule as published on December 15, 2016: *Provided*, That until the Secretary promulgates such regulatory amendments, the Secretary shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

SEC. 727. In carrying out subsection (h) of section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42

U.S.C. 1472), the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary has under subsections (h) and (j) of section 538 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section 538 and eligible lenders for such loans.

SEC. 728. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Department of Agriculture to propose, finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new user fees pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9701 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 729. Notwithstanding any provision of law that regulates the calculation and payment of overtime and holiday pay for FSIS inspectors, the Secretary may charge establishments subject to the inspection requirements of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 451 et seq., the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq., and the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq., for the cost of inspection services provided outside of an establishment's approved inspection shifts, and for inspection services provided on Federal holidays: *Provided*, That any sums charged pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed as overtime pay or holiday pay under section 1001(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 242): *Provided further*, That sums received by the Secretary under this paragraph shall, in addition to other available funds, remain available until expended to the Secretary without further appropriation for the purpose of funding all costs associated with FSIS inspections.

SEC. 730. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) conduct audits in a manner that evaluates the following factors in the country or region being audited, as applicable—

(A) veterinary control and oversight;

(B) disease history and vaccination practices;

(C) livestock demographics and traceability;

(D) epidemiological separation from potential sources of infection;

(E) surveillance practices;

(F) diagnostic laboratory capabilities; and

(G) emergency preparedness and response; and

(2) promptly make publicly available the final reports of any audits or reviews conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

(b) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under its international trade agreements.

SEC. 731. (a)(1) No Federal funds made available for this fiscal year for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926 et seq.) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term “iron and steel products” means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) or the designee of the Secretary finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Secretary or the designee receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Secretary or the designee shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Secretary or the designee shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Secretary may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account” for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

(f) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a project for which the engineering plans and specifications include use of iron and steel products otherwise prohibited by such subsection if the plans and specifications have received required approvals from State agencies prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) For purposes of this section, the terms “United States” and “State” shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each Federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SEC. 732. 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 matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 733. Of the total amounts made available by this Act for direct loans and grants under the following headings: “Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account”; “Rural Housing Service—Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants”; “Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Assistance Grants”; “Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account”; “Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Business Program Account”; “Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account”; “Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Cooperative Development Grants”; “Rural Business—Cooperative Service—Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program”; “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account”; “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account”; and “Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program”, to the maximum extent feasible, at least 10 percent of the funds shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties under this section, including, notwithstanding any other provision regarding population limits, any county seat of such a persistent poverty county that has a population that does not exceed the authorized population limit by more than 10 percent: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term “persistent

poverty counties" means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the Economic Research Service, or any territory or possession of the United States: *Provided further*, That with respect to specific activities for which program levels have been made available by this Act that are not supported by budget authority, the requirements of this section shall be applied to such program level.

SEC. 734. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to notify a sponsor or otherwise acknowledge receipt of a submission for an exemption for investigational use of a drug or biological product under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have not been received by the Secretary, and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 735. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enforce the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration entitled "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption", and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.

SEC. 736. For school years 2025–2026 and 2026–2027, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to restrict or limit the substitution of any vegetable subgroup for fruits under the school breakfast program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

SEC. 737. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940), subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or section 10114 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018; or

(2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 or subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, within or outside the State in which the hemp is grown or cultivated.

SEC. 738. The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement under section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(g)).

SEC. 739. The Secretary of Agriculture shall be included as a member of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) on a case by case basis pursuant to the authorities in section 721(k)(2)(J) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(k)(2)(J)) with respect to each covered transaction (as defined in section 721(a)(4) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565(a)(4))) involving agricultural land, agriculture biotechnology, or the agriculture industry (including agricultural transportation, agricultural storage, and agricultural processing), as determined by the CFIUS Chairperson in coordination with the Secretary of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture shall, to the maximum extent practicable, notify the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States of any agricultural land transaction that the Secretary of Agriculture has reason to believe, based on information from or in cooperation with the Intelligence Community, is a covered transaction (A) that may pose a risk to the national security of the United States,

with particular emphasis on covered transactions of an interest in agricultural land by foreign governments or entities of concern, as defined in 42 U.S.C. 19221(a), including the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the Islamic Republic of Iran; and (B) with respect to which a person is required to submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture under section 2(a) of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501(a)).

SEC. 740. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a pilot program for the Secretary to provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations and public housing authorities to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to RHS multi-family housing borrowers to facilitate property preservation through the acquisition of RHS multi-family housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines a risk of loss of affordable housing, by non-profit housing organizations and public housing authorities as authorized by law that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multi-family housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary: *Provided*, That such funds may also be used for technical assistance for non-profit organizations, public housing authorities, and private owners for the decoupling of rental assistance.

SEC. 741. Funds made available under title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

SEC. 742. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to procure raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China for use in the school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), the Child and Adult Care Food Program under section 17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), the Summer Food Service Program for Children under section 13 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), or the school breakfast program under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

SEC. 743. For school year 2025–2026, only a school food authority that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2025, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)).

SEC. 744. Any funds made available by this or any other Act that the Secretary withholds pursuant to section 1668(g)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921(g)(2)), as amended, shall be available for grants for biotechnology risk assessment research: *Provided*, That the Secretary may transfer such funds among appropriations of the Department of Agriculture for purposes of making such grants.

SEC. 745. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Agriculture may be used to move any staff office or any agency from the mission area in which it was located on August 1, 2018, to any other mission area or office within the Department in the absence of the enactment of specific legislation affirming such move.

SEC. 746. The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, may use funds appropriated under

this Act or any other Act for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program carried out pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program carried out pursuant to section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) to provide technical services for such programs pursuant to section 1252(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(a)(1)), notwithstanding subsection (c) of such section.

SEC. 747. In administering the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), the Secretary of Agriculture may, for purposes of determining entities eligible to receive assistance, consider those communities which are "Areas Rural in Character": *Provided*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under the heading "Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program" for the purposes of the pilot program established by section 779 of Public Law 115–141 may be used for this purpose.

SEC. 748. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this Act and notwithstanding the last sentence of 16 U.S.C. 1310, there is appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to implement non-renewable agreements on eligible lands, including flooded agricultural lands, as determined by the Secretary, under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301–1311).

SEC. 749. Out of amounts appropriated to the Food and Drug Administration under title VI, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall, not later than September 30, 2026, and following the review required under Executive Order No. 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review), issue advice revising the advice provided in the notice of availability entitled "Advice About Eating Fish, From the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration; Revised Fish Advice; Availability" (82 Fed. Reg. 6571 (January 19, 2017)), in a manner that is consistent with nutrition science recognized by the Food and Drug Administration on the net effects of seafood consumption.

SEC. 750. The Secretary shall set aside for Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones, until August 15, 2026, an amount of funds made available in title III under the headings of Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account, Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, Rural Housing Assistance Grants, Rural Community Facilities Program Account, Rural Business Program Account, Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account, and Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account, equal to the amount obligated in REAP Zones with respect to funds provided under such headings in the most recent fiscal year any such funds were obligated under such headings for REAP Zones, excluding the funding provided through any Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending.

SEC. 751. (a) For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out no more than 10 pilot projects, under the terms and conditions determined by the Secretary for a period not to exceed 2 years, that award grants to an Indian tribe; a tribal organization approved by an Indian tribe; a tribal educational agency; a consortium of Indian tribes; or a partnership between an Indian tribe and either a State educational agency, a local educational agency, a tribal educational agency, or the Bureau of Indian Education to operate and implement the

school lunch program as authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769), the summer food service program as established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, the child and adult care food program as established by section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or the school breakfast program established by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) in either a Bureau-funded school (as defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)); a school (as defined in section 12(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(d)) on or near an Indian reservation; or an early child care and education facility: *Provided*, That to carry out this pilot program each grant awarded shall be no less than \$10,000 and no more than \$100,000 for each school year and shall not increase state administrative costs or the amount of benefits provided in any program: *Provided further*, That the term "Indian tribe" has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pilot project grant recipient shall be reimbursed for meals served under the school lunch program, the summer food service program, and the child and adult care food program as if the recipient were a State under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; and under the school breakfast program as if the recipient were a State educational agency.

(c) Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the outcomes of the pilot program.

SEC. 752. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue or promote any new guidelines or regulations applicable to food manufacturers of low risk ready-to-eat (RTE) foods for Listeria monocytogenes (Lm) until the FDA considers the available new science in developing guidance regarding Lm in low-risk foods, meaning foods that do not support the growth of Lm.

SEC. 753. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, for a Bison Production and Marketing Grant Program that the Agricultural Marketing Service shall develop and maintain: *Provided*, That this program shall be similar, as determined by the Secretary, to the Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program the Department of Agriculture currently maintains pursuant to section 209(c) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1627a(c)), and shall prioritize grants to national non-profits and federally chartered Tribal organizations that have expertise in bison production or marketing.

SEC. 754. For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$700,000, for the Office of Tribal Relations to cover costs incurred for the slaughtering, processing, and voluntary meat inspection fees, notwithstanding the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1622 et seq.) and 9 CFR part 352, for bison owned by Tribal governments (as defined by the List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131)), Tribal entities (including Tribal organizations and corporations), and Tribal members that slaughter and process bison at establishments that receive USDA voluntary inspection or state inspection.

SEC. 755. If services performed by APHIS employees are determined by the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to be in response to an animal disease or plant health emergency outbreak, any premium pay that is funded, ei-

ther directly or through reimbursement, shall be exempted from the aggregate of basic pay and premium pay calculated under section 5547(b)(1) and (2) of title 5, United States Code, and any other provision of law limiting the aggregate amount of premium pay payable on a biweekly or calendar year basis.

SEC. 756. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104-127); or

(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

SEC. 757. There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 2103 of Public Law 115-334: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall prioritize the wetland compliance needs of areas with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests.

SEC. 758. There is appropriated \$3,000,000 for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

SEC. 759. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) were tasked with providing findings and recommendations on alcohol consumption for the purposes of inclusion in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans as required by section 772 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328): *Provided*, That the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture shall only consider the findings and recommendations of the NASEM report in the development of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and further, both Secretaries shall ensure that the alcohol consumption recommendations in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans shall be based on the preponderance of scientific and medical knowledge consistent with section 5341 of title 7 of United States Code.

SEC. 760. (a) Section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 940c-2(a)), shall be applied for fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter until the specified funding has been expended as if the following were inserted after the final period: "In addition, the Secretary shall use \$9,465,000 of the funds available to carry out this section in fiscal year 2024 for an additional amount for the same purpose and under the same terms and conditions as the Rural Business Development Grants authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c)) and shall use \$9,953,000 of the funds available to carry out this section in fiscal year 2026 for an additional amount for the same purpose and under the same terms and conditions as the Rural Business Development Grants authorized by section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(c))."

(b) Section 780 of division B of Public Law 118-42 and such section as continued in effect as an authority and condition under section 1101(a)(1) of Public Law 119-4 shall no longer apply.

SEC. 761. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the acceptable market name of any engineered animal approved prior to the effective date of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (February 19, 2019) shall include the words "genetically engi-

neered" prior to the existing acceptable market name.

SEC. 762. For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended, to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships as established in section 778 of Public Law 117-103: *Provided*, That the Institute for Rural Partnerships shall continue to dedicate resources to researching the causes and conditions of challenges facing rural areas, and develop community partnerships to address such challenges: *Provided further*, That administrative or other fees shall not exceed one percent: *Provided further*, That such partnership shall coordinate and publish an annual report.

SEC. 763. There is hereby appropriated \$500,000 to carry out the duties of the working group established under section 770 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6; 133 Stat. 89).

SEC. 764. The agencies and offices of the Department of Agriculture may reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), out of the funds provided in this Act, for costs incurred by OGC in providing services to such agencies or offices under time-limited agreements entered into with such agencies and offices: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

SEC. 765. Section 363 of the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 (12 U.S.C. 3702) is amended at paragraph (2)—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and";

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting ";" and";

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

"(F) section 514 or 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485)."

SEC. 766. The last proviso in the second paragraph under the heading "Rural Community Facilities Program Account" in division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42) shall be amended to read as follows: " *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading and in section 778(1)."

SEC. 767. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for conservation activities under the heading "Natural Resources Conservation Service—Conservation Operations", \$30,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded 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. 768. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for the "National Institute of Food and Agriculture—Research and Education Activities", \$22,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded 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. 769. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for "Food For Peace Title II Grants", \$200,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded 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. 770. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available

under the heading “Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program” for the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), \$20,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded 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. 771. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available in the “Working Capital Fund”, \$78,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded 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. 772. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture in this or any other Act may be used to close or consolidate the resources or locations of any existing Agricultural Research Service laboratories and facilities without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 773. (a) Of the amounts made available in this Act under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses” that are derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, not less than \$200,000,000 shall be used by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs for enforcement activities related to e-cigarettes, vapes, and other electronic nicotine delivery systems (in this section referred to as “ENDS”), including activities under section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)): *Provided*, That not less than \$2,000,000 of such amount shall be used to continue the activities of the Federal multi-agency task force led by the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and the FDA to further work to bring all available criminal and civil tools to bear against the illegal manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of e-cigarettes, vapes, and other ENDS products from the Republic of China and other foreign countries.

(b) Not later than 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall update the FDA document titled “Guidance for Industry on its Enforcement Priorities,” published in January 2020 and updated in April 2020, to expand FDA’s prioritized enforcement to flavored disposable ENDS products in addition to cartridge-based products and to define the term “disposable ENDS product.”

(c) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs shall submit a semi-annual written report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the progress that the Center for Tobacco Products is making in removing all illegal nicotine products from the market: *Provided*, That the initial report shall be submitted not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) Section 801(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(a)) is amended by striking “drug or device” each place it appears in the seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth sentences and inserting “drug, device, or tobacco product”.

SEC. 774. (a) Fees derived from amounts assessed and collected for fiscal year 2026, credited under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses”, and made available for expenditure under

such heading must comply with each provision contained in current user fee authorizations, appropriations Acts, and commitment letters, as transmitted from the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives regarding reauthorization of such current user fee authorizations: *Provided*, That the term current user fee authorizations means those user fees authorized at 21 U.S.C. 379h, 21 U.S.C. 379j, 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, 21 U.S.C. 387s, 42 U.S.C. 263b, 21 U.S.C. 381, 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a, and 21 U.S.C. 379j-72.

(b)(1) Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Food and Drug Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report that includes obligation and outlay estimates and full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel staffing estimates for fiscal year 2026 for each Food and Drug Administration program that uses both general fund appropriations and funds derived from user fees: *Provided*, That such report shall include a table with separate columns for general fund appropriations and funds derived from user fees for such obligations, outlays and FTE personnel staffing: *Provided further*, That such report shall be certified by the Ombudsman of the Food and Drug Administration.

(2) The report in paragraph (1) shall be updated, certified by the Ombudsman of the Food and Drug Administration, and submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 45 days after each fiscal quarter until all such funds are expended: *Provided*, That a plan for such ongoing quarterly reporting shall be submitted with the report required by subsection (b)(1).

(c) Of the amounts provided in this Act in paragraph (10) under the heading “Department of Health and Human Services—Food and Drug Administration—Salaries and Expenses” and made available by the Food and Drug Administration for Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, 50 percent shall be withheld from obligation until the reporting requirements outlined in subsection (b) are met: *Provided*, That an additional 25 percent of the amounts withheld from obligation shall be available when the report required by subsection (b)(1) is submitted and the remaining 25 percent shall be available when the plan for satisfying the ongoing quarterly reporting requirements outlined in the proviso in subsection (b)(2) is submitted.

SEC. 775. (a) Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

(b) Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106-78) is amended by striking “2025” and inserting “2026”.

SEC. 776. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by FDA to develop, issue, promote, or advance any new guidelines or regulations applicable to food manufacturers for population-wide sodium reduction actions until the publication of the 2025-26 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) What We Eat In America survey, which will begin to reflect the impact on population intake of Phase 1 reduction.

SEC. 777. The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

no fewer than 3 business days in advance of termination of any grant, cooperative agreement, or contract award totaling \$1,000,000 or more issued from funds made available in this Act or any previous Act: *Provided*, That such notification shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a detailed justification for the termination.

SEC. 778. There is hereby appropriated \$4,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a new pilot program to support on-the-ground local Energy Circuit Riders who provide professional support to rural communities for the purpose of undertaking projects that save energy and reduce emissions: *Provided*, That for the purpose of the new pilot program, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Rural Development, shall have the authority to provide amounts, including in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and other financial assistance, to States, Indian Tribes, cooperative extension services, institutions of higher education, cooperatives and cooperative organizations, regional planning commissions or other public entities serving two or more rural areas: *Provided further*, That the period of performance under this pilot program shall be more than 3 but not more than 6 years: *Provided further*, That the Federal share shall not be more than 75 percent: *Provided further*, That an eligible entity using funds provided under the pilot program shall offer assistance with energy planning, energy audits, applicable Federal funding opportunities, tax incentives, project financing, grant writing, community-based capacity building, or applicable State, local, and utility-based incentives, including, as appropriate, coordinating with relevant State energy offices.

SEC. 779. For purposes of applying the Federal Food Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), “Pacific Snapper” is an acceptable market name for each of the following food fishes: *Sebastodes alutus*, *Sebastodes borealis*, *Sebastodes ciliatus*, *Sebastodes crameri*, *Sebastodes entomelas*, *Sebastodes flavidus*, *Sebastodes goodei*, *Sebastodes levis*, *Sebastodes melanops*, *Sebastodes miniatus*, *Sebastodes ovalis*, *Sebastodes paucispinis*, *Sebastodes pinniger*, *Sebastodes proriger*, *Sebastodes reedi*, *Sebastodes ruberrimus*, *Sebastodes rufus*, and *Sebastodes serranoides*.

SEC. 780. For purposes of applying the Federal Food Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), Hawaii grown or produced coffee shall contain at least 51 percent of coffee grown in Kona, Kau, Maui, Oahu, Kauai, or other areas of the State of Hawaii. Based on the region it is produced or grown, the common or usual names shall be Kona Coffee, Kau Coffee, Maui Coffee, Oahu Coffee, Kauai Coffee, or Hawaii Coffee.

SEC. 781. (a) No sooner than 1 year after the enactment of this Act, section 297A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639o) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively; and—

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) HEMP.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘hemp’ means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of not more

than 0.3 percent in the plant on a dry weight basis.

“(B) INCLUSION.—Such term includes industrial hemp.

“(C) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include—

“(i) any viable seeds from a Cannabis sativa L. plant that exceeds a total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) of 0.3 percent in the plant on a dry weight basis; or

“(ii) any hemp-derived cannabinoid products containing—

“(I) cannabinoids that are not capable of being naturally produced by a Cannabis sativa L. plant;

“(II) cannabinoids that—

“(aa) are capable of being naturally produced by a Cannabis sativa L. plant; and

“(bb) were synthesized or manufactured outside the plant; or

“(III) quantifiable amounts based on substance, form, manufacture, or article (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture) of—

“(aa) tetrahydrocannabinol (including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid); or

“(bb) any other cannabinoids that have similar effects (or are marketed to have similar effects) on humans or animals as tetrahydrocannabinol (as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary Agriculture).

“(2) INDUSTRIAL HEMP.—The term ‘industrial hemp’ means hemp—

“(A) grown for the use of the stalk of the plant, fiber produced from such a stalk, or any other non-cannabinoid derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of such a stalk;

“(B) grown for the use of the whole grain, oil, cake, nut, hull, or any other noncannabinoid compound, derivative, mixture, preparation, or manufacture of the seeds of such plant;

“(C) grown for purposes of producing microgreens or other edible hemp leaf products intended for human consumption that are harvested from an immature hemp plant that is grown from seeds that do not exceed the threshold for total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration specified in paragraph (1)(C)(i);

“(D) that is a plant that does not enter the stream of commerce and is intended to support hemp research at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) or an independent research institute; or

“(E) grown for the use of a viable seed of the plant produced solely for the production or manufacture of any material described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

“(3) HEMP-DERIVED CANNABINOID PRODUCT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘hemp-derived cannabinoid product’ means any intermediate or final product derived from hemp (other than industrial hemp), that—

“(i) contains cannabinoids in any form; and

“(ii) is intended for human or animal use through any means of application or administration, such as inhalation, ingestion, or topical application.

“(B) EXCLUSION.—Such term does not include a drug that is the subject of an application approved under subsection (c) or (j) of section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355).”.

(b) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 180 days of enactment of this Act on implementation of this section including the projected impacts to the established

cannabinoid marketplace, engagement with industry stakeholders, and shall include information about uniform packaging, labeling, testing, and adverse event reporting requirements.

SEC. 782. None of the funds made available for any department or agency in this or any other appropriations Acts, including prior year Acts, shall be used to close Natural Resources Conservation Service or Rural Development mission area field offices or to permanently relocate any field-based employees of those agencies that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

This division may be cited as the “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026”.

#### DIVISION C—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

##### TITLE I LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SENATE

###### EXPENSE ALLOWANCES

For expense allowances of the Vice President, \$20,000; the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, \$40,000; Majority Leader of the Senate, \$40,000; Minority Leader of the Senate, \$40,000; Majority Whip of the Senate, \$10,000; Minority Whip of the Senate, \$10,000; President Pro Tempore Emeritus, \$15,000; Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Conference Committees, \$5,000 for each Chairman; and Chairmen of the Majority and Minority Policy Committees, \$5,000 for each Chairman; in all, \$195,000.

For representation allowances of the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Senate, \$15,000 for each such Leader; in all, \$30,000.

###### SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation of officers, employees, and others as authorized by law, including agency contributions, \$314,143,000, which shall be paid from this appropriation as follows:

###### OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

For the Office of the Vice President, \$3,210,000.

###### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

For the Office of the President Pro Tempore, \$904,000.

###### OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS

For the Office of the President Pro Tempore Emeritus, \$392,000.

###### OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY LEADERS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Leaders, \$6,710,000.

###### OFFICES OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY WHIPS

For Offices of the Majority and Minority Whips, \$4,212,000.

###### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries of the Committee on Appropriations, \$22,710,000.

###### CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

For the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, at rates of compensation to be fixed by the Chairman of each such committee, \$2,049,000 for each such committee; in all, \$4,098,000.

###### OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES OF THE CON- FERENCES OF THE MAJORITY AND THE CON- FERENCES OF THE MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretaries of the Conference of the Majority and the Conference of the Minority, \$1,022,000.

#### POLICY COMMITTEES

For salaries of the Majority Policy Committee and the Minority Policy Committee, \$2,093,000 for each such committee; in all, \$4,186,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

For Office of the Chaplain, \$699,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Office of the Secretary, \$35,083,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER

For Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, \$130,353,000.

#### OFFICES OF THE SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY

For Offices of the Secretary for the Majority and the Secretary for the Minority, \$2,785,000.

#### AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS AND RELATED EXPENSES

For agency contributions for employee benefits, as authorized by law, and related expenses, \$97,779,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL OF THE SENATE

For salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the Senate, \$9,401,000.

#### OFFICE OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Senate Legal Counsel, \$1,431,000.

#### EXPENSE ALLOWANCES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE, SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOOR- KEEPER OF THE SENATE, AND SECRETARIES FOR THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY OF THE SENATE

For expense allowances of the Secretary of the Senate, \$7,500; Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, \$7,500; Secretary for the Majority of the Senate, \$7,500; Secretary for the Minority of the Senate, \$7,500; in all, \$30,000.

#### CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE

##### INQUIRIES AND INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses of inquiries and investigations ordered by the Senate, or conducted under paragraph 1 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, section 112 of the Supplemental Appropriations and Rescission Act, 1980 (Public Law 96-304), and Senate Resolution 281, 96th Congress, agreed to March 11, 1980, \$222,416,000, of which \$22,242,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

#### U.S. SENATE CAUCUS ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

For expenses of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, \$613,000.

#### SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

For expenses of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, \$17,852,000, of which \$13,274,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$4,578,000 shall remain available until expended.

#### SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE

For expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, \$230,845,000, of which \$220,345,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$10,500,000 shall remain available until expended.

#### MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

For miscellaneous items, \$28,052,000 which shall remain available until September 30, 2028.

#### SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT

For Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, \$645,431,000, of which

\$32,272,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which \$7,000,000 shall be allocated solely for the purpose of providing financial compensation to Senate interns.

#### OFFICIAL MAIL COSTS

For expenses necessary for official mail costs of the Senate, \$300,000.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

#### REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT

SEC. 101. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act under the heading "SENATE—CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE SENATE—SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNT" shall be available for obligation only during the fiscal year or fiscal years for which such amounts are made available. Any unexpended balances under such allowances remaining after the end of the period of availability shall be returned to the Treasury in accordance with the undesigned paragraph under the center heading "GENERAL PROVISION" under chapter XI of the Third Supplemental Appropriation Act, 1957 (2 U.S.C. 4107) and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

#### DELEGATION AUTHORITY

SEC. 102. Section 104 of division I of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (2 U.S.C. 6154 note) shall be amended—

- (1) in subsection (a)(2), by adding the following after "118th" and before "Congress": "and any subsequent";
- (2) in subsection (a)(3), by striking "and ending on January 7, 2025"; and
- (3) in subsection (b), by striking "on or after January 3, 2023".

#### JOINT ITEMS

For Joint Committees, as follows:

##### JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Economic Committee, \$4,283,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

##### JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Committee on Taxation, \$13,960,620, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

For other joint items, as follows:

##### OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

For medical supplies, equipment, and contingent expenses of the emergency rooms, and for the Attending Physician and their assistants, including:

- (1) an allowance of \$3,500 per month to the Attending Physician;
- (2) an allowance of \$2,500 per month to the Senior Medical Officer;
- (3) an allowance of \$900 per month each to three medical officers while on duty in the Office of the Attending Physician;
- (4) an allowance of \$900 per month to 2 assistants and \$900 per month each not to exceed 11 assistants on the basis heretofore provided for such assistants; and
- (5) \$3,388,000 for reimbursement to the Department of the Navy for expenses incurred for staff and equipment assigned to the Office of the Attending Physician, which shall be advanced and credited to the applicable appropriation or appropriations from which such salaries, allowances, and other expenses are payable and shall be available for all the purposes thereof, \$4,854,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

#### OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, \$1,818,980, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

#### CAPITOL POLICE

##### SALARIES

For salaries of employees of the Capitol Police, including overtime, hazardous duty pay, and Government contributions for health, retirement, social security, professional liability insurance, tuition reimbursement, recruitment and retention bonuses, and other applicable employee benefits, \$653,422,000, of which overtime shall not exceed \$84,767,000 unless the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate are notified, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or a duly authorized designee.

#### GENERAL EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Capitol Police, including motor vehicles, communications and other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons, supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services, Member protection-related activities and equipment, stenographic services, personal and professional services, the employee assistance program, the awards program, postage, communication services, travel advances, relocation of instructor and liaison personnel for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers, and not more than \$7,500 to be expended on the certification of the Chief of the Capitol Police in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$201,678,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or a duly authorized designee: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cost of basic training for the Capitol Police at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers for fiscal year 2026 shall be paid by the Secretary of Homeland Security from funds available to the Department of Homeland Security: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading may be used to purchase a drone manufactured in the People's Republic of China or by a business affiliated with the People's Republic of China except for national security purposes.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

##### MUTUAL AID TRANSFER AUTHORITY (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 110. Of the amounts made available under the heading "Capitol Police" in this Act, up to \$10,000,000 may be transferred to "Capitol Police—United States Capitol Police Mutual Aid Reimbursements" on September 30, 2026, and, once transferred, shall remain available until September 30, 2030, to be used for reimbursements for mutual aid and related training, including mutual aid and training provided under the agreements described in section 7302 of Public Law 108-458: *Provided*, That obligation of the funds transferred pursuant to this section shall be subject to notification to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the Committee on House Administration of the amount and purpose of the expense within 15 days of obligation.

#### OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for the operation of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, \$8,396,400, of which \$2,500,000 shall remain available until Sep-

tember 30, 2027, and of which not more than \$1,000 may be expended on the certification of the Executive Director in connection with official representation and reception expenses.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for operation of the Congressional Budget Office, including not more than \$6,000 to be expended on the certification of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$71,400,000: *Provided*, That the Director shall use not less than \$500,000 of the amount made available under this heading for (1) improving technical systems, processes, and models for the purpose of improving the transparency of estimates of budgetary effects to Members of Congress, employees of Members of Congress, and the public, and (2) to increase the availability of models, economic assumptions, and data for Members of Congress, employees of Members of Congress, and the public.

#### ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

##### CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS

For salaries for the Architect of the Capitol, and other personal services, at rates of pay provided by law; for all necessary expenses for surveys and studies, construction, operation, and general and administrative support in connection with facilities and activities under the care of the Architect of the Capitol, including the Botanic Garden, Senate and House office buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol; for furnishings and office equipment; for official reception and representation expenses of not more than \$5,000, to be expended as the Architect of the Capitol may approve; for purchase or exchange, maintenance, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, \$156,676,000.

#### CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, \$83,380,000, of which \$47,799,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

#### CAPITOL GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, \$20,059,000, of which \$3,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

#### Senate Office Buildings

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of Senate office buildings; and furniture and furnishings to be expended under the control and supervision of the Architect of the Capitol, \$124,696,000, of which \$16,900,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030, and of which \$20,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

#### CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; and all electrical substations of the Capitol; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate garage, and air conditioning refrigeration not supplied from plants in any of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilled water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger

Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed upon request of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, \$130,705,000, of which \$18,189,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That not more than \$10,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation as herein provided shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2026.

#### LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings and grounds, \$53,139,000, of which \$13,400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030.

#### CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computing Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, \$77,630,000, of which \$12,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading may be used to purchase a drone manufactured in the People's Republic of China or by a business affiliated with the People's Republic of China except for national security purposes.

#### BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle; all under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, \$21,392,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2030: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available under this heading, the Architect of the Capitol may obligate and expend such sums as may be necessary for the maintenance, care and operation of the National Garden established under section 307E of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 2146), upon vouchers approved by the Architect of the Capitol or a duly authorized designee.

#### CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

For all necessary expenses for the operation of the Capitol Visitor Center, \$30,547,000.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

##### NO BONUSES FOR CONTRACTORS BEHIND SCHEDULE OR OVER BUDGET

SEC. 120. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Architect of the Capitol may be used to make incentive or award payments to contractors for work on contracts or programs for which the contractor is behind schedule or over budget, unless the Architect of the Capitol, or agency-employed designee, determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program.

#### LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Library of Congress not otherwise provided for, including development and maintenance of the Library's catalogs; custody and custodial care of the Library buildings; information technology services provided centrally; special clothing; cleaning, laundering and repair of uniforms; preservation of motion pictures in the custody of the Library; operation and maintenance of the American Folklife Center in the Library; preparation and distribu-

tion of catalog records and other publications of the Library; hire or purchase of one passenger motor vehicle; and expenses of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board not properly chargeable to the income of any trust fund held by the Board, \$592,411,000, and, in addition, amounts credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2026 under the Act of June 28, 1902 (chapter 1301; 32 Stat. 480; 2 U.S.C. 150), shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Library of Congress may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under the Act of June 28, 1902, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated, no less than \$17,500,000 shall remain available until expended for the Teaching with Primary Sources program, the Lewis-Houghton Civics and Democracy Initiative, the Veterans History Project, the Surplus Books Program, upgrades of the Legislative Branch Financial Management System and data storage and migration efforts.

#### COPYRIGHT OFFICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Copyright Office, \$102,386,000, of which not more than \$37,025,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2026 under sections 708(d) and 1316 of title 17, United States Code: *Provided*, That the Copyright Office may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under such section in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That not more than \$7,824,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2026 under sections 111(d)(2), 119(b)(3), 803(e), and 1005 of such title: *Provided further*, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than \$44,849,000: *Provided further*, That of the funds provided under this heading, not less than \$10,200,000 is for modernization initiatives, of which \$9,300,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That not more than \$100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the maintenance of an "International Copyright Institute" in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress for the purpose of training nationals of developing countries in intellectual property laws and policies: *Provided further*, That not more than \$6,500 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for activities of the International Copyright Institute and for copyright delegations, visitors, and seminars: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding any provision of chapter 8 of title 17, United States Code, any amounts made available under this heading which are attributable to royalty fees and payments received by the Copyright Office pursuant to sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administration of the Copyright Royalty Judges program, with the exception of the costs of salaries and benefits for the Copyright Royalty Judges and staff under section 802(e).

#### CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to revise and extend the Annotated Constitution of the United States of America, \$136,080,000: *Provided*, That no part of such amount may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or

preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate: *Provided further*, That this prohibition does not apply to publication of non-confidential Congressional Research Service (CRS) products: *Provided further*, That a non-confidential CRS product includes any written product containing research or analysis that is currently available for general congressional access on the CRS Congressional Intranet, or that would be made available on the CRS Congressional Intranet in the normal course of business and does not include material prepared in response to Congressional requests for confidential analysis or research.

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT DISABLED SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2 U.S.C. 135a), \$66,130,000: *Provided*, That of the total amount appropriated, \$650,000 shall be available to contract to provide newspapers to blind and print disabled residents at no cost to the individual.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

##### REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITIES

SEC. 130. (A) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2026, the obligational authority of the Library of Congress for the activities described in subsection (b) may not exceed \$332,285,000.

(B) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving fund activities that are funded from sources other than appropriations to the Library in appropriations Acts for the legislative branch.

#### GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For authorized publishing of congressional information and the distribution of congressional information in any format; publishing of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress; and publishing, and distribution of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed without charge to the recipient, \$80,000,000: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall not be available for paper copies of the permanent edition of the Congressional Record for individual Representatives, Resident Commissioners or Delegates authorized under section 906 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the appropriations for similar purposes for preceding fiscal years: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the 2-year limitation under section 718 of title 44, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of title 44, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the 27-month period beginning on the date that such document, report, or publication is authorized by Congress to be printed, unless Congress reauthorizes such printing in accordance with section 718 of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That unobligated or unexpended balances of expired discretionary funds made available under this heading in this Act for this fiscal year may be transferred to, and merged with, funds under the heading "GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND" no later than the end of the

fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated, to be available for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding sections 901, 902, and 906 of title 44, United States Code, this appropriation may be used to prepare indexes to the Congressional Record on only a monthly and session basis.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES  
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)**

For expenses of the public information programs of the Office of Superintendent of Documents necessary to provide for the cataloging and indexing of Government publications in any format, and their distribution to the public, Members of Congress, other Government agencies, and designated depository and international exchange libraries as authorized by law, \$42,475,000: *Provided*, That amounts of not more than \$2,000,000 from current year appropriations are authorized for producing and disseminating Congressional serial sets and other related publications for the preceding two fiscal years to depository and other designated libraries: *Provided further*, That unobligated or unexpended balances of expired discretionary funds made available under this heading in this Act for this fiscal year may be transferred to, and merged with, funds under the heading “GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND” no later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which appropriated, to be available for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

**GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND**

For payment to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund, \$9,525,000, to remain available until expended, for information technology development and facilities repair: *Provided*, That the Government Publishing Office is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds available and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs and purposes set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund: *Provided further*, That not more than \$7,500 may be expended on the certification of the Director of the Government Publishing Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than 12 passenger motor vehicles: *Provided further*, That expenditures in connection with travel expenses of the advisory councils to the Director of the Government Publishing Office shall be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of title 44, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title: *Provided*

*further*, That activities financed through the Business Operations Revolving Fund may provide information in any format: *Provided further*, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund and the funds provided under the heading “PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS” may not be used for contracted security services at Government Publishing Office’s passport facility in the District of Columbia.

**GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For necessary expenses of the Government Accountability Office, including not more than \$12,500 to be expended on the certification of the Comptroller General of the United States in connection with official representation and reception expenses; temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; hire of one passenger motor vehicle; advance payments in foreign countries in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code; benefits comparable to those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(5), (6), and (8)); and under regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, rental of living quarters in foreign countries, \$811,894,000, of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That, in addition, \$35,424,000 of payments received under sections 782, 791, 3521, and 9105 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available without fiscal year limitation: *Provided further*, That this appropriation and appropriations for administrative expenses of any other department or agency which is a member of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum shall be available to finance an appropriate share of either Forum’s costs as determined by the respective Forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal participants: *Provided further*, That payments hereunder to the Forum may be credited as reimbursements to any appropriation from which costs involved are initially financed: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be available to cover costs incurred by the Tiny Findings Child Development Center, in such amount and for such purposes as determined by the Comptroller General, subject to notification provided to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

**CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP FUND**

For a payment to the Congressional Office for International Leadership Fund for financing activities of the Congressional Office for International Leadership under section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), \$6,000,000: *Provided*, That funds made available to support Russian participants shall only be used for those engaging in free market development, humanitarian activities, and civic engagement, and shall not be used for officials of the central government of Russia.

**JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

For payment to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105), \$430,000.

**TITLE II**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES**

SEC. 201. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be used for the maintenance

or care of private vehicles, except for emergency assistance and cleaning as may be provided under regulations relating to parking facilities for the House of Representatives issued by the Committee on House Administration and for the Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

**FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION**

SEC. 202. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond fiscal year 2026 unless expressly so provided in this Act.

**RATES OF COMPENSATION AND DESIGNATION**

SEC. 203. Whenever in this Act any office or position not specifically established by the Legislative Pay Act of 1929 (46 Stat. 32 et seq.) is appropriated for or the rate of compensation or designation of any office or position appropriated for is different from that specifically established by such Act, the rate of compensation and the designation in this Act shall be the permanent law with respect thereto: *Provided*, That the provisions in this Act for the various items of official expenses of Members, officers, and committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, and clerk hire for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall be the permanent law with respect thereto.

**CONSULTING SERVICES**

SEC. 204. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued under existing law.

**COSTS OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH FINANCIAL MANAGERS COUNCIL**

SEC. 205. Amounts available for administrative expenses of any legislative branch entity which participates in the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council (LBFMC) established by charter on March 26, 1996, shall be available to finance an appropriate share of LBFMC costs as determined by the LBFMC, except that the total LBFMC costs to be shared among all participating legislative branch entities (in such allocations among the entities as the entities may determine) may not exceed \$2,000.

**LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS**

SEC. 206. 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 Act or any other appropriation Act.

**GUIDED TOURS OF THE CAPITOL**

SEC. 207. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available to the Architect of the Capitol in this Act may be used to eliminate or restrict guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns of offices of Members of Congress and other offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, unless through regulations as authorized by section 402(b)(8) of the Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008 (2 U.S.C. 2242(b)(8)).

(b) At the direction of the Capitol Police Board, or at the direction of the Architect of the Capitol with the approval of the Capitol Police Board, guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns described in subsection (a) may be suspended temporarily or otherwise subject to restriction for security or related reasons to the same extent as guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by the Architect of the Capitol.

## LIMITATION ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT

SEC. 208. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation.

## PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

SEC. 209. (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 or other official government activities.

## PLASTIC WASTE REDUCTION

SEC. 210. All agencies and offices funded by this Act that contract with a food service provider or providers shall confer and coordinate with such food service provider or providers, in consultation with disability advocacy groups, to eliminate or reduce plastic waste, including waste from plastic straws, explore the use of biodegradable items, and increase recycling and composting opportunities.

## LIMITATION ON COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS FOR MEMBERS

SEC. 211. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2026.

## EXTENSION OF PUMP ACT PROTECTIONS TO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

SEC. 212. Section 203(a)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1313(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and section 12(c)” and inserting “section 12(c), and section 18D”; and (2) by inserting “, 218d” after “212(c)”.

## SENATE PROTECTION

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 213. (a) For an additional amount for “Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate”, \$18,500,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$15,000,000 shall be for enhanced Member security and \$3,500,000 shall be for the residential security system program: *Provided*, That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection may be transferred to “Salaries, Officers and Employees—Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper” and “Contingent Expenses of the Senate—Sergeant at Arms Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Fund”: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided pursuant to the preceding proviso is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available pursuant to this subsection for enhanced Member security, such sums as necessary may be used to restore amounts, either directly, through reimbursement, or through the transfer authority in the first proviso, for obligations incurred for the same purposes by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That amounts made available pursuant to this subsection shall be allocated in accordance with a spending plan submitted to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(b) For an additional amount for “Capitol Police—United States Capitol Police Mutual Aid Reimbursements”, \$25,000,000, to remain

available until September 30, 2030, for reimbursements for mutual aid and related training, including mutual aid and training provided under the agreements described in section 7302 of Public Law 108-458: *Provided*, That obligation of the funds made available pursuant to this subsection be subject to notification to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, and the Committee on House Administration of the amount and purpose of the expense within 15 days of obligation.

(c) For an additional amount for “Capitol Police—General Expenses”, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, to provide support to the Senate Sergeant at Arms residential security system program.

(d) Each amount provided by this section is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2026 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

This division may be cited as the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2026”.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I have nine requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct an open hearing on nominations.

## COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10 a.m., to hold a subcommittee hearing.

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 9:45 a.m., to consider nominations.

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to consider nominations.

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

## COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

## COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 2:30 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 Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

## NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 332, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 332) designating July 26, 2025, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. HUSTED. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 332) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

## MAINTAINING AMERICAN SUPERIORITY BY IMPROVING EXPORT CONTROL TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1316 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1316) to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to licensing transparency.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HUSTED. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 1316) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY  
23, 2025

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, postclosure; that the postclosure time expire at 2 p.m. and the Senate vote on the motion to proceed; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on Monday, July 21, ripen following the vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3944; finally, that at 11 a.m., the Senate execute the order with respect to the Roth and Hurley nominations in the order listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator WELCH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Vermont.

## NEW START TREATY

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, on February 13, President Trump said something that few expected to hear. He said:

There's no reason for us to be building brand-new nuclear weapons. We already have so many. You could destroy the world 50 times over, 100 times over. And here we are building new nuclear weapons.

We're all spending a lot of money that we could be spending on other things that are actually, hopefully, much more productive.

I could not agree more with what President Trump said. It is why I want to speak today about the soon-to-expire New START treaty and the very real possibility of a new nuclear arms race, something that neither the President, the Vice President, nor any other senior official has even mentioned, but it is looming.

It is important to step back a moment and understand how we got to this point. There is no better way to begin than with J. Robert Oppenheimer, the scientist who led the team of physicists and engineers who built the first atomic bomb. Oppenheimer, as you know, directed the Manhattan Project's Los Alamos Laboratory in a way that—it was widely believed then and is to this day—no one else could have done.

The use of the atomic bomb against Japan marked the end of the Second World War. It also demonstrated to the world that a war between two nuclear

powers would be cataclysmic for both and potentially apocalyptic for the entire world.

After the war ended, Oppenheimer and many of the scientists who participated in the Manhattan Project, knowing the dangers, spent much of the remainder of their lives warning the world of the danger of a nuclear arms race, and they advocated for international controls on nuclear weapons.

In 1954, unfortunately, at the height of the McCarthy era, Oppenheimer himself was targeted for his advocacy by the Atomic Energy Commission. No evidence was ever produced that Oppenheimer was a security risk or that he was anything other than a loyal American, and the Commissioners acknowledged as much. Nevertheless, the physicist who just 9 years before had been heralded as a hero for his role in ending the war in the Pacific had his security clearance revoked, and it effectively ended his brilliant scientific career.

The flawed AEC decision remained in effect for 68 years until my predecessor, Senator Patrick Leahy, along with 42 of his Senate colleagues—Democrats and Republicans—petitioned then-Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm to vacate the AEC's flawed decision. And they were supported by distinguished members of the U.S. scientific community, including the Director and former Directors of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

On December 16, 2022, Secretary Granholm vacated the AEC's decision, thanks to Senator Leahy's multiyear effort. Her thoughtful decision recognized that the abuse of power used to discredit Oppenheimer should not remain a historical precedent. In doing so, Secretary Granholm reaffirmed the government's responsibility to encourage unrestrained, unthreatened scientific discourse.

So, Mr. President, today, unfortunately, Robert Oppenheimer's worst fear is becoming a reality. Hundreds of our nuclear warheads are literally ready to launch on missiles that can obliterate targets that are thousands of miles away in a mere 30 minutes. And we also, as the Presiding Officer knows, have hundreds of nuclear bombs in this country and others.

Now Vladimir Putin is recklessly threatening to use tactical nuclear weapons against Ukraine. That is the equivalent of a Hiroshima bomb. That is what we would call it today. China is expanding its arsenal of more than 600 nuclear weapons. North Korea is expanding its arsenal of nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles. And it may be only a matter of time before terrorists obtain the enriched uranium to build a crude nuclear bomb.

Unlike the atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, many of today's thousands of nuclear weapons are many more times powerful. And that decision to start a nuclear war can be made by a single individual—the President—with no re-

quirement that he first consult with anyone. A single use of a tactical nuclear weapon, either by accident or design, could trigger a flurry of escalating responses with far more powerful strategic weapons that would cause incalculable loss of life, widespread radiation poisoning, and destruction on a scale unlike anything seen in human history. The number of people killed immediately is estimated to be in the tens or even hundreds of millions, and many more would later die from famine.

There is little doubt that a nuclear war would pose an existential threat to civilization as we know it. So I believe we must all, regardless of political affiliation, reaffirm what both Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev said 39 years ago:

A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

Yet here in Congress, despite the warnings of organizations like the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists and the Arms Control Association, one rarely hears a word spoken among us about this existential threat. We have become far too complacent because for 80 years, as Robert Oppenheimer and others hoped after revealing to the world the immense destructive power of an atomic bomb, the inevitability of mutually assured destruction itself has deterred the use of those nuclear weapons.

It is different today. With mercurial leaders like Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, we cannot rely on deterrence alone. Existing nuclear arms control treaties are either no longer adhered to by Russia or the United States or they are close to expiring, and there are no negotiations currently underway or even envisioned on a new generation of international limits on nuclear weapons.

My colleague from Massachusetts Senator MARKEY and several others here have sought to counter this complacency, and I want to commend Senator MARKEY for the bill he introduced on January 20, the Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act, of which I am an original cosponsor. And last week, I also cosponsored Senator MARKEY's resolution marking the 80th anniversary of the Trinity Test and urging the United States to lead the world in reversing the nuclear arms race.

But the danger of a new nuclear arms race has received far too little attention from Congress and from the administration. This complacency cannot continue. The use of a single nuclear weapon, whether tactical or strategic, accidental or intentional, and the likely response would dwarf all the other crises that we are preoccupied with by many orders of magnitude, and by then focusing on it would be too late.

Despite our sharp differences with the Governments of Russia and China, they have as much interest in preventing an unwinnable nuclear war as we do. We and our allies must urgently seek to reinvigorate negotiations on

more effective mechanisms to prevent the development, proliferation, and use of nuclear weapons.

The New START Treaty, which entered into force in 2011, limits Russia's arsenal of nuclear weapons. The United States and Russia extended the treaty in 2021, but only for a period of 5 years, and that expires in February 2026.

Ideally, we and the Russians would agree to continue to abide by the limits of the New START while we negotiate yet another treaty to further reduce the number of nuclear weapons. But, unfortunately, last February, Putin announced the Russian Federation's suspension of New START, and there has been minimal discussion between our two countries about any further agreements.

When New START does expire, unless a new agreement is in place, there will be absolutely no limits on the number of strategic nuclear weapons that the United States and Russia can deploy. The number of nuclear weapons could skyrocket to levels not seen since the 1980s, incidentally, at huge cost to the American taxpayer.

The result would be a world far more dangerous than the one we now occupy.

The United States has its share of responsibility for the collapse of nuclear arms control. During the first Trump administration, the United States withdrew from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. And during President Trump's first term, he withdrew from the Iran nuclear agreement, after which Iran, as we know, accelerated its uranium enrichment program.

Today, some of President Trump's advisers have even proposed that we resume nuclear testing. We cannot do that. It would be an unmitigated disaster, subjecting countless Americans to cancer-causing radioactive fallout once again. We cannot repeat that mistake. We cannot repeat and cause that harm.

Under the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the United States,

Russia, and China have an obligation to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament."

In the past, even when relations have fallen to their lowest points, the United States and Russia had decades of cooperation on this issue. Today, with Vladimir Putin firmly in control, it is hard to see a way forward.

President Trump's comments in February offer me a ray of hope. We should continue to denounce Putin's nuclear saber-rattling and Russia's suspension of its participation in New START. But the Trump administration should also do everything possible to breathe new life into talks with Russia to achieve new binding limits on Russia's arsenal. The security of both countries and our allies depends on this.

If Putin refuses to replace New START, despite it being in Russia's own national interest, there are other concrete steps that we, Russia, and China could take short of negotiating an entirely new treaty that would help reduce the risk of nuclear war, one that could be caused by false alarm, by error, or by misperceptions.

These include improving lines of communication to reduce that risk of miscommunication or misperception; creating joint early-warning centers to monitor missile launches; detargeting so that any accidental launch of a nuclear-armed missile lands in the ocean; removing all nuclear weapons from high-alert status; reducing incentives to respond quickly to a possible nuclear attack; reducing the number of deployed nuclear weapons; and renouncing first use of nuclear weapons and restricting or eliminating a President's authority to launch a nuclear weapon without congressional approval.

Mr. President, since the 1980s, thanks to negotiators in both countries, the United States and Russia curtailed an

unrestrained nuclear arms race that led to the deployment of staggering numbers of increasingly destructive weapons that could not rationally be justified for deterrence or any other purpose.

The START Treaty and New START were historic achievements—bipartisan achievements. I would like to think that President Trump was serious when he spoke of the need for the United States, Russia, and China to stop building more nuclear weapons. But even modest steps to reduce the chance of a catastrophic mistake or miscalculation resulting in the use of nuclear weapons should be among our highest national priorities.

I yield the floor.

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 10 a.m.

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#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 22, 2025:

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

AARON LUKAS, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BRADLEY HANSELL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TERRANCE COLE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT.

THE JUDICIARY

JOSHUA M. DIVINE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF MISSOURI.

CRISTIAN M. STEVENS, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ALICE SMITH JONES ON  
HER FIFTH JUNETEENTH CELE-  
BRATION

**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2025*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the impactful life and remarkable dedication of Alice Smith Jones, an extraordinary educator and tireless activist whose commitment to fostering hope and empowering young minds has spanned decades. As we mark the anniversary of her fifth Juneteenth celebration, we take this opportunity to honor her inspiring journey.

Born in Chicago, Alice Smith Jones was raised in a home steeped in community service and activism. Her mother, a dedicated nurse, worked tirelessly in public schools, while her father served both the post office and the streets and sanitation department. Both of her parents were esteemed activists and community leaders, instilling in Alice the profound belief in making the world a better place.

Driven by a passion for learning and a desire to connect with others, Alice pursued higher education with zeal. She earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Columbia College, followed by a master's degree in education from Roosevelt University, and further specialized with a master's in Literacy from Northeastern University. This extensive academic journey laid the foundation for her distinguished career.

For an impressive thirty-three years, Alice Smith Jones has dedicated herself to the students of Chicago as a cherished public-school teacher. Her teaching philosophy is rooted in a deep desire to see the world become a better place, and she consistently finds profound hope when she sees noticeable growth in her students. She tirelessly instills in her students a strong sense of pride and identity, encouraging them to always find ways to improve themselves. Her classroom has been a beacon of inspiration, nurturing confidence and intellectual curiosity. Alice lives by the principle of finding what works for you and encourages others to live a principled life. Her commitment to personal growth and global understanding led her to significant milestones, including living and teaching in another country for three years. This transformative experience allowed her to truly find herself and broadened her perspective. Her dedication to excellence was further recognized when she became the recipient of a full Bright Scholarship and a Study Abroad opportunity, underscoring her exemplary achievements and thirst for knowledge.

Beyond her professional life, Alice Smith Jones is deeply engaged in her community. She is a proud member of Operation PUSH, actively involved with the Woodlawn Summit Organization, and serves on the Board of ETA. Furthermore, she acts as a consultant for the African Festival of the Arts and gener-

ously volunteers her time at various churches, demonstrating her relentless commitment to social and community upliftment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and ongoing accomplishments of Alice Smith Jones, a tireless educator, a beacon of hope, and an inspiring leader whose dedication continues to enrich our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THE CITY OF POLK  
CITY, FLORIDA

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2025*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the City of Polk City, Florida.

Polk City, known locally as the Gateway to the Green Swamp, is in the northern part of Polk County, Florida. The city officially received its charter on April 3, 1925, thus marking the beginning of its formal governance and development.

Polk City was first settled in 1922 when Mr. Isaac Van Horn was traveling through Polk County and believed oil fields waited to be exploited. Mr. Van Horn was responsible for naming the town after President James K. Polk and increasing the population with new construction of oil rigs.

Today, Polk City is home to approximately 2,000 residents and remains a vibrant small town with a strong sense community and rural charm. It is known for the General James A. Van Fleet Trail and beautiful lakes. As we commemorate this centennial milestone, we honor the generations who have shaped Polk City's legacy as a city built on resilience, agriculture, and a deep sense of community.

Happy Centennial, Polk City.

APPRECIATING ED FEULNER

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, America will always cherish the vision of Ed Feulner for limited government, expanded freedoms, and Peace Through Strength. Personally, on January 4, 2019, he sent me a note acknowledging his achievements, "Dear Joe, I'm honored. You're a real hero to all of us! Onward! Ed."

The following is from The Heritage Foundation on the loss of its Founder, Ed Feulner:

"WASHINGTON—The Heritage Foundation released the following statement today from Heritage President Dr. Kevin Roberts and Board of Trustees Chairman Barb Van Andel-Gaby, lauding the legacy and mourning the loss of Heritage Founder Edwin J. Feulner:

"It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of Edwin J. Feulner, founder, trustee, and the longest-serving president of The Heritage Foundation.

"Ed Feulner was more than a leader—he was a visionary, a builder, and a patriot of the highest order. His unwavering love of country and his determination to safeguard the principles that made America the freest, most prosperous nation in human history shaped every fiber of the conservative movement—and still do.

"Ed founded The Heritage Foundation in 1973, planting a flag for Truth in a town too often seduced by power. What started as a small outpost for conservative ideas became—under Ed's tireless leadership—the intellectual arsenal for the Reagan Revolution and the modern conservative movement. In the four decades that followed, Ed's foresight, discipline, and moral clarity made Heritage a battleship, unshaken by political winds and focused solely on fighting for the American people.

"After leading Heritage for 37 years as president, Ed continued to serve on our Board of Trustees, offering encouragement and sage advice in equal measure. Ed was an important mentor to us, respectively, and to all of those who had the honor of knowing him. In addition to his work at Heritage, he continued his active participation in many other conservative organizations.

"Whether he was bringing together the various corners of the conservative movement at meetings of the Philadelphia Society, or launching what is now the Heritage Strategy Forum, Ed championed a bold, 'big-tent conservatism.' He believed in addition, not subtraction. Unity, not uniformity. One of his favorite mantras was 'You win through multiplication and addition, not through division and subtraction.' His legacy is not just the institution he built, but the movement he helped grow—a movement rooted in faith, family, freedom, and the founding.

"His 'Feulnerisms' still resonate in the halls of Heritage—where they will always be remembered. 'People are policy,' for instance—the heartbeat of his mission—to equip, encourage, and elevate a new generation of conservative leaders, not just in Washington, but across this great country. And we still remember his adjuration to never be complacent or discouraged: 'In Washington, there are no permanent victories and no permanent defeats.'

"Ed himself seemed immune to discouragement. Every day was, for him, a new opportunity to strike a blow for freedom, to further the promise of America and make it a reality for all. His was a life of joyful defiance in the face of tyranny and bureaucratic decay—a life defined by courage, conviction, and the word he signed off with every single day: Onward!

"To his beloved wife, Linda, their children, and grandchildren—we extend our deepest prayers and condolences. And to Ed—we say thank you. Thank you for showing us what one faithful, fearless man can do when he refuses to cede ground in the fight for self-governance.

"The Heritage Foundation will honor Ed's life the best way we know how: by carrying his mission forward with courage, integrity, and determination. We will never forget his leadership, his example, or his favorite charge: 'Onward. Always.'"

● 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.

## FRANCIS G. NEWLANDS MEMORIAL REMOVAL ACT

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Francis G. Newlands Memorial Removal Act, which would remove the plaque and inscriptions on a fountain bearing Francis G. Newlands' name from Chevy Chase Circle, a federal park located in both the District of Columbia and Maryland. Representative JAMIE RASKIN of Maryland joins me in introducing this bill, and Senator CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland is the sponsor of the companion bill.

Newlands was a U.S. senator from Nevada, a conservationist and the founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company, which developed the Chevy Chase neighborhood that touches D.C. and Maryland. Newlands was also a segregationist. He built Connecticut Avenue and ran a streetcar up the road to the newly built Chevy Chase Lake. However, homes on Connecticut Avenue were purposely priced to keep working families out, and covenants were later added to many of the property deeds in Chevy Chase explicitly prohibiting the land from ever being owned by African Americans or Jews. These covenants have since been declared void. Newlands went further to keep Black and White Americans separate. In the late 1800s, he and Senator William Stewart secured 2,000 acres of land for Rock Creek Park. Establishing this park not only increased property values for landowners like Newlands and Stewart, but also kept White communities separate from emerging Black communities on what they called the "wrong side of the park." Newlands' racist views went even further. In 1912, he called for the repeal of the 15th amendment, which gave African-American men the right to vote.

The fountain in Chevy Chase Circle was established in 1932 by Congress. In 1990, the Chevy Chase Land Company added a plaque with Newlands' name next to the fountain. A resolution to remove Newlands' name from the fountain was first introduced by the D.C. Chevy Chase Advisory Neighborhood Commission in 2014. On July 27, 2020, the commission voted unanimously to ask the National Park Service (NPS) to remove the plaque bearing Newlands' name and to begin discussion on a new name for the fountain. On September 14, 2020, the Maryland Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers adopted a resolution calling on NPS and Congress to remove any mention of Newlands from the fountain. On April 19, 2022, the Montgomery County Council introduced a resolution affirming the county's support for this bill. Newlands should not be honored on federal land.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

## HONORING MR. FRANK FIGGERS

## HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong civil rights

activist, educator, and servant leader, Mr. Frank Figgers. A son of Mississippi, Mr. Figgers has dedicated his life to empowering communities, defending civil rights, and shaping a more just society.

Mr. Figgers is a graduate of Tougaloo College, Class of 1971, where his journey as a freedom fighter began through his work rooted with the Jackson Human Rights Project, founded by SNCC Field Organizer Howard Spencer. He played a foundational role in launching the Georgetown Liberation School, which evolved into the Black and Proud Elementary School, an institution rooted in liberation, pride, and academic excellence.

Throughout his life, Mr. Figgers has remained on the front lines of social transformation. He served eight years as Election Commissioner for Hinds County District 3, becoming the first African American elected to that post in his district. His professional career also includes 27 years at Sherwin-Williams Company as an Architectural Products Specialist, serving in key leadership positions. Additionally, he served as a Parent and Community Development Specialist at Lanier High School through the nationally recognized Algebra Project, working to close education gaps in underserved schools.

Currently, Mr. Figgers serves as Program Manager of Community Outreach and Education at One Voice, a non-partisan nonprofit committed to strengthening civic engagement, promoting voting rights, and advancing leadership development throughout Mississippi.

Mr. Figgers' commitment to education, youth development, and social justice extends through his leadership on multiple boards and advisory bodies. He is a longtime member of the Board of Trustees for the Jackson Public School District. He serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement (VMCRM), preserving the legacy and lessons of the Movement for future generations. He has served, since 1998, as a board member of the Young People's Project (YPP) in Jackson, an organization rooted in the legacy of the Algebra Project, which uses peer-to-peer math literacy and organizing as tools for youth empowerment.

Mr. Figgers is also a member of China Grove Lodge No. 110 of the M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge of MS, PHA. He is also a Life Member of the NAACP, demonstrating his enduring passion for justice and equality. Recently, Mr. Figgers was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Mississippi Historical Society.

Spiritually grounded and civically engaged, Mr. Figgers is a faithful member of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, MS, serving as a deacon and the Chairman of Finance. He is the proud husband of Mrs. Laura Terrell Figgers and the devoted father of Fareeda Tobeche Figgers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Frank Figgers. His life reflects integrity, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to empowering others through education, activism, and service. Mississippi and this Nation are better because of him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MASTER SERGEANT JAMES GARNER, JR.

## HON. MIKE EZELL

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant James Edward (Jim) Garner, Jr., who passed on June 17, 2025, at the age of 88.

Born in Paulding, Mississippi in 1936, Jim served 27 years in the U.S. Army. He was deployed to places such as Korea, Vietnam, The Dominican Republic, Thailand, Cambodia, and more, retiring in 1980 as a Special Forces Master Sergeant.

He led operations under Colonel Charles Beckwith of Delta Force, and later taught ROTC at Marion Military Institute, where he created the school's first Orienteering Team.

His unmatched dedication is awarded and shown through his dozens of military honors and decorations.

Jim excelled at checkers and dominos, cooked delicious meals, loved outdoor pursuits, and kept a thriving garden.

He was known for being an avid reader and having a vast knowledge of old movies. But above all, he cherished his wife Margaret, and their big loving family.

Today we honor a life that was full of service, courage, mentorship, and love. Jim Garner was a true American Hero.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on July 21, 2025, I was unable to attend votes due to a travel issue. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call 213, and YEA on Roll Call No. 214.

## HONORING OFFICER FRANCISCO FLATTES

## HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and sacrifice of Officer Francisco Flattes, a devoted detention officer in Cherokee County, North Carolina, who was killed in the line of duty on June 30, 2025.

Officer Flattes was more than just a public servant. He was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a colleague, and a friend to many. For four years, he served the Cherokee County Detention Center with unwavering commitment, ensuring that the rule of law was upheld with integrity and compassion.

Tragically, while performing his duties—escorting an inmate for medical care—Officer Flattes was killed in the line of duty in an act of senseless violence. He gave his life protecting others, and in doing so, reminded us all of the risks our law enforcement officers

face every single day when they put on the uniform.

Officer Flattes leaves behind a loving family, including his wife, who also serves as a detention officer, his children and grandchildren, and a son-in-law who wears the same badge in defense of our communities.

I extend my deepest condolences to the Flattes family and the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. We honor his courage, his kindness, his dedication, and his memory. May we never forget the price that heroes like Officer Flattes pay so that we may live in safety and peace.

May God bless the Flattes family and may God bless all those who wear the badge in service to our communities.

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#### HONORING TALÍA GLASS

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#### HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the years of dedicated public service of Talía Glass, a Senior Community Representative in my District Office. Ms. Glass has selflessly served Minnesota's 5th District for over six years—since my first day in Congress. She has proven herself to be an incredibly thoughtful, organized, and reliable public servant, and the people of the 5th District are better off because of her service.

Talía is a born and raised Minneapolis resident and her dedication to this city and the entire 5th District is exemplified in everything she does. Over the last six years, Talía has helped countless constituents through federal casework assistance. She made sure small businesses were awarded the funding needed to stay open, fought for families' long-awaited tax returns, and ensured that individuals received their vital health insurance benefits. She organized major events to bring hundreds of constituents, advocates, and public officials together to tackle some of our community's biggest problems—the opioid crisis, Black maternal health, hospital stability, and so much more.

Along with her stellar casework record, Talía led my office's work on Community Project Funding. In just three years, Talía successfully managed our effort to bring home over fifty-four million dollars to the 5th District. She has a history of success, with every single project within her first three years being approved for funding. Her attention to detail, her reliability, and her dedication to quality work has served her well in her commitment to improving the lives of Minnesotans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Talía for her years of remarkable public service during her time with the U.S. House of Representatives. It would be impossible for us to do this work without hardworking, compassionate staff supporting us. It has been a privilege to work with Talía and witness her accomplishments over the last six years, and I wish her the best in this new chapter of her career.

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#### HONORING DEBORAH PORTER ON HER 68TH BIRTHDAY

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#### HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the impactful life and multifaceted contributions of Deborah J. Porter, a distinguished media professional, passionate stylist, and dedicated community advocate. As she marks her birthday on July 21, 1957, we take this moment to honor her remarkable journey and enduring legacy.

Born in Port Gibson, Mississippi, and reared in Chicago from a very young age, Deborah J. Porter was shaped by the values of dedication and perseverance, instilled by her hardworking mother, a domestic worker, and her father, employed at a steel mill.

A proud alumna of Columbia College Chicago, Deborah earned her Bachelor of Arts in Television in 1980. During her senior year, impactful internships at WBMX and WLS proved instrumental in launching her illustrious career. Her commitment to community empowerment began at just eleven years old when she joined the choir of Operation Breadbasket, remaining actively involved through its successor, Rainbow PUSH. This organization profoundly shaped her character, discipline, and ambition, fueling her remarkable success.

Immediately after college, Deborah embarked on a decade-long career at V103FM (formerly WBMX-FM), evolving through various roles from receptionist to producer of "Sunday Morning Live," and later contributing to traffic, music research, and sales. Her talent then led her to Black Entertainment Television (BET), where she enjoyed a sixteen-year tenure, starting as the first Sales Service Planner and advancing to management for both the Midwest and West Coast offices. Her outstanding contributions earned her numerous awards.

Following her time at BET, Deborah freelanced at Burrell Communications before pursuing her passion for fashion. At Macy's flagship store on State Street in Chicago, her genuine care for people and standout personality made her the No. 1 Salesperson in the Midwest region. Today, Deborah continues to live with purpose, working part-time as an Ambassador at GCJ Hospitality and pursuing her love for styling, connecting with people and elevating their confidence through fashion.

Deborah remains deeply connected to civic and cultural life, maintaining affiliations with Rainbow PUSH, The Power of Women, the Black Women's Expo (BWe) Advisory Board, and the BET Alumni Reunion Committee. Of all her accomplishments, she is most proud of her role as a loving mother to her two beloved sons, Herman Porter III and Harrison Jeffrey Porter, and cherishes her partnership with her fiancé, Jerome "JJ" Jones.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and ongoing accomplishments of Deborah J. Porter, a resilient professional, a community pillar, and an inspiring individual whose legacy of excellence, community engagement, and timeless style continues to enrich our Nation.

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#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF MONTVERDE, FLORIDA

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#### HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Town of Montverde, Florida. Officially incorporated on May 18, 1925, Montverde is located on the western shore of Lake Apopka in Lake County, Florida. Montverde derives its name from the Spanish "Monte Verde," meaning "green mountain," a tribute to the area's rolling hills and natural beauty.

From 1887 to 1969, Montverde was served by the Tavares and Gulf Railroad, which transported agricultural goods such as grapes, citrus, and vegetables. Over the years, the town supported a variety of industries, including a cement plant, a moss processing facility, and notably, the original manufacturing site of the Snapper Mower—originally called the "Snappin' Turtle." Developed by local innovators Alex and Neal Smith, the Snapper went on to become a globally recognized brand.

Today, Montverde is home to approximately 2,200 residents and remains a vibrant small town with a strong sense of community and rural charm. It is a proud part of the Green Mountain Scenic Byway, celebrated for its historical significance and scenic landscapes that draw cyclists, outdoor enthusiasts, and visitors from near and far. A central pillar of the town is Montverde Academy, founded in 1912. This world-renowned college preparatory institution reflects the town's commitment to excellence in education.

As Montverde celebrates its centennial milestone, we honor its rich past, celebrate its present, and look forward to a bright and enduring future. Again, it is my privilege to recognize the Town of Montverde on the occasion of its centennial anniversary.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CHAD KAMPBELL

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#### HON. GEORGE WHITESIDES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WHITESIDES. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend, Chad Campbell. Chad wasn't just a devoted father, a husband, and an admired community leader—he was a cornerstone of the Santa Clarita Valley.

He and his wife Michelle, who have been close friends for several years, were deeply involved in our community.

Chad was a former president of the Democratic Alliance for Action of Santa Clarita Valley, an active member of the Santa Clarita Valley Democrats, and someone whose commitment to service ran deep.

One of his friends described him perfectly: "He was someone who truly grounded those around him. The kind of person who would help you cut through the noise, find your center, and remember why you do the work in the

first place.” That was Chad. A source of wisdom and calm, always there when you needed him.

He lived in Stevenson Ranch with his wife Michelle and their daughter Brigette. And while no words can ease the pain of this loss, I hope his family knows just how deeply loved and appreciated Chad was by all of us.

Chad was the kind of guy who would get there early to help set up an event, and then he would be breaking down the tables and chairs afterwards.

He was a talented designer and photographer. He knew how to communicate, and he used that skill for the benefit of businesses and causes close to his heart.

Chad was known for his booming voice. For many new activists getting involved, their introduction to civic engagement was seeing Chad kick-off a meeting or rally before taking the time to greet them and every person there, always with a big smile and an infectious laugh. He embodied the truth, that the greatest title of responsibility in any democracy is that of citizen.

Chad was a rock of principle. He was committed to making his community, his state and his country better. And month after month, year after year, he did the work. He and Michelle profoundly changed the Santa Clarita Valley for the better, and his impact will never be forgotten.

Chad gave so much of himself to this community because he believed in people and in the power of showing up. His absence leaves a real void, but his spirit lives on in the work he championed and the friendships he built. May we honor him not just in words, but in how we carry ourselves—with compassion, humility, and a commitment to something greater than ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close by thanking my summer interns. You cannot help but be inspired by our future, if you spend some time with the many great interns who work on Capitol Hill.

They work hard, they do important work interacting with constituents, and their passion and inspiration must be recognized.

I’m grateful to our team and I wish them the very best for their futures.

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HONORING KENNETH PAUL  
KIRALY

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HON. SAM T. LICCARDO  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with my colleague KEVIN MULLIN, to recognize and honor Kenneth Paul Kiraly, a distinguished innovator, for his dedication to advancing technology and making it accessible for everyone. Living all across the San Francisco Bay Area, Ken developed a love for designing and building electronics, accumulating a multitude of electronic projects throughout his life. After graduating high school in Walnut Creek, he went on to attend California State University, Pomona, before returning to the Bay Area to complete his degree in Computer Science at California State University, East Bay.

As the internet was only beginning to enter our lives, Ken helped pioneer development

tools for the Java programming language, ultimately launching the first full-featured integrated development environments (IDEs) for Java. Ken joined Palm as a senior software architect, leading the development and delivery of technologies across a variety of handheld devices. In 2005, Ken became one of Amazon’s primary leaders in its new consumer device division. His leadership in the division enabled the seamless experience of the Kindle—launched in 2007—transforming the small device into a portable library for readers. Ken was particularly focused and proud of one aspect of the Kindle: its intuitive system. He cared deeply about making it accessible for people who simply loved to read, as well as individuals with disabilities. Upon its launch, the Kindle made it possible to enlarge the print of books with a single button, allowing individuals to rediscover the joy of reading without having to physically hold a book. He continued his work at Amazon, most recently developing Amazon’s first consumer robot, Astro—a project blending AI with cutting-edge hardware.

Throughout his accomplished 40-year career, Ken has embodied the qualities of an innovator, a bold risk-taker, and a dedicated problem solver. As one of the early Distinguished Engineers in Amazon, he not only led engineering and product teams, but also mentored and helped grow a multitude of engineers and leaders in the company. Furthermore, he is named inventor on 44 U.S. patents, across a variety of products. All while developing groundbreaking technology, Ken helped raise two sons—Paul and James—with his wife, Virginia. As Ken concludes a distinguished career, he looks forward to spending more time with his family and enjoying the next chapter of his life.

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RIP ED FEULNER

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HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, supporters of freedom universally appreciate the success of the late Ed Feulner. The Unleash Prosperity Hotline of Stephen Moore gives a heartfelt tribute of RIP Ed Feulner:

“Ed Feulner was a free-market conservative and fierce anti-communist back in the 1970s, long before it was cool. He invented the modern-day think tank, taking it from the days of stodgy 200-page tomes that lay gathering dust on bookshelves and read by few, to providing just-in-time, influential, hard-hitting studies delivered into the hands of the policymakers that mattered.

“Among his many contributions to advancing freedom and free enterprise was to train hundreds of today’s leading voices in the conservative movement—including some of the thinkers and activists at Unleash Prosperity. Heritage taught young talent how to be relevant and impactful—something our billion-dollar universities don’t do.

“He believed that “people are policy” and that’s a lesson that this so-far successful Trump administration has taken to heart. His legacy lives on.”

RECOGNIZING THE NAVY CLUB OF GEORGETOWN, SC

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HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Navy Club of Georgetown, South Carolina, as it celebrates an extraordinary milestone, its 100th anniversary. Since 1925, this group has united veterans of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. From the shores of South Carolina to all around the world, they’ve served our Nation with honor.

For generations, the Navy Club has remained deeply embedded in the life of the Georgetown community—supporting Navy Junior Reserve Officers, honoring naval heritage, and fostering a spirit of unity among veterans and civilians alike.

What began in 1925, as a gathering of like-minded servicemembers, has grown into a lasting institution, one that continues to support generations of veterans through friendship, mentorship, and tradition. The Club’s annual shrimp dinners have become a beloved local occasion, bringing people together to share stories, remember the past, and strengthen community ties.

The Navy Club’s mission is clear: to honor the proud legacy of naval service in South Carolina. Through veteran outreach, youth engagement, and the preservation of time-honored customs, it safeguards our maritime traditions for the future.

As we mark this centennial, we are reminded of the enduring values that define our armed forces: honor, courage, and commitment. The Navy Club’s story is one of lasting impact, civic pride, and a devotion to service that transcends generations.

Over the decades, it has built a strong foundation of fellowship and support, uplifting those who served, commemorating those we’ve lost, and building bridges within Georgetown. Its events have become more than social gatherings—they are touchpoints of history, community, and service.

Their passion for service, fellowship, and patriotism continues to inspire the next generation. On behalf of the people of South Carolina’s Seventh District, I thank them and congratulate them on 100 years.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to my flight being diverted because of severe weather, I was unable to vote on July 14, 2025.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call 191; YEA on Roll Call 192; and YEA on Roll Call 193.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS.  
CHRISTA SULLIVAN

**HON. KEVIN MULLIN**  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2025*

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise to pay tribute to a great woman and dear friend and neighbor, Mrs. Christa Sullivan of South San Francisco, California. Christa passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 2, 2025 and her funeral mass will be held for family and friends on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 1:00 pm at Saint Agnes Church in San Francisco, California.

A native daughter of Germany, Christa immigrated to the United States as a girl. She worked at St. Mary's Hospital, where she met and married the love of her life, the late Detective Patrick Sullivan. Christa was a beloved mother and is survived by her children Stephanie, Kevin (along with his wife Orla), and Christian (along with his wife Karen), and her grandchildren Mick, Leah, Casey, Caeli, and Patrick. She was a lover of animals, and a longtime volunteer at St. Veronica's Parish, Mercy High School and Serra High School. She was a steadfast supporter of the men and women of the South San Francisco Police Department and the founder and lifelong advocate for their association.

Christa will be remembered for her warmth, quiet strength, and unwavering faith. She lived a life rooted in service to her community and family, for which we will be forever grateful. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the residents of California's Fifteenth Congressional District in rising to recognize a life well lived, and to extend our deepest sympathies to Christa's family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES MARINE SERGEANT MAJOR TIMOTHY BABCOCK AS AUGUST 2025 VETERAN OF THE MONTH

**HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN**  
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2025*

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound respect and gratitude to recognize the extraordinary service and unwavering dedication of Sergeant Major Timothy Babcock, a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps and our distinguished Veteran of the Month for August 2025 from Michigan's 9th Congressional District. His exceptional military career and steadfast commitment to duty, excellence, and patriotism embody the very best of American service.

Timothy Babcock answered the call to serve his country after his high school graduation, when he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He reported to Marine Combat Training at the School of Infantry in Camp Pendleton, California in 1996. After completing training at Camp Pendleton, Timothy attended Personnel Administration School at Camp Johnson, North Carolina where he earned the Military

Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 0151 Administrative Clerk.

Following his training, Timothy was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, where he served as an Administrative Clerk. During his time with the unit, he completed two Western Pacific deployments. His dedication and preparedness during this period were a reflection of his deep commitment to duty and honor.

In 2003, Timothy reported to the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), where he served in multiple roles including Administrative Clerk, Assistant Administrative Chief, and Information Management Representative. These assignments highlight not only his strong work ethic but also his unwavering dedication to supporting the mission and security of our Nation.

Later in 2003, he attended the U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he completed the rigorous training required to earn his Airborne qualification. In 2005, he reported to the Marine Aviation Detachment at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California. There, he served as the Administrative Chief, overseeing administrative operations for both China Lake and Point Mugu.

Timothy continued his distinguished career as the Administrative Chief for Marine Special Operations within U.S. Marine Forces, Special Operations Command (MARSOC), deploying to Afghanistan from 2010 to 2011. He later served as the Administrative Chief for both the Marine Special Operations Regiment and Marine Aircraft Group 29.

In 2013, Timothy reported to 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, where he deployed to Okinawa, Japan, and participated in Exercise Forest Light and the Korean Marine Exchange Program—strengthening joint capabilities and international cooperation.

Following this assignment, Timothy transitioned to Tampa, Florida, where he served as the First Sergeant for Headquarters Company, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Central Command. In this leadership role, he continued to exemplify professionalism, mentorship, and unwavering dedication to the mission and his Marines.

In recent years, Timothy served as First Sergeant of Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Tank Battalion, and later as Sergeant Major of Marine Air Support Squadron 1. Since 2022, he has served as Inspector-Instructor Sergeant Major for 1st Battalion, 24th Marines, continuing his tradition of exemplary leadership and dedication.

His distinguished service earned him numerous personal decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon, among other service and campaign awards. He is also authorized to wear the Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia.

After 30 years of faithful and honorable service, Timothy retired from the United States Marine Corps. His experience, professionalism, and devotion to country have left a lasting impact on the lives of countless Americans. His legacy is one of sacrifice, integrity, and duty, and we offer our deepest gratitude for his outstanding service to the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, let us express our sincerest appreciation to Timothy Babcock and for his

outstanding military service and congratulate him on his retirement. His excellent acts of valor have protected our country and our freedoms in this great Nation. His story is a testament to the American spirit of service, sacrifice, and resolve, and it is an honor to recognize him as our Veteran of the Month.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF WINDERMERE, FLORIDA

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2025*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial of the Town of Windermere, Florida.

Originally established as a residential development in 1889 and formally chartered in 1925, Windermere's history is both rich and unique. Its first post office opened in 1888, briefly closed in 1901, and reopened in 1911, signaling the resilience of a growing town. The Florida Midland Railroad once ran just west of Main Street, where a bustling station once stood. Today, a grassy expanse marks that historic path, serving as a quiet tribute to Windermere's early days.

Nestled on a scenic isthmus between Lake Butler, Lake Down, and Lake Bessie, Windermere is a tranquil gem "Among the Lakes" in the heart of Central Florida. With just over 3,000 residents within its two-square-mile boundary, it has maintained a distinct small-town charm defined by tree-lined street, historic architecture, and a vibrant, close-knit community. Just minutes from world-class attractions like Walt Disney World and downtown Orlando, Windermere remains a quiet sanctuary rooted in history and guided by a shared commitment to quality of life.

The town owes much to the visionaries who helped incorporate it 100 years ago, including Cal Palmer, J. Howard Johnson, Howard Lyon, and Stanley Scott. Their legacy lives on in Windermere's thoughtful planning and strong community values.

Over the past century, Windermere has grown while steadfastly preserving its natural beauty and heritage. Today, it offers an exceptional blend of peaceful living and refined elegance. Beloved local traditions, such as the weekly Friday Farmers Market and popular Food Truck Nights, bring neighbors together and highlight the town's enduring community spirit.

As part of its centennial celebration, the town has unveiled a special Centennial Lobby in the Town Administration Building, where residents and visitors alike can reflect on the milestones that have shaped Windermere over the past 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the Town of Windermere on this historic occasion and to recognize its significant contributions to the fabric of Central Florida. Here's to the next 100 years of community, character, and continued excellence.

HONORING SASHA DALTONN ON  
HER 75TH BIRTHDAYHON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON  
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and profound contributions of Sasha Daltonn, a distinguished founder, producer, and tireless advocate for arts and history. As she marks her birthday on June 25, 1950, we take this moment to honor her remarkable journey and enduring legacy.

Born in Chicago, Sasha Daltonn was raised in a household that instilled the values of hard work and community. Her mother, Christine, contributed through her work in sales, while her father, Edgar, served as a proud Pullman porter. These foundations undoubtedly shaped Sasha's commitment to excellence and service.

Sasha Daltonn's career is marked by her significant roles as both a founder and a producer, leaving an indelible mark on various cultural landscapes. Her dedication to the arts is evident through her long-standing affiliations, including a decade with Gospel Music According to Chicago (GMACC), two years with Jazz n' You, nine years with the Harold Washington Legacy Committee, and eight years with the South Side Jazz Coalition. She is also a proud member of Rainbow PUSH, demonstrating her commitment to broader social justice initiatives. Currently, Sasha brings her passion and expertise to the airwaves as the host of Sasha Daltonn Gospel on Omni Radio, and leads her own enterprise as President of Sasha Daltonn Entertainment.

Her profound contributions have garnered well-deserved recognition from numerous esteemed bodies, including honors from the Advinity Awards, the AARC Awards, the Harlem Theater Association, and the Fred Hammond Awards, among others. These accolades underscore her significant impact and the high esteem in which she is held by her peers.

Sasha Daltonn is guided by her faith and an unrelenting commitment to instill pride in our youth through the transformative power of the arts. She is a fervent champion for preserving Black history and honoring the historians and history-makers who have shaped our past and continue to inspire our future. Her life's work is a testament to celebrating and honoring those who paved the way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the exceptional life and ongoing accomplishments of Sasha Daltonn, a true cultural pioneer, an inspiring producer, and a dedicated historian whose immense contributions continue to enrich our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 22ND ANNUAL  
DISABILITY PRIDE PARADEHON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY  
OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 22nd Annual Disability Pride Parade taking place in Chicago's Loop

on Saturday, July 26. The parade takes place 35 years to the day that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, and the theme of the parade is 35 years of ADA: Still Rising, Still Thriving.

The mission of the Disability Pride Parade is to change the way people think about and define "disability," to break down and end the internalized shame among people with disabilities, and to promote the belief in society that disability is a natural and beautiful part of human diversity in which people living with disabilities can take pride.

In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law. This bipartisan effort made a commitment that our history of segregating and isolating persons with disabilities would end. In the law's own words, the purpose of the ADA is to "provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities."

By setting enforceable standards, providing assistance for compliance, and asserting the federal government's central role in ending discrimination, this landmark civil rights law has provided hope and opportunity for all Americans—those today living with a disability and those of us who could become disabled tomorrow. Because of the ADA, individuals with disabilities have the legal right to fully participate in our society—the right to transportation, health services, shopping, entertainment, education, employment, public accommodations, and voting.

Those who fought so hard to win its passage—including my friend and mentor Marca Bristo, the founder and head of Access Living—deserve to celebrate its enactment and deserve our thanks. But as we celebrate today, we have to get to work tomorrow. We need to build on the ADA's promise—whether it is passing my bill, the Eleanor Smith Inclusive Home Design Act, to make sure that all new residential housing built with federal dollars is accessible or increasing the employment of adults with disabilities.

This year, we have seen a number of legislative attempts to take away rights from disabled individuals. The Big Ugly Bill, which Republicans passed through Congress, is going to strip health care away from nearly 17 million individuals, including many with disabilities. I stood on the frontlines with disability advocates who have truly been the tip of the spear in the fight to protect all Americans' health care. While we did not win this battle, the fight is not over. The power of the people is always greater than that of the people in power.

As long as discrimination still exists and as long as there are those who seek to undermine existing law, the purpose of the ADA will not have been completely met. It is our job to make sure that happens.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH H. "JOE"  
CAMPBELLHON. VINCE FONG  
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Joseph H. "Joe" Campbell, a respected farmer and pioneer in

California's table grape industry, who passed away on July 10, 2025, at the age of 81.

Joe Campbell was part of a generation that helped shape the modern agricultural landscape of the Central Valley. After graduating from Delano High School in 1960 and serving in the U.S. Army, Joe began farming in 1969. He first grew cotton and wheat, then later moved into almonds and, ultimately, table grapes. In 1986, he leased his first vineyard, setting the course for what would become a transformative career in California agriculture.

Through his leadership roles at Delano Farms and Four Star Fruit, Joe helped grow the combined operation into one of the largest table grape producers in the state. His business decisions often required risk, but they were grounded in instinct, common sense, and a deep familiarity with the communities in which he operated. He played a defining role in shaping California's table grape industry—a legacy that endures.

While Joe's work ethic and vision helped drive the success of a major agricultural enterprise, he remained grounded in his roots and true to the values that shaped him. He was known for his humility, consistency, and dedication to his family above all else. He shared a long and loving marriage with his wife, Jana, and raised three sons who continue his legacy in agriculture.

Joe Campbell's story is a reminder of the strength and promise of California's farming families. His contributions helped define an industry, and his example will continue to influence the generations that follow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Joseph H. Campbell. He was a farmer, a businessman, and a man whose life's work and pursuit of the American dream left a lasting mark on the Central Valley and California agriculture.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF CLARA GIPSON-MCKNIGHTHON. JAMES E. CLYBURN  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable woman, Clara Gipson-McKnight, on the occasion of her 95th birthday on February 3, 2025. Mrs. McKnight's courage, resilience, and lifelong commitment to education and justice have left a lasting impact on her community and beyond. Her story is not only one of personal triumph, but also one of heroism in the face of injustice.

Mrs. Gipson-McKnight was born on February 3, 1930, in Summerton, South Carolina, to Annette and Johnnie Gipson. After losing her mother at a young age, she was raised by her father and stepmother alongside her siblings. A member of Spring Hill A.M.E. Church, Mrs. Gipson-McKnight was deeply shaped by her faith and her community. As a child, she attended a small three-room school attached to the church before advancing to Scott's Branch High School. With no transportation available, she lived with Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine—a civil rights leader—and bartered her farming skills in exchange for room and board.

Mrs. Gipson-McKnight and her family were active participants in the fight for civil rights

and educational equity. Her parents were signatories on one of the petitions demanding equal facilities for Black students—part of the legal groundwork that lead to the *Briggs v. Elliott* case and, later, *Brown v. Board of Education*. As a result of their activism, the Gipson and DeLaine families endured brutal retaliation, including harassment by the Ku Klux Klan. Mrs. Gipson-McKnight was living with the DeLaine family when their home was set on fire by the KKK—an attack she miraculously survived. Undeterred, she continued her studies, walking miles along rural roads to reach a school bus stop after the community pooled its resources to restore a broken-down vehicle for student use.

Following her graduation, Mrs. Gipson-McKnight attended Allen University in Columbia, where she became the first in her immediate family to earn a college degree. She returned to Summerton to teach and serve as a school principal, but like many Black educators after *Brown v. Board*, she was unjustly dismissed due to white resistance to integration and the purging of civil rights activists. Mrs. Gipson-McKnight then moved to New York City, where she worked for nearly three decades in the city's Social Services agency.

Mrs. Gipson-McKnight married Harold McKnight in 1963, and they shared 53 loving years of marriage before his passing in 2019. In retirement, she has remained active as a family historian, storyteller, and traveler.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the 95th birthday of Mrs. Clara Gipson-McKnight. She is a living witness to some of the most consequential moments of the 20th century—and through it all, she has remained a steadfast believer in education, justice, and the power of community. May her legacy continue to inspire future generations for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF STEPHANIE PAPAGIANNIS

**HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American who has resided for over 70 years in Indiana's 3rd District, Mrs. Stephanie Papagiannis, as she celebrates her 100th birthday on July 25, 2025, a century marked by perseverance, family, faith, and an enduring love for this country.

Born in 1925 in the village of Vishini now known as Vissinia, Stephanie grew up amid the political and cultural upheaval of Greek-occupied Macedonia. She witnessed firsthand the efforts to erase the language and customs of the native Macedonian people, yet she never lost her sense of identity or resilience.

In 1952, with incredible courage and hope, Stephanie left behind a war-torn Europe and emigrated to the United States with her young son, James, to reunite with her husband Peter in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Together, they built a new life grounded in hard work, community, and opportunity. The couple raised three children, and today, their family has grown including five grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Stephanie and Peter contributed meaningfully to the local community, opening two high-

ly regarded establishments; the Pontiac Rib Bar and Pete's Gateview Inn. Their restaurants were not just businesses they were gathering places that embodied their warmth and entrepreneurial spirit.

A proud member of Fort Wayne's Macedonian American community, Stephanie maintained strong ties to her heritage and faith through St. Nicholas Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral, founded by her relatives. Her life has served as a bridge between generations and is inspiring to all.

Mr. Speaker, as Mrs. Papagiannis celebrates her centennial surrounded by loved ones, we pay tribute to a remarkable woman whose story represents the very best of the American immigrant experience who lived the American dream. May her legacy continue to inspire, and may her next chapter be filled with joy and peace.

HONORING ED FEULNER

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Ed Feulner, he has been appropriately eulogized for his steadfast promotion of modern conservatism. As a Reaganaut serving in the Department of Energy, 1981 to 1982, with Secretary Jim Edwards, I know firsthand "The Mandate" was instrumental in promoting free markets. The following is from the National Review on July 20th editorialized:

"In 1973 Ed Feulner and his friend Paul Weyrich co-founded the Heritage Foundation, the think tank that nurtured and spread many of the policies that informed the Reagan Administration. Its "Mandate for Leadership" policy compendium in 1980 became a guide for the Reaganauts out to change Washington.

"Under Feulner, the think tank also became known for short, fast policy summaries delivered to Members of Congress and staff in anticipation of votes. Turnover on Capitol Hill is rapid, and Heritage's missives were influential guides to policies developed on the right over many years.

"Like many Reagan-era conservatives, Feulner believed in a coalition built on the three-legged stool of free markets and a smaller government, strong national defense, and traditional views on social policy. He welcomed all factions of what was once called the "conservative movement," from libertarians to Russell Kirk traditionalists to neocons.

"For many years, the Journal worked with Heritage on the annual Index of Economic Freedom. The volume ranked countries around the world on various measures of economic liberty. Feulner was notable for believing in a strong U.S. presence in the world, and he was especially close to leaders in Taiwan and South Korea. As recently as the mid-2000s we can recall a delegation of Heritage scholars making the case to us that U.S. defense spending should be 5% of gross domestic product. Today it's closer to 3%, and heading lower under President Trump.

"Born outside Chicago in a German-American Catholic family, Feulner attended Regis College in Denver where he discovered conservative ideas. Barry Goldwater was an early political influence. "You have to choose between liberty and equality," Feulner told John Miller of National Review.

"I picked liberty." Each year he published an essay by thinkers who defined conservative principles.

"Feulner was Heritage president for 37 years and remained a trustee in retirement. The think tank has taken a sharp turn toward Trumpian populism in recent years. It opposes free trade and leans toward an isolationist foreign policy. It focuses less on ideas and more on supporting whatever President Trump does. Feulner wasn't always happy with Heritage's new direction, but he kept his misgivings private out of loyalty to the institution.

"As the years advance, it's clear that the late 1970s through the 1980s and 1990s was a unique period of conservative intellectual ambition. Ed Feulner's motto was "onward, always," reflecting his optimism about the durability of America's founding ideals. The young Republicans in Washington may not know it, but they are spending down the intellectual capital stockpiled by Ed Feulner and his generation."

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida. Known fondly as "The Friendly City", Fruitland Park is a historic and thriving community in Lake County, Florida.

On December 14, 1925, residents of the area gathered at the Casino building in Fruitland Park for the purpose of organizing a municipal government. With a shared vision for the future, the citizens voted to incorporate their town and officially adopted the name Fruitland Park. Less than two years later, in May of 1927, the city was formally chartered.

In 1925, Fruitland Park was home to just 417 residents, spread across a modest 3-square-mile area. As of May 2025, the city has grown to serve a population of roughly 9,015 across more than 7 square miles.

Today, Fruitland Park provides a full range of municipal services, including public safety through police and fire departments, essential infrastructure support via a robust public works department, access to clean water and sanitation utilities, and vibrant recreational and library services. These offerings reflect the city's deep commitment to enhancing quality of life for its residents.

Fruitland Park's natural beauty, small-town charm, and strong civic infrastructure make it a desirable location for retirees and families alike. Its development in recent years has been extraordinary, and its future continues to look bright with anticipated progress over the coming decade.

It is my privilege to honor and celebrate the City of Fruitland Park on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. May the next 100 years be as vibrant and prosperous as the first.

HONORING ATHENS WEED ON HIS  
73RD BIRTHDAY

**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2025*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and profound contributions of Athens Weed, a distinguished veteran, dedicated professional, and tireless community activist. As he marks his birthday on July 24, 1952, we take this moment to honor his remarkable journey and enduring legacy.

Born in Chicago, Athens Weed emerged from working class family roots, shaped by the strong values instilled by his parents, including his stepfather, Taylor Pouncey, who notably served as an Illinois House Representative.

These early influences laid the foundation for a life dedicated to service and achievement.

Athens pursued higher education, attending both the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and Purdue University Calumet, before earning an Associate of Science degree from Olive Harvey College. His commitment to excellence and duty led him to serve our Nation with honor in the United States Navy, a pivotal experience in his life. A particularly proud moment in his distinguished military career was receiving his Dolphins Medal, qualifying him for Submarine Certification—a testament to his exceptional skill and dedication.

Following his commendable military service, Athens continued to contribute significantly to his community and Nation. He became a valued member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 134, showcasing his expertise and commitment to his craft. For many years, he also served the public through his employment with the Chicago

Transit Authority, ensuring essential services for countless citizens. Throughout his professional endeavors, Athens Weed consistently demonstrates his core values; always working to his strengths, ensuring the job gets done with precision, treating everyone with respect, and extending a helping hand to those who need it most.

Beyond his professional achievements, Athens Weed is a deeply engaged civic leader. He is a dedicated activist with Operation Breadbasket and Operation Rainbow PUSH, embodying the spirit of advocacy and community upliftment. His long-standing years of choir service further highlight his commitment to communal harmony and spiritual well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the exceptional life and ongoing accomplishments of Athens Weed, a true American patriot, a compassionate leader, and an inspiring individual whose dedication continues to enrich our Nation.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### *Chamber Action*

#### *Routine Proceedings, pages S4515–S4575*

**Measures Introduced:** Eighteen bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2369–2386, S.J. Res. 63–67, and S. Res. 331–332. [Page S4528](#)

#### **Measures Reported:**

S. 769, to amend the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act to clarify the definition of foreign country for purposes of malign foreign talent recruitment restriction. (S. Rept. No. 119–45) [Page S4527](#)

#### **Measures Passed:**

*National Day of the American Cowboy:* Senate agreed to S. Res. 332, designating July 26, 2025, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”. [Page S4573](#)

*Maintaining American Superiority by Improving Export Control Transparency Act:* Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1316, to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to licensing transparency, and the bill was then passed. [Page S4573](#)

#### **Measures Considered:**

**Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3944, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. [Pages S4515–18](#)

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 91 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 423), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. [Page S4520](#)

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, July 23, 2025; that the post-cloture time expire at 2 p.m.

and Senate vote on the motion to proceed; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the motions to invoke cloture filed on Monday, July 21, 2025, ripen following the vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill; and that at 11 a.m., Senate execute the order of Thursday, July 17, 2025, with respect to the nominations of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, and John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes, in the order listed. [Page S4574](#)

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senator Welch be permitted to change his vote from nay to yea on Roll Call Vote No. 423 since it will not affect the outcome. [Page S4520](#)

**Bove III Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Emil J. Bove III, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. [Page S4520](#)

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Richard Topping, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs. [Page S4520](#)

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 422), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. [Page S4520](#)

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 419), Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement. [Pages S4518–19, H4575](#)

By 51 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 420), Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri. [Pages S4519, H4575](#)

By 50 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 421), Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. [Pages S4519, H4575](#)

By 51 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 424), Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. **Pages S4521, H4575**

By 61 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. EX. 425), Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

**Pages S4521, H4575**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S4527**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S4527**

**Executive Communications:**

**Page S4527**

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

**Page S4527**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S4528–29**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S4529–33**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S4526–27**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S4533–73**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S4573**

**Record Votes:** Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—425) **Pages S4518–21**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 23, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4574.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATIONS

**Committee on Armed Services:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Vice Admiral Frank M. Bradley, USN, to be admiral and Commander, United States Special Operation Command, and Lieutenant General Dagvin R.M. Anderson, USAF, to be general and Commander, United States Africa Command, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### TRUCKING AND COMMERCIAL BUS INDUSTRIES

**Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:** Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety concluded a hearing to examine issues impacting the trucking and commercial bus industries, after receiving testimony from Chris Spear, American Trucking Associations, Fred C. Ferguson, American Bus Association, and Sean M. O'Brien, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, all of Washington, D.C.; and Lewie Pugh, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Grain Valley, Missouri.

### BUSINESS MEETING

**Committee on Finance:** Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Joseph Barloon, of Maryland, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador, and Brian Morrissey, Jr., of Virginia, to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

### NOMINATIONS

**Committee on Finance:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, and Alex Adams, of Idaho, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### NOMINATIONS

**Committee on Foreign Relations:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jason Evans, of Texas, to be an Under Secretary (Management), Thomas Rose, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Poland, who was introduced by Senator Hagerty, William White, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium, who was introduced by Senator Blackburn, and Peter Lamelas, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, who was introduced by Senator Scott (FL), all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### HONG KONG

**Committee on Foreign Relations:** Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues concluded a hearing to examine the status of democracy and human rights in Hong Kong, focusing on five years after the PRC's judicial takeover, after receiving testimony from Olivia Enos, Hudson Institute, Joey Siu, Amnesty International Hong Kong Overseas, and Sophie Richardson, Chinese Human Rights Defenders, all of Washington, D.C.; and Caolífhionn Gallagher, University College Dublin, London, United Kingdom.

### SECURING THE SKIES

**Committee on the Judiciary:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine securing the skies, focusing on law enforcement, drones, and public safety, after receiving testimony from Christopher Hardee, Chief, Office of Law and Policy, National Security Division, and Micheal Torphy, Unit Chief, Critical Incident

Response Group (CIRG), Federal Bureau of Investigation, both of the Department of Justice; and Steven Willoughby, Director (A) of the Counter Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program Management Office, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security.

#### CRIMINAL ALIENS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration concluded hearings to examine criminal aliens in America, after receiving testimony from Sheriff Roy Boyd Goliad County, Texas; Andrew R. Arthur, Center for Immigration

Studies, and Deborah T. Fleischaker, Blackbird Ventures, LLC, both of Washington, D.C.; Alejandro Barranco, Orange, California; Victor Avila, Southlake, Texas; Giovanni Veliz, Maple Grove, Minnesota; Tammy Nobles, Norfolk, Virginia; and Marie Vega, La Feria, Texas.

#### INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 43 public bills, H.R. 4581–4623; and 2 resolutions, H.J. Res. 108; and H. Res. 600, were introduced.

Pages H3551–53

**Additional Cosponsors:**

Pages H3554–55

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 4275, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard, to establish the Secretary of the Coast Guard, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 119–214). Page H3551

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fine to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H3531

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:13 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. Page H3538

**Committee Election:** The House agreed to H. Res. 600, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. Page H3539

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:19 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. Page H3541

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

**Wabeno Economic Development Act:** H.R. 3937, amended, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 410 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 215; and Pages H3541–43, H3544–45

**Great Lakes Mass Marking Program Act of 2025:** H.R. 1917, amended, to establish the Great Lakes Mass Marking Program, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 360 yeas to 57 nays, Roll No. 216. Pages H3543–44, H3545

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3544–45 and 3545.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

### *Committee Meetings*

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4550, the “United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2025”. H.R. 4550 was ordered reported, without amendment.

#### PAST BREAKTHROUGHS AND FUTURE INNOVATIONS IN CROP PRODUCTION

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Past Breakthroughs and Future Innovations in Crop Production”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Full Committee held a markup on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies FY 2025 Appropriations Bill. The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies FY 2025 Appropriations Bill was ordered reported, as amended.

#### RESTORING TRUST: ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT AT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled “Restoring Trust: Enhancing Transparency and Oversight at EBSA”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## ENSURING PATIENT SAFETY: OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANT SYSTEM

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Ensuring Patient Safety: Oversight of the U.S. Organ Procurement and Transplant System”. Testimony was heard from Raymond Lynch, Chief, Organ Transplant Branch, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

## STRENGTHENING AMERICAN ENERGY: A REVIEW OF PIPELINE SAFETY POLICY

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Strengthening American Energy: A Review of Pipeline Safety Policy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 3074, the “Common Cents Act”; H.R. 3190, the “BRAVE Burma Act”; H.R. 3390, the “Bringing the Discount Window into the 21st Century Act”; H.R. 3446, the “FDIC Board Accountability Act”; H.R. 3673, the “Small Business Investor Capital Access Act”; H.R. 4346, the “Preventing the Escalation of Armed Conflict in Europe Act of 2025”; H.R. 4423, the “No New Burma Funds Act”; H.R. 4427, the “Syria Sanctions Accountability Act”; H.R. 4429, the “Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act”; H.R. 4430, the “Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act”; H.R. 4431, the “Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act”; H.R. 4437, the “Supervisory Modifications for Appropriate Risk-Based Testing Act of 2025”; H.R. 4449, the “Advocating for Small Business Act”; H.R. 4460, the “Stop Agency Fiat Enforcement of Guidance Act”; H.R. 4478, the “Tailored Regulatory Updates for Supervisory Testing Act of 2025”; H.R. 4544, the “American Access to Banking Act”; and Resolution Reestablishing the Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity of the Committee on Financial Services.

## MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2505, to require the development of strategies and options to prevent the export to Iran of certain technologies related to unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; H.R. 4233, to modify provisions relating to defense trade and cooperation among Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States; H.R. 4215, to require the Secretary of State to promulgate expedited and fixed timelines for the decision-making process to license

the export of certain defense articles and defense services, and for other purposes; H.R. 4490, to amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to extend diplomatic privileges and immunities to certain additional international and regional organizations, and for other purposes; H.R. 3429, to establish an inter-parliamentary dialogue to facilitate closer cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea on shared interests and values; H.R. 3613, to amend the Arms Export Control Act to streamline Foreign Military Sales under that Act; H.R. 4216, to direct the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to carry out a review of the list of defense articles and services required to be transferred under the foreign military sales program as opposed to direct commercial sale; H.R. 1144, to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; H.R. 4335, to provide authority to enhance security assistance with countries that are engaged in regional security cooperation efforts in the Middle East and North Africa, and for other purposes; H.R. 3068, to amend the Arms Export Control Act to modify certain provisions relating to AUKUS defense trade cooperation, and for other purposes; H.R. 2633, to require a full review of the bilateral relationship between the United States and South Africa and identify South African government officials and ANC leaders eligible for the imposition of sanctions, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4140, 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. H.R. 2505, H.R. 4233, H.R. 4215, H.R. 4490, H.R. 3429, and H.R. 3613 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 4216, H.R. 1144, H.R. 4335, H.R. 3068, H.R. 2633, and H.R. 4140 were ordered reported, as amended.

## FULLY OPERATIONAL: STUXNET 15 YEARS LATER AND THE EVOLUTION OF CYBER THREATS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled “Fully Operational: Stuxnet 15 Years Later and the Evolution of Cyber Threats to Critical Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## LESSONS LEARNED: AN EXAMINATION OF MAJOR SECURITY INCIDENTS AT MASS GATHERING EVENTS

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Task Force on Enhancing Security for Special Events in the United

States held a hearing titled “Lessons Learned: An Examination of Major Security Incidents at Mass Gathering Events”. Testimony was heard from Rosie Cordero-Stutz, Sheriff, Miami Dade County, Florida; Colonel Robert P. Hodges, Superintendent, Louisiana State Police; Stacey Graves, Chief of Police, Kansas City, Missouri; and a public witness.

### CLEAN ROLLS, SECURE ELECTIONS: REVIEWING VOTER LIST MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Clean Rolls, Secure Elections: Reviewing Voter List Maintenance Standards”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### FOREIGN ABUSE OF U.S. COURTS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet held a hearing entitled “Foreign Abuse of U.S. Courts”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### PERMITTING PURGATORY: RESTORING COMMON SENSE TO NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT REVIEWS

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Permitting Purgatory: Restoring Common Sense to NEPA Reviews”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on H.R. 180, the “Endangered Species Transparency and Reasonableness Act of 2025”; H.R. 3706, the “SUSHI Act”; H.R. 3831, the “Florida Safe Seas Act of 2025”; H.R. 4033, the “Sturgeon Conservation and Sustainability Act of 2025”; H.R. 4293, to amend the Sikes Act to increase flexibility with respect to cooperative and interagency agreements for land management off of installations; H.R. 4294, “MAWS Act of 2025”; and legislation to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972. Testimony was heard from Chairman Babin, and Representatives Begich, Ciscomani, Elfreth, Fine, McClintock, and Webster of Florida; Justin Shirley, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

### EXAMINING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION’S WORK COMBATTING TRANSNATIONAL CARTELS IN INDIAN COUNTRY

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Examining the Trump Administration’s Work

Combatting Transnational Cartels in Indian Country”. Testimony was heard from Charles Addington, Principal Director, Justice Services for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; Justin Garris, Section Chief, Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation; and a public witness.

### BID PROTEST REFORM: UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Government Operations held a hearing entitled “Bid Protest Reform: Understanding the Problem”. Testimony was heard from Kenneth Patton, Managing Associate General Counsel, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

### THE NEW ATOMIC AGE: ADVANCING AMERICA’S ENERGY FUTURE

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled “The New Atomic Age: Advancing America’s Energy Future”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4549, the “Office of Rural Affairs Enhancement Act”; H.R. 4495, the “SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act”; H.R. 4491, the “SBA IT Modernization Reporting Act”; H.R. 2066, the “Investing in All of America Act of 2025”; and H.R. 3174, the “Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act of 2025”. H.R. 4549, H.R. 4495, H.R. 4491 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 2066 and H.R. 3174 were ordered reported, as amended.

### FUTURE OF UNITED STATES MARITIME PART 1: REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION BUDGET REQUEST

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Future of United States Maritime Part 1: Review of Fiscal Year 2026 Federal Maritime Commission Budget Request”. Testimony was heard from Rebecca Dye, Commissioner, Federal Maritime Commission.

### COUNTING THE MONEY: PREVENTING FRAUD AND ABUSE IN VA’S BONUS PAYMENT PRACTICES FOR VA EMPLOYEES

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Counting the Money: Preventing Fraud and Abuse in VA’s Bonus Payment Practices for VA Employees”. Testimony was heard from Tracey Therit, Chief

Human Capital Officer, Office of Human Resources and Administration, Operations, Security, and Preparedness, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Shawn Steele, Director of the Human Capital and Operations Division, Office of Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and a public witness.

### MEDICARE ADVANTAGE: PAST LESSONS, PRESENT INSIGHTS, FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Health; and Subcommittee on Oversight held a joint hearing entitled “Medicare Advantage: Past Lessons, Present Insights, Future Opportunities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2025

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Richard Fordyce, of Missouri, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation, 3 p.m., SR-328A.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* business meeting to consider the nominations of Benjamin DeMarzo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Craig Trainor, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Jovan Jovanovic, of Pennsylvania, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2029, Francis Brooke, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and David Peters, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, 10:30 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Seval Oz, of California, and Michael Rutherford, of Florida, both to be an Assistant Secretary, and Gregory Zerzan, of Texas, to be General Counsel, all of the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* to hold hearings to examine challenges to meeting increased electricity demand, 10 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Katherine Scarlett, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and Jeffrey Hall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD-562.

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine the road ahead, focusing on proposals to improve America's transportation infrastructure, 3 p.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* business meeting to consider pending calendar nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine dismantling transnational criminal organizations in the Americas, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine United States diplomatic strategies for a dynamic Middle East, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Subcommittee on Education and the American Family, to hold hearings to examine choice and literacy, focusing on empowering families for better educational results, 2 p.m., SD-430.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on the Constitution, to hold hearings to examine ending illegal discrimination and preferences, focusing on enforcing our civil rights laws, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* to hold hearings to examine innovation in the crosshairs, focusing on countering China's industrial espionage, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Bartrum, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, 4 p.m., SR-418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

#### House

*Committee on Agriculture:* Full Committee, hearing entitled “An Examination of the Implications of Proposition 12”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Appropriations:* Full Committee, markup on the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs FY 2026 Appropriations Bill, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

*Committee on Armed Services:* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Reforming Defense Acquisition to Deliver Capability at the Speed of Relevance”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1319, the “Modern Worker Empowerment Act”; H.R. 1320, the “Modern Worker Security Act”; H.R. 4366, the “Save Local Business Act”; H.R. 4312, the “Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act”; and H.R. 4307, the “Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act”, 9:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4312, the “Student Compensation and Opportunity through Rights and Endorsements Act”; and H.R. 4273, the “Over-the-Counter Monograph Drug User Fee Amendments”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 3074, the “Common Cents Act”; H.R. 3190, the “BRAVE Burma Act”; H.R. 3390, the “Bringing the Discount Window into the 21st Century Act”; H.R. 3446, the “FDIC Board Accountability Act”; H.R. 3673, the “Small Business Investor Capital Access Act”; H.R. 4346, the “Preventing the Escalation of Armed Conflict in Europe Act of 2025”; H.R. 4423, the “No New Burma Funds Act”; H.R. 4427, the “Syria Sanctions Accountability Act”; H.R. 4429, the “Developing and Empowering our Aspiring Leaders Act”; H.R. 4430, the “Expanding WKSI Eligibility Act”; H.R. 4431, the “Improving Capital Allocation for Newcomers Act”; H.R. 4437, the “Supervisory Modifications for Appropriate Risk-Based Testing Act of 2025”; H.R. 4449, the “Advocating for Small Business Act”; H.R. 4460, the “Stop Agency Fiat Enforcement of Guidance Act”; H.R. 4478, the “Tailored Regulatory Updates for Supervisory Testing Act of 2025”; H.R. 4544, the “American Access to Banking Act”; and Resolution Reestablishing the Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity of the Committee on Financial Services, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “FY26 State Department Posture: Bureau of Political Affairs”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, hearing entitled “Bureau of Counterterrorism FY26 Budget Posture Hearing”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 178, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out activities to suppress wildfires, and for other purposes; H.R. 179, the “Proven Forest Management Act of 2025”; H.R. 345, the “Fire Department Repayment Act of 2025”; H.R. 528, the “Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Act of 2025”; H.R. 839, to prohibit the implementation of a Land Protection Plan for Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge; H.R. 1045, the “Utah Wildfire Research Institute Act of 2025”; H.R. 1276, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky; H.R. 2290, the “World War II Women’s Memorial Location Act”; H.R. 2294, to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009; H.R. 2302, the “Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Land Transfer Act of 2025”; H.R. 2400, the “Pit River Land Transfer Act of 2025”; H.R. 3620, the “Southcentral Foundation Land Transfer Act of 2025”; H.R. 3857, the “Snow Water Supply Forecasting Reauthorization Act of 2025”; and H.R. 4285, the “STARS Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “An Update on Mail Theft and Crime”, 2 p.m., HVC-210.

Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement, hearing entitled “Catch and Release, Lose and Forget: Addressing the Crisis of Unaccompanied Alien Children—Part I”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Fixing

Emergency Management: Examining Improvements to FEMA’s Disaster Response”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 740, the “Veterans’ Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Servicemembers Act of 2025”; H.R. 1663, the “Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Act of 2025”; H.R. 3400, the “Territorial Response and Access to Veterans’ Essential Lifecare Act”; H.R. 3726, the “Fisher House Availability Act of 2025”; H.R. 3767, the “Health Professionals Scholarship Program Improvement Act of 2025”; H.R. 2605, the “Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act”; H.R. 2137, the “Review Every Veterans Claim Act of 2025”; H.R. 3123, the “Ernest Peltz Accrued Veterans Benefits Act”; H.R. 3834, the “Protecting Veteran’s Claim Options Act”; H.R. 3854, the “Modernizing All Veterans and Survivors Claims Processing Act”; H.R. 3951, the “Rural Veterans’ Improved Access to Benefits Act of 2025”; H.R. 3483, the “Forcing Real Accountability for Unlawful Distributions Act of 2025”; H.R. 3482, the “Veterans Community Care Scheduling Improvement Act”; H.R. 3494, the “VA Hospital Inventory Management System Authorization Act”; H.R. 3455, the “Veterans Affairs Distributed Ledger Innovation Act of 2025”; H.R. 2334, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to preempt any squatter’s rights established by State law regarding real property owned by a member of the uniformed services; H.R. 2791, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of housing loan guaranty entitlement available to certain veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3481, the “Delivering Digitally to Our Veterans Act of 2025”; H.R. 3579, the “Veterans Readiness and Employment Program Integrity Act”; H.R. 3863, the “VA Mental Health Outreach and Engagement Act”; H.R. 659, the “Veterans Law Judge Experience Act of 2025”; H.R. 2701, the “Fallen Servicemembers Religious Heritage Restoration Act”; H.R. 2721, the “Honoring Our Heroes Act of 2025”; H.R. 2034, the “Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship Opportunity Act”; H.R. 2954, the “Veterans’ Transition to Trucking Act of 2025”; H.R. 3812, the “Stop Troubling Retroactive Invoices for Veteran Expenses Act of 2025”; H.R. 2148, the “Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act”; H.R. 4446, the “FAST VETS Act”; legislation on the Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution FY25; and legislation on the Major Medical Lease Committee Resolution PACT Act, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Private Sector Energy Brief”, 1:15 p.m., HVC-304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “United We Stand: Strategies to Counter PRC Economic Coercion Against Democracies”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*  
10 a.m., Wednesday, July 23

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
10 a.m., Wednesday, July 23

Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3944, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, post-closure.

At 11 a.m., Senate will vote on confirmation of the nominations of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, and John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

At 2 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3944, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. Following disposition of the motion to proceed, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Zachary M. Bluestone, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Additional votes are expected during Wednesday's session of the Senate.

House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** To be announced.

**Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue**

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# Congressional Record

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